

Empowering women

Chisomo is the Treasurer of her local Water Point Committee which manages a borehole drilled for her community in rural Malawi by the Golomoti Solar project

“I am fifty-four years old, and I have six children. Before the Dzantambire Water Point was drilled, I had to travel long distances to fetch water, it took me maybe two hours each day to fetch water for bathing, drinking, cooking, and other domestic uses.”

The Dzantambire Water Point was delivered with funding from PIDG Technical Assistance and JCM Power as part of a wider community water supply programme which seeks to improve water access for communities in the surrounding areas.

Chisomo’s Water Point Committee is comprised of ten community members, five of whom are women, and a local chief acting as patron. To undertake her role, Chisomo received training from JCM alongside the Water Department and Health Office, covering governance and grievance resolution, community financing and also imparting practical skills around dismantling and maintaining of the borehole and the importance of hygiene.

Chisomo spends three hundred kwacha per month on her family’s water needs. In her role as Treasurer, Chisomo manages similar payments from her neighbours which are pooled to cover future maintenance costs for the borehole and pump. Drawing on their training, she and her fellow committee members are dedicated to ensuring that the water keeps flowing.

For her own family, Chisomo has seen a difference, **“Having access to clean water locally makes a difference to me because I am able to use the water for my brick-making business and the time I save fetching water can be used for farming activities.”**

