

Supplying water for schools

Nakambowa Mumbula is a classroom teacher at Mbuyu Community School in Zambia's Western Province. With support from the **WESTERN POWER PROJECT, a borehole and storage tanks have been built to supply the school with clean water.**

Nakambowa says, "Before the borehole was drilled here, we got our water from a hand pump about 200 metres from the classroom. It was congested there with the children crowding round it to wash their hands." She expressed her concern about the water quality saying, "the water was dirty because that borehole is down a slope with toilets located on the upper ground. Cattle sometimes drink from there as well. My students often complained to me of having abdominal pains."

As part of wider efforts to ensure local preparedness for the COVID-19 pandemic, InfraCo Africa and Western Power Company secured funding from PIDG Technical Assistance to deliver clean, potable water to Nakambowa's school and the linked health post.

PIDG TA funding met the cost of drilling a borehole and fitting storage tanks, solar pumping and treatment equipment and the community began using the water in October 2020.

Of the pandemic, Nakambowa says, "The pandemic has presented us with challenges in this area, my learners come to school on alternating days to enable them to observe social distancing. Having the new borehole here helps with this distancing and they do not have to walk far to keep their hands clean. Having clean water here prevents illness and enables them to better focus on their studies."