

# Preventing the spread of disease

Pauline Mushaukwa is a Community Health Worker at the Linganaga health post. With support from the **WESTERN POWER PROJECT**, a borehole has been drilled to supply clean water locally.

Pauline talks about the challenges of delivering healthcare in a remote part of Zambia: “Our nearest rural health clinic, Sikumbi, is about 20 kilometres from here and it is located on the East Bank of the river. It is difficult for patients to access medication and primary healthcare.” She continues, “Our health post here is run by trained volunteers such as myself – it is located in the Mbuyu Community School building and we support a community of around 100 people.”

As part of wider efforts to combat the spread of COVID-19, InfraCo Africa and Western Power Company secured funding from PIDG Technical Assistance to deliver clean, potable water to the community. PIDG TA funding met the cost of drilling a borehole and fitting storage tanks, solar pumping and treatment equipment close to Mbuyu Community School.

Stressing the importance of clean water, Pauline says, “People need clean water for taking their prescribed medications and for washing their hands to prevent the spread of diseases. Before, we had to get water from the Ubuntu hand pump which was not as clean as the water we have now.” Pauline says, “Having clean water here is more hygienic for my team and for our patients. I have noticed that people are now taking hand washing more seriously, especially with this COVID-19 virus.”

The project has also supplied protective equipment to Pauline’s team and to members of the local community. Pauline is pleased that part of the funding has also been used to print local language posters which promote key public health messaging around hand hygiene and social distancing.