

STORIES FROM THE FIELD: EASTERN PROVINCE, ZAMBIA

Trained artisans are a key recipe for sustainability in Zambia's Eastern Province. Through training and mentoring, the project created a cadre of professionals ready to repair SPLASH-installed infrastructure as the need arises.

SPLASH is a USAID/Zambia-supported WASHplus activity, working in more than 400 primary schools in Zambia's Eastern Province promoting learner achievement through sanitation and hygiene.



Artisans, Entrepreneurship, and Economic Empowerment Under SPLASH

Area Pump Menders Receive Technical and Business Training

A large component of SPLASH's (Schools Promoting Learning Achievement through Sanitation and Hygiene's) sustainability plan for infrastructure is to train a cadre of area pump menders (APMs) to rehabilitate, maintain, and repair the water points installed at schools and provide them with the tools they need to conduct the regular maintenance. Training has taken place in all four districts, with a total of 190 APMs trained and certified. Of these, 40 are women. During the five-day training program, APMs learn the intricacies of hand pump repair as well as business skills to enable them to become self-sufficient WASH service providers. SPLASH developed Operations & Maintenance Guidelines, which have been distributed to each school in all four districts, with an orientation session during distribution. The guidelines encourage the schools to engage local APMs to perform regular maintenance, and they include a space to record the contact information for the closest APMs for each school. The program involves mentoring where more experienced APMs helped mentor and supervise the trainees, who are being prepared to go out on their own.



Four days of the APM training are spent on theory in a classroom/workshop setting. Then the trainees put into practice their new knowledge and skills by repairing broken hand pumps.



Ananias stands outside the single VIP latrine that he constructed.

SPLASH is Empowering Livelihoods as it Builds Latrines at Schools

Twenty-two year old Ananias Shawa was hired as a helper by a local artisan when the SPLASH project started constructing washrooms and latrines at Chisomo Primary School, near his village in Chipata District in Zambia's Eastern Province.

As a helper, Ananias learned to mix the concrete and also fetched water. He was a "daka boy," which in the local language, means "concrete that has been mixed." He easily met



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the job's requirement, which was to be physically fit and willing to work hard. Ananias was not new to such work; he had been earning a living since he had to drop out of school in Grade 7 to help his struggling family.

During a visit to the Chisomo site, an engineer from the SPLASH Chipata District team encouraged Ananias to ask his supervisor, a local artisan and accomplished bricklayer, about learning to lay bricks for washroom construction. He also encouraged Ananias to learn through observation. Ananias followed the advice and was hired to take on the additional task of laying bricks.

He gained valuable knowledge and experience assisting the construction of a double ventilated improved pit (VIP) latrine and a washroom. He used his newly gained knowledge, along with technical support from the engineer and a supervisor, and completed construction of a single VIP latrine from scratch. The successful completion and job well done earned him another contract to construct a handwashing facility and a borehole fence.

Ananias earned K 2,650 for this work, an amount he had never earned before. He is grateful to the USAID-funded SPLASH project for the skills he has gained and for the WASH facilities at the local school that serves his community.

Ananias is not standing still; he is now focused on perfecting his construction skills to earn a certificate. And with the additional income he has earned, he is buying fertilizer as the farming season is now underway.

When 21-year-old Masauso Zimba of Fyofyo village in Lundazi District had to drop out of school for lack of

school fees, he was confronted with a grim job outlook. When the SPLASH project began building school latrines nearby, Masauso went to see what was going on, "I kept observing the construction, offered my services, and helped out here and there."

After two weeks, he was hired to carry materials for the artisans constructing the latrines; all the while he continued to observe what the workers were doing during the construction. Not long after, the project sent out engineers to teach skills in basic construction.

"I signed up and was trained. Now, I have building skills. And I have made enough money to go back to school where I want to study engineering and supervise artisans. I am so grateful to SPLASH and USAID for bringing a flicker of light in my dark tunnel."



On-the-job training with SPLASH inspired Masauso to pursue an engineering degree.

About WASHplus

The WASHplus project supports healthy households and communities by creating and delivering interventions that lead to improvements in water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH) and household air pollution (HAP). This multi-year project (2010-2016) was made possible with support from the American people delivered through the U.S. Agency for International Development's (USAID) Bureau for Global Health and led by FHI 360 in partnership with CARE and Winrock International. The project uses at-scale programming approaches to reduce diarrheal diseases and acute respiratory infections, the two top killers of children under age 5 globally.

For more information contact:

WASHplus

FHI 360
1825 Connecticut Ave NW
Washington, DC 20009
202.884.8000
www.WASHplus.org
contact@washplus.org