

Showers of Blessing Trust



Borehole News November 2019

The provision of water through the drilling of boreholes has seen massive growth and transformation to rural communities in Zimbabwe. With a current total of 260 functional bores by Showers of Blessing (SBT), reduction of waterborne diseases, shorter walking distances, establishment of better schools and shops and increased household income levels through income generating projects such as market gardening are just a few of the many benefits derived from this clarion call.

SBT's approach of assisting the community to develop as opposed to actually developing the community made us realise the need to conduct training workshops wherein we engage the community on how best they can utilise the water productively and maintain their bore. The training has assisted us to know more about every community that we provide with water. What we have learnt is that what we think will work for the community is not always their preferred choice. Though financial assistance is necessary, at times just a simple discussion under a tree may be all the ideas the community needs to prosper.

Forster Moyo of Kudzanayi village in Lambamayi is one such beneficiary of these workshops. In April 2018 at the workshop at his village we established as part of the skills audit that he had been a baker for 35 years and yet he did not feel putting his baking experience into practice would yield any profit as he doubted the community's support. We convinced him to at least give it a try which he did and today he is spending most of



his time in his homemade bakery trying to cope with a huge demand for his products and less time farming which was not paying as much. As an organisation, we did not assist him financially and yet the workshop transformed his life.



However one of the constraints that we encounter is the places that need water more are usually the ones that are in bad terrain such as hills/ mountains. Such places usually result in a bore at the bottom of the hill hence making carting the water a very difficult task for challenged people such as the aged, disabled, women and the girl child. The solution for such communities though costly is motorising the bore using solar technology. We have done one solar bore at Kufa village in Zvishavane which has worked very well since inception two years ago. The bore currently benefits over 2500 people directly and approximately 3000 indirectly. This is made possible



by the fact that after the installation of the pump and solar panels, the only cost is plumbing which is not costly and allows for the facility to reach out to more distant communities using one bore where we would have had to drill more to cater for the same which ultimately is a cost cutting measure in the long run.

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