

MESSAGE FROM ZIEH ON MADIMBA PERI-URBAN WATER SUPPLY AND ECOLOGICAL SANITATION (DRY TOILETS) PROJECT IN ZAMBIA

The Zambia Institute of Environmental Health (ZIEH) has continued to work in close collaboration with Water for Kids in the provision of wholesome water supplies and sanitation to most disadvantaged communities in Zambia. The latest environmental health intervention that WfK is undertaking is in Madimba, where it is going to be offered in collaboration with Network for Environmental Concerns and Solutions (NECOS) through ZIEH.

Madimba is a peri-urban area of Lusaka, our capital city. The area is water logged and was initially used for gardening before people turned it into residential area. The area does not have access to a safe water supply. A situation which has made the local community to sorely depend on shallow wells which are found dotted around the area many near to dug out pit latrines. Research recently conducted by Lusaka City Council showed these wells to be heavily contaminated from the pit latrines.

NECOS is a local NGO which has been working in the area to assist the local community uplift their lives. Since WfK and ZIEH have similar objectives to those for NECOS, we decided to work together on a joint project of improving water and sanitation in the surrounding area of Madimba community school. WfK has provided funding for sinking a borehole and construction of water storage tanks and a kiosk for the school and local community.

Apart from improving the quality of domestic water supply, WfK has also provided funds for the construction of two Ecosan dry toilets in the area. The dry toilets will be constructed near the water kiosk for public use. They are the same as those that NECOS is building for households in Madimba. These households pay according to their means.

This new development is expected to greatly uplift the health status of local community through accessing clean domestic water supply and safe sanitary facilities. These interventions are also going to reduce travel distance to safe domestic water supply for children and women. They will no longer have to use contaminated water from shallow wells and they will be exposed to new technology in excreta disposal. Thus, ZIEH, WfK and NECOS look at this new project as a special New Year (2010) gift for Madimba residents.

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