

Sand Dam Community Works Project 2025

Overview

Sand Dams Worldwide and our partner the Africa Sand Dam Foundation would like to thank you very much for your invaluable participation in the Sand Dam Community Works Project. You contributed so much to the teamwork, enjoyment and productivity of the two weeks and we hope it was clear to you that the community hugely enjoyed and really appreciated your hard work.

Sand dam construction

Over two weeks you worked alongside the Mulunga community, working incredibly hard to help construct their sand dam. During your time there you contributed a huge amount to the build, collectively adding over 400 hours of labour to the community's efforts. From the get-go, everyone got stuck in whilst on the dam site, helping with the different tasks at hand – including shovelling sand, mixing cement and carrying rocks – and ASDF were thrilled with the progress you were able to make together with the SHG members.



Completed sand dam and shallow well

After the CWP finished in March, the SHG continued to work hard on their dam project, and in April completed construction of the sand dam. Shortly after the area received some rains, which led to there being too much water in the river channel to be able to complete the construction of the shallow well, although community members were able to use some of the surface water to support their farming. The water levels later receded, and the SHG have since been able to complete construction of the shallow well. Pictured overleaf is the completed sand dam and shallow well.

With the next rains more sand will start filling behind the dam wall where the water will be stored safe from evaporation and contamination, abstracted using the handpump to provide a source of clean, safe water for the community for drinking, domestic, agriculture and livestock purposes.



Hear from the Mulunga SHG

Here, Peter Mutunga (pictured right), one of the founding members of the SHG, shares his experience of working on the sand dam project. He starts by talking about what life was like before they constructed their sand dam:

“For a long time, we had struggled to get enough water to do farming. Collecting water took the most part of my life, making me have less time to concentrate on my long-term dream of farming. Previously, we depended on the rains for our farms, making it hard to grow things like vegetables. We did not have good harvests – sometimes they were very bad and then we had to buy food.”

But the sand dam they have constructed will change the outlook for good, by ensuring they have year-round access to water close to their homes. Peter said:

“As a community this project is a great achievement, having this sand dam which we constructed together. We have earned a lot of respect in the wider community. Personally for me, having water to do farming is also a major boost, and that is something I am very proud of.”

Speaking of the impact the sand dam is having on him and his family, Peter said:

“Already my life has transformed in a big way. I have enough time to do farming, which is boosting me and my family. I no longer struggle to get money. My health is very good, I eat balanced meals, and I anticipate the same for the whole community. Currently I have planted bananas, capsicum, kale, spinach, okra, amaranths, eggplant and tomatoes. In the last month I have already made a profit of 6,000 KES (approx. £35). I have used the money to help in running my family through buying some basic items and some of my wife’s upkeep.”

When asked about how he feels when he thinks about the sand dam and everything they have achieved as a community, Peter said:

“I just feel very happy because the change is already forthcoming and it has been merely a few months since we completed the project, and already I have started seeing my life change for good. I love sand dams!”

And finally, speaking of his experience working with the volunteers, Peter shared:

“We had a good experience working together with the volunteers during the expedition. We bonded well!”

Thank You

By participating in this project you have helped to ensure that the Mulunga community will have lifelong access to clean water, building their resilience to the impacts of climate change for years to come. On behalf of the SHG, their families and the wider community, we would like to extend our profound thanks.

