Bridgit
Water Foundation



# Completion Report

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## 2025 Rural Community Well Drilling Program

## Nkhotakota District, MALAWI

**Sponsored by: SMEC Foundation**

**Duration: October, 2025.**

Managing Partner: **Bridgit Water Foundation, Australia**

Implementing Regional Partner: **Wildlife & Environmental Society of Malawi (WESM)**

## Introduction

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| **Organization (Partner) Name:** | **Wildlife & Environmental Society of Malawi (WESM)** | | |
| **Partner Contact:** | Yassin Rasheed | **Report Date:** | October 2025 |
| **Partner Contact Title:** | Dwangwa Branch Manager | | |
| **Country:** | Malawi | | |
| **Project / Program Name:** | 2025 Rural Community Well Restoration Program | | |
| **Email:** | rasheedmalandula@gmail.com | **Website:** | www.wesm.mw |
| **Donor:** | **SMEC Foundation-Australia** | **Project Status:** | Completed |

**This project is now successfully completed. This report shows how project funds were spent and the impact project funds have made to the beneficiary communities.**

### Brief Implementing Partner Introduction & Approach:

**Wildlife & Environmental Society of Malawi (WESM)** is a registered non-profit, non-government organization.

WESMs mandate is to support the wise use of natural resources in Nkhotakota District in Malawi either through practical projects or environmental education implementation.

Bridgit Water Foundation and WESM have partnered to implement a water supply program to communities surrounding Nkhotakota Wildlife Reserve. Nkhotakota Wildlife Reserve covers 180,000 hectares and is the largest wildlife reserve in Malawi, supporting most of Malawi's wildlife species, including elephants. Unfortunately, wildlife and natural resources are being depleted at an alarming rate resulting in massive environmental degradation.

There are two main objectives for this project – water for communities and wildlife conservation. The project will provide quality drinking water to water-scarce communities within a 5km band surrounding Nkhotakota Wildlife Reserve. It also aims to build community understanding of the importance of protecting wildlife and reducing wildlife trafficking, particularly relating to elephants.

This will be the first initiative around the Reserve aimed at improving the participation of communities and the project will fill the knowledge and capacity gap currently seen among communities in return for their efforts in wildlife conservation.

### Background to Project

In October 2025, WESM received a grant from Bridgit Water Foundation Australia (BWF) under the sponsorship of **SMEC Foundation** **for** the drilling of **3 community water wells in Nkhotakota District.**

### Project Rationale & Context

Malawi remains one of the poorest countries in the world. In Malawi, 80% of the population has access to improved sources of drinking water, but that leaves about 4 million people who still lack access to safe potable water. There are acute shortages of drinking water in the project area with communities

currently collecting water from hand dug holes in dried up creek beds shared with animals.

Enhanced accessibility to clean water will improve the quality of life for local communities and support the Nkhotakota Wildlife Reserve in the conservation of wildlife.

## Beneficiaries & Stakeholders

The project provided sustainable, community-managed water points and improved access to safe, potable water for 6 rural community in Nkhotakota District. The project beneficiaries are estimated to be **3603**from these 6 villages underlisted to benefit with a safe drinking water source.

| No. | Community Name | Description | People Impacted |
|---|---|---|---|
| **1.** | **Chawawa Village** | This borehole is in the Traditional Authority of Kanyenda with the Group Village Head of Chawawa<br>GPS coordinates; -13.098943 Latitude, 34.216790 Longitudes<br>This drilled well means that 1,029 people can once again access clean water with less burden. | **1029** |
| **2** | **Banga village** | This borehole is in the Traditional Authority Kanyenda with Group Village head Njimbula<br>GPS Coordinates: -13.093650 Latitudes, 34.225940 Longitudes<br>This drilled well means that 1,442 people can once again access clean water with less burden. | **1442** |
| **3** | **Mnjolo Village** | This borehole is in the Traditional Authority of Kalimanjira with the Group Village Head of Namakwate<br>GPS Coordinates: -12.994679 Latitudes, 34.306680 Longitudes<br>This drilled well means that 1,020 people can once again access clean water with less burden. | **1132** |
| | **Total** | | **3603** |

*below, Yassin Rasheed engaging communities on the importance of conserving and protecting the wildlife, environment and natural resources.*





## Description of Funded Activities - Action & Methodology

The scope of work involved the drilling of six boreholes to a community who did not have a chance to access clean drinking water (where necessary), the implementation of borewell sustainability strategies by training a Water User Committee.

The well was successfully drilled by a trained site repair team by installing new hand pump parts including; riser pipes, connecting rods, cylinder pumps, water tanks, and complete head assembly (Afri Dev) and any necessary masonry work on the platforms.

- Carry out preliminary site clearing, community mobilization
- Site setting and planning
- Actual well Drilling
- Well Development
- Civil works, pipe and pump installations
- Assess platform and drainage channel and provide materials for masonry work as required
- Install signage name plaques on each wellhead
- Establish and train village water committee on the use of / repair and sustainability of the equipment

*BELOW ARE PICTURES OF DIFFERENT BOREHOLE PICTURES AND*

**Pictorial of Work Progress Activities – Mnjolo, chawawa and banga village** *civil works on borehole desgin*

**below. civil works in progress** **Below. pipe installation in progress**

bang*a civil works and installation*







*Chawawa civil works and installation*







*MNJOLO CIVIL WORKS AND INSTALLATION*







*CHAWAWA COMMUNITY HAPPINESS*



SMEC Rep Belinda Chiume handed over 3 drilled wells

*BANGA COMMUNITY HAPPINESS*



*MNJOLO COMMUNITY HAPPINESS*



**BELOW ARE PICTURES OF HEAD STICKERS AND COMPLETE BOREHOLES**

*MNJOLO HEAD*

*MNJOLO COMPLETE BOEREHOLE*




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*BANGA HEAD*




*BANGA COMPLETE BOREHOLE*



*Chawawa head*




*chawawa complete borehole*



## Project Impacts

- Increased access to clean and safe water has been restored to 3,062 people.
- the villagers can wash their hands to prevent the spread of water borne diseases.
- On average, people will walk 500mtrs to access the water, as opposed to the 2km before the well was repaired.
- Reduced incidence of water-borne diseases, particularly cholera in the surrounding community.
- Time and drudgery saved collecting water for household use.
- Strengthened capacity of community members to manage their own water facilities.
- Increased understanding of the importance of protecting wildlife in the reserve, particularly elephants, in the community, and how they can take part in conservation activities.
- Support of Nkhotakota Wildlife Reserve in conservation of wildlife, particularly elephants.

## Community Ownership & Sustainability

### It is crucial that community ownership is established for the sustainability of the refurbished wells.

The sustainability of the wells largely depends on the beneficiary community. communities have been trained and empowered to take complete ownership of the Wells and plan for their future maintenance and repairs.

To ensure sustainability of project benefits, it is important that, after construction, physical conditions of infrastructure, water yield, and the status of operation, water quality, sanitary hazards, and financial viability are regularly monitored; initially by the implementing agency jointly with concerned Water User Committees, so that timely corrective measures can be taken without disruptions to the Well's functionality.
W

Regarding the conservation aspect, all project beneficiaries are educated and trained on the importance of conserving the environment and natural resources.

## Community Capacity Building & Training

Bridgit aims to create sustainable improvements to rural development in the areas we work, therefore it is our intention that the infrastructure we provide to our rural communities will last for years and provide clean, safe water to the people far into the future. The community must have a clear understanding that the water system installed is a valuable piece of infrastructure – **it is an asset and responsibility.**

The first training was offered to all members of the beneficiary communities at the post construction meetings. During this first encounter with the beneficiaries, we educate them about their responsibility during the project implementation and as well as the long-term commitment to acquiring the water source.

- **Establish and Train a Water User Committee (WUC)**

A WUC is essential to ensure the sustainability of any community water system. Bridgit and its implementing partners have observed that it is important that the community feels responsible for and develops the capacity to manage the maintenance and operation of its own water access points. The establishment and training of WUCs is an integral part of every water project we implement; in every community we work with.

District water Assistant, Ellen Kamwaza talked about the Water Management Committees responsibility. The committee is made up of a Chairperson, Vice Chairperson, Secretary, Treasurer, 2 Caretakers and 2 members. At least 3 members must be women, and the post of Treasurer is specifically reserved for a woman. 2 young people must also be on the committee and at least 1 person with a disability (PWD). The Government stakeholder trained the water management committee.

- **Health & Hygiene (WASH) Awareness Training**

Meetings also entail good water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) practice guidance. WUC's were trained in basic maintenance and management of water source, and how they can help to maximize impact by enforcing other good sanitation practices like use of clean containers, boiling all drinking water, latrines for homes, and use of tippy taps.

- **Equipment Maintenance Training**

The community was trained to collect minimal and affordable user fees from water users so that any future maintenance repairs can be self-funded.

- **Wildlife and Conservation Awareness Training**

During community meeting WESM staff do talk on different topics from borehole management, maintenance, human animal conflicts etc. Communities

## Cross Cutting Themes - Gender Equality, People With Disabilities (PWD's) Inclusion & Environmental Management on BWF Programs

The impact of stereotypes and prejudice against women and girls, disability and PWDs and other social issues and pro-vulnerable strategies on the effective implementation of programs can't be understated. Bridgit Water Foundation and its partners are committed to avoiding, minimizing, and mitigating adverse environmental impacts as well as adopting a gender-sensitive and gender-equitable approach for all its projects.

**Gender equality approaches were employed**: Due to cultural gender roles in most developing countries, it is the job of women and children to collect water, therefore, the very nature of water projects is based on promoting gender equality. When wells are installed, a huge burden is lifted from the shoulders of women and girls. Women and girls will save up to 3 hours per day previously spent on water collection and use this time for more productive activities including the pursuit of income generating work and greater school attendance for girl

children. So that women's voices are heard, Bridgit requires that WUC's have at least 3 women and preferably a majority with the post of the Treasurer being reserved for a woman.

**PWD Inclusion approaches were employed**: The composition of the Water User Committee reserves a special slot for the representation of a PWD. PWD's were equally consulted during refurbs of this well, and they are empowered to equally participate in the maintenance and operation of the water source. Where they are heads of families and have active income, they as well contribute by paying user fees.

**Environmentally friendly practices were employed**: The refurbishment project did not have any adverse environmental impacts for the communities. The beneficiaries were trained to observe environmentally friendly approaches while they access and use the Wells.

## Testimonials & Stakeholder Feedback



In the village banga in the Nkhotakota district there is a woman Etinala John aged 40 years and having 6 children . once upon a time was bitten by snake She was home sick for 3 weeks .This was happened on the way of fetching water which also affected her family and everyday life .This community were attached by elephant and animals were muddy and empty the wells leaving the community in troubles before the African parks gates .One day the Brigit water foundation and WESM organisation arrived on their village drilled the borehole with clear water accessible to all Etinala john and the villagers fears vanished. Thanks WESM and Brigit water foundation for the borehole now we have access to clean water and healthy life this is blessing to us.



In the Nkhotakota district there is a woman 45 years 0ld married and 4 children lived in chawawa village sorounded by rush greenery and wildlife reserve .Her dairy routine walks a several miles to fetch water from stream that cut through edge of wildlife stream was dangerous elephant but she needs water for herself ,she has made effort a morden well so that she can be easily accessing from well to reduce distance and also reduce time for household chores .when new borehole had drilled by WESM , Brigit Water Foundation and SMEC she shade tears of joy because no waterborne disease and she have safe water for her family and hygiene in her community .Thanks to our donor Brigit water foundation,SMEC and WESM org for the clean and safe water sources and now we have access to clean.



Joyce Phiri 18 years old from Mnjolo village in Nkhotakota district near wildlife reserve .Her dairy routine walks a several miles to fetch water from stream that cut through edge of wildlife sometimes she wakeup tireless because of distance ,her mother passed away years back .she take care of her five young siblings .One day morning went to fetch water in the wells and find the wells dry and many women waiting water to recover that made her abscent from school and think to drop out of school to take care of her siblings so that she have enough time to rest and fetch water in good time .When borehole drilled in her village she is now happy .Thanks to our donor Brigit water foundation and WESM organisations for drilled borehole , now we have access to clean water. No more long distance and tiresome. moment .

## Project Challenges

The project was successfully implemented with no challenges encountered.

(1) Rise in operational costs such as fuel which went up to 39%

## Lessons Learned

Provision of clean drinking water to the communities is very critical, the project has provided water to the communities.

Having professional staff who are dedicated and put community suffering at heart is important.

## Acknowledgements

Our gratitude goes to **SMEC Foundation Australia** for the continued support and generosity to this program.
We thank Bridgit Water Foundation for managing and coordinating the project.
Locally, we appreciate the members of the WUCs, WESM Executive committee, WESM management, program implementation teams, local leadership and the beneficiary population for their cooperation during the implementation of the project. The project succeeded with the efforts of all of you, thank you so much.

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