

Bridgit
Water Foundation

Completion Report

2026 Rural Borewell Restoration Program

Nkhotakota District, MALAWI

Sponsored by: Very Good Foundation Australia

Duration: July,2026.

Managing Partner: **Bridgit Water Foundation, Australia**
Implementing Regional Partner: **Wildlife & Environmental Society of Malawi (WESM)**

Introduction

Organization (Partner) Name:	**Wildlife & Environmental Society of Malawi (WESM)**		
Partner Contact:	Yassin Rasheed	**Report Date:**	July, 2026
Partner Contact Title:	Dwangwa Branch Manager		
Country:	Malawi		
Project / Program Name:	2026 Rural Borewell Restoration Program		
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Donor:	Very Good 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 had on 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 at the Reserve focused on increasing community participation, aiming to address existing knowledge and capacity gaps among communities related to water and wildlife conservation.

Background to Project

In July 2026, WESM received a grant from Bridgit Water Foundation Australia (BWF) under the sponsorship of Very Good Foundation Australia **for the 12 wells restoration of community water wells in Nkhotakota District.**

Project Rationale & Context

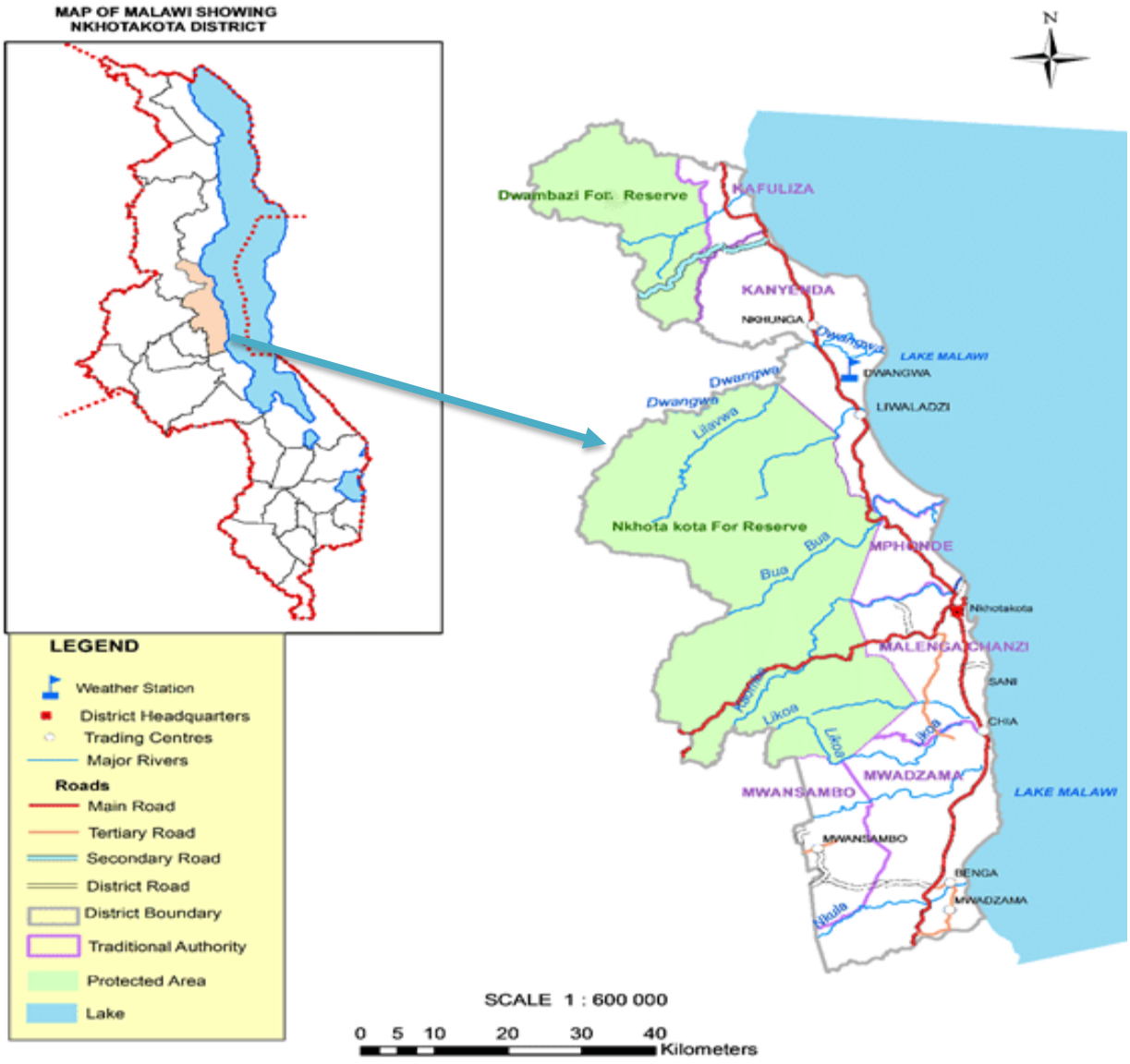
Malawi remains one of the poorest countries in the world. In Malawi, about 4 million people still lack access to safe potable water. There is acute shortage of drinking water in the project area with communities currently collecting water from hand

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.

Project Area

The projects are located within a band surrounding Nkhotakota Wildlife Reserve.



Beneficiaries & Stakeholders

The project provided sustainable, community-managed water points and improved access to safe, potable water for 12 rural community in Nkhotakota District can once again access clean and safe water with less burden.

No.	Community Name	Description	Population
1.	**Mbewa 1 Village**	This borehole is in the Traditional Authority Malengachanzi with the Group Village Head Mbewa. GPS Coordinates latitude -12.682233, longitude 34.163640	**1590**
	Totals		**1,590**
2	**Silifu Village**	This borehole is in the Traditional Authority of Mphonde with the Group Village Head of Mzumala. GPS Coordinates: latitude -12.706199, longitude 34.183145	**1656**
	Totals		**1656**
3	**Bua Admarc**	This borehole is in the Traditional Authority of Mphonde with the Group Village Head of Pendwe. GPS Coordinates: latitude -12.798483, longitude 34.207821	**1524**
	Totals		**1524**
4	**Makoka Village**	This borehole is in the Traditional Authority of Mphonde with the Group Village Head of Makoka. GPS Coordinates: -12.594957, longitude 34.15099	**1518**
	Total		**1518**
5	**Mphasa Village**	This borehole is in the Traditional Authority of Mphonde with the Group Village Head of Mtambo. GPS Coordinates: Latitudes -12.860706, longitudes34.255706	**1578**
	Total		**1578**
6	**Jabesi Village**	This borehole is in the Traditional Authority of Mphonde with the Group Village Head of Mvula. GPS Coordinates: -12.8787747, longitude 34.266690	**1482**
	Total		**1482**
7	**Chankhokwe Primary**	This borehole is in the Traditional Authority of Mphonde with the Group Village Head of Kabululu. GPS Coordinates: -12.596828, longitude 34.112248	**1391**
	Total		**1391**
8	**Kambuzi Village**	This borehole is in the Traditional Authority of Mphonde with the Group Village Head of Pendwe.	**1020**

		GPS Coordinates: -12.799467, longitude 34.210190	
	Total		**1020**
9	**Tadeyo Village**	This borehole is in the Traditional Authority of Mphonde with the Group Village Head of Chizuma. GPS Coordinates: -12.860706, longitude 34.255706	**1188**
	Total		**1188**
10	**Chikanda Village**	This borehole is in the Traditional Authority of Mphonde with the Group Village Head of Chikanda GPS Coordinates: -12.635973, longitude 34.145600	**1134**
	Total		**1134**
11	**Mkosi 1 Village**	This borehole is in the Traditional Authority of Mphonde with the Group Village Head of Mkose GPS Coordinates: Latitudes -12.850450, Longitudes34.708959	**1098**
	Total		**1098**
12	**Kalirangwe Village**	This borehole is in the Traditional Authority of Mphonde with the Group Village Head of Kilirangwe. GPS Coordinates: -12.414202, longitude 34.071917	
	Total		**1098**
	Total Beneficiaries		**16,277**

Description of Funded Activities - Action & Methodology

The scope of work involved `restoration of 12 existing boreholes to villages whose wells were not functioning by the re-construction of the Apron/Platform (where necessary), the replacement of hand pump parts, and the implementation of borewell sustainability strategies by training a Water User Committee.

wells were successfully repaired 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 and mobilization
- Assess platform and drainage channel and provide materials for masonry work as required
- Pull pump and assess repairs
- Replace Afridev pump cylinder, rods, pipes and pump head
- Install signage name plaques on each wellhead
- Establish and train village water committee on the use of / repair and sustainability of the equipment.

- Carry out any other work involved in borehole restoration

Pictorial of Work Progress Activities

BOREWELL HEADS



1. Bua ADMARK



2. Chankhokwe Primary



3. Chikanda Village



4. Jabesi Village



5. Kambuzi Village



6. Tadeyo Village



7. Kilirangwe Village



8. Makoka Village



9. Mbewa 1 Village



10. Mkosi 1 Village



11. Mphasa Village



12. Selifu Village

TESTIMONIALS & STAKEHOLDER FEEDBACK



Catherine Chitete, a 78-year-old woman living with seven grandchildren from Mbewa 1 village, struggled to access safe water after their borehole broke down. Her and community women had to walk about two kilometers to fetch water, sometimes from an unsafe and contaminated swampy area. This made household chores difficult and caused the children to arrive late for school. As an elderly woman, Catherine also depended on her children for support in fetching water. She is now grateful to WESM and Bridget water Foundation for restoring the borehole, bringing safe water closer and greatly reducing the challenges faced by her family.



Maria Mkandawire is a 74-year-old woman from Jabesi Village who completed her education at Standard 3. Living mostly alone while her only son is away from home, she faced difficulties accessing water because the village borehole was faulty and could only provide water to a few people at a time. She often had to walk long distances to find water, placing a heavy burden on her as an elderly woman. Following the rehabilitation of the borehole, Maria is very happy and grateful to WESM and the Bridget Foundation for restoring access to clean and safe water closer to her home. This has greatly reduced her daily burden and allows her to concentrate on subsistence farming and other household needs. Her son also makes everyday sacrifices to support her with basic needs.



Adija Ziyada is a 55-year-old married woman from Mphasa Village who completed her education at primary level 4 and is a mother to 11 children. Since the village borehole broke down, she and other local women faced immense challenges in fetching water. Forced to walk long distances and endure long waiting times, they repeatedly risked their lives by sharing swampy, unsafe water sources with wild animals. Adija is deeply grateful to WESM and the Bridget Foundation for restoring the borehole and bringing safe water close to her home. This life-changing restoration has eliminated dangerous trips for her family and now gives her ample time to concentrate on other essential daily tasks.



Joyce Daudi, a 65-year-old single woman from Mkosi Village with one child and a primary level Standard 4 education, faced severe struggles after the village borehole broke down. Forced to walk long distances to draw water from an uncovered well, she and her community faced constant risks of disease outbreaks and competed with wild animals like monkeys for water. Joyce and fellow villagers are deeply grateful to WESM and Bridget Water Foundation for restoring the borehole, providing them with safe, protected water close to home. Though the restored access eases her daily routine, as an elderly woman, Joyce still works hard to meet basic needs and welcomes support from well-wishers.



Queen Gondwe, a 49-year-old mother of seven from Bua ADMAC who completed her primary education at Standard 8, previously faced severe daily hardship along with other local women. They were forced to travel long distances to collect water from far-off, uncovered wells after borehole broken, often risking their lives by sharing water sources with wild animals like monkeys and dogs. Queen and her community are profoundly thankful to God and deeply grateful to Bridget Water Foundation and WESM for rehabilitating their borehole to provide safe, clean water close to home. Because they rely heavily on subsistence farming which frequently falls short of covering their basic needs the time saved by this restored water source will allow them to pursue alternative ways to earn income.



Abgirl Phiri, a 13-year-old Standard 7 learner at Chankhokwe Primary School, previously struggled in class because managing her menstrual hygiene required leaving school, directly hurting her performance alongside other girls. The students also drank unsafe water from unprotected wells and faced risks from wild animals and waterborne illnesses like diarrhea. Abgirl and her peers express their deep gratitude to the Bridget Water Foundation and WESM, as they can now quickly manage their hygiene and return to class promptly, boosting their education and health. However, because the borehole remains somewhat far from the school, a closer water source is still needed, along with addressing the school's shortage of desks.



Chimwemwe Banda is a 50-year-old mother of five from Makoka Village who completed her education at Standard 8. When the community borehole stopped functioning, she and her family faced severe challenges, having to travel long distances just to collect safe water. Chimwemwe is deeply grateful to WESM and the Bridget Water Foundation for restoring their borehole, which has successfully revived the village's water supply. As a subsistence farmer who sells her crop yields to support her household, having reliable access to water close to home brings vital relief and support to her daily life.



Esnart Kaunda is a 62-year-old single mother of seven from Kilirangwe Village who left school at the Standard 2 level. After the community borehole stopped functioning, residents were forced to walk long distances to collect water. For Esnart, traveling such far distances was exceptionally difficult, and fetching water became dangerous as community members regularly encountered wild animals near the alternative water source by the river. Esnart and her community are deeply thankful to WESM and the Bridget Water Foundation for restoring the borehole. The successful rehabilitation has greatly eased these burdens by drastically reducing the walking distance and providing safe water close to home, helping relieve her daily struggle to provide for basic household needs.



Janet Kilafa is a 47-year-old married mother of four from Selifu Village who relies on farming to meet her family's daily needs. Ever since their village borehole stopped producing water in 2023, she faced numerous hardships. Having to gather water from unsafe open sources forced community members to share water with wild animals putting their lives at risk while also causing severe delays to household chores and making school children late for class. Janet expresses her gratitude to the WESM organization and the Bridget Water Foundation for restoring the borehole, emphasizing that the repair has brought clean, safe water close to home and greatly improved their lives.



Malita Banda is a 54-year-old unmarried mother of seven from Chikanda Village who relies on subsistence farming to support her family's daily needs. Before the recent repair, the village borehole produced very little water and suffered from frequent breakdowns, leaving community members to struggle daily and causing severe delays in household chores. Malita expresses her gratitude to WESM and the Bridget Water Foundation for restoring the borehole, stating that their lives will be much better from today onward and encouraging the organizations to continue this essential work in other communities.



Loveness Yona, a 70-year-old single mother of five from Kambuzi Village, relies on farming to provide her family's daily food. In 2025, their local borehole began failing due to dropping water levels, causing water to only trickle out slowly. This created long waiting lines that halted essential household chores and caused local children to be late for school. Loveness is profoundly grateful to WESM and the Bridget Water Foundation for repairing the borehole, easing these daily burdens and emphasizing that "water is life indeed."



Stella Kafa is a 47-year-old married mother of five who reached the Standard 8 level of primary education and runs a small business selling vegetables and unleavened baked bread. Prior to the borehole restoration, Stella and her community struggled daily to secure water, often having to walk long distances to draw water from unsafe, open sources that put their health at risk and delayed essential household and business activities. Now, with the borehole fully repaired, Stella and her fellow community members are celebrating as clean, safe water flows right in their village. She expresses her deep gratitude to WESM and the Bridget Water Foundation for restoring the borehole, easing the daily burden on her family and giving her more time to dedicate to her family and growing her small business.

Project Impacts

Access & Health Improvements

- **Restored Clean Water Access:** Clean and safe water access has been restored to 16,277 community members.
- **Proximity to Clean Water:** Water sources are now located within village premises, eliminating former 3+ km treks for water collection.
- **Disease Prevention:** Incidences of waterborne illnesses, particularly cholera from contaminated water, have been significantly reduced.
- **Improved Hygiene Practices:** Reliable access enables villagers to practice regular handwashing to prevent the spread of infectious diseases.

Socioeconomic Impact

- **Time & Labor Savings:** Reduced collection times ease daily physical drudgery, saving valuable time for women and children.
- **Increased Productivity:** Community members can redirect saved hours toward income generation, education, and other household activities.

Community Empowerment & Wildlife Conservation

- **Local Facility Ownership:** Community capacity has been strengthened to manage, maintain, and sustain their own water facilities.
- **Conservation Engagement:** Local understanding of the importance of protecting Nkhotakota Wildlife Reserve especially its elephant population has increased, encouraging active community participation in conservation. The good news is that elephant's population is increasing each year and other animal species their population is increasing.
- **Direct Reserve Support:** Surrounding communities now actively contribute to wildlife protection and eco-friendly practices in partnership with the Nkhotakota Wildlife Reserve.

Community Ownership & Sustainability

Community ownership is essential for the sustainability of the refurbished borewells.

The longevity and maintenance of the wells depend on the beneficiary community. Communities have received training and empowered to take complete ownership and responsibility of the borewells 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.

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

Community Capacity Building & Training

Bridgit Water Foundation and WESM aim to create sustainable improvements to rural development in the areas we work in, therefore it is our intention that the infrastructure we provide for our rural communities will last for years and provide clean, safe water for 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 Villages at the pre-construction meetings. During this first encounter the beneficiaries are made aware of their responsibility during project implementation as well as the long-term commitment to acquiring the water source.

The following training packages were provided:

1. Water Point management committee brief onsite training, where over 120 people were trained on how to repair and manage them well.

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

A WUC is vital to ensure the long-term sustainability of any community water system. Bridgit and its implementing partners have found that fostering a sense of responsibility and building the capacity within communities to manage the operation and maintenance of their own water access points are critical factors for success. The establishment and training of WUCs is an integral part of every water project we implement; in every community we work with.

Patrick Msowoya , the District Water Assistant and government stakeholder discussed the responsibilities of the Water Management Committee's 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).

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

Meetings also included guidance on water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) practices. WUC's were trained in basic maintenance and management of water sources, as well as promoting sanitation practices such as using clean containers, boiling water, using latrines at home and washing hands.

- **Equipment Maintenance Training**

Communities received training to collect minimal and affordable user fees from water users to enable self-funding for future maintenance and repairs. In addition, a community borewell service system was introduced to help increase the availability of funds for well maintenance. The Borehole Management Committees were introduced to Bank pa Mjego initiative, this is an initiative aims at raising funds for the community and also for the borehole maintenance.

- **Wildlife and Conservation Awareness Training**

During community meetings WESM staff discussed various topics such as borehole management, maintenance as well as human wildlife conflict. Community members receive the shared information, and further wildlife discussions are identified to address existing gaps in conserving the environment and natural resources. Main communities do complain about some behaviors of wild animals mainly when destroying their crops. During dry season elephants do brake the face.

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 the work, 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 restoration 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.

Communities are involved in tree planting initiatives which aims at addressing deforestation challenge, each water point is encouraged to plant and manage tree woodlot for their communities.

Project Challenges

No any challenge the project experienced as it was well planned and implemented.

Lessons Learned

This project funded by Bridgit Water Foundation is impacting the lives of many people positively and hearing from beneficiary communities one could believe that there is great need to support these communities
The overwhelming relief expressed by beneficiary communities underscores a massive ongoing shortage of reliable, clean water access across these underserved areas.

Delivering effective and sustained relief requires dedicated professional staff who prioritize community welfare, making it difficult to maintain operations without sustained funding for partners like WESM and the Bridgit Water Foundation

Having professional staff who are dedicated and put community suffering at heart is important. WESM and Bridgit have the people centered approach hence community support is a priority.

The restoration of these water wells helped communities that had been accessing unsafe water after their boreholes broke down.

Acknowledgements

Our gratitude goes to **Very Good 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 Board Members, 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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