

Visit to Kabanana

Kabanana is a community in Lusaka; it is an area under Mandevu ward. It is more than 10km out of Lusaka. The visit to Kabanana was arranged by the Community Development Assistant Fostina and student on attachment, to the Development office. Mrs. Daka from the district office was still out of town.

At the entrance of the area we found a group of people collecting water, we stopped to speak to them whilst the CDA (Fostina) went to arrange with the leaders we were supposed to meet. The people shared that the water source they were drawing water from was from the borehole at the Catholic Church. This was at a police post that had not started operations, though it was built 4 years ago.



A group of people drawing water from the water tapped from the Catholic Church borehole

The community members drawing water explained that the water they were drawing had been piped from the Catholic Church across the road. Previously they were allowed to draw from the priest's home. Due to break-ins they decided to connect a pipe from the borehole to the police post for people to draw water. The people started lining up for the water as early as 04 hours. They were allowed to start drawing at 09 hours to 12 hours. The church had employed a woman who was charging for the collection of water every 20litre container attracted a fee of K200 whilst a drum (200litres) was K2500. Before the church came in the people explained that they walked for almost 30 minutes to the nearest water point to draw water. The lady employed by the church explained that people paid on a daily basis because sometimes there was no water and people would make noise if they did not get water. She explained that there had been no water for the past two days.



The woman explaining about the water problem in the area and the Catholic Church employee who collects the monies from the people when they come to draw water

A woman at the water source explained that some people had managed to dig wells though they were very deep. The water from these wells was not reliable and she explained that there were a lot of cases of diahorrea in the community because of lack of clean drinking water.

We proceeded to have a meeting with two community leaders a man and woman, they explained that water was a big problem for them, asked about how many water sources there were in the community they explained that there were some with wells in a few homes but due to the water table being low these were dry during the hot season. Sometimes people drew the unclean water and waited for it to settle before they used it as it would be very dirty. In total they identified 4 water sources of clean water. One water source in particular required each household to pay K5, 000.00 a month; they were allowed to draw as much water as they needed. The other two water sources were the K200 per container. The lady explained that the monthly arrangement was better though they had to walk distances to get the water. She explained that they used about eight 20litres containers of water on a daily basis. Some community members had to walk about 4 kms to get to the water depending on where their homes were.



Meeting with Community leaders

We decided to visit a well at one of the homes near where we were parked. After walking for about 10 minutes we reached a home with a well. The well was very deep; when we looked down we could hardly see the bottom it looked over 10metres deep and it had taken them a long time to dig. Even with the well being that deep we were told that there had been no water in the month of October. Due to the rains starting they were able to get two 20litre containers of water , when the rains had fully set in they usually drew about two 200litre containers of water. This well was rarely a source of water for their neighbors as well, due to the low quantities of water produced by the well. If and when they drew water in the morning at 8 hrs they would need to wait for over 4 hours to be able to draw water again.



The deep well which was visited and some community members standing around the said well

Kabanana really gives one the impression of an area without water, the area is very dry. The road which leads to the area is very sandy and usually impassable during the rainy season as advised by the CDA. Transport to the area is usually a problem at this time. The need for a water project is obvious in this area.