

Improving Water, Sanitation and Hygiene at the Luwalika Health Center

A REPORT FOR PROVIDENCE: MAY 2023–NOVEMBER 2023



New water tank and stand. Photo by CRS staff

YOUR IMPACT

From May 2022 to the early months of 2023, Malawi was hit by a cholera outbreak. Mangochi was one of the hardest-hit districts. The Luwalika Health Center in Mangochi reported five cholera patients from surrounding villages. Your generous support came at a pivotal time, providing the center with critical water, sanitation and hygiene facilities.

Mrs. Fazili is a member of a health advisory committee. She says that before the project, the Luwalika Health Center faced numerous challenges: It lacked a reliable source of clean water and proper sanitation facilities, threatening the health and well-being of both patients and staff. Inadequate hygiene practices also contributed to the spread of disease.

Thanks to your generosity, improved sanitation facilities have greatly enhanced the quality of health care services at the center. Mrs. Fazili recalls the discomfort and embarrassment she would feel when using dilapidated latrines. Today, she is grateful that the new washrooms have created a more dignified environment for patients and staff members.

In expressing her gratitude, Mrs. Fazili emphasizes that the project has brought hope and improved well-being to her community. Clean water, proper sanitation and hygiene practices have not only reduced illness and medical expenses but have also empowered people to lead healthier and more productive lives.

PROJECT OVERVIEW

CRS launched a project in May 2023 to support Luwalika Health Center in the Diocese of Mangochi with improved water, sanitation and hygiene facilities. Our goals were to provide the center with access to clean water and water storage and improve hygiene practices through new or renovated sanitation facilities.

With your partnership, we rehabilitated or constructed a water tank and stand, latrines, toilets, showers, wash basins, a medical waste pit, an ash pit and an incinerator. These facilities are ready for use and are improving water, sanitation and hygiene at the health center.

PROJECT ACHIEVEMENTS

IMPROVED ACCESS TO WATER

Improved water supply has several benefits for a local health center. It ensures the availability of clean and safe water, which is essential for maintaining proper hygiene. This enables health care professionals to provide better care to patients, reducing the risk of infections and disease. Improved water supply also enables medical equipment to function properly. And it enhances overall efficiency by reducing the time and effort required to fetch water, allowing health care workers to focus more on patient care. Improved water supply for a health center enhances the quality of health care services provided, promoting better health outcomes for the community it serves. Thanks to your support, Luwalika Health Center will benefit from these outcomes through its improved water access.

“This significant improvement has had a profound impact on the quality of care we are able to provide to our patients. The upgraded facilities have not only enhanced the cleanliness and hygiene standards within the premises but have also contributed to a safer and healthier environment for both staff and patients. We are truly grateful for this invaluable support, as it has greatly improved the overall well-being of our community.”

—Mr. Paul, head of the Luwalika Health Center

IMPROVED HYGIENE AND SANITATION

Newly constructed sanitation facilities are providing several benefits for health center patients and staff. New shower facilities and toilets are designed to be accessible for people with disabilities, promoting inclusivity and equal access to health services. The installation of grab bars, wider doorways and wheelchair-accessible sinks and toilets enables patients with mobility challenges to use the facilities independently. This not only improves their sense of autonomy but also reduces burdens on health care staff members, allowing them to focus on providing quality care. The newly constructed bathrooms and toilets contribute to a more comfortable, hygienic and inclusive environment for patients and staff members.

With the construction of an incinerator, ash pit and medical waste pit, health center staff members can dispose of all waste generated from the health center in a safe way that does not pose risks for surrounding communities.

Table 1 shows all the improvements of water, sanitation and hygiene infrastructure supported by the project. See annex for photos.

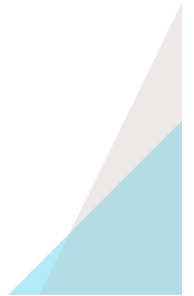
INFRASTRUCTURE	EXISTING BEFORE	REPAIRED/NEWLY INSTALLED	NEW TOTAL
20-foot tank stand	1	1 newly installed	2
1,000-gallon water tank	1	1 newly installed	2
Pit latrines	1	1 newly installed	2
Flush toilets	2	3—2 renovated and 1 newly installed	3
Wash basins	0	11 renovated	11
Shower facilities	2	3—2 renovated and 1 newly installed	3
Medical waste pit	1	1 renovated	1

Incinerator	0	1 newly installed	1
Ash pit	0	1 newly installed	1

TABLE 1

THANK YOU

CRS, the Mangochi Diocese Health Commission and the Luwalika community are grateful for your generous support. The Luwalika Health Center has improved its water supply and hygiene infrastructure—promoting the overall health of an entire community. We are grateful for your partnership in ensuring equitable access to water, sanitation and hygiene and dignified health care.



ANNEX: BEFORE AND AFTER PHOTOS



Old pit latrine, left, and newly-constructed pit latrines, right. Photo credit CRS staff



Old incinerator, left, and new incinerator, right. Photo credit CRS staff



Old medical waste pit, left, and newly-constructed pit, right. Photo credit CRS staff



Latrine that was not accessible for people with disabilities, left, and the improved accessible latrine, right. Photo credit CRS staff

