

PUMP AID

'Water For Life'



Pump Aid tackles poverty by working with local communities to establish sustainable supplies of clean water for improved health and increased agricultural production.

The Elephant Pump

Pump Aid installs Elephant Pumps in rural schools and communities to provide clean water for drinking and irrigation. The Elephant Pump was developed in Zimbabwe and is based on a 2,000 year-old Chinese design.

The pumps are simple in design and can be maintained by the beneficiaries themselves. They are made from cheap local materials, and are enclosed in a brick housing so that contamination is avoided. Elephant pumps provide clean drinking water and are used to irrigate crops during the dry season or through periods when rains fail. Wells can be dug to a depth of 30 metres, extracting 60 litres of water per minute.

The Elephant Pump costs **£250** to install. This is in sharp contrast to many existing pumps, which are inappropriate, expensive, and often break down.

The Pump Aid Team

The number of field personnel is rapidly expanding and all are members of the local community in rural areas of Zimbabwe. They are familiar with water related problems, understand the needs of rural communities and are aware of cultural considerations.

Pump Aid is registered as a charity in the UK, with trustees in Britain and Zimbabwe. The majority of funding has come from the UK. Ian Thorpe is the International Director of Pump Aid; he has directed development projects in rural areas of Zimbabwe for many years and speaks fluent Shona.

Local Participation

Pump Aid believes in a fully participatory approach to development. Letters of application from schools or villagers are received and 'Pre-Pump Case-Studies' are conducted. These studies investigate existing systems of water usage and determine how much an Elephant Pump would benefit the community. The beneficiaries are involved at all stages of construction and contribute to the process by making bricks, collecting sand, and providing labour to dig a deep well and assist during pump installation. A high degree of beneficiary involvement leads to a strong sense of ownership once the pump is built, together with an understanding of how the pump works. This empowers the beneficiaries to undertake maintenance and any repairs as and when they are needed.

Pump Aid Today and in the Future

- Pump Aid has installed numerous pumps helping hundreds of thousands of beneficiaries.
- Pilot pumps have been completed in Malawi and Mozambique.
- Schools are being prioritised for assistance, as one pump can provide clean water for more than 500 children, their teachers and a number of local families. The current situation in schools is particularly acute and some are being closed down, due to poor water supply.
- The AIDS pandemic in Africa heightens the need for clean water for families affected by HIV and for children (mostly AIDS orphans) at the growing number of orphanages.
- Pump Aid is confident of continued success in Zimbabwe and plans steady expansion into other poverty-stricken areas of Africa. We are open to suggestions of collaboration with other organisations (governmental and non-governmental), and are willing to exchange ideas.
- We have recently introduced a Sanitation Programme for 250 schools to install toilet and handwashing facilities to improve children's health and to give privacy & dignity.

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