

SUMMARY

Khanyakufhikila Primary School and Mashananadana High School.

CBO Network, a community based organisation in KwaZulu Natal, South Africa, requested ZAW late October 2013 to assist them in organizing safe drinking water for Khanyakufhikila Primary School and Mashananadana High School. In total this concerned 510 schoolchildren and almost 25 teachers. We tried to organize funding for the “Solar wealth, Water health” project from Cordaid by competing for the Innovation Award. Unfortunately our project was not selected. Then late December, Gré Kornelius invited us to submit the proposal to the Stichting Groot Haspels. They adopted the project in their meeting on May 21, 2014 and subsequently a financing agreement was signed. Our “field” partners were informed accordingly and invited to plan the project implementation.

A tri-partite agreement was drafted and signed: specifying the different responsibilities of the parties: • CBO-Network, being the permanent party in the area, was responsible for the contact

with the schools (headmaster, water manager etc.), the training and the follow-up of the projects after implementation.

QuaWater Pty Ltd, the water company was responsible for installing the hardware and the training of water manager and few teachers on operation and maintenance of the water purification equipment. CBO Network made preparatory visits to both schools and communicated with QuaWater on the logistical challenges. Though originally it was planned to supply

a solar for the unit in Khanyakufhikila Primary School, the headmaster and members of the governing body discussed with CBO-Network their worries on safety of such panel. They preferred to use a generator instead, as that could be better secured. Also, at that time they assumed it was possible to adjust the generator they already had.

Between 10 and 13th July QuaWater and CBO successfully installed the units in both schools and trained the selected water-managers on operation and maintenance of the purification units. During the following weeks CBO provided further training. It became clear that bureaucratic rules would

seriously delay adjustment of the generator already present in the school and thus the AquaDoc water purification could not be used. To not lose the momentum of the project and secure safe drinking water in the school, it was decided to provide a new generator to the school. An additional challenge has been the raw water situation. In Khanyakufhikila school the raw water was quite turbid and a coarse filter was put additionally “in line” of the water purification process. This, in order to increase the life-time of the filter that comes “standard” with the AquaDoc UV purification unit. Further, due to limited rainfall, the availability of raw water itself has been a problem. Now, in Khanyakufhikila Primary School this has been solved as the authorities made a tap station close to the school where ample unpurified water is being supplied.

In Mashananadana High School, they will further improve the raw water supply early January (after school Summer holiday) by protecting the nearby spring and installing an extra tank and piping. A pleasant surprise has been that QuaWater did not need to charge VAT as the project was paid for from abroad. Thus, there still is a balance available, namely € 1487,11

Our request to the Groot Haspels Foundation is to use this balance for follow-up, incl. water tests (e.g. 6 and 12 months after Hand-Over).

Jacqueline Langeslag, our Project Advisor was in the area early September. She visited three schools: Mguqu Primary where a similar project was implemented in November 2012. Here, the unit is functioning properly and the Headmaster expressed once again his gratitude for having safe drinking water now for “his pupils”. His enthusiasm, not at least fuelled by outside support and “hands on” supervision by CBO-Network, has extended into training of gardening and education re. re-use of waste material and the like.

Khanyakufhikila Primary School: the unit has been properly installed and the trainers were aware of the importance of safe drinking water as well as how to operate the unit. She noticed and discussed the lack of a permanent safeguarded place for the generator and the challenge re. raw water supply. Improvements were set in motion and have been solved by the time of writing this report.