

## **SIMUSUNGE COMMUNITY SCHOOL**

**Update Report**

**August, 2021**

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Simusunge Community School is situated about 107KM from Livingstone in Zimba District. The school falls under Simwatachela Chiefdom and has students hailing from eight villages (Siamutili, Siachisamu, Kabozya, Tela, Siapala, Sianyongo, and Tulundu). The school runs from Early Childhood Education (ECE) to the Fourth Grade.

Like may other rural communities in Southern Zambia, Simusunge community members are predominatly peasant farmers depend on rain fed crops mostly maize. Sources of income for most households is from cattle, chicken. Goat and sheep rearing.



The school has a total of 342 pupils (173 girls, 169 boys) and four volunteer teachers (3 male, 1 female). Unfortunately, the Government is yet to deploy a trained teacher to the school despite the completion of the Staff House, however with the construction of this other Staff House and strengthened engagement with our partners in Government, the situation ought to be rectified. Though the volunteer teachers are pulling their weight and teaching as best they can, having a formally trained and qualified teacher/s at the school will be a big plus at the school as the standard of education received will improve. In 2017 it was the only community school in the area and was using a grass thatched class.



The following year through support from Eidvoll, the school was supported with building materials for the construction of a 1 x 2 classroom block and a teacher's house. This increased the enrolment of children at the school. The school had previously received support for a 1x2 Classroom Block and Staff House which were duly completed.



1 x 2 classroom block completed



Teacher's house now completed



The community also successfully lobbied for a water reserve project which has been providing clean water to the pupils and teachers. It is a rain harvesting reservoir with capacity of about 60,000 Litres of water. They also successfully lobbied for an additional 1x3 classroom block and toilets from another organization working in the area. These projects are currently going on at the same school by an organisationa called African Revival.



Rain water harvesting reservoir at Simusunge

For 2021, the earmarked projects were an additional staff house and 50 desks for the school. So far the building materials have been delivered and works have started. The community is digging the foundation and it is hoped that the project will be completed by the end of the year. The community involvement in the project has been good, though this year the projects are a little delayed because of some reasons explained below.

Because of the desks, children will now be able to sit comfortably and not be squeezed together on a few desks. However, the enrollment rate has yet again increased from what was previously reported, therefore the need for a classroom extension is still present.



*Staff house foundation works in progress*



*Desks being delivered to Simusunge*

### **Reasons for the delay in completion of the project**

The schools are built on self help basis, which means the communities have to be mobilized and encouraged to complete the project at their reasonable and practical pace. This means that the community members are fully involved in the construction of the project and this ensures sustainability once the support comes to a stop. In this way they do feel ownership over the school, and will naturally look well after it. This may not have been their attitude if the school had been built for them by a constructor, as they would not have sweat for it.

This year, the country had General elections and this meant that a lot of campaign activities were in progress and taking off some of the time from the members who had to follow campaign rallies to listen to what various political parties were offering if voted for. The other factor was covid 19. Unlike other years, the Covid toll was more felt due to increased deaths witnessed. This dampened community members morale and also because of the Government guidelines on the number of people that were allowed to gather at a given time. With reduced cases now, work has accelerated again.