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PAR-WASH PROJECT

A healthy living, I see you!

# NEWSLETTER



Written By: PAR-WASH Project

## About the PAR-WASH Project

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The **PAR-WASH Project** empowers children and youth to take the lead in addressing **Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene (WASH)** challenges in their communities. By working collaboratively with partners, the project aims to foster sustainable solutions for the well-being of these vulnerable areas.

**Project Purpose:** A foundation is established for the co-creation of a model in which children and youth work with diverse stakeholders to solve WASH issues in an independent manner.

**Target Group:** Children and youth under the age of 35 living in the Chawama area (Target number: 900 people)

### Training Activities: February - April

From February 12 2024, **Twatasha Primary School** started its WASH training activities with the PAR-WASH Project. They had **12 sessions in the first term**. The 12 sessions were conducted by the **Dziko Langa Child-Youth Club's** facilitators. The **PAR-WASH Project Training and Activity Manual** was used as a guide to facilitate the training. The manual will be updated throughout the duration of the project.

- A total of 63 pupils were reached in 2024
- The pupils were able to identify WASH issues in their communities by the second lesson



The children did 11 weeks of training from February to April. Training included **learning about their living environment and collecting data** using photography and art-based research (see pictures: left).

Then participants **explored, discussed and learned about WASH in their own community using their own data**. In the 12th week on April 19, they held a **public exhibition to showcase WASH in their school and community** (see pictures: below).



**Hokkaido University, JAPAN**  
**Chawama Youth Project, ZAMBIA**  
**Dziko Langa, ZAMBIA**  
*We are a JICA Grassroot Project*



## Zambia Water Forum and Exhibition 2024 (June 11 -13)

The PAR-WASH Project held a focused session in the Zambia Water Forum and Exhibition (ZAWAFE) 2024 from June 11 to 13 at the Mulungushi International Conference Center, Lusaka.

### Conference Theme:

*Closing the gap: Working towards the attainment of the sustainable development goals (SDGs) targets*

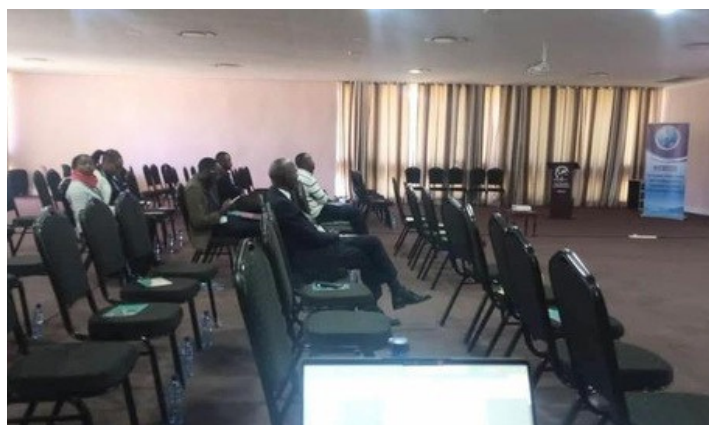
Represented by Mr. Somi Justin, Ms. Susan Mwelwa, and Ms. Jessy Ruth Zgambo (on-site); and Prof. Taro Yamauchi and Dr. Sikopo Nyambe (online). The session focused on WASH solutions for schools and communities.

### Presentations:

- Participatory action research in peri- urban WASH.
- Hand hygiene practices in Lusaka. Dziko
- Langa's school-to-community WASH training manual.
- A Co-design workshop was held to discuss the solutions to WASH challenges shared by the students.



**Workshop discussions emphasized** addressing damaged toilets, water shortages, and waste management through use of the Community Development Fund (CDF). Possible stakeholder partnerships were also emphasized for future collaboration. School-driven initiatives like recycling and fundraising were suggested. **The PAR-WASH Project members remain dedicated to empowering youth as WASH champions, contributing to the 2030 Sustainable Development Goals.**



## Japan Teacher Visit (August 1)



On the 1st of August, a team of **22 teachers, JICA staff, and a reporter from Japan** visited the PAR-WASH Project and pupils in Lusaka, Zambia. The meeting was held at the Chawam Skills Training Center managed by Chawama Youth Project. During the meeting, the pupils shared what they had learnt through the PAR-WASH training. Teachers and pupils also had a chance to interact and play games.



## Japan Teacher Visit Highlights



Zambian pupils teaching Japanese teachers to make a tippy tap (simple hand washing station) based on what they had learned during the PAR-WASH training.

## Naka-Furano Elementary School Interaction 1 (October 16)



Eleven Twatasha pupils had an online meeting with a Grade 3 teacher from Naka-Furano Elementary School in Japan. Eleven Shikoswe pupils from our pilot project in Kafue were also in attendance. **During the interaction, they discussed life and WASH in Zambia and Japan.** The interaction was shared with Japanese students.

## Launch of PAR-WASH Steering Committee (October 16)



On October 16, the Launch of the PAR-WASH Steering Committee took place at Ndozo Lodge, Chawama. **The committee will collaborate with the project in advising, supporting and working with children to plan and implement their WASH interventions.** Different stakeholders from JICA, NGOs like Vision Outreach Zambia, Ministry of Education, National Youth Development Council, Lecturers and students from Zambian universities, Ward Councilors from Chawama, a Head Teacher and Teachers from the schools we have been working in, were in attendance (approx. 70 people)

## Naka-Furano Elementary School Interaction 2 (December 17)



The Hokkaido University PAR-WASH Team made **an educational video about the 5Fs** (fecal-oral contamination routes: Fingers, Flies, Fields, Fluids, Food) for the Naka-Furano School pupils. A second online interaction was held between Hokkaido University, Dziko Langa and the Naka-Furano pupils. **The Japanese pupils shared three intervention ideas for improving hand hygiene:**

- (i) Create a play/drama featuring a hand washing hero;
- (ii) Make bar soap with different toys inside; and
- (iii) Create a special program to educate people on the benefits of, and risks of not hand washing.

## Pilot Intervention: School Clean-Up at Shikoswe Primary School (October 17)

Through the "**Co-creation of Community-based Water, Sanitation and Hygiene Model for children and youth**" (**CO-CO WASH**) **Project** (running from 2022-2025), the PAR-WASH Training Manual was piloted at Shikoswe Primary School. Based on the findings of the Grade 5 pupils involved in the pilot, the pupils held a public WASH Exhibition (Picture below: left). Parents, teachers, and the local government were invited. **Pupils mentioned two main intervention goals: (i) To build and/or renovate school toilets; and (ii) To have a bi-annual school clean up involving the student populace. The pupils had great success!!**

On October 17, a **school clean-up activity** aimed at promoting a cleaner and healthier learning environment was held (Picture below: middle, right). **The initiative was pupil-led: both students and Dziko Langa provided cleaning equipment and guidance. Dziko Langa, students, staff and some steering committee members actively participated in the clean-up.** The event received **media coverage from Crown TV Zambia**, which aired footage of the clean-up session, and the steering committee launch. Parents and local government responded positively to the children's plan to work on the toilets. **Parents offered to provide blocks for the building of new toilets. The local government has since signed a contract for new toilets to be built at the school.**

**THANK YOU TO ALL INVOLVED!!!**



### Steering Committee Intervention Discussions

- Build new toilets
- Rehabilitate old toilets
- Input new water drums
- Repair and replace toilet doors

### >>> WHAT NEXT?

- We are presently working on our calendar for 2025
- We will have a Steering Committee meeting in the near future. Interested persons/organisations are welcome
- We are open to partnerships, collaborations and trainings towards our goals and those of institutions aligned with our goals

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