**Clean Water Improves Patient Care in Rural Zambia**

**Project Summary**

The [*Clean Water Improves Patient Care in Rural Zambia* (*Clean Water*)](https://www.globalgiving.org/projects/better-water-improves-patient-care-in-rural-zambia/) project posted on the Global Giving website is a project for the benefit of the United Church of Zambia Mwandi Mission Hospital (UCZMMH) and is sponsored by the hospitals’ **Board of Trustees** **American Partners**.[[1]](#footnote-1)

The Clean Water project is a key part of 10-year Strategic and Implementation Plans developed and approved by the hospital’s board in 2017. These plans build on the structural renovation of the main hospital building completed in 2015 and the completion of the first phase of the hospital Solar Project last fall. The Clean Water project is a crucial step in allowing the hospital to better serve patients because it will:

1. Provide the hospital with clean water and dependable water delivery for all areas of the hospital. As indicated on the Clean Water website (linked above), the current water delivered to the hospital contains some bacterial contamination and pumps often fail to deliver water to the hospital which results in interruption of healthcare, including surgeries, and prevents good hygienic practices.
2. Reduce the maintenance and electricity demands of the current pumping system. These measures will significantly decrease the costs to the very limited operating budget available to the hospital and will allow the savings to be used to provide patients with needed medications and healthcare supplies that are now in short supply.
3. Allow the hospital to become a second level referral hospital serving additional patient populations. In conjunction with providing excellent primary care, an analysis of healthcare needs in this region indicates that the following specialties are essential: ophthalmology, endoscopy, cervical cancer screening, obstetrics and gynecology and dental surgery. Infrastructure to support the growth of the hospital in these heath care areas is the basis for the new Master Plan, currently under development.

A time-line for the completion of the Clean Water Project is outlined below:

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| **Project Phases** | **Projected Dates** | **Status** |
| Evaluation of Current Water Provision to Hospital | Spring 2018 | Complete |
| Install Back-up Tank by Maternity and Surgery | Fall 2018 | Complete |
| Restructure Entire Water Piping Supplying Hospital | Spring 2019 – Fall 2019 | In progress |
| Installation of Elevated Water Tank Near River | Fall 2019 – Fall 2020 | Not started |
| Installation of UV Water Treatment System and Partculate Water Filter | Fall 2020 | Not started |

1. Incorporated in the State of North Carolina in 2012 and classified as a 501c3 public charity in 2014, the American Partners support healthcare in rural Zambia by fundraising to improve the Mwandi Hospital’s infrastructure. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)