



Strategic Alliances:

A Story of Impact in Malawi

Once known as a camp for internally displaced people, Chikuse, Malawi, grappled with daily hardship. Water scarcity defined life – women walked hours to collect water, sacrificing time from their families and livelihoods. The few available water sources were contaminated, fueling the spread of waterborne illnesses.

Lydia, a mother of two, recalls, “Life without water was unbearable, and getting the water was a struggle.”

Tension simmered daily as village residents, desperate for every drop of water, clashed at crowded boreholes. The endless search for water brought fatigue, sickness and division throughout the community.

Strategic Alliance Transforms Community

But everything changed when Water Mission, in partnership with Compassion Malawi, installed a solar-powered water system in Chikuse. This innovative project brought safe, chlorinated water right to community members’ doorsteps, drastically improving day-to-day life. No longer did Lydia and other women have to spend hours fetching water or worrying about their children’s health.

The new 10,000-liter, solar-powered tank delivers over 30,000 liters of safe water each day, managed by trained

local community members. With easy access to water, women have been able to reclaim the time they spent carrying water, investing it instead in farming, raising their children, and running small businesses. The fear of disease has faded, and the once fractured village now flourishes with hope and vitality.

Ripples of Hope

The transformative impact of this project has extended beyond Chikuse to neighboring communities as well. The new water system reaches the nearby Mpingasa village, supplying an additional 1,000 people with daily water and supporting a local primary school. Inspired by this success, other communities – like Chimwenje village in Dedza – have also benefited from similar projects, bringing safe water to thousands more.

“As they say, water is life. It’s good to see water making a difference in people’s lives,” shares Joel Macharia, Compassion Malawi’s National Director.

Today, Chikuse is no longer defined by struggle but by unity, resilience and the life-changing gift of safe water, proving that hope can flow even in the driest of places.

A Deeper Look:

How Does Compassion Utilize Strategic Alliances?

Compassion has strategic alliances with 40+ organizations around the world. These collaborations with like-minded organizations provide opportunities to leverage expertise and resources in areas such as water, sanitation and hygiene (WaSH); mental health; disaster response; food security; education; gender equity, disability and social inclusion (GEDSI); and many more. Strategic alliances help to support program strategies and outcome attainment as we focus on releasing children from poverty in Jesus' name.

More about Compassion's Collaboration with Water Mission in Chikuse

The new solar-powered water system currently serves 6,000 people in Chikuse and the surrounding area, and it is designed to accommodate even more people as the village grows. **To see a video of the village and new water system, scan the QR code here.**

