



## THANDOLWAYO, ZIMBABWE

**Life in her village in north-western Zimbabwe, wasn't easy for 12 year old Thandolwayo. Every morning she'd walk seven kilometres and risk being attacked by crocodiles as she collected clean water for her grandparents and family. Exhausted from hours fetching and carrying water, she'd then start her day at school.**

Thandolwayo's hope to be a nurse seemed almost impossible to realise, until Caritas Hwange helped the village install a solar-powered water system. It's bringing new opportunities, new hope – and a chance for Thandolwayo to concentrate on her education and her future.

Thandolwayo lives with her grandparents and other members of her family in a village of 500 people in the Hwange district of north-western Zimbabwe.

Her father left several years ago and her mother lives in a town 90 kilometres away where she works as a casual labourer. Her older sister also moved away to attend secondary school. Thandolwayo attends the local school which has just 35 students and two teachers.

Thandolwayo's grandparents make a living by selling pearl millet bran to fishermen and farmers for animal feed. They also sell chickens - but the income it brings isn't enough to support the family.

Around 72 percent of Zimbabwe's population is living below the poverty line. Thandolwayo's community is also plagued by ongoing droughts, food and water scarcity and poor sanitation.

Every morning before school, Thandolwayo used to walk 3.5 kilometres with the other women and girls to the Gwayi River and back again. Carrying a 5 litre container, she would traverse a rocky, mountainous path to collect water for her family and her teacher.

"Then when we got to the river, we were afraid of being attacked by crocodiles," Thandolwayo says. "I went to school tired after collecting water and my performance at school was low."

In 2017, Caritas Australia partnered with Caritas Hwange to help the community to install two solar-powered pumps to draw the water up from the river, as well as two 10,000 litre storage tanks.

Community participation in the project was overwhelming. Both men and women helped by digging and carrying stones, and water tanks. Thandolwayo's grandmother also joined other villagers in participating in Caritas assisted training in health and hygiene skills.

Thanks to Caritas' support, water is now on tap in the village - benefitting the whole community.

"Life has really changed as a result of the tap because now I can bathe every day," says Thandolwayo. "We can wash our plates and clothes regularly. I now go to school feeling fresh. The distance to collect water for the family has been drastically reduced. We now drink clean, safe water and diseases are no longer affecting us". Village health workers say that water-borne diseases have halved, and people in the village are living longer.

There is also a new feeling of hope and positive change in the village. The plentiful water supply has triggered a series of new ventures. Water is being used to mould bricks for building houses and to pound maize to sell. Plans are underway to establish a community garden and a fish pond, to generate an income to assist with school fees.

"I'm so proud that tap water has been brought to this community during my lifetime," says Thandolwayo's grandmother, Regina. "We now have enough time and energy to do other work to make life better. Thandolwayo can eat three meals a day and she can concentrate much better at school. We hope she will excel and get a good job and take care of her family."

There are also hopes that the new, reliable water source will draw more families back to the village. School attendance has already increased and there are plans for a secondary school.

*"Hope is important because it makes me work harder so that I achieve what I want to be when I grow up. I want to live a good life in the future."*

*- Thandolwayo*

"The dignity of the community has been restored," says Super Dube, Caritas Hwange's Diocesan Coordinator. "People no longer have to worry about collecting a basic thing like water which is a human right. The project has certainly brought hope to the village," he says.

"Thank you very much for saving our lives because water is life," her grandmother says.



## FIND THANDOLWAYO'S SHORT FILM AND INTERACTIVE STUDENT WORKBOOK:

<https://www.thinglink.com/scene/1114793471962513409>

### REFLECT

*"The future does have a name... and its name is hope." Pope Francis*

- How does this relate to Thandolwayo's story?
- What is your hope for the future? How will you ensure you reach your dream?

### CATHOLIC SOCIAL TEACHING

#### Common Good

We believe in working towards the common good, looking beyond our own personal interests.

- How is Thandolwayo's community an example of working towards the common good?

### LEARNING TASKS



#### TASK 1: STORY STUDY

English Y7- ACELY1723, Y8- ACELY1734, Y9- ACELY1744, Y10- ACELY1754



Watch (or read) Thandolwayo's story and discuss.

1. What were some challenges for Thandolwayo?
2. What changed in Thandolwayo's life to make it better?
3. How did Caritas Australia help?
4. Why is access to clean water a basic human right?
5. What has been the impact of the water tap in the wider community?



#### TASK 2: HUMAN WELLBEING

Geography Y10- ACHGK081/

#### Religious Education

Investigate differences in human wellbeing between places.

1. What are the different concepts and measures of human wellbeing, and the causes of global differences in these measures between the countries?
2. What are the spatial differences in wellbeing within and between countries?
3. Evaluate the differences from a variety of perspectives.
4. How are Caritas Australia supported programs designed to reduce the gap between differences in wellbeing?

Suggested websites:

- o <https://data.worldbank.org/>
- o <http://hdr.undp.org/en/data>
- o [www.caritas.org.au/projectcompassion](http://www.caritas.org.au/projectcompassion)



#### TASK 3: CIVIC LIFE

Civics and Citizenship Y9- ACHCK079/ Religious Education

Research the work of Caritas Australia.

1. How does Caritas Australia contribute to the Australian community? Explore the concept of 'the common good'.
2. How is Thandolwayo's story an example of how Caritas Australia, as the aid and development organisation of the Catholic Church in Australia, demonstrates interfaith understanding and social justice?

3. Why does Caritas Australia

advocate for an end to poverty and inequality around the world?

4. How can you contribute to the work of Caritas Australia?



#### TASK 4: SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

17 goals to achieve 3 extraordinary things in the next 15 years:

- End extreme poverty.
- Fight inequality and injustice.
- Fix climate change.

The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) attempt to address the root causes of poverty and inequality within and between countries, climate change and environmental degradation, the lack of peace and justice, alongside other important issues.

1. How do the goals relate to Catholic Social Teaching (CST) principles?
2. Which goals do you think apply to Thandolwayo's story?
3. How has the Caritas supported program contributed to achieving these goals?
4. How are we tracking to achieving these goals? <https://sdg-tracker.org/>
5. What can you do to achieve these goals?
6. What link do you see between SDGs and CST?
7. What can we do to bridge the gap between the reality and the ideal?
8. How can you make a commitment to take action?



#### TASK 5: SOLAR PUMP

Thandolwayo's village worked towards the common good as together they worked to solve their water problem. The installation of a solar-powered water pump has made a huge difference in the lives of many. Watch the solar power video and then play the Solar Pump Board Game and see how the pump has made a difference in Thandolwayo's village.

1. What is the purpose of the pump?
2. Why do you think the materials were chosen?
3. Does using these materials have a little or large impact on the local environment?
4. What equipment and/or tools were used to build the pump system?
5. Who will use it?
6. What do I like about the solar pump?
7. How has this community considered sustainability in their design?
8. How can it be improved?



#### TASK 6: GRATITUDE JOURNAL

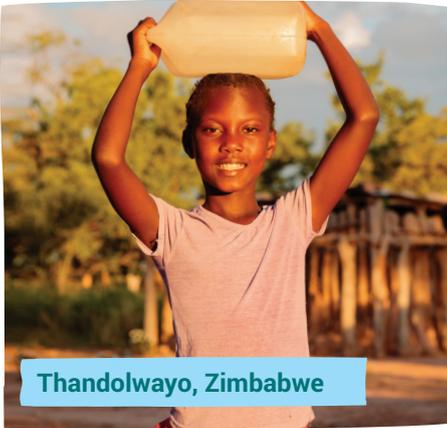
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## 100% DETERMINATION



Thandolwayo, Zimbabwe

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This week I am grateful for...



How can I share my blessings with others  
this week?

Three good things  
from this week are...

1.

2.

3.

