

PRELIMINARY REPORT
PRE-DRILLING HOUSEHOLD SURVEY
Priority Borehole Locations by Village Demand



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Reported By:

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I. BACKGROUND AND PROGRAMME DESIGN

1.1 Original Target Villages

Villages in Partnership initially identified five villages in which borehole drilling would be undertaken including: Manduwasa; Maulana; Makuluni; Mmwala; and Maliwata.

These five villages formed the core implementation set. Resources, community mobilization and subsequent technical investigations were planned primarily around them.

1.2 Reserve Villages

Recognizing that drilling success cannot be guaranteed at every site, the programme deliberately expanded the household survey to include three further villages and these included: Mwandama; Nsenda and Pondiya

These three villages are designated as reserves. They will be activated only if one or more of the five primary targets cannot deliver a successful, sustainable borehole. By surveying them in advance, the programme retains the ability to redirect effort quickly without losing time on a fresh demand assessment.

1.3 Scope of This Preliminary Report

The pre-drilling household survey was designed to understand several interrelated dimensions of water access:

- Water needs: The number and distribution of households currently lacking reliable, safe water;
- Challenges: The practical difficulties communities face in obtaining water (distance, seasonality, quality, time and queuing);
- Alternative sources: The existing sources people rely on and the limitations of those sources;
- Commitment to sustainability: The willingness and capacity of communities to form water-point committees, contribute to maintenance, protect the catchment and manage the facility for the long term.

This preliminary report focuses solely on the first dimension as it relates to siting: which locations are ideal for drilling based on population demand. Findings on challenges, alternative sources and sustainability commitment will be presented in the final survey report.

1.4 The Survey Team

The predrilling household survey was conducted by VIP's Monitoring, Evaluation, Accountability and Learning (MEAL) team in coordination with the WASH Team and the District Water Office.

2. HOW PRIORITY LOCATIONS WERE ARRIVED AT

2.1 Village Mapping with the Community

The process began with participatory village mapping conducted together with community members. During these mapping sessions the community identified:

- All existing improved water points within the village;
- The population (households) currently served by each of those water points;
- Areas and settlements that remained underserved or unserved.

By comparing the location and coverage of existing improved sources with the distribution of households, the mapping exercise revealed where the largest concentrations of unmet demand were situated.

2.2 Identification of Priority Localities

Through the village mapping, priority localities were identified, typically named after a recognized community landmark. Each priority represented the place within the village where the largest share of water-needy households was clustered.

2.3 Household Interviews at Priority Localities

Once priority localities had been established through mapping, the survey team interviewed all households that surrounded each priority location. These interviews confirmed the household count, documented water-related challenges and alternative sources, and explored community commitment to sustaining an improved water point. The demand-share percentages reported in this document are derived from that household enumeration around the mapped priority points.

The same sequence, community mapping, identification of the highest-demand locality, then full household interviews around that locality, was applied consistently in both the five primary target villages and the three reserve villages.

3. PRIORITY LOCATIONS

All eight priority sites are listed below in descending order of demand concentration. Primary target villages and reserve villages are distinguished in the Category column.

Rank	Village	Priority Locality	Demand Share	Category
1	Maulana	Kwa a Njala	51.6%	Primary target
2	Maliwata	Kwa a Kumilonje	50.8%	Primary target
3	Pondiya	Kwa a Witness	47.8%	Reserve
4	Makuluni	Kwa a Saliya	45.5%	Primary target
5	Nsenda	Kwa a Dzuwa	43.8%	Reserve
6	Mwandama	Kwa a Magret	39.5%	Reserve
7	Mmwala	Kwa a Kamwendo	36.5%	Primary target
8	Manduwasu	Pa Bwalo la GVH	36.2%	Primary target

Note: Rows shaded in light amber are reserve villages.

**Site Comparison Within Each Village
(Priority Site Highlighted in Red)**



Figure I – Priority sites (highest household demand within each village)

4. PRIMARY TARGET VILLAGES (PRIORITY PROFILES)

The five villages originally selected for borehole drilling are profiled below, ranked by demand concentration at their priority locality.

4.1 Maulana

Priority location: Kwa a Njala

Share of village demand: 51.6%

The strongest demand cluster in the entire survey. More than half of all water-needy households in Maulana are concentrated at Kwa a Njala. A borehole at this locality will reach the largest single share of any village population assessed and should be treated as a flagship priority for the programme.

4.2 Maliwata

Priority locality: Kwa a Kumilonje

Share of village demand: 50.8%

Nearly identical concentration to Maulana. Half of Maliwata's demand is focused at Kwa a Kumilonje. This site offers exceptionally high impact per borehole and is a clear second priority among the primary targets.

4.3 Makuluni

Priority locality: Kwa a Saliya

Share of village demand: 45.5%

Kwa a Saliya accounts for 45.5% of Makuluni's demand. The site represents a substantial concentration of need and is expected to serve a large proportion of the village once a borehole is completed.

4.4 Mmwala

Priority locality: Kwa a Kamwendo

Share of village demand: 36.5%

Over one-third of Mmwala's demand is concentrated at Kwa a Kamwendo. The site offers a clear focal point for water-point development and will significantly improve access for a substantial part of the village population.

4.5 Manduwasa

Priority locality: Pa Bwalo la GVH

Share of village demand: 36.2%

The priority point is the community meeting ground (Bwalo) associated with the Group Village Headman. In addition to serving 36.2% of local demand, the location is highly accessible, socially central and practical for long-term water-point management.

5. RESERVE VILLAGES (PRIORITY PROFILES)

The three reserve villages were surveyed so that the programme can move swiftly to an alternative site if drilling in any primary target is unsuccessful. Their priority localities are presented below.

5.1 Pondiya

Priority locality: Kwa a Witness

Share of village demand: 47.8%

Almost half of Pondiya's water-needy households live in or around Kwa a Witness. Should a primary target fail, Pondiya offers one of the strongest demand concentrations in the whole survey and would be a high-impact substitute.

5.2 Nsenda

Priority locality: Kwa a Dzuwa

Share of village demand: 43.8%

More than two-fifths of Nsenda's demand is located at Kwa a Dzuwa. The cluster is sufficiently strong to justify activating this reserve if needed.

5.3 Mwandama

Priority locality: Kwa a Magret

Share of village demand: 39.5%

Kwa a Magret hosts just under 40% of Mwandama's water-needy households. It remains the single densest demand point within the village and a viable reserve location.

6. KEY OBSERVATIONS

- The original programme design of five primary target villages is fully supported by the demand data: each of the five has a well-defined priority locality serving between 36% and 52% of local need.
- The three reserve villages also show strong demand clustering (39.5%–47.8%). They are therefore credible alternatives if any primary site cannot be completed successfully.

7. RECOMMENDATIONS

It is recommended that the programme:

- Proceed with borehole development in the five primary target villages (Manduwasa, Maulana, Makuluni, Mmwala and Maliwata), using the priority localities identified in Section 4;
- Hold the three reserve villages (Mwandama, Nsenda and Pondiya) in readiness, activating them only if drilling at one or more primary targets is unsuccessful;

- Confirm each named locality on the ground with the Group Village Headman and local water committee before final pegging;

8. CONCLUSION

This preliminary report has focused exclusively on identifying ideal drilling locations on the basis of household population demand. It does not present the full set of findings from the pre-drilling survey questionnaire. A comprehensive final report will be produced that incorporates all other data elements, including water-related challenges, alternative sources currently in use, and community commitment to sustain improved water points.

Within its defined scope, the report provides a clear, ranked set of priority borehole locations across five primary target villages and three reserve villages. These priority sites, derived through community village mapping and confirmed by household interviews, form a practical foundation for the next phase of water-point development under the Village Partnership Programme in Zomba District.