

Zambia's Community Contribution

Community Contribution



Community Contribution, as defined by SSAAP, is always two-fold. One is the community giving back to SSAAP itself, 25% of the net worth of any project. This may be in-cash or in-kind, but 99% of the time community contribution exposes itself in-kind through labor. For every borehole SSAAP is giving a community, each community has a designated job on SSAAP's compound. We are re-roofing the SSAAP house and so two community's jobs are helping to locate the dried grass, then braiding it together (called

'masasa' in our local language) to place upon the roof. Another community contribution, as for the Microloan Project, is that anyone receiving a microloan has a designated day between each loan cycle to bring us water for our home use (washing dishes, bathing, cooking, drinking, laundering) as well to water our garden.



The arrival of our new roof! On the 10th of September 2020.



An example of 25% Community Contribution is assisting to repair the SSAAP-Headquarters roof. Pictured above is our home and the roof has blown off in a few sections. Also you can see the way they knit the dried grasses for the roof, '*masasa*' we call it, as it is woven together in pieces so that when the wind blows it off it blows it off in chunks.



SSAAP believes wholeheartedly in the concept of community contribution which gives back to the project ~ somewhat like the bartering system found endemically within the village culture of Africa. To give local people something without asking for anything in return [what is within their means, I might add] is somehow degradation, indirectly insinuating: *There is nothing that you have that you can give back to this project to ensure its sustainability.* When in Truth, we can all give something back to something else.

I would even take this a step further and comment that I believe most failed projects in Africa are a result of 0% community contribution and 100% hand-outs. This structure simply doesn't hold up: the 'hand-out' system, as I call it. Nothing in the Universe is about receiving without giving, or giving without receiving. This is the cycle of all production and therefore reproduction on the planet. Service projects in developing communities of the world should bear no exception to this Law of the Universe!