

# STARFISH MALAWI – POWERPOINT

## WATER OF LIFE

### Slide 1

Water, water everywhere and not a drop to drink. Water is just so important. It seems that there may be a lot of around (especially after the rain we have had recently and the floods!), but only a small part is fresh water and only very little can be used for drinking. If this school were the world only to 2 of you would be drinking water.

### Slide 2

When I was young, and it started to rain I remember having to bring the washing from the washing line, I remember football practice being cancelled. I got really bored looking out of the window.

### Slide 3

But water is life. In Malawi, it only rains for four months in every year. If the rains do not come, the people in the villages do not eat and if they do not eat, they go hungry.

In Malawi, when it does rain, it rains not cats and dogs, but hippos and elephants. Sometimes it's so strong that the children in the village cannot get to school because there is a huge river that is formed by the rain and it has been known that crocodiles come with the floods.

BUT it doesn't rain for 8 months in the year!

**Slide 4.** We cannot live without water. We can indeed sing, "Thank you Lord for this fine day, but also for rainy days." Why do you think rain is important?

### Slide 5

It helps plants to grow. No rain, no growing.

### Slide 6

In the UK we simply go to tap, and turn it on and there is water. Where does it come from, how does it get there? These are questions, but in Malawi there is no such luxury!

### Slide 7

We can drink bottle water, which is on sale everywhere. Did you know that if just one third of what the world spends on bottled water is spent on providing clean water 780 million people would have clean water. Boys and girls, mums and dads cannot afford to buy bottled water in Malawi

### **Slide 8**

So if you had to choose, what would you choose? (HOLD UP TWO BOTTLES). There is no argument!

### **Slide 9**

But some children do not have a choice. Drinking dirty water is one of the biggest causes of sickness in the whole world. DID YOU KNOW half of all the hospital beds in the world are filled with people who are sick because of dirty water.

### **Slide 10**

Meet Blessings. She is a 15-year-old girl living in Malawi. She has three brothers and three sisters and is the eldest in her family.

### **Slide 11**

Girls in Malawi have to do a lot of work. They have to cook the food, collect the firewood to do this, collect the water, go to the market, look after brothers and sisters and work in the fields. It is so much work that many girls miss school because they don't have time to go to school

### **Slide 12**

Would anybody like to try carrying the buckets? Boys vs. Girls

For us it is a game, but for girls in Malawi it is everyday life.

### **Slide 13**

Collecting eight buckets of water when you have to walk half a mile there and half a mile back is a big job. How far does Blessings have to walk?

### **Slide 14**

Sometimes the water that Blessings collects is dirty and is not good to drink or to cook with.

### **Slide 15**

How much water do you use every day? Did you know that one five-minute shower uses more water than one person uses for a whole day in Malawi.

### **Slide 16**

In the dry season, water is always more difficult to get. There are often animals close to the water and that makes the water even dirtier.

### **Slide 17**

Plants cannot grow in the dry season and the ground cracks and gets very dusty. There is such a huge difference between the dry in the wet season. In the wet season everything is

green, but in the dry season everything is brown.

#### **Slide 18**

But something special was about to happen. The village was about to be given clean water, which came up from a long way under the earth. It was like a big tap where people could come and collect water that would no longer cause them to be sick.

#### **Slide 19**

A drilling company came to her village and drilled down until they came to fresh water.

#### **Slide 20**

There was great excitement in the village as water came out of the ground, first slowly and then in a great rush. **POUR WATER**

#### **Slide 21**

Why was blessing so happy? What changed in her life? She is now able to have time to go to school, her father can grow crops for food, her mother can use clean water for cooking and friends won't get upset tummies. She has time to play with her friends. God is thanked for His goodness.

#### **Slide 22**

Water should not just be for the few. It is something that God created for everyone. And yet in this world, some have much and some little.

The Starfish story is all about helping the Blessings of this world.

On the Starfishers website. There is some fantastic resources about Water in the world. Why not have a look on [www.starfishmalawi.com](http://www.starfishmalawi.com) or [www.starfishers.net](http://www.starfishers.net)

#### **Slide 23.**

Let's pray for those who do not have the Water of Life

If we have time we can sing the Starfish song. Close

