**Empowered Communities Helping Others, Plot 10423-116 Chainama Minestone Nelson Sapi Road, Lusaka, Zambia.**

**Organization Profile**

Empowered Communities Helping Others (ECHO)was established in April 2019 in response to the growing social and economic development challenges faced by the most vulnerable and poorest communities in Zambia today. Registered under the NGO Act, ECHO exists to respond to the growing developmental inequalities, rising poverty levels, rising gender disparities, increased threats to public health, youth unemployment, effects of climate change and environmental degradation as a result of increased human economic activity, limitations in access to social services for the rural and urban poor as well as over challenges and limitations in achieving sustained civic engagement and participation in governance processes of the most vulnerable and marginalized people on the national development agenda. As a civil society organization, ECHO is established as a not for profit non-governmental institution. However, it is uniquely strong at mobilizing social change processes that enable social development to occur at the grassroots level. ECHO makes a very unique connection between grassroots interventions and policy processes to expressed through relevant channels and co-opted in changes to social and economic policy and program formulation and subsequent Implementation. ECHO is a non-partisan organization that maintains political neutrality in the execution of its work and conforms to all statutory provisions of its registration under the NGO ACT of the laws of Zambia. The organization has a national office in Lusaka and currently work in three main provinces, Western, Central and Lusaka, covering a total of one District in each province.

**1.1 Project Summary: Safe Water in Central Province**

Central Province Zambia is a largely rural district in which local people typically use wood fuel on inefficient three stone fires to purify their drinking water. This process results in the release of greenhouse gas emissions from the combustion of wood. This can be avoided if a technology that does not require fuel (wood or fossil) supplies clean water desired by households. Many existing safe water sources have fallen into disrepair because maintenance programmes have been poorly managed or proven too expensive; and many communities do not yet have access to a reliable safe water source. In this project the local NGO, Empowered Communities Helping Others (ECHO) through Village Water will work with the British company CO2 balance to rehabilitate and maintain water points so that they deliver clean, safe water. The project will ensure that the quality of the water delivered by the safe water sources is fit for human consumption for the entire length of the project, which will be a minimum of five years.

Funding for this project comes from marketing the anticipated carbon credits from the wood savings to ethical investors, so safe water source owners must agree to transfer the emissions reductions over to CO2balance in return for them supplying the work and materials to install, rehabilitate, and maintain the safe water sources. This project will be developed under the Gold Standard carbon credit body, which in addition to checking that the carbon credits from this project are real, also measures the impacts of the project towards the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

**1.2 Technology**

This project is not limited to any particular model of hand-pump or water scheme; installation and renovation will be according to local needs.

**1.3 Sustainable Development**

In addition to supplying clean, safe water and greenhouse gas savings, this project will:

* Result in less wood used by households, which will reduce pressure on local ecosystems
* Reduce time spent collecting water and gathering firewood to boil water
* Reduce the incidence of illness caused by unsafe water
* Reduce expenditure on firewood, leaving money free for other household expenses
* Train communities in water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) techniques
* Support communities to manage and maintain their own boreholes