

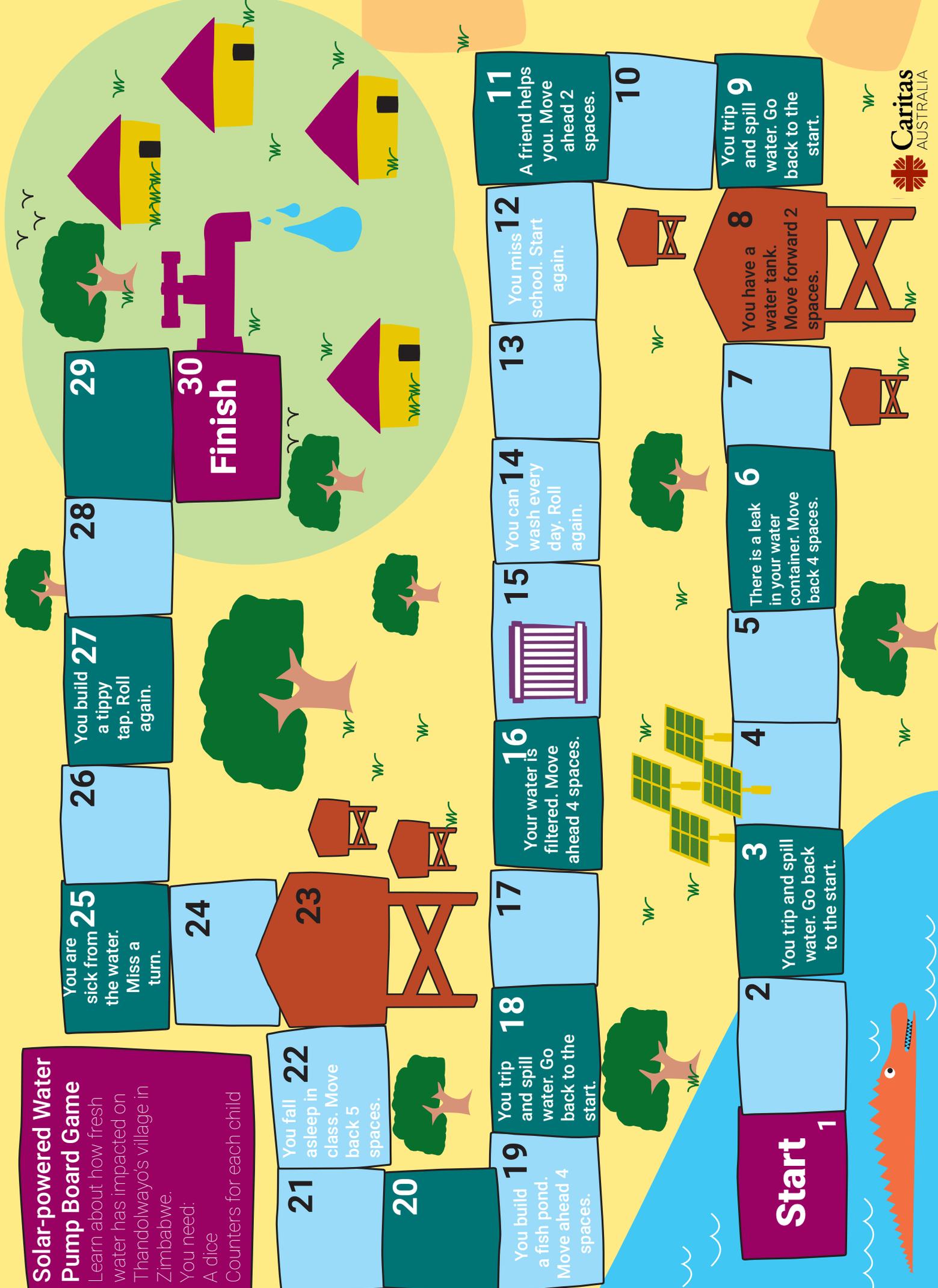
Solar-powered Water Pump Board Game

Learn about how fresh water has impacted on Thandolwayo's village in Zimbabwe.

You need:

A dice

Counters for each child



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

– Pope Francis



THANDOLWAYO, ZIMBABWE

How far do you have to walk to reach a tap? For twelve year old Thandolwayo there was not a tap in her village in Zimbabwe. Every morning Thandolwayo would walk for kilometres and risk being attacked by crocodiles to collect water for her grandparents and family.

Thandolwayo was tired at school and her hope to be a nurse seemed almost impossible. Then Caritas Hwange helped the village install a tap, bringing hope to the community.

Thandolwayo (tan-dol-WAY-oh) lives with her grandparents in a village of 500 people in north-western Zimbabwe. Her mother works in a town a long way away and her sister just moved away for high school. Thandolwayo attends the local school which has just 35 students and two teachers.

Thandolwayo's grandparents make a living by selling animal feed to fishermen and farmers and they also sell chickens. They do not make enough money to support the family though. More than seven in every ten people in Zimbabwe experience poverty. Thandolwayo's community also has to deal with droughts, a lack of food and water as well as hygiene issues.

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 climb a rocky, mountain 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 get clean water. They now have two solar-powered pumps to get the

water up from the river to the storage tanks, which connect to the tap. The men and women helped by digging and carrying stones, and water tanks. Thandolwayo's grandmother also joined other villagers in Caritas training in health and hygiene skills.

Thanks to Caritas' support, clean water is now on tap in the village!

"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. We now drink clean, safe water and diseases are no longer affecting us". Village health workers say that fewer people are getting sick from water, and people in the village are living longer.

There is also a new feeling of hope and positive change in the village. Water is being used to shape bricks for building houses and to pound maize to sell. Plans are underway for a community garden and a fishpond, to earn money for the community.

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

"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," says Super Dube, Caritas Hwange's Diocesan Coordinator.

"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