



## Completion Report

COD-ADB-WAT-P01, DRC  
Reporting Period: May – December 2017

### Water for Idjwi – Democratic Republic of Congo

**Budget:** \$14,660 – fully funded!

**Update:**

This project has funded six new water sources on the island of Idjwi in Lake Kivu. Idjwi is very poor, located 1½ hours from Bukavu by ferry in troubled eastern DRC near the Rwandan border. It has very limited infrastructure and resources. Studies show that after malaria, diseases related to drinking unclean water are the biggest health problem on the island. There are many communities with no clean water and cholera and other water-related diseases are prevalent. Women and children spend a long time each day collecting what little water they can, mostly from unclean sources.



Along with the six new water sources our partner has facilitated teaching the villagers about sanitation and hygiene. We know that without the education component, the infrastructure can go to waste. Water management committees have also been set up and taught how to maintain and repair the water sources, as well as how to work together as a committee. The local communities have also contributed resources and labour towards the project, giving them a strong sense of ownership, a vital component.

*Our partners said, “The water resources are vital. As the new sources are just 15 minutes from the villages, there is more time to be spent on agriculture which is 90% of subsistence and local business. Also the money saved from diseases from the unclean water are being spent on education for the children. Clean water is now accessible to 70% of household in the six beneficiary villages and they are able to draw around 80 litres per day. The community helped to transport materials and bring stones for construction of the gravity-feed systems.”*

In collaboration with the health zone of Idjwi, training was held for 44 villagers in topics such as the cycle of water, its importance, water-borne diseases, the role of committees in maintenance and where ongoing support can be sought. Evaluation of the project occurred at the end of the project to identify strengths and weaknesses, to be taken into consideration for further projects.

Jenny Cramer from Entrust visited Idjwi last June. She said, “There are huge needs on Idjwi, which suffers due to its more remote location. But people live here, and they are very needy. A number of pygmy communities are also on the island and these are the most disadvantaged group of all as they are often driven from the more productive land. It was heart wrenching to see the conditions in which they live. But it is a privilege to bring water to these and other communities. What a difference it makes!”

To cap things off, a celebration event was held in each of the six villages and a certificate awarded! Thank you for supporting this worthy and effective project.