

## Clean Water Saves Lives!



Idjwi Island, Dem Rep of Congo



Water

Total Budget \$39,500

Project Timeline

FULLY FUNDED

JUL 20

JUN 21



### Overview

This third project with our partner built new water sources on very poor Idjwi island. Focusing on water sanitation and hygiene (WASH) training together with a clean water sources, the project is now providing clean water for ten communities on Idjwi, directly assisting over 90,000 people and indirectly benefitting social structures such as schools, health centres, local churches and communities, including the very disadvantaged pygmy communities. The project complements the government program designed to reduce the morbidity and mortality caused by unclean water where there is weak or no knowledge of WASH in villages and schools and no clean water source.

### Objectives

### Impact



MOUs with 10 villages

As part of the Memorandums of Understanding, villagers committed to contributing regular savings for ongoing maintenance. They have been involved in the process from planning to construction so are invested for the long-term.



Construction of 10 water sources

Construction of all 10 planned water sources is now complete. Local villagers participated by transporting materials and equipment from Idjwi's port and by providing labour, sand, stones and bricks.



Access to clean water for 1000s

Three villages in the island's south (5,840 households) and 7 in the north (8,438 households) - a total of 90,000+ residents now have access to clean water. That's a lot of people not having to traipse long distances in search of water!



Women and children better off

Accessible, clean water alleviates the burden on women and children especially and means families are healthier and have time for other jobs. The village water committees have helped integrate WASH protocols, further aiding family health.



### Life change

- Improved health for ten villages as a result of access to clean water
- Reduction in the burden for women and children of having to walk long distances to collect water – this means more children in school, and women can spend more time on income-generating activities
- Communities empowered to look after their own needs, through establishing and maintaining Water Management Committees



## Marcel's Story

Marcel is one of the local students at Bushusha Primary School which is close to the new water source built this year. He loves to stop for a drink, along with his class mates, on the way home from school. Whereas it used to be a long, hard, dusty walk to carry enough water home for the evening's cooking and cleaning, now it's a short walk from home. It's quite the community focal point, as the water source is close to the road and passing taxi motorcyclists often stop too. "I'm sharing what I learn about good hand hygiene with my family and we are feeling better from clean water", says Marcel, who is happy he has more time to play.



Women and children benefit the most from having a clean water source close by.

## Mr Mukanirhwa's Story

Mr Fidèle Mukanirhwa, president of a village development and health committee in North Idjwi, says it was one of his dreams, when elected president, to improve access to clean water in his village. "That dream is now realized, thanks to the support we received", he says proudly. "We look forward to seeing water-borne illnesses reduce and more time to earn a living because water collection is so much easier". Entrust Project Manager, Jenny Cramer, who visited in 2019, says "these projects are successful because everyone comes together to work on the project and they all feel responsible for maintaining it well into the future".

