

HAND-DRILLED WELL BRINGS HEALTH AND HAPPINESS

The women of Kabeza village in World Vision's Gashora ADP will tell visitors they had long ago lost hope that a government water initiative would reach their village.

Guadance Nyirambarushimana said she used to travel to the hospital at least twice a month for coughing and stomach parasites that plagued her because of the dirty water she was forced to use every day (see photo upper right). She finally gave up, conceding defeat to the illnesses that she thought would forever plague her family.

Guadance and her neighbors would walk 30 minutes to draw water from a trench fed by rain and backwaters of the Nyabarongo River. The murky brown water is rife with contaminants.

"When it's the rainy season, frogs and rats die in this pond water, which we depended on," Guadance said. "You can look at the tadpoles inside my bucket to understand what I'm telling you," she said, displaying a pitcher filled with foul water and living creatures she pulled from the trench. She added that it was difficult to prepare tasty and safe food with the bad water, and impossible to keep clothes bright and clean.

But thanks to a drilling project in their village, Guadance and her neighbors no longer have to use dirty water from the trench for home use. The manually drilled well is providing clean, safe water for more than 2,000 people in and around Kabeza, which is in the Juru sector of Rwanda's Bugesera district.



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The well (pictured above) is meeting not just household needs, but also will help farmers through irrigation for fields and greenhouses, said Rwezakare Jean Damascene, vice president of the manual drilling cooperative that produced the new well.

At a ceremony to launch the well, community members sang a song of thanks to World Vision: "World Vision, you are on the forefront of development. We the Juru people will never keep silent of your tremendous work you have done. Thank you World Vision."



I am happy that I am going to drink clean water, eat clean food, and buy white clothes, because now I have clean water to keep them white."

—Guadance Nyirambarushimana, Gashora ADP resident and mother of two