



Africare

Africare House, 440 R Street, N.W.

Washington, DC 20001

Tel: (202) 462-3614 Fax: (202) 387-1034

WATER FOR CHILD HEALTH Bono Birthday Project !

The need The lack of safe water for human use is one of the greatest problems affecting child health throughout Africa. Contaminated water results in intestinal infections that elevate malnutrition and contribute to severity of other illnesses. Until their partnership with Africare, many communities in Ntungamo District, Uganda, had been using unsafe water from open wells, ponds, streams and rivers. At an average cost of about \$1,250 per spring or well, Africare is combining contributions that it receives under the Water for Child Health Bono Birthday Project to provide materials, supplies and technical assistance in support of community self-help efforts, to construct protected springs and wells that ensure safe water for children.

How the program works The first steps are to identify existing water sources, assess community capacities for self-help initiatives, and explore possible strategies to provide safe water. A joint Ntungamo District and Africare team conducts a water situation analysis in the worst affected locales, particularly those most susceptible to drought. Participatory rural appraisals and planning meetings with local government and community water committee members provide information, define roles and result in water improvement strategies that are appropriate to each setting. The approach to be taken follows the established water program strategy of the district, not only constructing safe water sources, but also educating community members on proper water storage and handling, spring and well maintenance, community sanitation and waste disposal.

What your contribution can do Recently improved springs and wells in areas of Ntungamo District affected by drought demonstrate what can be accomplished. One site, Nyamonyonyi spring, had been first protected by the community in 1992 long before the presence of Africare's program. But, when Africare staff visited the spring they found it in ruined condition. The rate of water flow was very slow (it took 30-40 minutes to fill a four gallon container), the site was dirty (surrounded by cow dung as cows were watered up stream while human beings obtained water down stream), and the people out of impatience often collected water from the same pool that animals drank from.



Nyamonyonyi before

The Nyamonyonyi community with support from the local government and Africare successfully rehabilitated the spring to provide clean, protected water to an estimated population of 1,200 people. People can now fill a four-gallon container in 3-4 minutes. Cows obtain water down stream.

Africare also helped communities and the government to construct shallow wells in Kashanda, Ruhega and Kitondo. The district government supplied pumps and pipes that had been donated by UNICEF, along with the services of a government water engineer. Africare, on its part, provided materials not locally available such as cement, gravel and sand to make concrete for lining and capping the well. The community provided the land and unskilled labor mostly by the women and children.



Prior to Africare support, the Kashanda community had been collecting its water from open, contaminated water sources including that shown to the left.

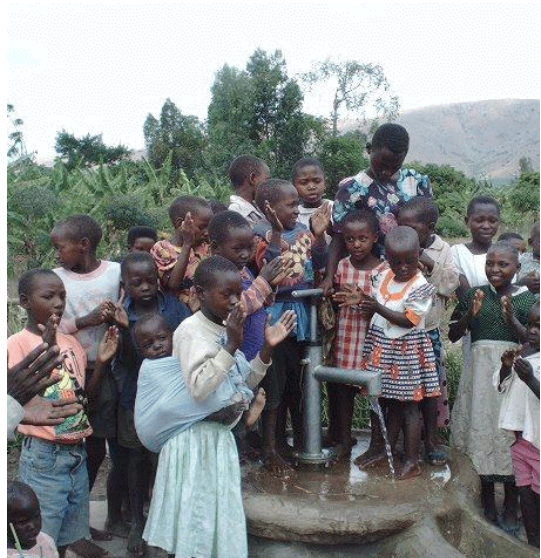
Kashanda before



Nyamonyonyi after

Taking an approach similar to that of Nyamonyonyi, a shallow protected well (below) was constructed at another village, Kashanda. It serves an estimated 2,225 people who live within a radial distance of three miles in a rugged and rocky terrain. At another site, the Ruhega shallow well serves about 7,000 people while the Kitondo well serves about 4,000 people. The important role of the Water for Child Health partnership is highly recognized and appreciated by communities and district authorities, as made poignantly clear in Nyamonyonyi after the completion of the new spring, when a community member collecting water remarked, "The shop keepers can no longer sell us Ruwenzori [a popular brand of bottled water from another part of Uganda]! We have our own spring!" Another community member observed, "No wonder we have always had these same on and off sicknesses and stomach problems because of dirty water. We will no longer have them!"

Kashanda after



At an average cost of \$1,250 per site and \$1 per beneficiary, your donations to Africare will be used for three shallow wells at Ibumba, Nyakabaka and Kayabukojo, and five springs at Butare, Kyamugasha, Nyaburiza, Kizaara-I and Kizaara-II . . . followed by others.