



RYAN'S WELL FOUNDATION

2026/2027 WESTERN UGANDA WASH IMPACT REPORT (PHASE.1).

Reporting Period: April 1 – August 15, 2026

Project: *Resilient WASH: Enhancing Water Security and Hygiene for Vulnerable Households in Southwestern Uganda (2026–2027)*

Implementing Organization: Rukungiri Women Integrated Development Foundation (RWIDF)

Location: Rukungiri, Mitooma and Ntungamo Districts, Southwestern Uganda

1. Project Overview

The Resilient WASH project is improving access to safe water, hygiene and sanitation services for vulnerable households and school communities across three districts in Southwestern Uganda. The project also strengthens community ownership and the capacity of local Water User Committees to manage and sustain WASH facilities.

The project is designed to directly benefit **4,593 people from more than 400 households**, with an additional **6,000+ indirect beneficiaries**.

2. Beneficiaries

Beneficiary Group	Project Target
Men	789
Women	1,650
Boys	904
Girls	1,250
Total Direct Beneficiaries	4,593
Additional Indirect Beneficiaries	6,000+

Beneficiaries reached during this reporting period: 2,000 people

The interim report does not provide a gender/age breakdown for the 2,000 people reached during this period.

3. Key Achievements

During the reporting period, RWIDF completed the following major activities:

Achievement	Progress
Low-yield protected water sources/spring tanks constructed	5 of 10 planned
Rainwater harvesting tanks constructed	2 of 2 planned
Functional water facilities completed	7
Community sites reached through mobilization	10
Schools reached	2
Water User Committees established	7 completed water points
People reached during reporting period	2,000

All seven completed water facilities were reported to be functional as of **August 15, 2026**.

4. Impact on Communities

The project has already generated significant immediate benefits:

- **Improved access to safe water:** Communities have transitioned from exposed and vulnerable water sources to protected springs and rainwater harvesting facilities.
- **Reduced water collection burden:** Women, girls and children are spending less time travelling to distant water sources.
- **Improved hygiene:** Communities reported improvements in handwashing, cleaning, safe food preparation and general household hygiene.
- **Stronger community ownership:** Water User Committees have been established to support protection, management and sustainability of the facilities.
- **Greater participation of women:** Women are actively participating in Water User Committees and taking leadership roles in community water management.
- **Improved school environments:** The two-school rainwater harvesting tanks have reduced the need for learners to leave school to collect water, supporting hygiene and reducing disruption to learning.
- **Improved safety and dignity:** Protected water points provide safer access, particularly for children, older people and women.
- **Potential health benefits:** Local health and water officials reported reductions in waterborne diseases such as diarrhoea and typhoid following improved access to safe water.

5. School Impact

School/Institution	Intervention	Impact
Kyabagyerwa Primary School	30,000-litre rainwater harvesting tank	Reduced time pupils spend collecting water; improved school hygiene and learning conditions
Rwabukoba Secondary School	30,000-litre rainwater harvesting tank	Reduced disruption to lessons, improved access to water and sanitation, and better conditions for girls' personal hygiene

At Rwabukoba Secondary School, the improved water supply is particularly important for girls, supporting personal hygiene and helping reduce interruptions to education.

6. Community Impact Stories

Community testimonies demonstrate the practical difference made by the project. Residents who previously depended on contaminated open wells now have protected water sources closer to their homes.

David Baganiza, a community water committee leader in Ntungamo District, described the change simply: *“Today, our water is clean and safe.”*

Keihangwe Maria Godeti, an elderly community member in Mitooma District, highlighted the reduction in the burden of travelling long distances for water and the dignity of having safe water closer to home.

At **Kyabagyerwa Primary School**, the new rainwater harvesting tank has reduced the burden on pupils who previously walked to a stream to collect water, allowing more time for learning.

7. Challenges

Implementation was affected by difficult terrain, poor road accessibility, heavy rainfall, the geographical spread of project sites and delays associated with technical site assessments. Increased fuel prices also affected project operations.

Some schools continue to require additional water storage and sanitation infrastructure, while formal training of Water User Committees remains to be completed.

8. Next Steps

During the next reporting period, RWIDF will:

1. Complete the remaining **five low-yield water sources**.
2. Formally train Water User Committees and caretakers in WASH, operation and maintenance.
3. Intensify household and community hygiene promotion.
4. Strengthen safe water handling, storage, handwashing and sanitation practices.
5. Monitor the functionality and sustainability of completed facilities.
6. Continue monitoring the impact of the two school rainwater harvesting tanks on hygiene and learning.

9. Overall Impact

The first implementation phase has established **seven functional water facilities**, reached **2,000 people**, strengthened community management structures and improved access to safe water for households and schools. The project is already reducing the burden of water collection, supporting improved hygiene, strengthening women’s participation in water governance and creating safer, more supportive environments for children and learners. The next phase will consolidate these achievements through completion of the remaining water infrastructure, capacity building, behaviour change and sustainability activities.

IN OUR BENEFICIARIES' OWN WORDS

Ninsiima Eve: A Safer Water Source for Mothers and Children



Ninsiima Eve, 32, is the Vice Chairperson of Igote 1 Spring in Nyakibigi Parish, Ihunga Sub-county, Ntungamo District. She is also a mother of 3 children.

For families in the community, access to water is part of everyday life, and the condition of the old open well made this difficult. Before the construction of the protected spring, residents depended on a water source that was exposed to contamination, particularly during rainy periods when runoff could carry mud and other impurities into the well.

As a mother of 3, Eve is among the community members who directly benefited from having a safer and more reliable source of water

closer to home. The improvement is also important for children, who depend on adults for safe water for drinking, cooking, washing and other daily needs.

Today, the newly constructed protected spring provides the community with a cleaner and more secure water point. As Vice Chairperson, Eve is also part of the community leadership responsible for supporting the management and protection of the water source.

The new spring therefore represents more than improved infrastructure. For families like Eve's, it provides a safer environment for accessing water and offers children the opportunity to grow up with more reliable access to one of their most basic needs.

Through the support of Rukungiri Women Integrated Development Foundation and Ryan's Well Foundation, the Igote 1 community has moved from reliance on an exposed water source to a protected spring that the community can manage and protect for the future.

Kenganzi Lovence: "At Last, Our Prayers Have Been Answered"



Kenganzi Lovence, 60, is a Village Health Team (VHT) member in Nyakabare 1 Village, Nyakibigi parish, Ihunga sub-county, Ntungamo district, where residents depended on an unsafe open well for many years.

For Lovence and other community members, accessing safe water had been a long-standing challenge. The community repeatedly wrote to the sub-county and district authorities requesting support to construct a protected spring, but their efforts did not yield a solution.

Instead, residents continued to use an open well that was exposed to contamination. The water source contained worms and algae, while during rainy periods, runoff from the surrounding hills flowed directly into the well, carrying mud and other dirt.

Ainembabazi Shakira: “Clean Water Also Means Dignity for Girls”



Ainembabazi Shakira, 19, is a Senior Six student and the Head Girl of Rwabukoba Secondary School in Rukungiri District.

For girls at Rwabukoba Secondary School, reliable access to water is about more than drinking and cleaning. It is also important for maintaining personal hygiene and managing their menstrual health with dignity while at school.

Before the installation of the **30,000-litre rainwater harvesting tank**, students had to walk long distances to fetch water. This not only interrupted lessons but also made access to water less convenient for learners, including girls who need water regularly for

personal hygiene.

For Shakira and other female students, having a dependable water source within the school can make everyday life easier. Clean water is particularly important during menstruation, when girls need access to water for washing, cleaning reusable menstrual materials where applicable, and maintaining personal hygiene throughout the school day.

As Head Girl, Shakira is also in a position to see how basic facilities can affect the wellbeing and confidence of fellow girls. A reliable water supply can help create a school environment where girls are better able to manage their menstrual periods without unnecessary discomfort, embarrassment or interruption to their studies.

The new tank is therefore not simply a water facility. For the girl child, it can support dignity, privacy, hygiene and continued participation in learning. By reducing the need for students to leave school or interrupt lessons to look for water, the facility can also create more time for girls to remain focused on their education.





Keihangwe Maria Godeti, 78, is a committee member of Kiyora Spring in Karangara Parish, Bitereko Sub-county, Mitooma District. As an elderly woman and mother of six, access to safe water has been a long-standing challenge for her and other residents.

For many years, community members had to walk to neighbouring villages to find safer and cleaner water. The long journeys took valuable time and were especially difficult for older people. The community's previous water source was also an open well that was prone to collapse when soil and parts of the well walls fell into it, sometimes making the source difficult to reopen and use.

During the rainy season, the situation became worse. Rainwater carried soil and other dirt into the well, causing the water to change colour and become unsafe for drinking.

“For the many years I have lived in this village, we have been moving to neighbouring villages to look for safe and clean water. Walking long distances to fetch water took a lot of our time,” Maria recalled.

The construction of Kiyora Spring has brought a welcome change. Maria says she will no longer have to travel long distances to find water or depend on children to walk to distant villages on her behalf.

“As an ageing woman, I am very happy that I will no longer have to move long distances to fetch water or send my children to distant villages to bring me water. Now, I will be able to access safe water right here within my village. I am very happy,” she said.

For Maria, the new spring means more than just a nearby water source. It offers greater dignity, convenience and relief, particularly for older people who found the previous situation difficult to manage. She expressed her gratitude to the people of RWIDF and everyone who supported the construction of the spring, adding that the community is grateful to finally have safe and clean water closer to home.

“I am very grateful because I will now be able to use safe and clean water near my home. May God continue to bless you all.”

The new rainwater harvesting tank has brought the water source closer to the school, reducing the time pupils spend collecting water. Rev. Taremwa believes this will allow pupils to spend more time in class and support better learning. ***“Because of this water facility, that burden has been greatly reduced. I am confident that our pupils will now have more time to study, which will improve their academic performance,”*** he said.

He also believes the improved water availability could make the school more attractive to families in the surrounding communities and contribute to increased enrolment. ***“I also believe that enrolment will increase because this facility will attract more pupils from the surrounding communities,”*** he added.

For Rev. Taremwa, the benefit of the tank goes beyond the school itself. He sees it as an important resource for the church and the wider community as well.



“You have truly saved us the school, the church and the entire community,” he said, expressing his appreciation to Ryan’s Well Foundation and Rukungiri Women Integrated Development Foundation (RWIDF) for the support.

On behalf of the school and community leadership, Rev. Taremwa thanked the two organizations for investing in a facility that is already reducing the burden of water collection and creating better conditions for children to learn.

“We are extremely grateful for this support. May God bless you abundantly.”

WATER SOURCE BEFORE



WATER SOURCE AFTER

