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SUCCESS STORY

The Life-Giving "Ruvima" Water Source

Photo WVI

Hortense BORA collects potable water from the restored Ruvima source

Bumoga community with Project AXxes assistance changed their polluted Mulambi (Death) water source into a life-giving crystal clear "Ruvima" (Life) source.

Kalonge health zone (HZ) in the northern part of South Kivu province includes 17 health areas. It is assisted by Project AXxes with WVI as implementing partner. The HZ has no central water distribution system. The population collects waters from rivers or water sources. From time to time rainwater is also used for cleaning needs, but not for drinking or cooking.

Bumoga health area of Kalonge HZ has a population of 6,093. Water has been a real burden for women and children as they were obliged to walk 5 to 7 km to the neighboring health area of Chifunzi for clean drinking water. In Bumoga, there was a unused source because its water was known to be harmful. It was called "Mulambi" which means "death" in the local language. The Bumoga water committee believed and hoped that one day Mulambi spring could be properly restored and protected.

With community encouragement, "Mulambi" water source was selected by the HZ management team and WVI to be restored with Project AXxes funding. Over a period of weeks, the spring was cleaned out, filled with rock, covered, and sealed with a cement wall and outflow pipes. Project AXxes provided technical guidance and materials while the community provided labor, sand, and gravel. The community was highly motivated as they participated in hoeing the site, bringing stones, hauling sacs of cement and other materials down the ravine to the source. sure management and sustainability. Now that crystal clear, potable water flows from it, the water source is no longer called "Mulambi" (Death), but "Ruvima" (Life). The Bumoga source is one of more than 300 sources that have been restored or capped by Project AXxes.

The Bumoga population now smiles as they draw the Life-giving water from the Ruvima source. They are thankful to USAID and Project AXxes program for this assistance. Mrs. Hortence BORA, a beneficiary community member reports that "Since AXxes rehabilitated the water source, I now have more time to devote to taking care of my new born twins because I'm no longer obliged to fetch water far from my house."