



Centre for Community Solidarity

March 31, 2018

In 2017 the Centre for Community Solidarity constructed 100 rainwater tanks for families of HIV and AIDS orphans in southern Uganda. Inspired by the support given to these communities by CWS, the Isingiro District Administration funded 10 tanks. This leaves a balance of 420 tanks to be built for the remaining 720 members of the 25 local associations. When complete, this second stage of the programme will give safe water to 2,321 orphans and their caregivers, often grandmothers.

The caregivers save half the cost of the rainwater tanks at their monthly meetings. CWS contributes \$366 for the other half. CCS organises materials and training for the construction of the cement tanks—a seven day process. Safe water on tap means children are healthier and have time to attend school as well as help with household chores. The families use the grey water in their gardens. With water and more time to tend their land and animals, family income rises and they eat more often.

In addition CCS's two staff and 15 volunteers train local association members with a variety of skills: tank building and maintenance, improved hygiene and latrine construction, HIV and AIDS prevention, positive living with the HIV virus which some children carry, improved farming techniques to cope with short rainy seasons and environmental protection, and raising pigs and goats - a project started with CWS funding where the first piglet from the new litter is passed on to another family. CCS sells locally made clay water filters.



Water Tank Key to School Success

Kirabo was the top student in the Isingiro District of southwest Uganda where she lives. The four distinctions she received in her final primary school exams entitle the sixteen year old student to a government scholarship to attend high school. She started school on 26 February.

“I want to become a nurse or a banker so I can support my community,” she says.

In reporting on her success Charles Rwabambari from the Centre for Community Solidarity says this miracle would not have happened without the support of Christian World Service.

After her parents died from AIDS, Kirabo, her older sister Charity and two brothers dropped out of school. They stayed in the family home. Charity took charge but both sisters had to work so they had money to buy food. At the end of the working day, Kirabo and her brother Enock collected water at the Kagera River four kilometres away. She quickly tired of the long days and decided to try her luck as a house girl in town.

The job was no better. She had to split firewood, clean the toilets and cook food for the dogs for very little pay. Next she tried work in a bar serving tables and when the boss insisted she persuade drinkers to come to the bar, work that she found threatening, she soon decided life would be better at home in her own village.

Soon after her return, a CCS volunteer worker visited the family home and told Charity about the local association for caregivers of HIV and AIDS orphans. Charity signed up and was the lucky beneficiary of a new water tank built by community members under the guidance of CCS. In their village the only water comes from a seasonal stream. Food cooked in the heavily mineralized water becomes hard and unpalatable.

“With water at the doorstep, life changed,” says Karibo. Next they received a piglet from the project established with funding from CWS a number of years ago. The pig grew fast and produced 12 piglets. They kept one, passed one on to another family as part of the scheme and sold the others so they could pay school fees and other costs.

“I really missed school. You know, the most important thing for children is to go to school,” Kirabo adds.

