

## RESPONSE TO COVID- 19

### Water, Hygiene and Sanitation services: Strengthening the community defense line



#### About Water For People

Water For People is an international nonprofit organization (INGO) that aims to improve people's quality of life by supporting the development of locally sustainable drinking water resources, sanitation facilities, and health and hygiene education programs. We envision a world where every person has access to reliable and safe water and sanitation services, and we work with community members, governments, and businesses to find out what they need to be healthy, safe, and empowered.

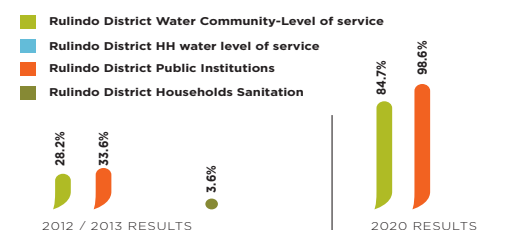
Our approach – The Everyone Forever (EF)– seeks to ensure that reliable and lasting water and sanitation services are brought to every family, community, clinic, and school in a district.

Water For People was registered as an INGO in Rwanda in 2008, and works with both central and local governments, communities, civil society and private sector organizations to bring safe and reliable water and sanitation services to the population of Rulindo, Gicumbi, Kicukiro and Karongi districts.

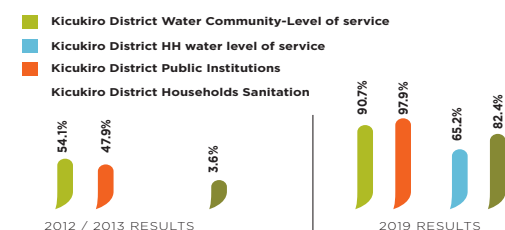
#### Progress in water and sanitation services in target districts

The tables below summarizes the levels of access to safe water and sanitation services in our target districts:

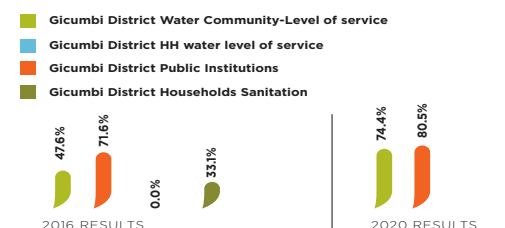
##### RULINDO WATER & SANITATION LEVEL OF SERVICE (2012 VS 2020)



##### KICUKIRO WATER & SANITATION LEVEL OF SERVICE (2012 VS 2019)



##### GICUMBI WATER & SANITATION LEVEL OF SERVICE (2016 VS 2020)



\* 2020 data is only available for Rulindo and Gicumbi districts while in Kicukiro, recent available data was collected in 2019.

#### NOTE:

- Karongi is the newest EF District in Rwanda. After completion of the district WASH investment Plan in 2019, we are now working with the district and the national government to start the implementation of WASH activities, with the aim of bringing safe water and sanitation services to the entire district population within the next 5 years. Baseline data collection was completed in 2017 and showed below WASH status:

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When the novel Coronavirus “COVID-19” broke out, one of the main advices issued was that everybody should wash their hands with soap.

Water For People responded to the crisis swiftly, knowing that our work was much needed more than ever. Water For People was particularly involved in the provision of safe water for communities in target districts through the rehabilitation of existing systems and construction of new ones, serving a total population of over 30 000 people in Rulindo and Gicumbi districts. In addition, over 3,300 frontline workers in Kicukiro and Rulindo districts were provided with personal protective equipment (PPE) while 346,000 people in the districts of Rulindo, Gicumbi, Kicukiro and Nyagatare benefited permanent handwashing facilities built in public places, including hospitals, health centers, bus stations and market places.

Water For People also supported the dissemination of information on COVID-19 through mass media, outdoor messaging and the distribution of printed materials, in the districts of Rulindo and Gicumbi.

“The world’s toughest challenges are also great moments to learn and take action that save lives. The COVID-19 outbreak gave us one of the toughest challenges of our time, but we knew it was also time to work hard and help people overcome them.



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Our work during this crisis has impacted lives of thousands of people and we know that people now need us more than before and that the journey to universal and sustainable access to WASH services is still long. We are determined to continue our work, to ensure that communities have reliable water and sanitation services to be healthy and achieve their economic stability,” Said Perpetue Kamuyumbu, Country Director for Water For People in Rwanda.