



# ANNUAL REPORT

## SUMMARY OF KEY ACHIEVEMENTS

### 2021/2022\*







## NOTE

*This report covers the period between October 2021 and September 2022.*

**Cover Image:** *Piped water falls into a distribution tank in Murambi Sector, Karongi District.*

*Photo: JPBucyensenge.*

## GETTING CLOSER TO REACHING EVERYONE



Every day brings us closer to reaching everyone in the target districts with clean water, hygiene and sanitation services. Everyone means every family, health care facility, and school in a district has safe, reliable water and sanitation services. But our work doesn't end there: we work to ensure that water, hygiene and sanitation services are sustainable and local partners (districts, communities, businesses) can maintain them for generations to come. We call this Forever.

This year, we have gotten much closer to reaching everyone through continued efforts to supply communities with piped water. Together with the Ministry of Infrastructure, the Water and Sanitation Corporation (WASAC) and the districts of Gicumbi and Karongi - the two districts where we have ongoing water supply projects- we have completed 43 new water supply systems, reaching over 112,000 people in communities and over 30,900 new people in schools and healthcare facilities. Our efforts have also focusing on sustaining the level of service and to ensure that it remains reliable: a core value at the centre of our work.

Making this impact was no small feat! It takes the commitment and dedication of all partners, the contractors, the communities, the businesses and the leaders - a collaboration that drives all our work.

This year, Isoko y'Ubuzima project, which is funded by the USAID and is working to improve water, hygiene, and sanitation services as well as WASH governance, also made great impact in the ten target districts where it is working.

We are very thankful for all the support from all our partners, stakeholders and donors; and remain faithful about our shared commitment to find lasting solutions to the water, hygiene and sanitation challenges. The journey continues. Join us as we work to ensure that everyone has reliable access to WASH services to open up opportunities to thrive and prosper.



# OUR IMPACT

In 2021/2022, we reached thousands of people with improved and reliable access to clean water, hygiene and sanitation services.

## EVERYONE FOREVER DISTRICTS



**112,000**

new people reached with safe water in communities the districts of Gicumbi and Karongi\*



**55**

Schools and health facilities reached with safe water



**30,900+**

new people reached with safe water in schools and health facilities in the two districts



**182**

communities that were served with piped water in 12 months



**43**

New water supply systems constructed in the target districts



**25,000+**

temporary & permanent Jobs created

*NOTE: Gicumbi and Karongi are the only two districts with active water supply activities. Rulindo District reached full infrastructure coverage in 2019 same as in Kicukiro where infrastructure work was also completed the same year. In both districts, our work focuses on sustainability of services to communities, households and public institutions.*

**88,000+**

People reached through the various sanitation & hygiene initiatives implemented in Rwanda

**1**

Vermifiltration plant constructed in Rulindo District. The plant uses tigerworms to treat faecal sludge into organic manure

**3**

3 District Sanitation Centres Established (Rulindo, Gicumbi & Karongi)



**1,500+**

people benefited from various capacity building initiatives



**2,000**

Pits emptied using dedicated equipment, including emptying tankers & E-vac

**7**

Schools with newly built ventilated pit latrines

**13**

Schools with new handwashing facilities benefiting over 8,500 students and staff

**26**

Schools with rainwater harvesting systems benefiting over 17,200 students and staff



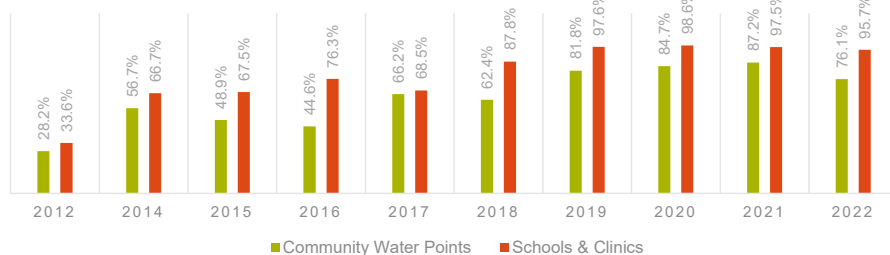


## TRENDS IN WATER LEVEL OF ACCESS

### RULINDO DISTRICT

Rulindo is a rural district in the Northern Province of Rwanda with steep hills and valleys, divided into 17 sectors. Rulindo was the birthplace of Water For People's Everyone Forever model. The Rulindo Challenge Program, started in 2010, was the first ever ambitious plan to reach Everyone (every household, every community, every school, and every health care facility) in a district with safe drinking water and sanitation services, and to develop the institutions and local capacity so this lasts Forever. At the time, only about 29% of the district population had access to safe water while half of schools and clinics lacked access to hygiene and sanitation facilities. Currently, Rulindo has achieved full water infrastructure coverage (which was achieved in 2019) and improved hygiene facilities for everyone. 78% of its population enjoy reliable water services in communities while in public schools health facilities, the level of service for water, hygiene and sanitation is over 95%.

**WATER LEVEL OF SERVICE TRENDS IN RULINDO DISTRICT (2012 - 2022)**



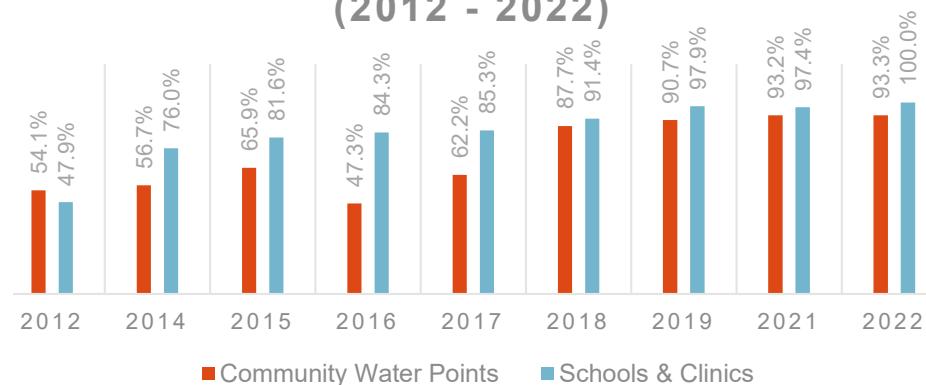
### KICUKIRO DISTRICT

Kicukiro is one of the three urban districts that make the City of Kigali, Rwanda's capital. It is divided into ten sectors, with a total population of 348,000 people.

In 2019, Water For People together with the district and WASAC completed the 'Reaching Everyone in Kicukiro District', a project that brought clean water to more than 123,000 people. Currently, Water For People in Rwanda supports the district to put in place systems that guarantee sustainable service and is no longer involved in any infrastructure work.



**WATER LEVEL OF SERVICE TRENDS IN KICUKIRO DISTRICT (2012 - 2022)**

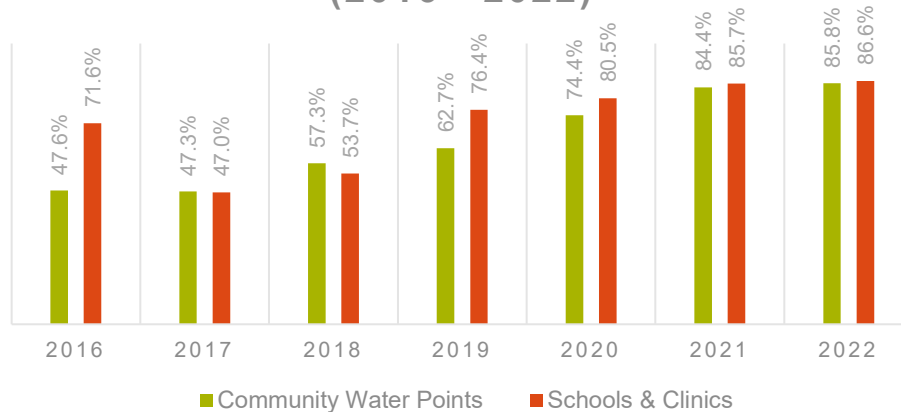




## GICUMBI DISTRICT

Gicumbi is a rural district located in the Northern Province of Rwanda, divided into 21 sectors. The steep hills and valleys make construction and operation of water systems very resource intensive. In 2016, Water For People together with the District, the Ministry of Infrastructure and WASAC initiated the Gicumbi WASH Program respond to growing water and sanitation challenges in the district. At the time, only 47% of the district population had access to water service. Today, the level of access to clean water in communities is reported at 85.8%. The district is on the path to reach everyone.

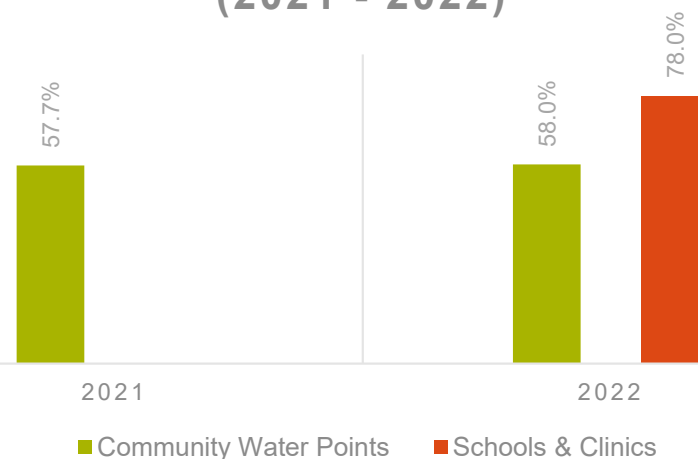
### WATER LEVEL OF SERVICE TRENDS IN GICUMBI DISTRICT (2016 - 2022)



## KARONGI DISTRICT

Karongi is a rural district in the lakeside Western Province. The district is characterized by steep hills and valleys, with communities scattered across the high and lowlands: its altitude varies between 1470 and 2200 meters. The district is divided into 537 villages across 13 sectors, with a total population of 366,068. A majority of this population are rural farmers. Karongi was the 4<sup>th</sup> Everyone Forever District for Water For People in Rwanda— after Rulindo, Kicukiro and Gicumbi. Water For People WASH interventions in Karongi started in 2020.

### WATER LEVEL OF SERVICE TRENDS IN KARONGI DISTRICT (2021 - 2022)





## GISAGARA DISTRICT

Located far in the south of Rwanda, Gisagara is the newest and 5<sup>th</sup> Everyone Forever District in Rwanda. Gisagara District covers an area of 679sqkm and divided into 524 Villages (communities). With a population of 380,164 , the access to safe water in Gisagara stands at 48.5% in communities and 60.7% in schools and health facilities, according to the results of the 2022 District Baseline Survey on the level of water, hygiene and sanitation services.



**48.5%**

Community water level of access in Gisagara District  
(Baseline Data, 2022)



**60.7%**

Level of access to clean water in schools and health facilities in Gisagara District  
(Baseline Data, 2022)





# ISOKO Y'UBUZIMA

*Isoko y'Ubuzima is a 5-year project implemented from July 2021 through July 2026 by a consortium led by Water For People to improve WASH service delivery in 10 districts. This project is funded by the USAID.*

In its first year of implementation, Isoko y'Ubuzima has made major achievements that include:



30

people graduated from the WASH system academy courses to improve the management of WASH sector building blocks and received certificates of completion.



10

District Metered Areas installed as a pilot project to strengthen the capacity of private operators in monitoring and reducing water loss on 10 selected water supply systems.



8

Districts with Detailed Engineering designs of water supply systems that will help districts have WASH investment plans and reach universal water access.



1,100

Households constructed or improved their toilets as a result of the demand-creation strategy.

41



Showrooms established to increase accessibility and affordability of sanitation products and four public buildings identified for conversion into District Sanitation Centers.



4,000+

people reached with messages about hygiene and sanitation products available at District Sanitation Centers



Isoko y'Ubuzima provides technical and financial support to the Government and districts through three major strategic objectives:

- » **Improve WASH Governance:** by strengthening the capacity of government and private sector to sustain water systems for 20 years, even 40 years.
- » **Improve drinking water services:** by building the capacity of Private Operators to identify water losses and stop them and contribute to Non-Revenue Water reduction of 25% over the next 5 years.
- » **Improve sanitation and handwashing services and products:** to ensure that more Rwandans will have improved water and hygiene, and therefore greater protection against waterborne diseases, improved nutritional status, improved household economy, improved school attendance, etc.





## SUSTAINABLE SERVICES



Water For People in Rwanda continues to support efforts to sustain access to water, hygiene and sanitation services in the target districts through regular monitoring of WASH services, capacity building, community awareness/mobilization and WASH education campaigns. Other interventions focus on supporting the District WASH Board to monitor WASH Service provision and empowering communities structures that include Water Users' Committees (WUCs) and Community Health Clubs (CHCs) to ensure sustainability of the facilities and services.

## HYGIENE & SANITATION

Our market-based sanitation approach in Rwanda means that we invest in local businesses to help solve sanitation problems. This includes training and supporting the development and deployment sanitation technologies, supporting sanitation entrepreneurs, as well as helping start treatment plants that turn the collected waste into reusable products, such as fertilizer or briquettes.

In communities, we work with leaders to undertake campaigns that aim to promote good hygiene practices, including use of clean water, handwashing and proper sludge management to ensure that communities remain safe from diseases, healthy and have opportunities to grow and flourish.

We also invest in facilities that help improve sanitation in communities - including for the proper treatment of fecal sludge & other forms of waste.

Water For People is also supporting local community hygiene and sanitation clubs that promote and finance safe sanitation practices throughout villages.

We also encourage communities to improve their sanitation facilities and work with financial institutions to provide accessible financing options to communities looking to improve their toilets. In addition, we help build the capacity of local entrepreneurs to provide bathroom construction services to families.

In schools, we support the construction of improved toilets, handwashing facilities and girls hygiene rooms in schools to improve access to sanitation facilities and hygiene practices and behaviors.

In addition, we support student-led hygiene committees to promote safe water, sanitation, and hygiene practices such as handwashing and keeping toilet blocks clean. We also advocate for the provision of menstrual hygiene resources for girls because we know that they need them to stay in schools.







## SECTOR STRENGTHENING

Water For People is involved in activities aimed at strengthening the WASH sector in Rwanda to ensure sustainable water, hygiene and sanitation services to communities across the country. Main activities focus on supporting the Ministry of Infrastructure and districts to develop water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) plans as a starting point on the journey to achieve universal access to WASH services.

Other interventions also focus on supporting the sector coordination and national sector review to assess the sector performance in terms of sector planning and financing. In addition, Water For People also supported sanitation marketing, sanitation technology and business development as well as scaling up successful products and services including district sanitation centers, FSM and latrine self-construction initiative in different districts.

6

Districts Detailed WASH  
Engineering designs  
developed

Supported the capacity  
strengthening for the  
Water & Sanitation SwaP  
Secretariat at the Ministry of  
Infrastructure





## YEAR IN REVIEW....

### STRIVING FOR PROPER MENSTRUAL HYGIENE MANAGEMENT

Rwanda celebrated the Menstrual Hygiene Day on Friday May 28, 2022 to express commitment to promoting proper menstrual hygiene management practices.

On this occasion, Rwanda launched an in-house self-service 'Pad Box' for female employees, with hope that this modest action will inspire others to take action that promote proper menstrual hygiene and access to sanitary pads.

Later on, Monday May 30, the Rwanda Country Program team joined students and staff at Groupe Scolaire Mugera school as well as local authorities in Gicumbi District to celebrate the Menstrual Hygiene Day. At that occasion, a fully equipped room, for menstruating schoolgirls, was commissioned. The construction of the room is part of Water For People's efforts to ensure that menstruating school girls, particularly in rural areas, have access to proper tools so that they can continue with their studies uninterrupted. The girls' room comes equipped with clean water, soap, bed, sanitary pads & other necessary tools for the girls.

The Day was also an opportunity to discuss ways to break the taboos around menstruation, raise awareness around the challenges and renew commitment to take action to ease access to menstrual products.



### CAPACITY BUILDING ON DSC MANAGEMENT

A learning visit for Karongi district staff members and selected District Sanitation Centres (DSC) operators was held in Nyarugenge and Rwamagana districts from 2<sup>nd</sup> to 3<sup>rd</sup> August 2022.

The learning tour was an opportunity to share onsite information on the running/operationalization of a DSC and learn from the experience of already established Centre.

Further, Water For People organized and conducted trainings and capacity building sessions for the DSC operators and local masons as a way of enhancing service delivery and operationalisation of the DSC to serve local communities.





## CO-CEO'S VISIT TO RWANDA



Samson Hailu Bekele, one of the Water For People Co-CEOs, visited Rwanda Country Program between August 10 – 13<sup>th</sup>, 2022. During his stay, he visited various activities including a water pumping station and the vermifiltration plant in Rulindo District, among others. The plant will process fecal sludge into compost using tiger worms – a first of its kind move in fecal sludge management in Rwanda.

In Kicukiro, the Co-CEO visited the Muyange school which has clean water, improved toilets, a girls room, handwashing points and a smart water filter as part of the partnership between Water For People, the district and the school. At the school, he appreciated the progress made, learnt of the impact of the facilities on the learning environment as well as the challenges and benefits to communities and schools.

The Co-CEO also held discussions with Rulindo district leaders and met the Minister of Local government to discuss the sustainability of the WASH facilities built across the districts.



## ISOKO Y'UBUZIMA PROJECT LAUNCH

The Isoko y'Ubuzima Project was launched on March 17, 2022 in Kayonza District, Eastern province. Isoko y'Ubuzima is a five-year USAID-funded programs that works to improve water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH) services in ten districts. The Project was launched alongside its sister USAID Program, Gikuriro Kuri Bose, which targets to improve maternal, infant, and child nutrition, and health outcomes for Rwandans. The Project launch was graced by the former Minister of Health, Dr. Daniel Ngamije, and the U.S. Embassy Chargé d'Affaires, Deborah MacLean, officials from the Central Government, local leaders and communities.

With Isoko y'Ubuzima over the next 5 years, 120,000 people will gain access to basic drinking water services, 100,000 people will have increased access to basic sanitation services, while 96,000 will receive improved service quality from an existing basic or safely managed drinking water service in Rwamagana, Kayonza, Ngoma, Kirehe, Nyagatare, Ruhango, Nyanza, Nyamagabe, Ngororero, and Nyabihu districts.







## ABOUT WATER FOR PEOPLE

Water For People is an international nonprofit organization 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 – Everyone Forever – 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 the districts of Rulindo, Gicumbi, Kicukiro, Karongi and, now, Gisagara. 10 more districts are supported under the USAID Isoko y'Ubuzima Project

Visit [www.rwanda.waterforpeople.org](http://www.rwanda.waterforpeople.org) to learn more about our work in Rwanda







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DECEMBER 2022

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