



# Masaka Community, Rwanda

## GORETTI'S STORY

In the rural hills of Rwanda, Goretti Mukantagara, a mother of five, faced daily challenges due to the lack of safe water. Every morning, she sold banana juice to generate an income, but obtaining safe water for her business and her family was a constant struggle. With no access to water nearby, Goretti and her eldest children had to trek long distances to gather water from a marsh. Her banana juice business suffered as a result, and her family often went without enough water for basic needs.

Goretti worried that unsafe water was disrupting her children's education. She said, "For years, my children were burdened by collecting water every morning. Sometimes, they would be late for school. Other times, because they woke up so early in the morning, they were too tired at school during the afternoon lessons. In addition, the water we used from the marshland caused worms and stomach problems. My family suffered from sickness for years."

Despite the hardships, Goretti persevered. Her church congregation came together to advocate for a new safe water system and soon partnered with Living Water Rwanda. The staff came to drill a new borehole in the center of the community, where every resident can have easy and safe access to plentiful water! Now, Goretti's burden is lighter. She can focus more on her business, and her family no longer has to worry about waterborne illnesses.

Goretti said, "I had been crying for many years due to the problem of unsafe water. Now, I thank God for answering my prayers."

With safe water and a thriving business, Goretti's family flourished. Her children now attend school on time and have seen a significant increase in their grades. In addition, her banana juice business is booming! With a reliable and safe water source, she can make more banana juice than ever, providing a steady income and allowing Goretti to expand her business and employ more women in her community.

Safe water has changed everything in Rwanda!



Now, everyone in the Masaka community has access to safe water!



Goretti poses with her banana trees.