



## Kafu, Uganda

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Residents of the Kafu community, including Rukia Nigembe, a 45-year-old farmer, faced a severe water crisis. “We had to collect water from a pond, which dried up during the dry season. The water was brown and unfit for washing clothes, cooking, or drinking. Every time we used it, we got sick. The pond was also shared with animals, making water collection dangerous. I spent a lot of money on hospital visits for typhoid treatment and stomach pain. I’m a farmer, but I went six months without tending my garden because of illness,” Rukia said.

Like Rukia, many adults lost their ability to work, putting household incomes and community stability at risk. Children, too sick or exhausted, missed school frequently. Yet, despite the hardship, women and children persevered, spending hours each day collecting the pond’s murky water. Medical bills mounted, and financial strain deepened. Many lost loved ones. The emotional toll of constant stress, fear, and grief weighed heavily on the community.

Everything changed when community leaders learned about Living Water International’s work and reached out for help. Living Water Uganda drilled a borehole and installed a hand pump in Kafu, providing safe water to 220 residents. The Living Water team also taught sanitation and hygiene skills to help the community make the most of their new water source.

“I thank God that Living Water has provided us with safe water for our homes. Now, we will no longer suffer from waterborne diseases like typhoid,” Rukia said with a smile.



Rukia Nigembe [left] shares her community’s experience with the water crisis with a Living Water team member.



These residents were elected by their peers to form the local water committee. They will collect small, voluntary fees for future repairs.