



## Bugema Community

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A severe water crisis gripped the Bugema community in Uganda, making daily life incredibly difficult. The hand-dug well they once relied on for water dried up, forcing them to walk long distances to collect water at a nearby lake. The water was contaminated with algae and other pollutants, making it unsafe for drinking, cooking, and daily use. When water accumulated in the well, it was unprotected, allowing additional contaminants to seep in.

Women and girls were especially vulnerable while gathering water. While traveling to retrieve water, men in the area were known to harass and take advantage of them. This reality only heightened the fear and anxiety community members were already facing. Not only did the lack of a nearby safe water source put their physical safety at risk, but it also disrupted women and children's daily routines, hindering their ability to go to school or care for their families.

Siginyi Paul, a 65-year-old farmer, shares his community's story: "Women and children used to walk long distances in search of water, which was not safe for domestic use because it was contaminated. People frequently fell sick from waterborne diseases like typhoid, which led to the death of some."

Community leaders knew that something needed to change. When they heard about the work Living Water International was doing in the area, they reached out. Living Water Uganda responded by drilling a new well and installing a hand pump just a short walk from residents' homes. Now community members will flourish for years to come!



Siginyi Paul (left) shares with a Living Water staff member about how the water crisis affected his community.



Community members pray over the well, dedicating it as a resource for physical and spiritual nourishment.