



How a Hygiene Club Ensured No One Was Left Behind

Gahengeri Community, Rwanda

For Celestin and Speciosa Kabanda, an elderly couple living on their own in Gahengeri, Rwanda, each day brought the same tiring struggle: limited access to water and safe sanitation.

The nearest water point was far away, making it challenging to collect enough water for drinking, cooking, and practicing basic hygiene. The rough terrain was difficult for the elderly, especially with Celestin's disability. Additionally, their makeshift latrine at their home offered little privacy or dignity, adding to the burden of daily life.

Meanwhile, Living Water International Rwanda was hosting a hygiene club nearby. Club members were asked to examine their own village, carry out a simple community diagnosis, and act on the sanitation and hygiene problems they uncovered.

When the members of the local hygiene club assessed their neighborhood, Celestin and Speciosa stood out as one of the most vulnerable families, and most affected by unsafe water and sanitation.

Hygiene club members brought attention to the Kabandas' situation, and Living Water International established a safe water point close to the couple's home. With safe water nearby, it became possible to arrange for someone to bring water to their door, a simple plan that transformed how they lived.

Then, the club members, neighbors of the Kabandas, and local church members worked together, pooling their time, labor, and resources to build Celestin and Speciosa a proper latrine. They also renovated the couple's aging house, restoring it into a home where they could live with dignity.

The community's efforts lifted a weight the couple had carried for years and brought renewed hope into their lives. With safe water within reach, a suitable latrine, and a sound home, the burden of daily struggle eased.

Their community had seen them, stood with them, and chosen to act. They were not alone.

"I thank God, who used our community and the hygiene club members to support us," Celestin said. "Through their help, we have seen real change in our lives."



Celestin's and Speciosa's newly renovated home suits their needs and eases their daily burdens.



Celestin thanks Living Water staff for their help and support.