

Ruth's story

Harvest
Appeal
2019



Ruth is 52 years old and has lived in Mabula village, Zambia, all her life. She has eight children, four boys and four girls.

Her family has always been dependent on the water from the river Ngweze. It takes an hour to walk there and another hour to walk back after collecting water. You have to dig around in the sand of the riverbed to find water.

The water you find there is dirty. The animals in the neighbourhood use the same water source, making the water contaminated. Using this water makes Ruth's family sick, yet that's the only water they have access to, for drinking, cooking or washing.

Ruth says: **"The water we collect from the river is bad, it is not good water. It looks clear but it is not clean and safe. It has a smell and a weird taste."**

Ruth would like to have a garden to grow vegetables but the river is far away and the water she collects runs out quickly. It's not possible to give it to the plants.



Ruth, Mabula village, Zambia

"We have very little food, even when I cook food for my family, I ration so that the little we have can take us for a few more days."

Ruth's village used to rely on the rainy season to grow crops, but the weather is changing and it's not raining as much as it used to.

Ruth says: **"This year we have had poor rainfall, our maize was destroyed due to lack of rain. This year we do not have enough food."**

With clean water close to her home, Ruth could make sure her family is safe and healthy. She would be able to grow vegetables to eat and sell, and earn an income to support their livelihood.



Ruth scoops water from the sand of the riverbed



Ivy's story

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Ivy is 35 years old and has been living in Milimo village, Zambia, for the past 12 years. She has four children.

Before WaterAid installed a borehole in her village two years ago, she used to experience the same problems Ruth does in her village.

Their only water source was very far away and they had to wake up as early as 3-4am to face a dangerous journey to the river, long queues and the very tiring task of drawing water.

The dirty water caused a number of waterborne diseases, mostly affecting their children.

When the water project was launched, it brought the village together, with members of the community actively volunteering to help to see the project come to reality.

When they got access to clean water for the very first time, the community decided to start a garden to grow vegetables and raise funds to maintain the borehole.



Ivy, Milimo village, Zambia

"We were all present when the water splashed out. We celebrated the arrival of clean water."

Milimo now has a flourishing garden where members of the community work together to grow crops and vegetables, and are all committed to taking care of the water point and maintaining it for future generations.

Ivy says: **"We no longer stress about water, our children are healthier and are going to school. We are growing a lot for consumption and for selling. Our animals also have water readily available in whatever season of the year."**



Ivy's community can now grow enough to eat and sell

