

# Justine's story



Harvest  
Appeal  
2022



**"My grandmother told me to never put things above people. Consider that everyone in this world is your family. The little you have or will have, share it with someone more needy than you. All humanity is family."**

Despite the hardships, Justine's passion for community is huge. Bonam, Burkina Faso

Justine Sawadogo has a crucial role in her village – to help make their limited supplies of water last all year round. It's a huge challenge, but one that Justine is embracing, to make a lasting difference in her community in times of drought.

Justine lives in the village of Bonam in Burkina Faso, a country where for eight long months each year, no rain falls. Now, climate change is making clean water even more scarce, and life even tougher.

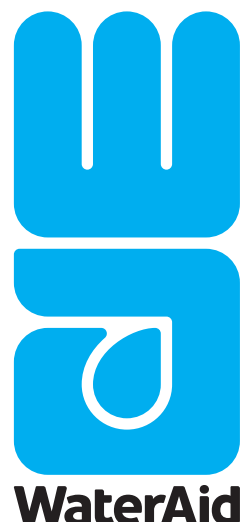
Like most people in her village, Justine is a farmer. She relies on rain to grow millet, beans and groundnuts, and earn an income to support her family. But over recent years, dry seasons have been getting longer, and rain more unpredictable. **"I have heard that before, the rains were enough, and people managed to grow and harvest enough food. But now it's not like that. The rains are not enough, and despite our efforts we are struggling to harvest enough to feed ourselves."**

A clean and reliable source of water is a powerful defence against a changing climate. That's why we're working with communities like Justine's to help people understand the water cycle, monitor the amount of water they have available and become experts in how their actions can affect their water supplies.

As a newly trained water monitor, Justine measures rainfall in the village and shares this vital information with her community. When levels are low, they can make decisions that will make sure their precious reserves last.

**"I am delighted that the community has chosen me to do this work. I take this as a responsibility to help the whole village,"** Justine told us.

**This harvest, your group can give more communities control over their water supply, their livelihoods and their lives.**



## Spotlight on Burkina Faso

Every drop of water is precious in landlocked Burkina Faso. In the long dry season, from October to May, a hot wind from the Sahara blows across the country. Temperatures soar to nearly 50 degrees Celsius. No rain falls, and most rivers and wells dry up.

Families are forced to drink whatever water they can find. Days are spent digging for water. Diarrhoea and vomiting increase. Diseases spread as people run out of water. Children get dehydrated and sick, and families struggle to pay for medicine. Some sell their cattle to pay for treatment, when their animals are thin and least valuable.

Now, climate change is making life even harder. Rains are increasingly unpredictable, and dry seasons are getting longer. Families face long walks for water, and difficult decisions about how to use what little they collect. Food crises are common.



## It takes a community to bring water to everyone

Over the past 40 years, we have learned what it takes for a community to get a reliable and sustainable source of clean water. Tailored solutions are at the heart of what we do. Whether it's a health clinic in a busy urban district, or a remote village in an area prone to drought, sourcing water starts with a community of people with different expertise and experiences coming together. And that community effort includes groups like yours.

Thanks to your support, we can collaborate with local partner organisations who understand the unique challenges people face getting a reliable supply of clean water. And wherever we are, the communities we work with also play a key role, helping to plan, implement and manage every aspect of a project. In this way, communities like Justine's will design their own solutions that work for them.

**By involving a whole community, we make a bigger difference that lasts for generations. We help people make connections with each other and come together for a common cause, making the whole community stronger for the future – whatever it may bring.**

**Take part in our Harvest Appeal and your group will join a united effort to bring communities reliable water in an unreliable climate.**

**"I hope for my community that in the coming years there will be better capacity to cope with climate change and to take care of our families. We don't want the variations of the climate to prevent us from living and earning a living."**

Justine, Bonam, Burkina Faso

