

Ibrahim's story



"Being an Imam has changed my life. I know I was chosen by God to do this. I love doing it and I love doing it for my community."

Ibrahim is an Imam from the village of Tombohuaun – a small, close-knit village in the jungle of Sierra Leone.

For him, water plays a vital role in preparing to lead prayer at the local mosque.

Before a WaterAid project brought clean water to the community at the end of 2017, Ibrahim and his fellow Muslims had only dirty water from the river to perform the pre-prayer rituals – or often none at all during the dry season.

"When there is water you have to perform a ritual, to wash yourself before you go to the mosque to pray. If there is no water we have to do something called 'tayammum'. You put your fingers on the floor, and perform as though there is water there. First you say in Arabic 'God I have cleaned myself and I have prepared myself to serve you', then you go for prayers," explains Ibrahim.

The most striking thing about Ibrahim is his humility. He's a respected member of the community, and often his house is the centre of activity in the village. Ibrahim also often takes time to help settle disputes or arguments amongst villagers. **He says the key messages he tries to spread from his faith are the importance of people working and living in harmony.** And it really shows - the communal meeting area was built by the local people under Ibrahim's instruction and is just one example of how close and welcoming the community are.

Now that Tombohuaun has clean water, Ibrahim and his fellow worshippers will always have a supply of clean water to wash with, so they can be confident they're ready for prayers.

Tombohuaun is just one of the many communities we've already reached with clean water, but we won't stop until everyone, everywhere has the same.

