



Focus on Water, Sanitation & Hygiene:

What is the situation?

In rural Burundi, poor access to safe drinking water, lack of proper sanitation facilities and poor hygiene practices remain in some areas a major obstacle to achieving better health. The National Inventory for Water and Sanitation (2010) done by Burundi Ministry of energy and mining with support of the German technical cooperation states that for the whole country, the proportion of people using clean water is 55%.

World Vision's response:

In addition to numerous on-spot spring capping activities, World Vision Burundi (WVB) has supported the construction of gravity-fed water systems, rehabilitated water points, and rain-water harvesting tanks. WVB also works to promote hygiene and safe water usage to prevent disease.

Picture: kids at Muyange Primary School enjoy the benefits of clean water thanks to World Vision.



Key achievements in Financial Year 2012:

- A total of 33 KM of water gravity system established, benefitting 516 households
- Constructed or rehabilitated 14 water springs for 4,200 households
- Rehabilitated 1 nutrition center (space for child feeding and breastfeeding facilitation at Muramvya hospital) so that mothers and children, staff can have access to clean water
- Distributed 112 water tanks
- Rehabilitated 8 water tanks

Water brings good health:

When MUYANGE and MURUTA primary schools started their school meal project with the support of World Vision Burundi and World Food Programme in order to prevent children from dropping out because of hunger, school authorities realised that they were obliged to be sending children to collect water during school time. World Vision resolved this problem by installing rain water harvest tanks.

Jean Claude NIZIGIYIMANA, School Managing Committee member at MUYANGE primary school, found that this has not only helped children be in school for longer – not having to waste time to go and collect water – but improved also children's hygiene and, ultimately, health. "We were worried, if there is no water it is difficult to ensure that children are eating with clean hands; it was dangerous. Now it is safe. Thanks to World Vision for providing water to our schools," he said.