

Flowing Forward

The Story of Your
Generosity in Uganda



IMPACT REPORT
2024-2025

WHERE THE STORY BEGINS

You've Kept the Water *Flowing Forward*

We'll never forget 9-year-old Rosette bursting into laughter and dancing barefoot the day water flowed from her school tap.

"It's cold!" she shouted, her face lit with joy.

That moment captured the heart of this work—and the ripple effect of your support.

We're so glad you're part of this meaningful story—where Canadians and Ugandans lock arms **to uplift humanity**.

You haven't just helped turn on taps. You've also helped the water flow forward—toward health, education, and economic resilience.

This is the story of your generosity.

Through the gift of clean water, you've stepped into the journey of **Ubuntu**—a path shaped by compassion, connection, and the understanding that we are stronger together.

And because of you, a remarkable narrative is unfolding in the villages of Irimya and Kasese—one where communities long defined by water poverty are now defined by strength, dignity, and opportunity.

What once felt impossible is now daily life:

- **38 taps now flow with clean**, safe water, reaching over **7,000 people**
- Waterborne **diseases are down by 81%**
- **Moms** no longer walk miles; they **gather water just steps from home**
- **Children are back in school**—learning, laughing, and dreaming again
- **Parents are building businesses**, growing gardens, and reclaiming futures

This impact in this report belongs to you, to our volunteers, to our Ugandan and Canadian staff, and to every neighbour who carried pipe, dug trenches, and dreamt of something better.

As we say in Uganda: ***"Change that is built together, lasts together."***

Together, we grow from strength to strength. And because of your enduring partnership, Irimya and Kasese are turning the page to a remarkable new chapter.

So thank you—for walking with us, for choosing to be part of a shared story that reaches beyond borders, and for living out Ubuntu in such a profound way.

Your generosity is writing an incredible story—and it's only just begun.



Tracey DeGraaf
Canadian CEO



Richard Musinguzi
Ugandan Executive Director



CHAPTER ONE

Irimya: A Community Transformed by Water

This past year, the two phases of the water project in Irimya came to a conclusion, but the impact is still flowing *forward*. With clean water now reaching nearly every home in **all 14 communities**, open defecation has all but vanished, and waterborne illness has plummeted!

This is what your generosity looks like there now that clean water is flowing:



Clean water access jumped to 98.8%
nearly every household now drinks safely



Improved latrines are being used by 99% of people
community health has skyrocketed



Household savings increased by 66%
lifting people from the lowest level of poverty



100% of schools now have clean tap water
every child has a better chance to thrive



95.5% of households collect water in under 30 minutes
time and dignity were restored



Waterborne disease fell by 81.8%
families are healthier and more active in the community



**DIRTY WATER & UNSANITARY SCHOOL TOILETS KEPT STUDENTS FROM GOING TO SCHOOL
BUT, THANKS TO YOUR KINDNESS, THEY'RE BACK IN CLASS!**





THE MIRRORS AND HYGIENE TRAINING YOU PROVIDED ARE MOTIVATING KIDS TO WASH THEIR HANDS AND CREATE HEALTHY NEW HABITS.



Open defecation dropped by 93.5%
a reduction that is dramatically increasing health



Poverty levels fell by over 30%
families are able to meet basic needs and build futures



Menstrual-related absenteeism dropped by 70%
with 100% of girls reporting increased confidence



60.4% drop in vulnerability while fetching water
women's safety improved significantly



ACTS Uganda's programming approach continues to demonstrate **tangible, community-wide transformation** through integrated, sustainable WASH (Water and Sanitation Hygiene) solutions.

These incredible numbers display the power of combining infrastructure development with sustained community engagement, hygiene promotion, and behaviour change education.



96,000+ HOURS

Nearly 3,000 local volunteers gave their time (an average of 32 hours each), pouring 96,000+ hours into building a healthier future for their community!



Ambrose Bigaba
Ugandan Program Director

CHAPTER TWO

Voices from the Village

Hear From The Everyday Heroes in Irimya You've Invested In

In the hills of Irimya, clean water now flows freely, and an incredible story of change came to life after the taps turned on.

Meet Samuel, Emily, and Boaz—three everyday heroes ensuring lasting transformation in their own communities.

Boaz, a deputy headteacher, **turned his school into a hub of hygiene and health.** With new latrines and tap stands, he champions handwashing and menstrual hygiene, reducing absenteeism and building student pride.

Samuel, a member of the Water User Committee, helps maintain the system, and coordinate community contributions. Thanks to training in leadership and financial literacy, he's **now part of a registered community-based organization protecting water access for 845 households.**

Emily is part of Irimya's Life Gardens project. She's **growing and selling surplus vegetables—and for the first time, and can access small loans** when she needs them most. Her success reflects the deep connection between clean water, nutrition, and financial resilience.

These local heroes are just three of thousands. In fact, **over 3,000 volunteers have collectively invested more than 96,000 hours to help their communities thrive!**

This is what your generosity looks like: sustainable change, local leadership, deep commitment, and communities building a future they own.



“Before, I used to struggle to get school fees during planting season. But now, with our group savings, I can take out a loan, pay for school, and repay once I sell my produce.”

— Emily, VSLA Member



SAMUEL AND BOAZ HAVE STEPPED FORWARD AS LOCAL LEADERS THANKS TO YOUR CARING INVESTMENT IN WATER.





CHAPTER THREE

Patricia's Plot Twist

How Clean Water Changed Patricia's Story

Just months ago, Patricia's dream of being a nurse felt like it was slipping away.

Her school in rural Uganda had no clean water. No private toilets. Like many girls her age, Patricia often had to leave school to walk long distances in search of water—water that wasn't even safe to drink.

Every step taken was a step away from the classroom, away from safety, and away from the future she imagined for herself.

Then everything changed.

Because of your kindness, Patricia's school now has fresh, clean water and safe, private toilets.

And the impact is transformative.

Girls no longer need to choose between hygiene and their education. They can show up, stay focused, and thrive.

For Patricia, the change has been dramatic.



YOUR COMPASSION
HAS MEANT GIRLS LIKE
PATRICIA CAN FOCUS
ON SCHOOL AND BUILD
THEIR OWN FUTURES.



"I want to thank you Acts for Water because now I am comfortably in class... now there is water at school and I don't miss classes."

"Before having water, I was the last in Math. But now I am the first in the class!"

That's the kind of change your compassion makes possible.

When girls have access to clean water, they don't just dream about the future—they begin building it. Patricia is back in class, thriving, and more determined than ever to reach her goal of becoming a nurse.

Thank you for helping girls like Patricia move from falling behind to leading the way!

CHAPTER FOUR

This Year's Return on Your Generosity

Your generosity is making a powerful impact on our collective story. We're deeply humbled by the ongoing commitment of our Source Supporter Monthly Giving community, the rise in local contributions, and the long-term investments that are helping keep the taps flowing.



1. Your Gifts Went Further Than Ever

It cost just **\$47 to serve one person FOR LIFE** with one of Uganda's most holistic, high-performing WASH model (clean water, latrines, and hygiene training).



2. You Helped Raise a Record-Breaking \$1.53 Million

\$1.03 million was raised in cash this year, and **\$500,000 in pledges** were secured to fuel growth in 2025 and beyond - more taps, more latrines, more kids back in school.



3. Incredible Value for Your Dollars

It cost just **\$1 to raise \$28** in gifts/pledges this year. **\$58,000 was spent on administration** in Canada to provide crucial things like an audit, good bookkeeping, and records to run things well.



4. Built to Last: Uganda's Team is Now Earning Revenue

\$45,484
earned this year alone
covering a population
of 66,614!!

Thanks to your support, we're seeing sustainability in action as Acts Uganda leads the charge in **earned revenue with the new Area Service Provider (ASP) model** where:

- communities pay a small, affordable monthly fee
- teams provide upkeep and repairs to keep water flowing
- revenue supports technician salaries and re-investment

SOURCE SUPPORTERS

\$16,540
per month

Our amazing Source Supporters—who give every month—helped raise more than before! Even though we had a tiny drop in the number of donors, they collectively gave 7% more than last year!

This kind of steady support means we can plan ahead, grow faster, and bring clean water to more families, more quickly.
(Learn more at acts.ca/monthly)

RETENTION RATE

71%

This year, 71 out of every 100 people who gave last year gave again, which is well over the industry standard of 40%.

Thank you for sticking with us year to year to help bring clean water to families who need it most!

“Clean water isn’t just a convenience; it’s a basic human need. And with the right strategies and resources, we can make sure more communities have access to this life-changing resource.”

- Source Supporter, BC

CHAPTER FIVE

Kasese: To Be Continued

The Story of Your Generosity is Still Being Written in Kasese.

While one team worked on completing the project in Irimya, another team began working in Kasese.

This project is showing impressive progress:

- **28+ kilometers of pipeline** have been excavated and laid
- **1 reservoir tank** completed
- **2 latrine blocks** have been constructed
- **12 villages** have begun healthy hygiene training

Just imagine the next chapter in their story as your generosity lends way to more training, clean water, and improved hygiene!



51 WASH ambassadors trained
45% of them women

130

130 Savings & Loan members trained
to make soap, jelly, and reusable pads



11 local masons trained in latrine construction
more community members with practical skills

265

265 people trained in menstrual health
140 of them being women



Just imagine the next chapter in their story as **your gifts** lend way to more training, clean water, and improved hygiene!



TO BE CONTINUED...

Waiting for The Next Chapter

You Can Be a Part of What's to Come in Kasese

This story isn't over.

For the communities awaiting clean water in Kasese and beyond, **their next chapter can only be written together with thoughtful and dedicated individuals like you.**

The local district government has poured their budget into rebuilding roads, bridges, and buildings, leaving them without the means to fulfill their pledge to this project. However, the work is well underway, and families are waiting for the clean water and toilets they've been promised.

We've come so far, but we can't finish this without you. ***Would you help us write a surprise ending for Kasese's story?***

YES, I WILL

Your generous monthly or one-time gift at acts.ca will mean more families across Uganda can know the freedom of life that flows from access to clean, safe water and latrines!!



PO BOX 30044 MONCTON PO
RICHMOND BC V7E 0A6

P | 778 855 4352
E | info@acts.ca



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