

# **RWANDA**

*Mirambi Community*

**MOSS TECHNOLOGIES**

# MIRAMBI COMMUNITY

SOUTH, RUHANGO, RWANDA

LATITUDE: -2.181858, LONGITUDE: 29.890924

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## ABOUT THE COMMUNITY

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Those living in Mirambi, Rwanda were suffering at the mercy of the water crisis. The only water source available to the 224 residents was a shallow hand-dug well, which was essentially a muddy pit dug in the ground. The well was not centrally located, which meant that many people would walk a great distance to collect water for their families. This task fell predominantly to women and children.

Because the well was shallow, the water was contaminated and unsafe for consumption. Yet the community members had no other choice. They would drink the water and often contract dysentery, diarrhea, parasites, and typhoid. Furthermore, the still water in the well attracted mosquitoes, making those who collected water—primarily children—susceptible to malaria.

The community members were caught in an awful dilemma. They would often forgo using water for household and sanitary uses in order to preserve as much as they could for drinking. Yet this meant they were more prone to the spread of contagions, making illnesses more rampant. Something had to change for the sake of everyone's health. Yet the community members were unsure of how to face this challenge on their own.



This hand-dug well is the only water source for the community.

A community leader named Mujyambere Haridi decided to take action. He had become familiar with Living Water International's mission and decided to reach out to request their assistance. The Living Water Rwanda staff was glad to make a visit to ascertain the feasibility of a project in Mirambia. They could see that the community's need was dire and that the residents were prepared to sustain a solution. They were glad to announce to the community members that they were eligible for a safe water well. The project could begin soon, thanks to your generous gift, Moss Technologies.



The drilling staff have begun work on the well.

**POPULATION**                      **224**

**MAIN WATER COLLECTORS**                      **children**

**TERRAIN**                                      **rural**

The Living Water staff soon returned to the community and began work on the project. They drilled until they reached a safe water aquifer 50 meters deep. They then cased the borehole, flushed it out to remove sedimentary rock debris, installed a sanitary seal, and completed a shock chlorination. The water quality of the well was tested and proved to be safe for drinking. The Living Water staff then capped the well with an India Mark II well head and hand pump. Finally, the well was complete!

## CONSTRUCTION DETAILS

ALTITUDE **1,464 m**

DEPTH DRILLED **65m**

STATIC LEVEL **18 m**

CASING MATERIAL **PVC**

CASING EXTERNAL DIAMETER **110 mm**

PUMP TYPE **HAND PUMP**

SANITARY SEAL DEPTH **3 m**

GRAVEL PACK DEPTH **38 m**

SHOCK CHLORINATION **YES**

PLATFORM MATERIAL **CONCRETE**



The well is complete!

## SUSTAINABILITY

The Living Water Rwanda staff helped the community members take next steps in stewardship of the water. The staff helped them to nominate a water caretaker who would oversee the care to the well and proper maintenance. The water caretaker would remain in contact with Living Water Rwanda about the functionality of the pump and would also collect a small fee per household for use of the well to cover the cost of future repairs. By planning ahead in advance of problems, community members shifted away from their former reactionary patterns associated with scarcity. They now embrace their role as stewards and advocates of safe water management.

“Our community is located just behind the hospital, and their drainage water would run into our hand-dug well. This was our only source, so there was nothing we could do. There were many illnesses associated with the dirty water. This new water well will make our community safer.”

— *Yambabariye Jean Paul, 25-year-old farmer*



This man acts as the water caretaker.



Yambabariye tells his story.

## SANITATION & HYGIENE

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Living Water Rwanda led a sanitation and hygiene training session for the entire community. The lessons were interactive in nature and supplemented with visual aids. A total of 108 people benefited from lessons that taught them the personal relevance of sanitation and hygiene.

First, the staff demonstrated how to use the pump properly and store water safely. Next, they explained the ways that germs are spread and diseases are transmitted. The participants learned that they could play an active role in preventing illnesses by washing their hands thoroughly and regularly. The Living Water staff led a handwashing practice session, guiding the participants through the proper technique. The staff also used an oversized set of plastic teeth to teach dental hygiene.

The community members were also engaged in a conversational lesson. They were encouraged to compare and contrast the characteristics of healthy and unhealthy communities. This analysis helped them reflect on which of their own habits they needed to maintain or modify.



The Living Water staff leads a sanitation and hygiene training.

## IN JESUS' NAME

The Living Water staff also presented the gospel message by holding a JESUS film showing. There were 122 people present, representing five local churches. This depiction of the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ gave presented the gospel in a way that was personally relevant regardless of age or education level. It also provided the viewers from the many denominations with a common reference point. Many responded by accepting Christ as their savior, and the Living Water Rwanda staff led them in a prayer of faith.

The residents of Mirambi would always remember the time they were shown the love of God through the gift of safe water. By quenching their physical thirst, you opened their hearts to experience God's grace anew. Jesus himself said, "And if anyone gives even a cup of cold water to one of these little ones who is my disciple, truly I tell you, that person will certainly not lose their reward" (Matthew 10:42, NIV).

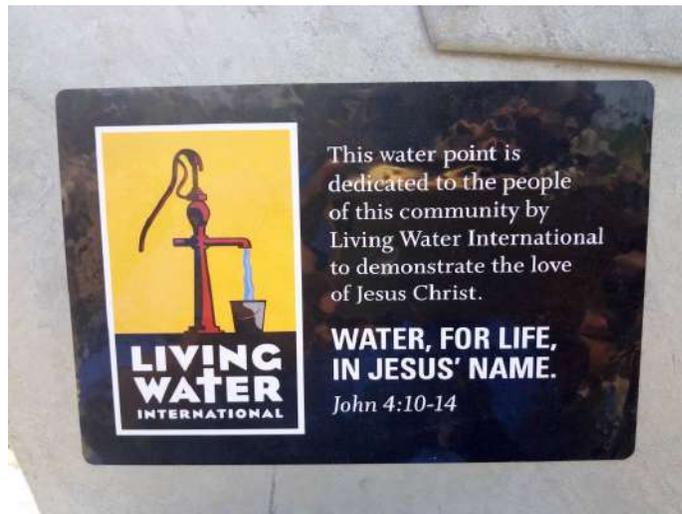


The community members enjoy a showing of the JESUS film.

## YOUR IMPACT

Moss Technologies, you have transformed the community of Mirambi from the ground up. A total of 224 water users now have abundant water for all their needs! The effects of this safe water access are exponential. Children will use the time once wasted collecting and hauling water to spend more time in school and playing together. Their parents will have plenty of water for household and sanitary uses. Both the use and consumption of safe water will decrease the instances of illness in the community. This will not only improve the residents' health, but also also their capability to dedicate themselves to their vocations and other pursuits fully. Improved financial stability will strengthen the fabric of the community as a whole. Furthermore, the community members now act as models of a sustainable water management system, offering health and hope to their region.

Thank you for giving water, for life, in Jesus' name!



Thank you for your invaluable gift!