ANAMARIYA’S STORY
OF WATER AND LIFE IN RWANDA
My name is Anamariya Mukakarangwa and I am 16 years old. I was born and brought up in a rural refugee settlement in Western Uganda. I am the fifth born in a family.
of seven girls and one boy. In 1994 after the war, my family returned to the village of Karangazi in Rwanda with one hundred and twenty head of cattle. After the first few months in Karangazi, we experienced a drought. The cows ate all the green grass. Then the cows ate dry grass. Cows also drank all the pond water.
Anamariya's Story
Even the swamp near our home dried up. Many of our cows died. Eventually the rains came, the remaining cows had more to eat but we got sick from diarrhea. The village had no toilets and feces were washed into the ponds where we collected water.
By then, I was ten years old. I started school in primary one at Karangazi Primary School.

At school I found a toilet but I did not like it. The whole school was using this one toilet. Whenever a girl entered the toilet and sat above the hole, boys would peep in. Boys also wrote the names of some girls and bad comments on the walls.
When I was fourteen years old, I would often skip school because I did not want the boys to see me going to the toilet. I was so happy when CARE introduced hygiene and sanitation activities at our school.
Anamariya’s Story
CARE taught us how to stop the spread of disease through flies, fingers, food, fluids, and feces by improving personal hygiene.

They taught us hygiene and sanitation practices for both school and home.
Sometimes CARE showed us a poster like this to show us good hygiene, but my favorite was playing games that helped us understand.

Our community with CARE’s assistance constructed good toilets at school with a separate part for girls and boys. I have never missed a day of school since.

Anamariya’s Story
Here is a photo of the reservoir that stores water from the spring. From here the water flows down a pipe to the water points in our village.
Our community also constructed a tank for storing water harvested from the roof. We use the water for washing our hands after going to the toilet. During the dry season we collect water from the water point that the community built with CARE’s help.

Anamariya’s Story
I can go to school and study without shame or fear.
We have a water point close to our house, and clean water for drinking, washing and bathing. My father has built a toilet near our house, and we put garbage in a compost pit.

I am happy now. Life is much better for me, my family, school friends and community.
She has the power to change her world.

You have the power to help her do it.

Typical costs for a community water project are $40 per person plus in-kind and cash contributions from the community.

Operation and maintenance is the responsibility of the community.

For example, a gift of $20,000 to CARE could help change the lives of 500 people like Anamariya forever!

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