

RWANDA'S NEW WATER WELLS

Turn on Taps for 1 Million People

Tough daily treks to get clean water and concerns about fetching potable sources remain the never-ending everyday rituals and risks for millions of people in Rwanda.

Aiming at adequately addressing this challenge, the Islamic Development Bank (IsDB) has been striving to improve the lives of those in the Central African state for more than 30 years.

Its Special Assistance program dates back to 1993 with spending of more than US\$3 million on education, health, water supply, energy and emergency aid projects.



The Plan:

IsDB's most recent initiative to fund the provision of clean drinking water began in July 2021 and targeted five districts.

It collaborated with a key partner, the Umbrella for Vulnerable NGO, for the drilling of boreholes in Gatsibo, Kamonyi, Nyanza, Kicukiro and Gasabo.

Each well would be equipped with a solar-powered water pump, filtration units and a 10,000-liter tank.

As part of the Bank's experienced Community Outreach Program, local people were educated on hygiene and sanitation measures in addition to the importance of fighting water-borne diseases.

Success:

By January 2023, all five wells were operational and running - serving an impressive 1 million people in 367,500 households across the five districts.

IsDB provided US\$150,000 of the US\$320,000 total, with the Umbrella for Vulnerable and other partners fulfilling the remaining amount.

Securing a clean water source meant the elimination of both the risk of illness from water-borne diseases and the burden of long treks in search of water.

"The distance to the water source has been shortened, so I can use the time for farming," says one beneficiary.

"Also, illnesses that would make us spend sleepless nights with our children at the hospital will no longer be a problem."



Reflections:

This project is yet another vital contribution by IsDB to the improvement of health and living standards in Rwanda.

The Bank has underlined its commitment to stand shoulder to shoulder with its friends in Africa and has been consistent in its support for millions in the country.

And the life-changing efforts will continue as the inspiring work of the Special Assistance program enters its 31st year

