



Construction of Inclusive Water Points in Kasenga, Uvira/South Kivu: Enhancing Accessibility for All

Final narrative report



Name of the implementing organisation:

Appui au Développement de l'Enfant en Détresse (ADED) with support from Stichting Impaction

Funding partner :

Vereniging Ontwikkelingssamenwerking Muiden Muiderberg (VOMM)

Title of the Project :

Construction of Inclusive Water Points in Kasenga, Uvira/South Kivu: Enhancing Accessibility for All

Start and end date of project :

19 July 2024 – 15 October 2029

Project beneficiaries:

350 Household (around 2,100 beneficiaries)

1. BACKGROUND AND CONTEXT

Uvira, a city in South Kivu, Democratic Republic of Congo, has long faced severe challenges in accessing clean and safe water.

The city experiences recurrent outbreaks of waterborne diseases such as cholera and acute diarrhea, with an average of 1,200 annual hospitalizations for diarrheal diseases recorded between 2009 and 2023. These health crises are driven by inadequate potable water access, unrehabilitated water infrastructure, and frequent natural disasters, including the rising waters of Lake Tanganyika and flooding from the Mulongwe and Kavimvira Rivers. These events have displaced thousands of households, further contaminating water sources and escalating public health risks.

Uvira comprises 17 neighborhoods, yet only five have access to water connections, leaving a significant portion of its population reliant on unsafe sources. Among the most affected is the Kasenga region, consisting of two neighborhoods—Membo and Kasenga—with a population of 31,229 across 5,012 households. Residents in this area previously relied on contaminated water from the Mulongwe River, contributing to heightened vulnerability to cholera and other diseases.

To address these challenges, within the framework of the Tunafasi program, Impaction Foundation and its partner Vereniging Ontwikkelingssamenwerking Muiden Muiderberg (VOMM) supported the Kasenga community by constructing two inclusive water pumps/boreholes.

These boreholes, located in Quartier Kakombe (Membo Avenue) and Quartier Kasenga (Maendeleo Avenue), now provide clean and safe water to approximately 2,100 individuals across 350 households. This initiative not only alleviates the scarcity crisis but also ensures inclusivity, particularly for persons with disabilities, who often face significant barriers to accessing essential resources.



Figure 1 : Water Supply Situation Before the Construction of Boreholes in Kasenga



2. General Objectives

- To provide clean and safe drinking water to residents of Membo Avenue (Quartier Kakombe) and Maendeleo Avenue (Quartier Kasenga) in the Kasenga neighborhood, addressing critical health and hygiene needs.
- To enhance social inclusion by ensuring the water pumps are accessible to persons with disabilities, promoting equitable access to essential resources.
- To reduce the risk of waterborne diseases for households directly served by the new water pumps, fostering improved health outcomes within these specific avenues.
- To strengthen community engagement in the management and maintenance of the water pumps, ensuring their long-term functionality and sustainability.

3. Construction Process of the Water Pumps

The construction process for the two water pumps in Kasenga was carried out through a structured and transparent approach to ensure the project met the needs of the community and adhered to established standards. Below are the key steps undertaken

4. Step One: Development of ToR and Selection of Service Providers

The process began with the development of a Terms of Reference (ToR) document that outlined the scope, objectives, and requirements of the activity.

Following this, a call for submissions was issued to identify a supplier and an engineer, with a submission period of 15 working days in accordance with ADED's Manual of Administrative and Financial Procedures (MAPAF).

An ad-hoc commission, comprising ADED's Administrative and Financial Officer, Program Manager, Project Manager, and Logistics Officer, reviewed the submissions and selected **Maison Jean Robert** as the supplier and **Amisi Kabwe Tande** as the engineer. Contracts were signed, and the supplier delivered the materials to the designated sites under the supervision of the Logistics Officer.

Step Two: Stakeholder Engagement and Site Selection

With the service providers in place, ADED engaged stakeholders from the Uvira Health Zone, WASH Coordinator, and local authorities to identify neighborhoods with critical water needs. A site visit team, including ADED staff, the WASH Coordinator, and three *Chefs de Quartier*, conducted an assessment of potential locations.

Initially, four sites were proposed: Kavimvira, Kasenga, Kakombe, and Kiyaya. After thorough analysis:

- **Kavimvira** was excluded as residents could access water from nearby neighborhoods.
- **Kiyaya** was deemed unsuitable due to bedrock encountered at shallow depths.

The team finalized **Avenue Membo in Quartier Kakombe** and **Avenue Maendeleo in Quartier Kasenga** as the most viable sites, based on community demand and technical feasibility.

Step Three: Procurement and Preparation

Following site selection, the required materials were delivered by **Maison Jean Robert** and transported to the sites by ADED's Logistics Officer. Local leaders and community members collaborated to prepare the sites for construction.

Step Four: Construction of the Water Pumps

The construction phase of the water pumps was implemented following a structured and systematic approach, ensuring technical precision, community involvement, and adherence to international standards. The process included multiple substeps:

Figure : Figure: Progress of Excavation and Installation of Reinforced Concrete Well Casings



Figure 2 : excavation of the selected sites



Figure : making of cylindrical casings to stabilize the well



Figure 4 : transport of concrete buse to Kakombe site

Sub step 1: Excavation and Installation of Concrete Well

The first step in the construction process involved excavating the selected sites to access groundwater, followed by the installation of concrete buses (cylindrical casings) to stabilize the wells. A team of skilled laborers carried out the excavation under the supervision of an engineer, ensuring the process adhered to safety and technical standards. Proper equipment and safety protocols were applied to prevent collapses during digging and ensure efficiency in reaching the water table.

In Quartier Kasenga (Avenue Maendeleo), groundwater was successfully reached at a depth of 11 meters, while in Quartier Kakombe (Avenue Membo), water was located at a depth of 13 meters. Once the water table was accessed, concrete buses were installed to line the wells. These buses are essential for maintaining the structural integrity of the wells, preventing contamination from surface runoff, and ensuring the long-term durability of the water points.

This combined process of excavation and installation of buses was critical in preparing the wells for the subsequent phases of construction, ensuring they would provide a safe and reliable water source for the community.



Figure : ADED coordinator and Mr . Gilbert and ADED Program manager Mr. Joachim visiting the sites

Sub step 2: Construction of Water Points

The construction process for the two water points was carried out sequentially to ensure focused supervision and high-quality results. The first site, located in **Avenue Maendeleo, Quartier Kasenga**, was prioritized for completion. After groundwater was accessed, the construction began with the preparation of a **structural foundation** to provide stability and durability. A high-quality manual pump, selected for its ease of use and minimal maintenance, was then installed. The water was initially cleaned to remove sediment and impurities, ensuring clarity and suitability for further testing. To safeguard the facility, a **protective gate** was installed, preventing contamination, vandalism, and unauthorized access.

Once the water point in **Maendeleo, Kasenga** was fully completed and functional, construction commenced at the second site in **Avenue Membo, Quartier Kakombe**. The same process was followed to ensure the second water point met the same rigorous standards for quality, functionality, and sustainability. This phased approach ensured that each water point received the attention necessary to meet the needs of the respective communities effectively.





Step 4: Water Quality Testing

After completing the construction of the water points, the next critical step was **water quality testing** to ensure the safety of the water for community use, in compliance with the **WASH Cluster Guidelines** for the DRC. This step involved the collection of water samples from each pump, with two liters of water taken from both the Maendeleo site in **Quartier Kasenga** and the Membo site in **Quartier Kakombe**.

The samples were sent to a certified water testing laboratory in **Bujumbura, Burundi**, where they underwent rigorous analysis to check for contaminants and assess their suitability for human consumption. The results confirmed that the water from both pumps met the required safety standards, allowing the facilities to be approved for use by the community. This step was essential in guaranteeing that the newly constructed water points provided clean and safe drinking water, addressing one of the community's most urgent needs.

Step 5 : Formation of the Water User Committee

To ensure the sustainability of the water points, a **Water User Committee** was established in each neighborhood, **Community Involvement**: ADED convened community meetings to present the completed water points and discuss long-term management. Community members, including representatives from vulnerable groups (e.g., persons with disabilities), were invited to join the committees.

Step 6: Formation and Training of Water User Committees

To ensure sustainability and proper management of the newly constructed water points, **two Water User Committees** were established, one for each site, in **Avenue Maendeleo, Quartier Kasenga**, and **Avenue Membo, Quartier Kakombe**. The committees were formed during community meetings, led by ADED supervisors and facilitated by local leaders (*Chefs de Quartier*). Each committee was composed of seven members democratically elected by the community, ensuring diverse representation, including **two members with disabilities**, both of whom were women. The committees included key roles such as President, Vice-President, Secretary, Treasurer, and three Advisors.

Following their formation, a one-day training session was organized on **30th September 2024** at the ADED meeting hall. This session was attended by 15 committee members (11 women and 4 men) and was facilitated by ADED's program manager and the Uvira Health Zone's WASH focal point. The training focused on equipping the committees with knowledge and skills for effective water point management, maintenance, and governance.

Key Topics Covered During the Training:

1. **Roles and Responsibilities:** Committee members were guided on their duties, including organizing meetings, managing user contributions for maintenance, and promoting proper hygiene and sanitation practices.
2. **Community Engagement:** Emphasis was placed on involving the entire community in the maintenance and sustainability of the water points.
3. **Infrastructure Maintenance:** Participants were trained on basic preventive and corrective maintenance techniques to prolong the lifespan of the water infrastructure.
4. **Governance and Accountability:** Principles of transparency and regular reporting to the community were highlighted to ensure trust and efficient management.

The training concluded with a clear action plan, empowering the committees to manage the water points effectively. The committee also committed to regular meetings and close monitoring of the water infrastructure. This comprehensive approach ensures that the water points will remain functional and serve the community's needs sustainably.

Figure : community consultation in electing water user committee and training of committee members



5. Official Handover of the Water Points and Testimonies

The official handover ceremony for the water points took place on Avenue Membo, Kasenga, bringing together key stakeholders, including representatives from ADED, the Uvira Health Zone (BCZ), local authorities, Water User Committees, and members of the community. During the event, the Uvira Health Zone formally received the completed water points and testing results from ADED and passed them on to the Water User Committees in the presence of local leaders.

The representative from the Uvira Health Zone, speaking on behalf of the community, expressed heartfelt gratitude:

"We are deeply thankful to ADED and the donors for this invaluable contribution to Kasenga. Access to clean water has been a long-standing challenge for our population. These inclusive and potable water points are a game-changer for the health and safety of our community. We also commend the establishment of the Water User Committees, whose responsibility will be to ensure proper management and maintenance of this vital infrastructure."

Riziki highlighted the broader impact on vulnerable groups:

"The situation was even worse for pregnant women, elderly women, and persons with disabilities. They couldn't physically access the rivers due to the long distances and environmental barriers. Girls in our community were especially at risk. They would often miss school or arrive late after fetching water and were exposed to violence, early marriage, or even unwanted pregnancies. These water points have brought safety, dignity, and relief to our lives."

Local authorities also expressed their appreciation and highlighted the ongoing need for more support. One leader stated:

"We thank ADED and the donors for this transformative project. However, the needs of Kasenga are still significant. With a population of over 31,000 people and 1,012 households, these two water points are not enough to cover everyone. We urge ADED and its partners to continue advocating for additional resources to address the needs of other neighborhoods."

The ceremony concluded with the symbolic opening of the water taps to confirm their functionality, followed by a celebration of this important milestone for the Kasenga community.

The handover was followed by testimonies from community representatives, including Zainabo Lukebura (Avenue Membo) and Riziki Kakozi (Avenue Maendeleo), both members of the Water User Committees.

"Before this project, water was a daily struggle," Zainabo began. "We relied on REGIDESO water, which was only available late at night, from midnight to 3:00 AM. Going out at those hours was dangerous due to the risk of armed robbery and other crimes. When REGIDESO water wasn't available, we walked over 700 meters to fetch water from the rivers Mulongwe or Kavimvira. For those of us who couldn't make the journey, we paid transporters 500 Congolese Francs per 20-liter jerrycan, which strained our household budgets. Now, with these water points, we can safely access clean water without the risks or high costs."



6. Sustainability Plan

To ensure the sustainability of the water points, the Water User Committees have committed to collecting a small maintenance fee of **1,000 Congolese Francs per household (\$0,35)**. These funds will be used to cover preventive and corrective maintenance costs, ensuring the long-term functionality of the water points. The committees have also pledged to hold regular meetings to monitor the water points' condition and address any operational challenges promptly.

With comprehensive training provided by ADED, the committees are equipped to manage the infrastructure responsibly, fostering a sense of ownership within the community. This approach ensures that the water points will continue to serve the residents of Kasenga effectively for years to come.

7. Conclusion and recommendation

7.1 Conclusion

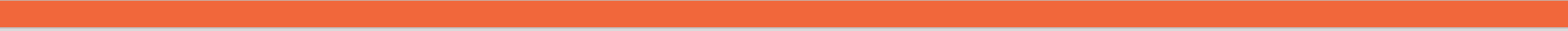
The construction of two inclusive water points in **Kasenga, Uvira**, has had a transformative impact, addressing critical challenges related to access to clean and safe drinking water for approximately **2,100 beneficiaries** across **350 households**. This project has significantly reduced the risk of waterborne diseases, improved the safety and dignity of water access for vulnerable groups, and fostered social inclusion by involving persons with disabilities in the management committees.

The testimonies from community members underscore the importance of these water points in alleviating daily struggles, especially for women, children, and persons with disabilities. However, with a population of over **31,000 people** in Kasenga, the need for additional water points remains urgent to fully meet the community's demands.


7.2 Recommendations from the Community and Local Leaders

During consultations and the official handover of the water points, the community and local leaders highlighted several recommendations to address ongoing challenges and ensure the sustainability of the project:

1. **Expand Water Access in Kasenga:** Community members and leaders emphasized the need for additional water points, as the two current sites are insufficient to meet the needs of the entire population of **31,229 residents** in Kasenga. They urged ADED and donors to continue advocacy efforts to secure funding for more infrastructure in underserved neighborhoods.
2. **Strengthen Support for Water User Committees:** Local leaders recommended ongoing support and capacity building for the Water User Committees to ensure effective management, maintenance, and financial oversight of the water points.
3. **Develop Comprehensive Water Infrastructure Plans:** Leaders called for broader efforts to address water scarcity across Uvira, proposing collaborative approaches with other stakeholders to extend water access and sanitation facilities to additional communities.
4. **Monitor Community Engagement:** Community representatives suggested periodic reviews and feedback sessions to ensure that the committees remain accountable and that the community stays actively involved in maintaining the water points.



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