

*I loved to whine about my chores.
Often, my parents would put my whining into perspective. They would tell me
what they did before going to school every day. Can you imagine carrying water
all day and having no time for school?
In rural Congo, that's how many young girls spend their day.*

**You can make safe and clean water accessible and
reduce the time needed to obtain it.**



UNICEF reports less than half of the Congolese population has access to safe drinking water. But there is a wide disparity between urban area and rural areas like Bulape. In the village of Bulape, there is no access to clean and safe water. The hospital has about three functioning cisterns. And only one of the remaining missionary houses has a functioning cistern. These cisterns catch and store water during the rainy season. The quality is questionable and quantity is not sufficient to last during the dry season. Furthermore, the village sits on at the top of a plateau. Accordingly, available but water from contaminated sources have to be carried a long distance and up windy foot trails to the village.

Mostly young girls and some boys take on the characteristics of hundreds of ants going back and forth to the water source during the daylight hours. If they are

too poor to afford school, they will spend the entire day carrying water for their family needs. Also, they carry water to earn money or food to help support their family.

Water is life for every living being and for the planet. Clean water for domestic purposes is essential for human health and survival. Water is also critical to other facets of sustainable development—from the empowerment of women and the education of girls to reductions in productivity losses due to illness and malnutrition.

Also, clean drinking water can be a matter of life and death. One in five children in Congo dies before reaching five years of age. Diarrhea and other waterborne diseases account for 1 in 10 of these child deaths. Safe drinking water will save lives!

We are developing a water well drilling project for Congo. Bulape will be pilot site for this long-term. We plan to train a team of people to drill water wells in and around the village. A portable drilling rig used extensively in Central American countries will be purchased and shipped to Congo. The trained team members will be accompanied by a skilled drilling consultant. The process to bring access to safe drinking water will be a long and expensive effort in Congo.

Access to clean drinking water in the village will help keep girls in school and save lives. With your help, prayers, and financial support, we will provide clean and safe drinking water in Congo. You can make a difference!

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