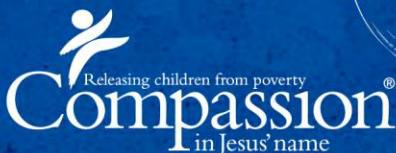




**RESPOND**  
WITH COMPASSION

# COMPASSION WATER OF LIFE RWANDA

Mr & Mrs Salsbury and The Indigo Valley Coffee Company





## OVERVIEW

LOCATION	Compassion child development centres in southern and central Rwanda
INITIATIVE	Compassion Water of Life: The Distribution of Safe Water Systems
BENEFICIARIES	7,896 Compassion-assisted children and 55,272 family members
FUNDING	£347,300
START DATE	Summer 2014

## BACKGROUND

Compassion International exists to release children from poverty in Jesus' name. Working in partnership with over 5,500 church partners in 26 countries, the ministry now has over 1.3 million children registered in its holistic child development programmes.

Access to safe, clean water is a fundamental human need. Yet, more than 1 billion people worldwide have no access to a safe water source and every day over 4,000 children are dying of easily preventable water-related diseases such as cholera and typhoid<sup>1</sup>. Compassion Rwanda began in 1980 and now assists over 65,000 children in 237 projects. 31 per cent of the Rwandan population, 3.4 million people, do not have access to safe water. This has a serious impact on health as well as infant mortality with 3,000 children in Rwanda dying from diarrhoea every year<sup>2</sup>.



Compassion therefore intends to provide Water of Life filters to every Compassion-registered child in Rwanda. Phase one of this initiative funded the successful distribution of Water of Life filters to the 115,074 Compassion-assisted children and their families in Eastern Rwanda. In addition, the 211 Compassion projects in Rwanda also received Water of Life filters to provide safe water to children on project days. This initiative will allow a further 7,896 Compassion-assisted children and their families who are located in the southern districts of Rwanda to participate in Compassion's Water of Life programme.

<sup>1</sup> UNICEF, 2012

<sup>2</sup> <http://www.wateraid.org/uk/where-we-work/page/rwanda>





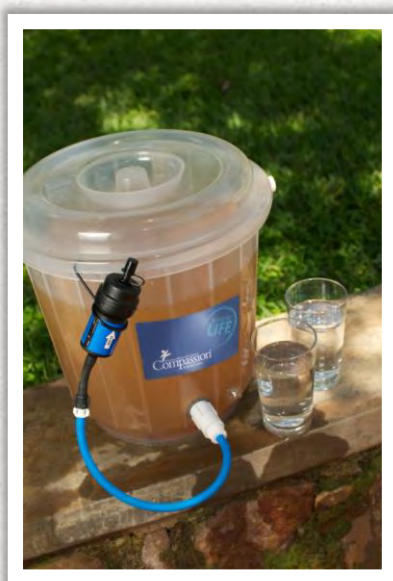
## PLANNED INITIATIVE

Through this RESPOND Initiative, children and their families in four districts in the southern province of Rwanda will be given safe drinking water for life. The projects and beneficiaries in each district are as follows:

District	Projects	Registered children	Siblings	Parents	Total
Huye	12	3,384	16,920	6,768	27,072
Nyanza	6	1,692	8,460	3,384	13,536
Gisagara	3	846	4,230	1,692	6,768
Ruhango	7	1,974	9,870	3,948	15,792
<b>Total</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>7,896</b>	<b>39,480</b>	<b>15,792</b>	<b>63,168</b>

Each family will be given a Compassion Water of Life unit which contains:

- ☑ a filter and attached bucket
- ☑ a second bucket to catch the now-safe water in a clean container
- ☑ a syringe that is used for rinsing the filter with safe water



Compassion's Water of Life units are based on the same technology developed for kidney dialysis. Each filter is made up of tiny micro tubes with pores hundreds of times smaller than the diameter of a human hair. These pores remove deadly bacteria and allow only safe water to pass through for drinking. After pouring dirty water into the bucket from piped sources or lakes, rivers, ponds or puddles, the water flows through the filter and comes out completely safe to drink.

Prior to distribution, the caregivers of Compassion-assisted children will form WASH (Water, Sanitation and Hygiene) accountability groups of about 20, according to their location. Here, caregivers will be trained by contracted experts both in the use of Water of Life filters for safe drinking water and in good hygiene and sanitation practices. The group structure will enable project staff to monitor the effective usage of the Water of Life filters, as well as hygiene improvements in the homes of beneficiaries. This insight will be

utilised in the recommendations for the following phases of this initiative. These activities will be managed primarily by the WASH contractor.





## WHY COMPASSION WATER OF LIFE?

- ④ The unit provides safe water for life. With occasional rinsing, Compassion Water of Life lasts a lifetime – each filter is capable of filtering 1 million gallons of water and a child is expected to only need 14,600 gallons in their lifetime.
- ④ The filter effectively eliminates cholera, typhoid, E. coli, amoebic dysentery, botulism, streptococcus, salmonella, and many other bacterial contaminants.
- ④ Compassion Water of Life units are easy to set-up and maintain. A new system can be installed and ready to use in five minutes and with simple maintenance, Compassion Water of Life never needs replacing. When the water stops flowing the filter only needs to be rinsed – a process that takes less than a minute.
- ④ The Compassion Water of Life units have been proven and tested by doctors, the United Nations and other NGOs. They remove 99.9 per cent of bacterial contaminants in water.

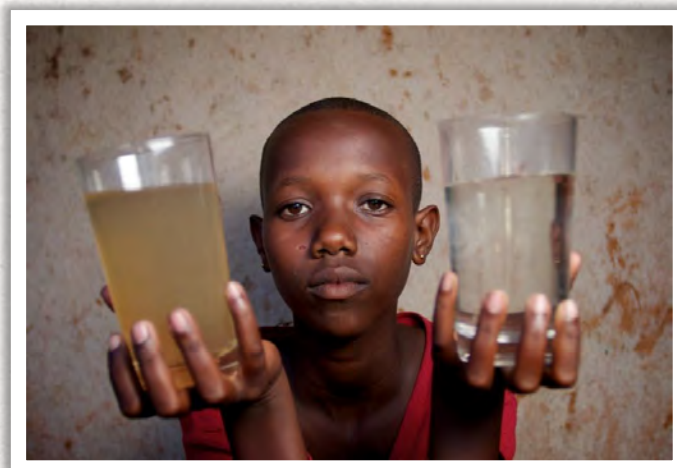


## LONG-TERM IMPACT

The life-long effectiveness of Compassion Water of Life means that the units have huge health, educational and economic benefits for the Compassion-assisted children and their families.

- ④ When children are healthy they can go to school and receive the skills required to secure stable employment.
- ④ By giving children sustained protection from diarrhoea, they will be less at risk from malnutrition and stunting.
- ④ Safe water will mean that a family needs fewer resources to treat illness; over a lifetime this financial saving could be significant.

12 year old Fiona Mutesi demonstrates the difference that Compassion Water of Life makes





## PREVIOUS INITIATIVES

Photographs from the first phase of distribution in Rwanda

