

## A story from Christopher

Wednesday 27 May

I have taken at least one week to tour my village Nyirivu to do impact assessment of Corona virus pandemic on the people in relation to:

- a) health & sanitation
- b) availability of food and feeding
- c) water
- d) domestic violence
- e) spiritual life at home
- f) education
- g) savings groups

I have found shocking results!

Water scarcity is top on the list. There is no rain at the moment.

No water. The spring water that the whole community depends on is also drying up. I went to the well this evening. I had to lie down to get water for a pregnant woman. I immediately announced communal cleaning of the well this Saturday. It will be the whole day's work.

Thursday 28 May

We have consulted a technical person on water installation concerning the spring water which we shall work on on Saturday. We are going up to the well to do assessment. According to him, we shall have to buy some pipes to channel the water from its source to the collection point. We are asking each family to contribute beans and cassava flour and sweet potato for tea and lunch on Saturday. I still have some balance of the previous money with me. I will buy some cassava flour and some beans. We may not meet the cost of the materials for the water. But this will depend on the expert's assessment.

Friday 29 May

I drove to Arua town and back despite the restrictions on private cars. I got these materials at high costs. I found metallic water pipes at a cost of 185,000= each. I ended up buying the plastic ones at a cost of 80,000= each. The 90° and 45° angle joints at 30,000= each the water cement two tins at 25,000= each then screw nails at 20,000=. Some people made little contributions of 17,000=. I put fuel in the car for 20,000=(5 litres) quite little but thank God it took me and brought me back safely. While going to town the highway police stopped me and asked me why I am going to town. I told them, my community does not have safe water, which poses a potential risk of diseases like cholera, diarrhoea, typhoid and intestinal



worms. They wanted an LC 1\* letter to verify my claim. I said nobody pays attention to us and so it is an emergency. I showed them the pictures I took of the well. It took about 45 minutes then they released me. Coming back, they confirmed my claim when I was coming with two pipes on the car. \* LC 1 is the local councillor.



I put a jerrican through the pit to get water for the pregnant woman.



This is the pipe that channels water from the underground to the reservoir. The diameter is 9cm. According to his assessment, we need 2 metallic pipes, 3 pipes with corners, 2 rolls of pipe seal, some spanners.



I used 600,000= of the previous relief fund you sent us.

Indeed, I feared presenting a request to you for this issue of water which is the life of the community. I kept on remembering the repeated warning you gave me in relation to requests. But where do we go for water if we do not work on this only water source? This is a serious emergency. It really needs support on top of what we are doing as the community.

Saturday 30 May



My wife Dorine Anirwoth lost her Grandfather in Nebbi. We have come to witness the burial. I left Vincent Baka as the in charge at the work. At 1:00pm we take off to Nyirivu.



How difficult it was to fetch water from the well before repair.



How easy it is to fetch water after the cleaning and repair.

We even used a bag of cement at 36,000= to close the pits and the holes through which the pipe passes.



I was not present when they finished the work. But with the guidance I gave them, they elected a Water Maintenance Committee to do routine maintenance, repair and cleaning. Every morning the area around has to be swept clean. They recorded the names of all those who worked at the well today. I will give you the names of the committee and the number who did the work by tomorrow.

The whole community is very happy. This is the second time I have taken the initiative to improve the water supply here. This water source we have repaired is 2km from my home. It is located in Arivu Sub County. The Sub County leadership of Arivu paid no attention to this water point. So I can't sit and watch people suffer fetching dirty water. With the system we have used, this water is safe and clean, because it is channelled from the point where water comes from underground straight to the collection point.

I am very happy about this achievement today.

Sunday 31 May

Since the water was on yesterday, everybody was full of praises and prayers for me because of this brilliant action taken to save the lives of people. I give the glory to God. With what we have done with the community, I emphasised transparency, hard work, love and obedience. They have elected Mama Rosalia as the treasurer of the water. Each family will contribute 1,000= per month for the maintenance. We shall need tools like hand hoes, rake, brooms, spade, slashers, for cleaning. We also want to do fencing around the water to seal it off from roaming animals. Fencing will cost us not less than one million.

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