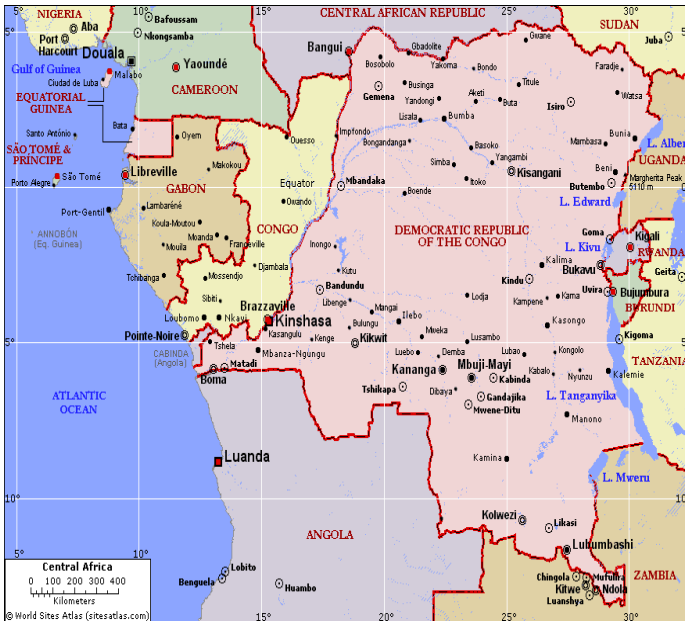


ANAMARIYA'S
STORY
OF
WATER AND LIFE
IN RWANDA

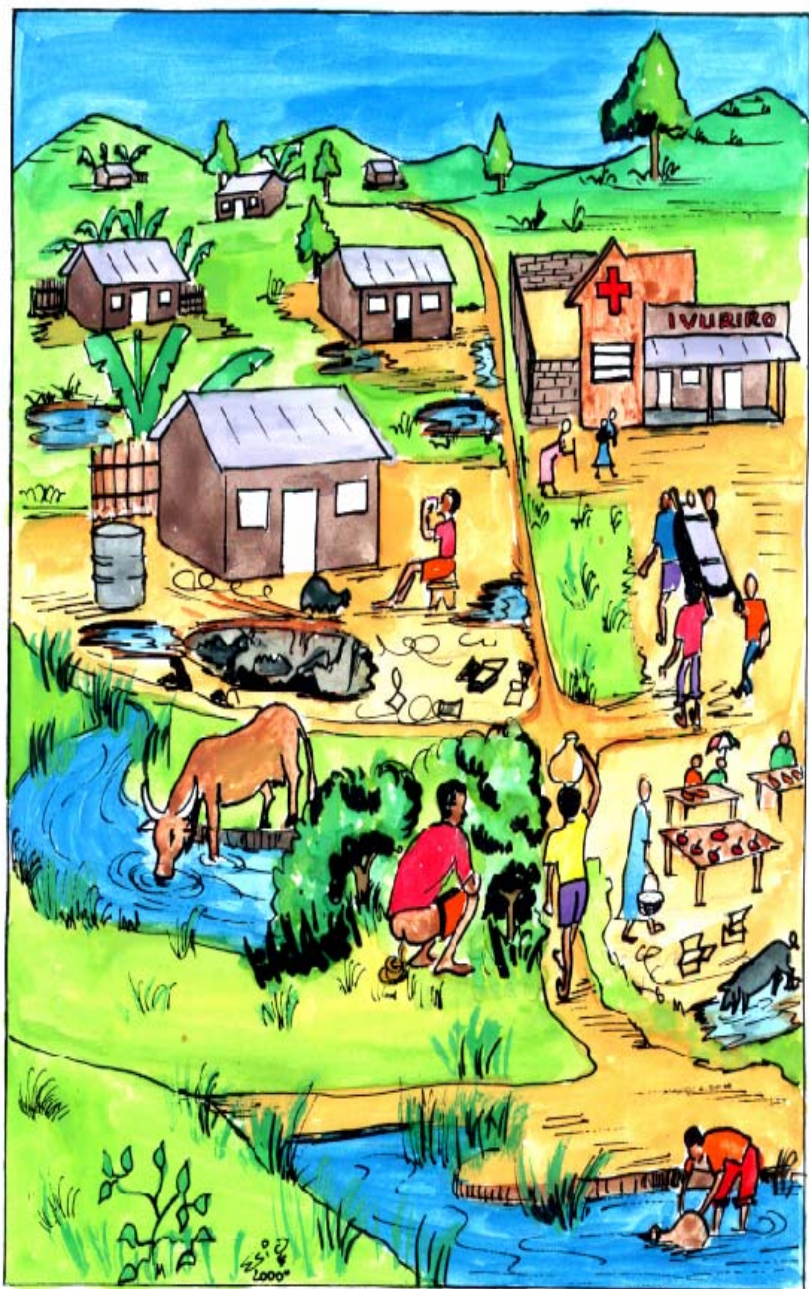




My name is Anamariya Mukakarangwa and I am 16 years old. I was born and brought up in a rural refugee settlement in Western Uganda. I am the fifth born in a family

*of seven girls and one boy.
In 1994 after the war, my
family returned to the
village of Karangazi in
Rwanda with one hundred
and twenty head of cattle.*

*After the first few
months in Karangazi,
we experienced a
drought. The cows ate
all the green grass.
Then the cows ate dry
grass. Cows also drank
all the pond water.*



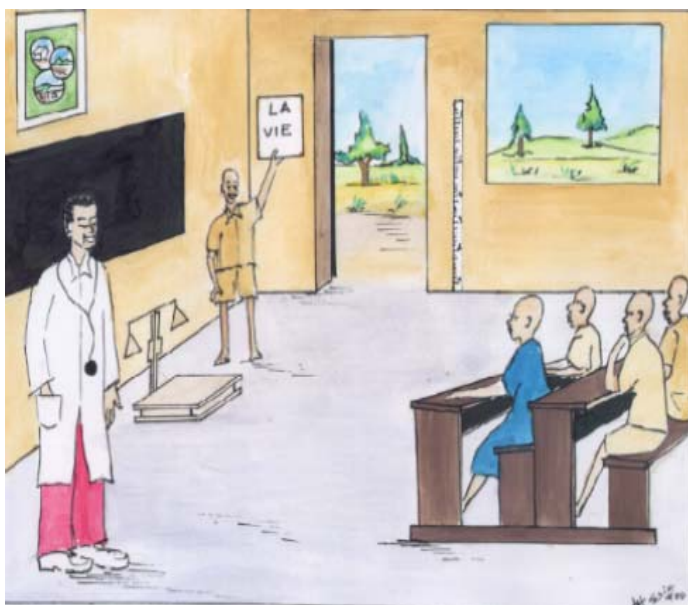
*Even the swamp near
our home dried up.
Many of our cows died.
Eventually the rains
came, the remaining
cows had more to eat but
we got sick from
diarrhea. The village
had no toilets and feces
were washed into the
ponds where we collected
water.*

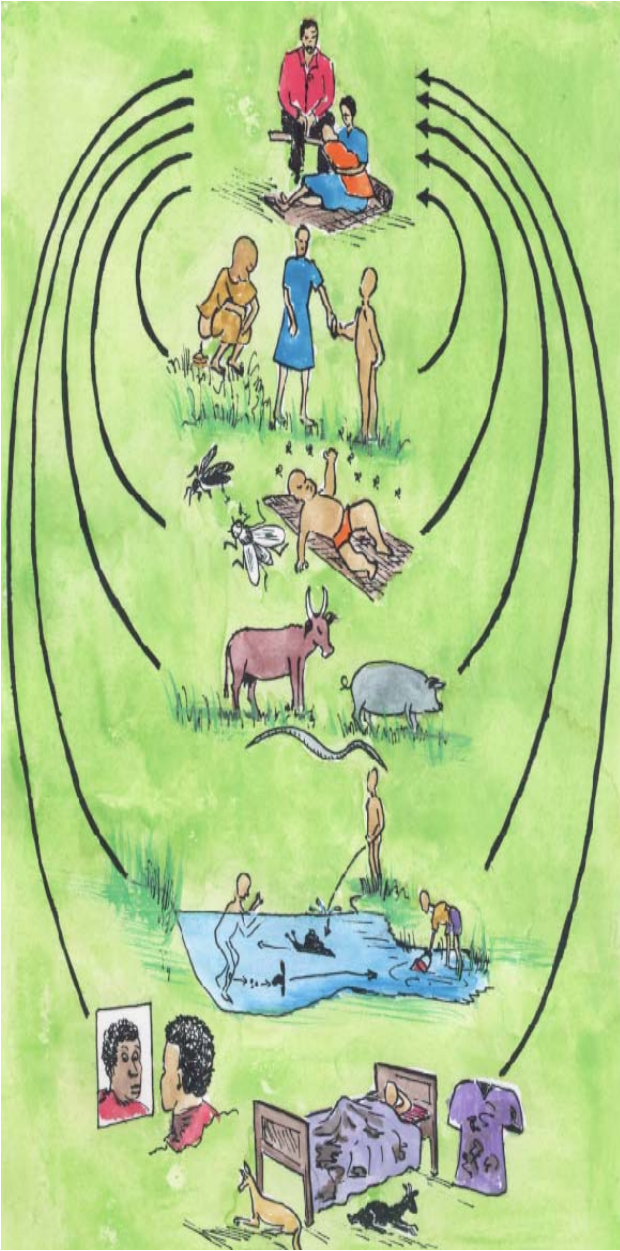
By then, I was ten years old. I started school in primary one at Karangazi Primary School.

At school I found a toilet but I did not like it. The whole school was using this one toilet. Whenever a girl entered the toilet and sat above the hole, boys would peep in. Boys also wrote the names of some girls and bad comments on the walls.

When I was fourteen years old, I would often skip school because I did not want the boys to see me going to the toilet.

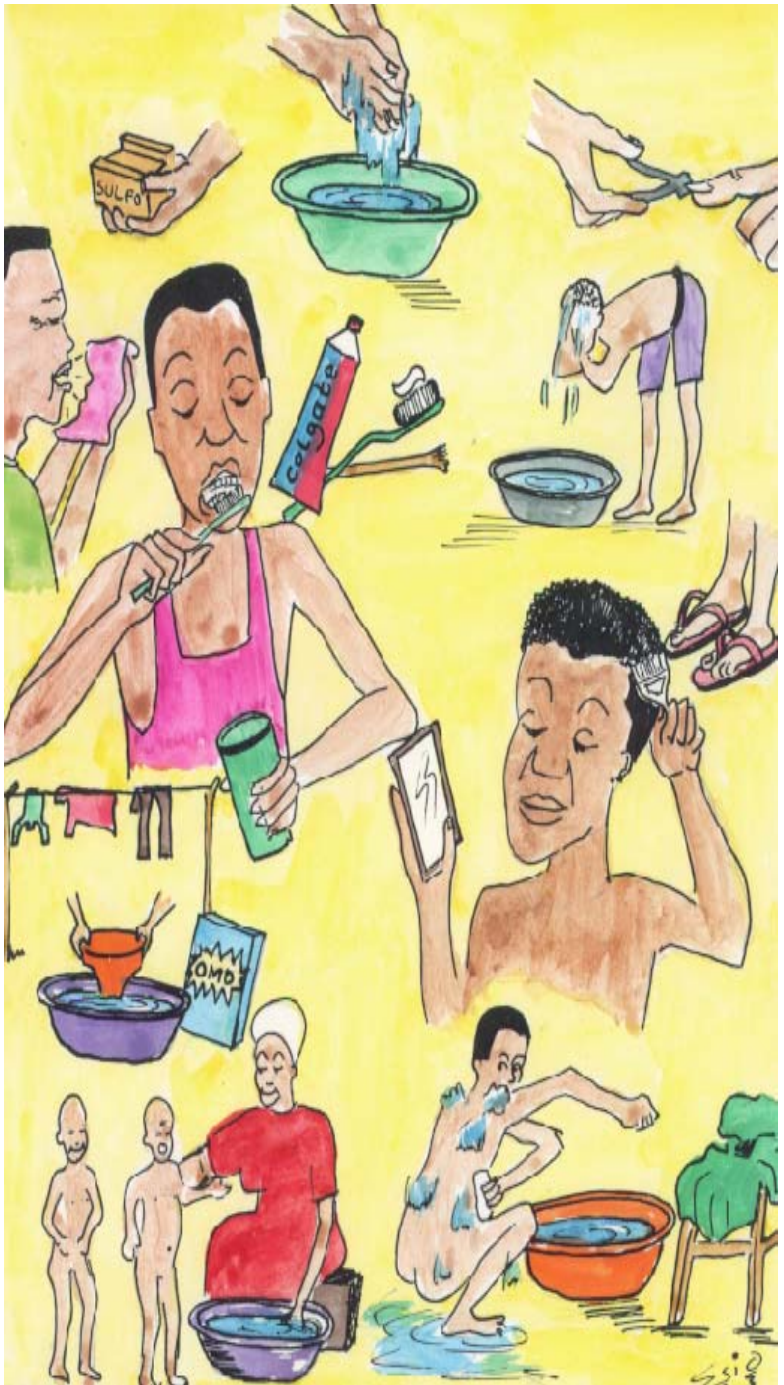
I was so happy when CARE introduced hygiene and sanitation activities at our school.





CARE taught us how to stop the spread of disease through flies, fingers, food, fluids, and feces by improving personal hygiene.

They taught us hygiene and sanitation practices for both school and home.



Sometimes CARE showed us a poster like this to show the us good hygiene, but my favorite was playing games that helped us understand.

Our community with CARE's assistance constructed good toilets at school with a separate part for girls and boys. I have never missed a day of school since.

Anamariya's Story



Here is a photo of the reservoir that stores water from the spring. From here the water flows down a pipe to the water points in our village.

Our community also constructed a tank for storing water harvested from the roof. We use the water for washing our hands after going to the toilet. During the dry season we collect water from the water point that the community built with CARE's help.

**I can go to school
and study
without shame or
fear.**

*We have a water point
close to our house, and
clean water for drinking,
washing and bathing.
My father has built a
toilet near our house,
and we put garbage in a
compost pit.*

*I am happy now. Life
is much better for me,
my family, school friends
and community.*

*She has the power to
change her world.*

*You have the power to
help her do it.*

*Typical costs for a community water
project are \$40 per person plus in-kind
and cash contributions from the
community.*

*Operation and maintenance is the
responsibility of the community.*

*For example, a gift of \$20,000 to
CARE could help change the lives of
500 people like Anamariya forever!*



www.careusa.org