



# WATER IS LIFE: TRANSFORMING FUTURES

Gazelle Foundation Impact Report 2023





# TABLE OF CONTENTS

- Impact Highlights ..... 3**
- 2023: Life, Love and Clean Water ..... 5**
- About the Gazelle Foundation ..... 6**
- Why We Do What We Do ..... 7**
- Mission and Vision ..... 8**
- What We Do ..... 9**
- Tangible Results ..... 13**
- System Highlights 2023 ..... 14**
- Raising Awareness for the Mission ..... 18**
- Engaged Community of Supporters ..... 20**
- Gazelle Foundation Events ..... 24**
- Gilbert’s 30th Anniversary Walk ..... 30**
- How You Can Help ..... 32**
- Directors, Council, Staff and Consultants ..... 33**



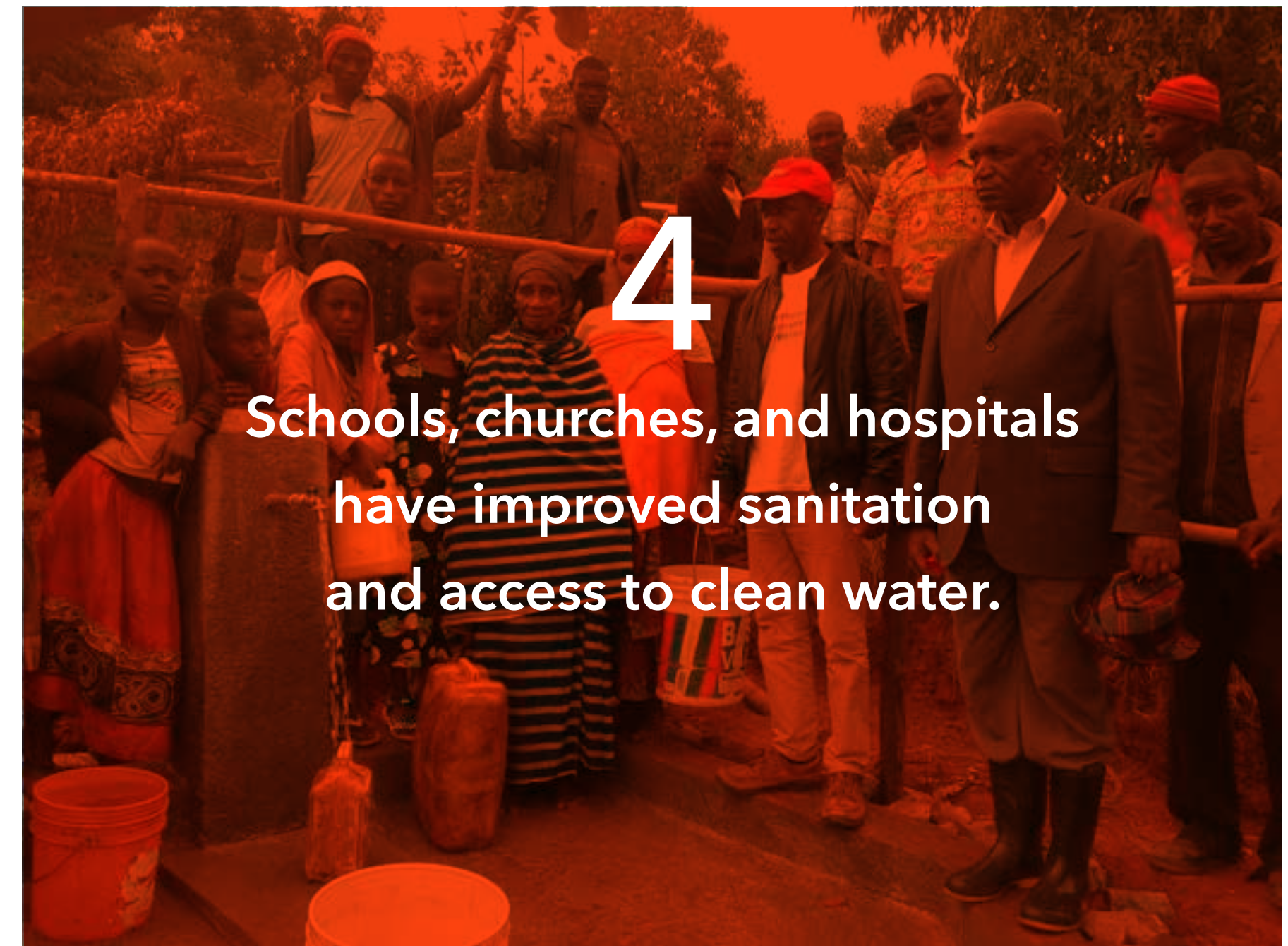
## Impact Highlights

Partnerships with our supporters and volunteers make clean water accessible to more communities in Burundi in 2023.



4

Sustainable water systems were completed in rural Burundi in 2023; we broke ground on 2 others that will be completed in February 2024.



4

Schools, churches, and hospitals have improved sanitation and access to clean water.



230

Jobs gave economic opportunities and the skills for Burundians who will maintain their local system.

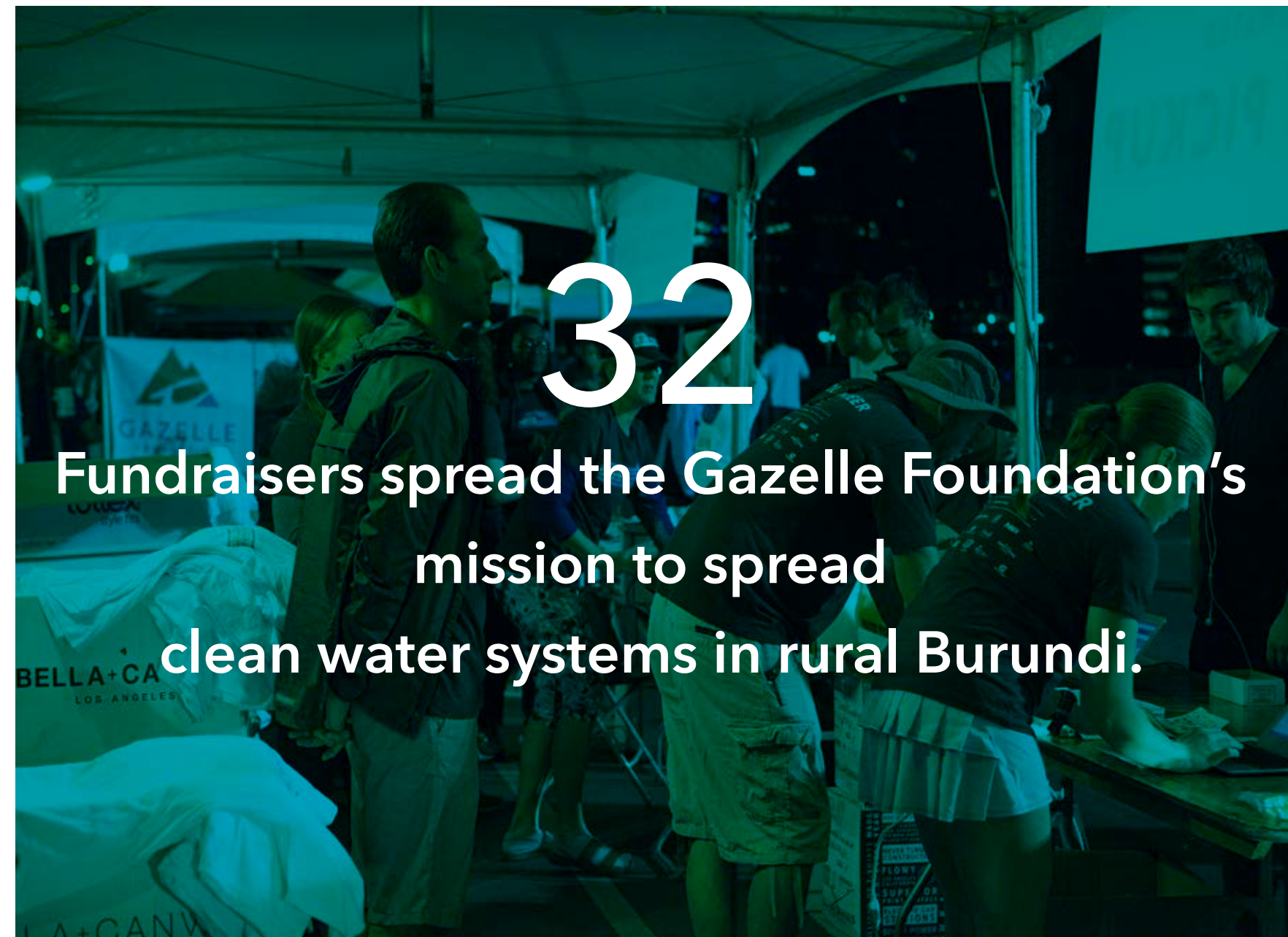


6,650

Individuals in Burundi have permanent access to clean water.



## Supporters & Donors



**32**  
Fundraisers spread the Gazelle Foundation's mission to spread clean water systems in rural Burundi.



**567**  
Donors make it possible for work to continue as we partner with local communities in need of clean water.



**753**  
Volunteers in Central Texas and beyond have spread joy and hope halfway across the globe bringing hope and opportunity to Burundi in the form of access to clean water.







## 2023: Life, Love and Clean Water.

2023 was a milestone year for Gazelle Foundation Co-Founder Gilbert Tuhabonye and the Gazelle Foundation.

Thirty years ago on October 21, 1993, Gilbert narrowly escaped genocide. He ran for his life from that horror into a new life one marked by resilience, hope, faith, and forgiveness.

For everybody who knows him, Gilbert embodies the power of optimism and perseverance. In response to Gilbert's story and to spread peace, the Gazelle Foundation was created to bring life-saving clean water and hope to people in Burundi.

Gilbert's indomitable spirit, infectious joy, and dedication to his birth country prove that our common humanity is greater than the sum of the world's injustices. To celebrate the strength and resilience of his 30th anniversary, we reflect on the power that each of us has to make the world a brighter, more compassionate place. We thank you for supporting our work to bring clean water, hope and peace to so many people in rural Burundi, East Africa. Since 2006, partnerships with supporters like you have made it possible for us to give permanent access to clean water to more than 125,000 individuals.

### *Gilbert's story*

*"Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world. Indeed, it's the only thing that ever has."*

-Margaret Mead





## ABOUT THE GAZELLE FOUNDATION

The Gazelle Foundation brings clean water and transformative change to Burundi, one village at a time.

We built our purpose in our founder's footsteps: Gilbert Tuhabonye has embraced a life of joy and forgiveness. For Gilbert, the burn scars on his body remain a daily reminder of surviving a horrific genocide in 1993. For the people who know him, Gilbert embodies the power of optimism and perseverance. We believe that regardless of circumstances or obstacles, anyone can make the world a better, more compassionate place.

As Gilbert says, water is the number one issue in Africa. In Burundi, water is everywhere, but it is not clean. Burundi is one of the poorest countries in the world, and the leading cause of death is from preventable, waterborne diseases.

Clean water is the foundation for improved health, better educational opportunities, safer communities, and economic investment. Most of all, it provides hope to a country mostly forgotten by the world.

All Gazelle Foundation water systems provide clean water, free of charge, for life to all community members - regardless of tribe, ethnicity, or religion - with the aim of fostering long-term peace and stability in the region. Due to our unique structure and in-country partners, our cost to build water systems is lower than average, and working in a single, small country means it is easy to track the long-term impact.

To date, over 125,000 people have daily access to clean water because of the Gazelle Foundation's generous supporters. Gilbert, our dynamic board of directors, and hundreds of volunteers work tirelessly to bring awareness to the needs of the Burundian people while educating our local community about the importance of the global water crisis and the need for humanitarian aid in Burundi.

*The Gazelle Foundation is a certified 501(c)3*





## WHY WE DO WHAT WE DO

### **Water is Life: Transforming Futures**

Creating transformational change in Burundi, a densely populated East African nation with a history of ethnic conflict is a tall order. A majority of citizens live in small villages and walk for miles up and down Burundi's verdant hills to fetch water that is muddy and contaminated.

By changing one small thing - creating closer access to clean water - lives and futures are permanently transformed for the better. By being the change he wanted to see in the world, Gilbert shares his joy for life and reminds us that small actions make a big difference, even a world away.

Those of us with ready access to safe drinking water often underestimate the foundational nature of clean water. Without it, life grinds to a halt. Drinking, washing, cleaning, and food preparation become unreasonably difficult.

Disease from waterborne contaminants are the leading cause of death in Burundi, one of the poorest countries in the world. Water collection efforts, not to mention illness, cut into critical time for the number one pursuit vital to breaking the cycle of poverty: education.

When a community in Burundi partners with the Gazelle Foundation to build a clean water system, they get more than clean water. They also get improved health, better educational and economic opportunities, safer communities, and hope for a brighter future.

According to the World Health Organization, every dollar invested in clean water yields \$4 - \$12 in economic returns. In Burundi, building water systems provides jobs and stimulates local economies in a country with one of the highest unemployment rates in the world, and where the average family lives on less than \$600 a year.

Because we partner with communities, investing in local materials and local tradespeople, our systems are built to last. Building and maintenance knowledge stays within the community, and our low-tech, sustainable approach results in water systems with longevity and a lasting, lifelong impact.





## MISSION

Our mission is to improve the quality of life for the people in Burundi, Africa by providing access to clean water.

## VISION

Our vision is for every man, woman and child in Burundi to have clean water, the highest quality of life, and hope within reach.

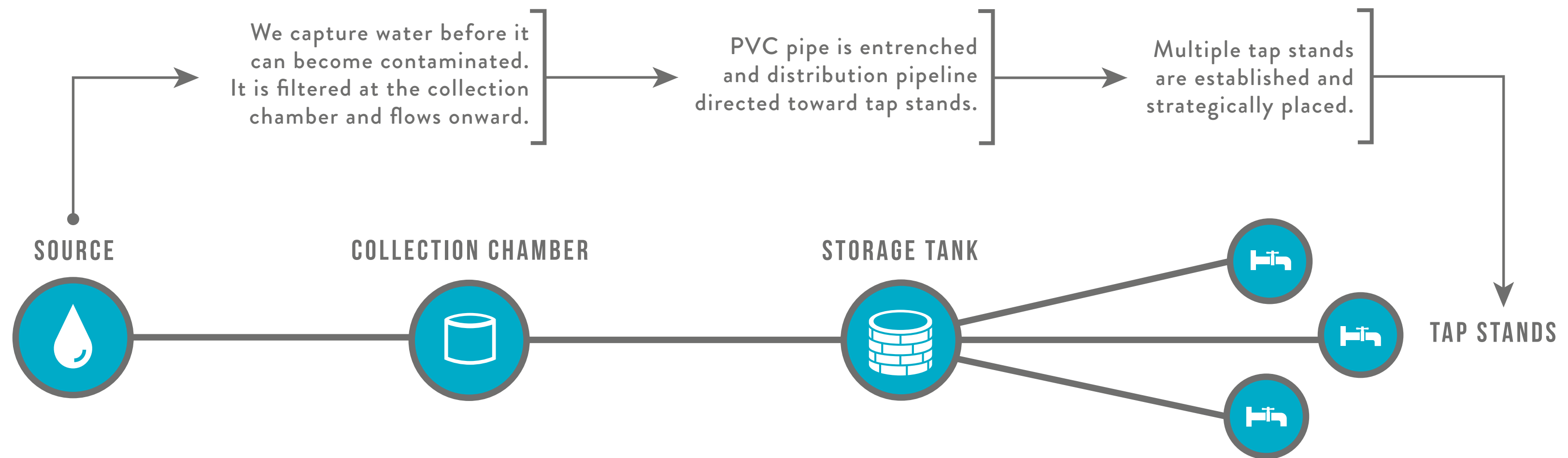


# WHAT WE DO

## Our Water Systems: Sustainable for Life

Clean water is foundational to community health and reversing the cycle of poverty. But the water systems must work long-term to provide lasting change. Our efficient, effective water systems employ a low-tech, sustainable approach to construction. Our experienced, local project manager and engineer hires community members to build each water system, ensuring that construction and maintenance knowledge stays local.

Keeping employment, materials, and knowledge local ensures system success in the short and long term. Once water systems are complete, ownership of the water system is turned over to the community. In 17 years, we have built 66 water systems in Burundi, which continues our 100% track record of success.







## Each water system we build:

**Improves health by reducing or eliminating deadly waterborne diseases.** The vast majority of Burundians live in rural areas with mountainous terrain where water infrastructure is absent. While groundwater is plentiful, it is often contaminated. This is why waterborne pathogens which can cause typhoid, hepatitis A, schistosomiasis, bacterial and protozoal diarrhea, and death are all too common.

However, in areas where we have installed clean water systems, local health centers report a dramatic decrease in waterborne illness and a significant improvement in overall health. In one community, a clinic doctor reported the prevalence of waterborne illnesses decreased from 76% down to 11% after a Gazelle Foundation water system was installed. The same doctor estimated that the availability of clean water saves the lives of three children per month in his clinic alone.

Hygiene and sanitation improve by leaps and bounds, increasing the quality of care available at rural health clinics. Improved hygiene is cited as a reason for fewer bacterial infections as well. When a water system is completed, the local community is taught about the health benefits of handwashing.

**Increases educational access, allowing children to attend school regularly.** When *access to clean water* eliminates waterborne illnesses, children are sick less often, which allows them to attend school on a more regular basis. With shortened walking distances, they spend less time fetching water. Better educational opportunities improve their life-long earning potential. According to the *World Bank*, returns on education investment are the largest in Africa over any other continent, and each additional year of schooling raises earnings by 11% for boys and 14% for girls.

**Creates shorter, safer walking distances to water.** Our clean water systems dramatically reduce the distance traveled to access water, from approximately 4 miles to one-quarter of a mile, due to the strategic placement of public-access tap stands. This means substantially less time is required to fetch and carry water, a job traditionally done by women and children. The net result is that children spend more time in school, and women can pursue activities to make their family resilient. In addition, the shorter distance eliminates the dangers of being away from home for hours at a time and traveling through mountainous terrain.





**Provides economic opportunities in a country with one of the highest global unemployment rates.** On average, we employ 100 -110 local workers to help with the water system construction. The workers are residents of the community. Local economies have seen an increase in overall stimulation due to the labor income in addition to locally sourced materials, when available. Workers employed in water system construction report using their earnings on clothing, food, shoes, and sending their children to school. Additionally, people have more time for consistent work and trade development when they aren't caring for sick family members. This alone can begin to reverse the cycle of poverty endemic to these regions of rural Burundi.

**Equitably provides clean water to all, healing divisions, and building common ground.** Access to water at each tap stand is available to all people at no cost, regardless of tribe, ethnicity, or religion. Of the three main tribes in Burundi - Hutu, Tutsi, and Batwa - the Batwa are the most marginalized, making up just 1% of the total population. They are the poorest of the poor, lacking access to not only water but also education, food sources, and health care. The Batwa are often forgotten in terms of their human rights and needs. The Gazelle Foundation chose to build our

first water project to serve the Batwa people, as a signal to the country that we would be serving all Burundians, regardless of tribe, and that we aim to foster long-term peace and stability within the country.

**Gives hope to a country mostly forgotten by the world.** Most people in Burundi live in rural, mountainous regions where access to clean water is extremely limited. Waterborne illnesses remain leading causes of death, and Burundi's rate of under-five mortality rate is nine times that of what is reported in the United States. Over 2.3 million Burundians will require humanitarian aid in 2022 according to the [United Nations](#), and by many measures, Burundi is among the [poorest countries](#) in the world. Due to certain governmental regulations, Burundi is a difficult country for charities and NGOs to work in, meaning that many needs go unmet.





## Why the Foundation is Uniquely Prepared to Respond

The Gazelle Foundation's unique connection to Burundi through our founder, Gilbert Tuhabonye, and our strong relationships with on-the-ground partners, mean that we can affect change in a place where many others cannot. Our focus on Burundi means that it is easier to track the long-term impact of our water systems, developing not only a record of success but also a reputation locally as a committed partner.



# TANGIBLE RESULTS



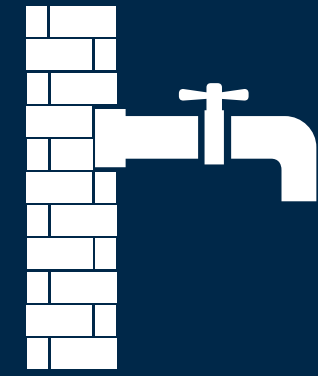
**Water Systems Built**

2023:

**4**

Cumulative:

**66**



**Tap Stands Constructed**

2023:

**23**

Cumulative:

**524**



**People Receiving Clean Water**

2023:

**6,650**

Cumulative:

**125,000**



**New Jobs Created**

2023:

**230**

Cumulative:

**4,940**



**Miles of Clean Water Pipe Installed**

2023:

**11.84 miles**

Cumulative:

**192.9 miles**



**Schools, Churches, Hospitals with clean water**

2023:

**4**

Cumulative:

**54**



A young child with dark skin and short hair is leaning against a rough, light-colored stone pillar. The child is wearing a light-colored, long-sleeved shirt with some small, colorful patches on the chest. The child is smiling slightly and looking towards the camera. In the background, there is a blue sign with white text that reads "GAZELLE FOUNDATION RUMEZA, RUKOMA PROJECT July, 2013". The sign is partially obscured by a dark blue diagonal overlay on the left side of the image. The background also shows some green foliage.

## System Highlights 2023

In 2023, we had the privilege of bringing clean water – and hope – to 6,650 people in four communities. That's 6,650 new people with daily access to safe, clean water, bringing each of them one step closer to better health, economic stability, and opportunity.





### System #63: Kabigomogomo

Constructed:  
November 2022 - January 2023  
Matana Colline

- 3 tap stands
- 45 people employed
- 1 tank
- 850 residents served
- 5.1 km

This system was funded exclusively by our 2022 sustaining member community, AMAZI For Burundi. It has changed the lives of everyone who relies on the Nyazuba health center in addition to supporting the local community. This system provides clean water to the community in Matana, which is located in mountainous terrain like many of the areas we serve. Previously, this community relied on a contaminated water source several miles away. We thank the generous individuals who changed the lives of the people in this community through access to clean water.

[Read more](#)



### System #64: Kigomera-Matana

Constructed:  
January 2023 - March 2023  
Matana Colline

- 5 tap stands
- 2 tanks
- 60 people employed
- 2,500 residents served
- 2.5 km

This water system was funded in part by 2022 Global Run For The Water participants for the first time. Clean water is now available to a large community, which includes a primary school, college, and community center. During construction, the project scope was modified to bring clean water to a nearby meat processing facility, which serves 4,500 people weekly. Access to clean water eliminates a common source of waterborne disease transmission and improves hygiene immeasurably. We expect that clean water will have an immeasurable public health impact on the wider community.

[Read more](#)





### **System #65: Nyabisage-Mugomera**

Constructed:  
April 2023 - July 2023  
Mugamba Colline

- 6 tap stands
- 5 storage tanks
- 55 people employed
- 1,500 residents served
- 3.8 km

The Gazelle Foundation refurbished and extended a failed water system originally constructed decades ago by a different organization. The construction team built a collection chamber, refurbished two existing tanks, and added new infrastructure to bring clean water and hope to many more people in the years to come. The water source now has the appropriate flow for a system this size. This water system was completed 2-1/2 weeks ahead of schedule. Our project success rate is 100% because we design and build sustainable water systems in partnership with the community. We hire locally so water system knowledge remains in the community, once the system is complete and ownership is handed off to community leaders. Our proven process means we expect this water system to serve this community for generations to come.

[Read more](#)



### **System #66: Nyazuba**

Constructed:  
July 2023 - October 2023  
Matana Colline

- 9 tap stands
- 4 storage tanks
- 70 people employed
- 1,800 residents served
- 7.65 km

Of the water systems constructed this year, this water system stretched the longest at just under 5 miles long of hand-dug water infrastructure up and down the mountainous terrain. Despite the challenges, the system was completed 3 weeks ahead of schedule.

“I would like to let you know that we just completed the Nyazuba water project. We made the handoff today with the commune officials and everything was good, the people were very excited to get clean water, they were even dancing. The [video](#) is attached.” – Project Manager Jean Bosco Ndabaniwe

[Read more](#)





### **System #67: Nyaruhogo-Gatohwe**

Construction underway:  
October 2023 - January 2024

### **Systems Underway To Be Completed in 2024:**

When complete, this system will serve 1,500 people, including 288 students and teachers at Musenyi Primary School, and 200 members of Musenyi Catholic Church. The construction of a water tank at the Musenyi Primary School was underwritten by eBay employees from all over the world. Through their partnership, their global community championed people, peace, and the planet.

[Read more](#)



### **System #68: Kiriza-Gisisye**

Construction underway:  
December 2023 - February 2024

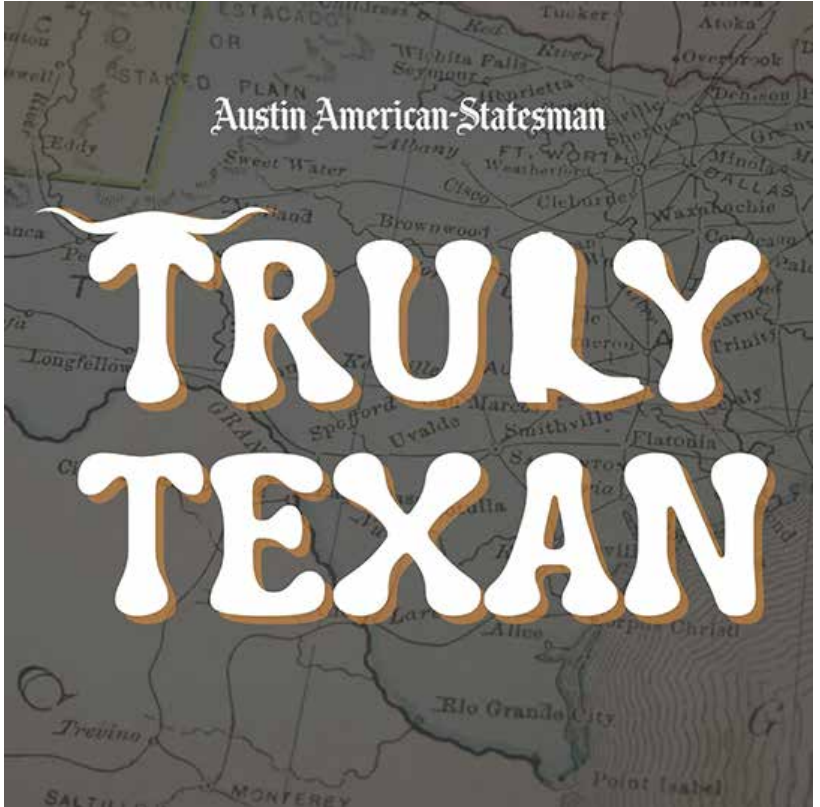
When complete this water system will serve 860 people including the Kiriza Anglican Church, Kiriza Primary School and Kiriza College.

[Read more](#)



# RAISING AWARENESS FOR THE MISSION

It was a banner year of media coverage for the Gazelle Foundation and our co-founder Gilbert Tuhabonye. Gilbert received a Legends of the Year Award, and he was interviewed at the Oslo Freedom Forum, the internationally-recognized conference for democracy and human rights. Gilbert's Walk Toward Forgiveness to commemorate his 30th anniversary of life led to appearances on several local media outlets leading to a surge of interest in the Gazelle Foundation and the mission of providing clean water to those that need it most in Burundi. We added new email subscribers and saw an uptick in website visits and social media followers.



**Gilbert Featured on Truly Texan Podcast**  
Austin American-Statesman's Truly Texan podcast showcases all the different people that make the Lone Star State unique. Gilbert Tuhabonye, an Austin-based running coach and founder of Gilbert's Gazelles and the Gazelle Foundation, tells his story of survival from a massacre during the Tutsi-Hutu war in Burundi, Africa in an episode entitled: "I spent 8 hours in a burning building" episode.

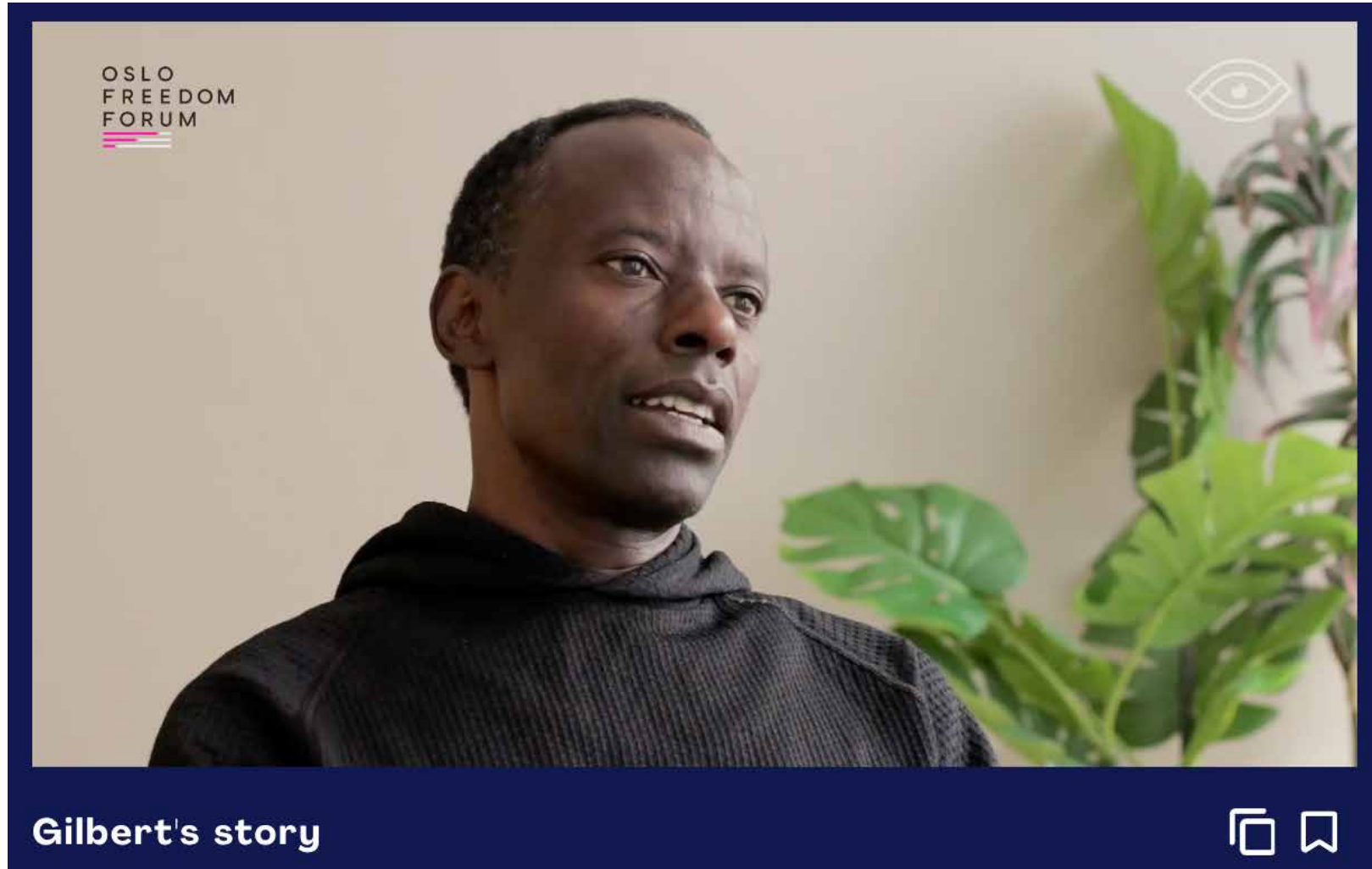
[Listen to the show](#)



**Gilbert Accepts Legends of the Year Award**  
Gazelle Foundation Co-Founder accepted a Legends of the Year Award from 4ATX Foundation, Austin FC's nonprofit arm. The annual awards recognize contributions to building physically, socially, and emotionally healthier communities in Central Texas.

[Read the article](#)





### **Gilbert Interviewed at Oslo Freedom Forum**

Our co-founder Gilbert Tuhabonye is featured in an interview recorded at the Oslo Freedom Forum. The story details Gilbert's escape from genocide in Burundi, how he lives with faith and joy, and his desire to give clean water to his home country. Each year, the Oslo Freedom Forum amplifies the voices of courageous dissidents and exposes the threats to liberal democracy and the day's most pressing human rights issues.

[View the interview](#)



### **Gilbert Sits Down with Ed and Ben Clements on The End Zone Podcast**

Ed Clements, Ben Clements, and Gilbert Tuhabonye discussed dancing, running, overcoming unimaginable tragedy, clean water, and helping others on the podcast, The End Zone with Ben Clements.

[Learn more](#)



### **Gilbert Interviewed on Think Pray Do Podcast**

Copeland Docter, a small business owner and podcaster, interviewed Gilbert about his story growing up in Burundi, surviving genocide, and the act of forgiveness that led to founding the Gazelle Foundation which advocates for clean water in Burundi.

[Read more](#)



# AN ENGAGED COMMUNITY OF SUPPORTERS

The Gazelle Foundation is fortunate and grateful to have an incredible community of passionate, engaged supporters. From donors to volunteers and runners, we owe so much of our success to your involvement.



## **AMAZI For Burundi, our sustaining donor community**

Thanks to our 2023 AMAZI for Burundi donors, construction on the Kiriza-Gisisye Extension Water System began on December 20, 2023. Our sustaining donor community is named for its purpose; Amazi means water in Kirundi, the local language.

The project extends an existing water system built by the Gazelle Foundation in 2019. The population of the community grew by 40% from 2,100 people to 2,960. The original system and the decrease in waterborne disease transformed the area into a thriving community. Investing in the new sustainable water infrastructure is vital to providing the inhabitants with clean and safe water for their daily use and helping to ensure environmental, economic, and social health. We thank our incredible community of givers for making this water system a reality. In 2023, many AMAZING people participated in our sustaining membership community. We look forward to growing this wonderful group in 2024.

[Learn More](#)



## Supporter Spotlight

Over the years, thousands of supporters have dramatically improved the everyday lives of people in Burundi. Here are several examples, showcasing the passion and creativity of someone making an outsized difference reaching out a hand to help the people who need it most.



### Bracelets for Burundi

Finley, a Texas second grader, turned her bracelet-making skills into a force for good on behalf of new friends she made a world away. She raised funds to benefit Burundian children like those she met on a trip with her parents and Gilbert Tuhabonye in January 2023. Finley got to see what life is like in rural Burundi, how time-consuming it is to fetch water, and what a gift it is to attend school. Her parents saw pieces of empathy for how other people live, how fortunate they were as a family, and how small actions can make a big difference. For every donation Finley received, she sent each donor a handmade bracelet.

[Read more](#)



### Artists With A Purpose

What started as a New Year's resolution to do something about the 771 million people globally who lack access to safe drinking water became an annual student art show and sale called Art for Water. Celeste Robbins, Chair of the Fine Arts Department at St. Dominic Savio Catholic High School in Austin reached out to the Gazelle Foundation about organizing a student art show fundraiser, "My plan was to teach art, and ask the students to share their work to raise money to fund clean water systems in Burundi," said Robbins. The results are beautiful, empowering, and life-giving.

[Read more](#)





### **Family Connections: Cider and Donuts Fundraiser**

Jeff and Tricia Cox, who adopted children from Burundi, read about Gilbert's book, *This Voice in My Heart*, and were inspired to get involved. They gather with other families who have adopted from Burundi at the Run For The Water event each year to help their children maintain roots to their culture. Tricia Cox calls it her "favorite weekend of the year." Their kids got involved by fundraising ahead of the race this year with a "Cider and Donuts for Burundi" event.



### **Lenoir: Dining With A Purpose**

Our friends at Lenoir Restaurant sparked a wave of positive change, they donated 5% of proceeds to the Gazelle Foundation on the first Thursday of May, as part of their philanthropic series supporting organizations in our community. The day was successful at raising donations and the Gazelle Foundation's profile within the Austin community.





### **eBay Employee Fundraiser Sponsors a Water Tank**

Staff at eBay contacted the Gazelle Foundation because they were looking for a sustainable, charitable project to bring clean water to a country in need. We gave them information about our process that enabled their distributed team to sponsor the construction of a water tank that supplies 4 tap stands, including the ones at Musenyi Primary School in Burundi. Employees from around the world solicited 246 donations and logged 352 volunteer hours to make it happen. Employees from the United States, Ireland, United Kingdom, India, Germany, Kuala Lumpur, Singapore, China, Australia, and Japan worked together to fund a new water tank in Burundi. As a result, the Musenyi Primary School now has clean water for students and staff thanks to eBay's support. A permanent plaque was added to the water tank in their honor.



# GAZELLE FOUNDATION EVENTS



## Spring For The Water: Ripple of Hope Gala

A sold-out crowd gathered on April 20th for the Gazelle Foundation's annual spring fundraiser Spring For The Water Ripple of Hope Gala at the South Congress Hotel. Attendees heard personal accounts and updates on our work in Burundi from Ashish Patel, Gilbert Tuhabonye, and Danielle Sweeney. Ed Clements emceed the evening.

The annual fundraiser consisted of a panel discussion, cocktail party, dinner, live auction, and a dedicated give with a \$50,000 match grant. The generosity of our sponsors and attendees resulted in surpassing our fundraising goals, meaning even more water systems will be built.

[Learn more](#)





**Thanks to Our Sponsors:**



Anonymous



Amy & Chad Whited



Natalie & Steve Brown  
 Andi & Brent Gillentine  
 Danny & Kathleen Lebourgeois  
 Paula & Chris McCaul  
 Kelly & Ashish Patel  
 Beth & Taylor Sherwood  
 Lea & Chris Schrader  
 Danielle & Kevin Sweeney



Abby Roedel Schlicher & Coe Schlicher





From the bottom of our hearts, thank you for making the 17th annual 2023 Run For The Water presented by FindHelp on November 5th an amazing success.

The Run for the Water 10 Miler, 5K and Kids K continued to be the best race in town. It was once again named the 10-Mile Champion Event for Road Runners Club of America (RRCA). The race and all of its activities benefitted the Gazelle Foundation and its mission to share sustainable water systems in Burundi, Africa.

It was a mystical and foggy day in downtown Austin as thousands of racers took to the streets, our volunteers supported them, and our amazing partners made the event possible. Thousands of runners, walkers, and families introducing their children to the Kids K and the cause for clean water enjoyed a dynamic time together with face painting, a photo booth, a 3-D water system model, bracelet making, Burundian drummers, and more.

Programming for this year's race also included the following:

- Training series hosted by HOKA, The Loop Running Co., and Barry's Bootcamp
- Race ambassadors who inspired runners to get involved
- Give Back event hosted by Kiki Price - a fun opportunity to get the perfect runner-supported designer shoe while benefitting the Gazelle Foundation.









GAZELLE FOUNDATION  
**GLOBAL  
 RUN FOR THE  
 WATER**  
 PRESENTED BY 

A special thanks to runners across the globe who were participating remotely and supporting our work through the Global Run for the Water. Participants logged in from as far away as India, Norway, Great Britain, Hungary, Poland, Portugal, France, and all across the United States

Each activity was successful at raising awareness locally in Central Texas of the Gazelle Foundation's work in Burundi and raising the funding needed to continue building clean water stations to spread hope and love from Central Texas and around the world. We are grateful to the whole host of sponsors who made the race possible.

[Read more](#)

PRESENTED BY 

KELLERWILLIAMS®

THANK YOU TO OUR DONORS





## Walk For The Water

For the seventh year in a row, Austin High School's Academy for Global Studies students donated, fundraised, and participated in a walk simulation – all of which support our work of providing people in need daily access to clean water. Students learned about the global water crisis, water quality issues, and what a difference clean water makes. New this year, the students heard from Dr. Danielle Sweeney, a physician with extensive global health experience, then executive director of International Volunteer in Urology (IVUmed), and Gazelle Foundation Board Member.

[Learn more](#)

*“Both IVU and the Gazelle Foundation concentrate their work in low resource areas around the world to help address some of the major causes of poverty – lack of clean water and lack of access to quality healthcare.”*

*– Dr. Danielle Sweeney*



## Austin Gives Miles

The Gazelle Foundation was fortunate to participate in Austin Gives Miles, the philanthropic program of the Ascension Seton Austin Marathon presented by Under Armour that connects race participants to local non-profit organizations. We have participated in the program for four years, and are one of 25 Official Charity Partners in the program.

Thanks to our incredible volunteers and donors, the Gazelle Foundation successfully qualified for a \$10,000 grant from the Moody Foundation. 2023 marks the eighth year that the Moody Foundation has matched funds raised by the Official Charities of the Austin Gives Miles program.

Their lifetime giving to Austin Gives Miles charities is \$1.5M and growing, and \$50,000 has directly benefited the Gazelle Foundation. Our partnership with the Austin Marathon and the Austin Gives Miles program has a clear and direct impact on our ability to provide clean, accessible water to people in Burundi.





## GILBERT'S 30TH ANNIVERSARY WALK TOWARD FORGIVENESS

Each year on October 21, Gilbert Tuhabonye celebrates his second chance at life with a walk toward forgiveness. On that day in 1993, he ran for his life and lived to tell what happened. He was a 12th grader and national champion runner when the centuries-old war between the Tutsi and Hutu tribes erupted in Burundi. Gilbert, along with a hundred Tutsi classmates and teachers, were forced into a room where they were beaten and burned. Gilbert, on fire, ran to freedom and survived this horrific event.

After recovering from his injuries and finding a place of safety, Gilbert searched for a way to both forgive and transform lives in a positive way in his home country. He co-founded the Gazelle Foundation to spread access to clean water and hope in an area of the world that is often forgotten.

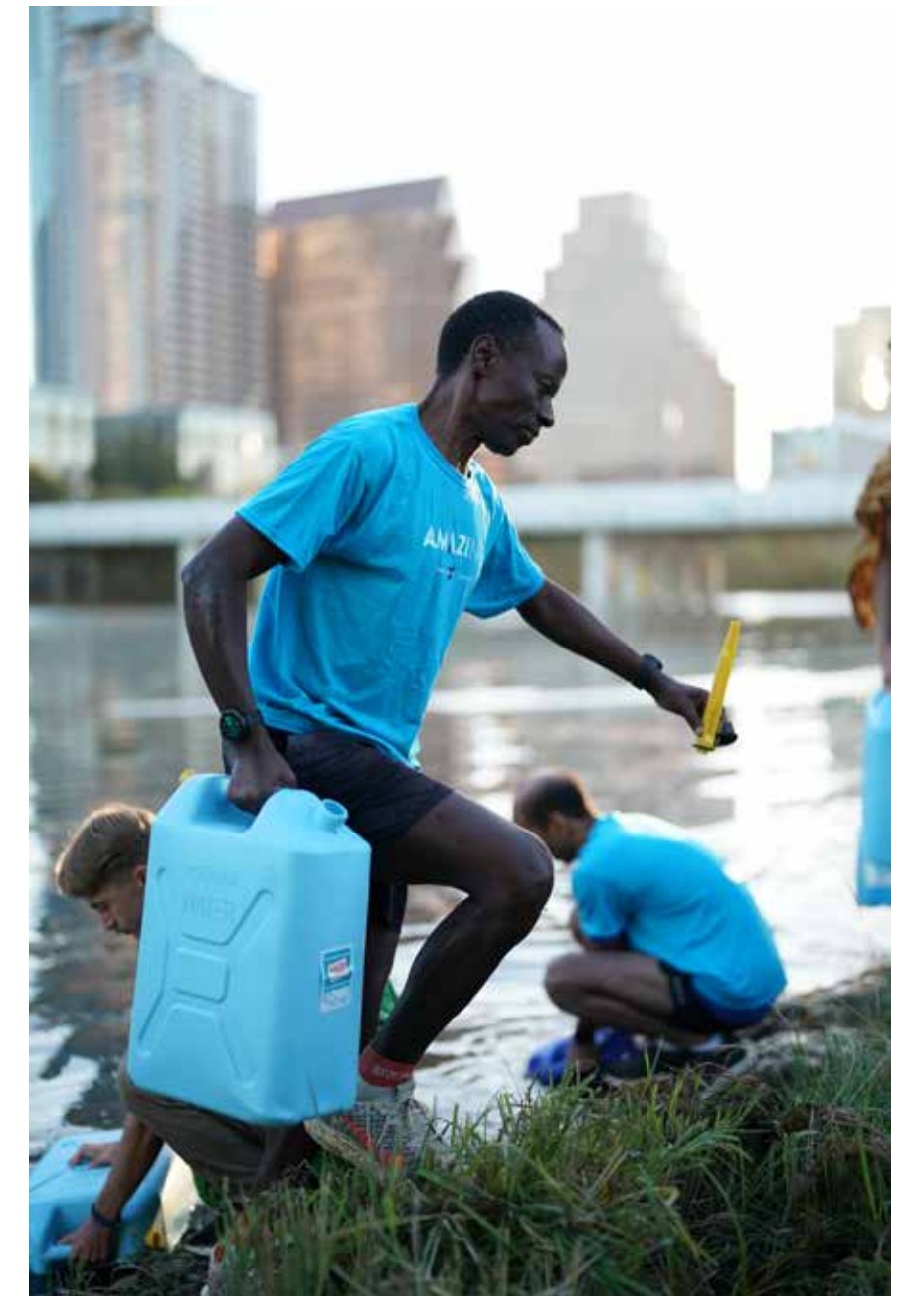
To honor the anniversary of life and to remind people how difficult it is for most people in Burundi to access clean water, Gilbert gathers with friends to carry water jugs from Lady Bird Lake to the Capitol building. The walk brings awareness to the global water problem, its solution, and the profound impact our supporters have in providing clean water to those who need it most.

In remembrance of the 30th anniversary, several events were held including:

- a special fundraising campaign where donations to Gilbert's 30th-anniversary campaign helped us reach our goal and secure a \$10,000 matching grant.
- Prior to the walk, Mary Ann Frishman presented Gilbert with a special certificate of congratulations signed by Austin Mayor Kirk Watson.
- Media interviews were also held for the special celebration

[Read more](#)









## HOW YOU CAN HELP

“Joy and happiness are everywhere...The people are celebrating with joy! I can't stop watching! Thank you for supporting the Gazelle Foundation. You are making an impact on Burundians.”

–*Gilbert Tuhabonye*

- Help us bring one small thing – clean water – to give Burundi a clear future full of hope, peace, and joy. Learn more about the many ways to volunteer and get involved.
- You can review previous impact reports and financial statements online.
- Stay connected with us on social media and sign up on our website at [GazelleFoundation.org](http://GazelleFoundation.org) if you'd like to receive periodic updates from us via email.

### **Special Thanks**

- Gazelle Foundation Project Manager Jean Bosco Ndabaniwe who oversees and coordinates water station projects in Burundi. He also documents each water station during and after construction along with the people and villages that benefit.
- Elizabeth Kreutz who documented Gilbert's 30th Anniversary Walk to Forgiveness



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