

# A case study from Uganda about water



Bridget is 14 and from Rukungiri district in the south-west of Uganda. She is the middle child in a large family and has four sisters. Her father is a banana farmer and Bridget often helps him in the plantation. There has been a blight on banana trees for five years now, so harvests have been bad. Her father has been sick but he couldn't even afford the £3 it would cost to get medical help from the hospital.

In her bedroom, Bridget has a bed that she shares with her younger sister. Their clothes hang above the bed on a piece of rope. There's a single shelf in the room, on which Bridget places her only possessions – a blue box in which she keeps her exercise book for homework and her tin pencil case. That's all they have.

Every day, Bridget walks to a spring to fetch water for her home. The water in the spring is contaminated by animal waste and by human waste from household toilets which have been built in the wrong place (over a stream that directly contaminates the community's drinking water).

Bridget studies at Ndago Primary School. At her school, during assembly, children are chosen to go and fetch water using jerry cans from a spring which is quite far away. Often by the time they get back to school, they find that classes have already started and they get left behind.

Thanks to Toilet Twinning, a tapstand has been installed at Bridget's school, so the pupils now have clean drinking water on site.

*(NB: For the rest of Bridget's story, and to see how new school toilets have helped change Bridget's life, see 'Get involved with Toilet Twinning')*



'The water we use from the spring is contaminated by outside toilets near the water source.'

## Suggested questions

- Imagine you didn't have clean running water from a tap. What might that be like?
- What would life be like if you didn't have a toilet?
- Why do you think some people don't have clean water and a proper toilet?
- Why do you think women and girls are often responsible for collecting water, rather than men and boys?
- Can you imagine what it would be like to walk long distances to collect water, before you came to school? How would you feel?
- Imagine you had to collect all your own water each day. Would that make you change the way you used water?
- How do you think life will change for Bridget and her community, now that they have safe, clean water close to their homes?