

Clean water flows

It is the first time in the life of 80 year old Kwegeme Baga that clean water has come to D'ka community and she expressed her joy, telling us: "May God bless the people who brought clean water to our community. Now there is clean water to drink and I can bath everyday. No more stress going in search of water in far places and it feels good!"

Before clean water came to D'ka, it was extremely difficult for Mama Baga, who is visually impaired, to get water. The burden of a lack of access to water usually falls most on women and girls and particularly more so on those who like Mama Baga are living with physical disabilities.

"I never thought this could ever happen in my lifetime and in my community. This opens up so many possibilities... Nigeria can have a president from D'Ka one day!"



In 2018 WaterAid Nigeria implemented the Diageo Water of Life project in Kebbi State to provide inclusive access to clean water to the people of D'ka community in Danko/Wasagu local government area of Kebbi State, as well as support community management structures to ensure sustained operations of the water facility. Largely dominated by farmers, many households in D'ka relied on unsafe shallow wells and other unimproved surface sources for their supply of drinking water. This scarcity extremely affects women and girls, putting them at greater physical risk, as many households rely on them to go fetch water from distant areas that are also prone to sand storms.

Now, with the water facility available, over 2,500 people in D'ka, including persons with disabilities, have access to clean water close to home. The facility also serves neighbouring communities with clean water. The Water of Life project was made possible with support from the Kebbi State Government through the Rural Water Supply and Sanitation Agency (Kebbi RUWASSA), with technical support of the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) and with funding from Diageo PLC (Guinness Nigeria).

Photo credit: WaterAid/Dotun Roy