2026 – 2027 Scholarship Recipient



Bienvenu Mwiseneza

Civil Engineering · Year 1 of 4
Université Libre des Pays des Grands Lacs, Goma

> *"I dream of development and self-improvement. A life of progress rather than just survival."*

Top 10%
NATIONAL EXAM
Congo's university entrance exam, taken by over a million students a year.

2023
DISPLACED BY WAR
His family fled the fighting in the east. He finished school anyway.

1 of 5
SELECTED FROM 30+
Chosen by our review team from more than thirty applicants.

His story

In 2023 the war in eastern Congo drove Bienvenu and his family from their home, disrupting life and his ability to progress in school. In the community where they found refuge, people had to walk long distances to find water, and it was common to get sick from drinking it. That is where his interest in water started. Despite these immense challenges he finished high school in 2025 and scored in the top rank on the national exam. As a recent graduate in a family with limited income, there is simply no money left for tuition or books.

What he will do with the degree

- → Distribute drinking water for a water utility in the city of Goma.
- → Work on projects that expand access to drinking water and sanitation.
- → Help communities across the DRC solve their own water problems.

His promise

- → Study diligently and keep his discipline.
- → Use his knowledge to serve his community.
- → Work to improve access to drinking water.

PROGRAM
Civil Engineering

UNIVERSITY
Université Libre des Pays des Grands Lacs, Goma

YEAR
1 of 4 (preparatory year)

STATUS
In class since Oct 26, 2026

GRADUATED
High school, 2025

AGE
22

HOME
Goma, North Kivu

THE SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

Clean Water Help and PALPER asbl fund university scholarships for students in North Kivu who will spend their careers on water. Every student is selected on merit and followed through to graduation.

To support the next group of students, contact **impact@cleanwaterhelp.org**

FUNDING
Every student in this program is funded by a combination of Clean Water Help, corporate sponsors, and private donors.

SELECTION
Chosen from more than thirty applicants by our review panel, on exam results, financial need, and a demonstrated commitment to water.

Statement of Purpose and Need

Bienvenu Mwiseneza · In his own words, June 2026

To the Clean Water Help organization: I have the honor to come respectfully before you to request a scholarship, so that I can continue my studies.

Why I want to work on water

Water is life. I want to contribute to improving access to clean drinking water and to protecting the health of communities.

What I have seen

In 2023 we were displaced by the war in eastern Congo. Many people fell ill from unsafe water. Where I live now, access to clean drinking water is still a real problem, and some families travel long distances to find it. That is what showed me how much water matters in daily life, and it is why I want to understand water problems properly and find lasting solutions for the communities facing them.

Why I cannot pay

I was displaced by the war. My father teaches at a secondary school and earns a small salary. My family's income is limited and does not cover university. Tuition, books and transport are a heavy burden. I have only just finished high school, so I have no job of my own.

What I will do after I graduate

- → Work for a water company distributing drinking water, especially in the city of Goma.
- → Take a job in the water and sanitation sector.
- → Take part in projects that expand access to drinking water.
- → Help communities in the DRC solve their water problems.

Who inspires me

Jean Robert Makana, a professor and researcher at the University of Kisangani, who has led the research that changed how we understand the Congo forest ecosystem. People who dedicate their knowledge to the development of their community inspire me, because they show that it is possible to improve the lives of others.

My dream

I dream of development and self-improvement. A life of progress rather than just survival. In ten years I see myself as a competent professional in the water sector, working on projects that improve access to drinking water in the DRC.

My commitments

- → To pursue my studies diligently and keep my discipline.
- → To use my knowledge to serve my community.
- → To contribute to improving access to drinking water.

Bienvenu Mwiseneza

GOMA, NORTH KIVU · DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF THE CONGO

Every fact here comes from Bienvenu's own application letter and his written answers to our questions. The English has been shortened and tidied for length, and nothing has been added that he did not say. Bienvenu reviewed and approved this text before publication.

Why We Are Funding Bienvenu

A note from Clean Water Help

More than thirty young people applied to this program. Bienvenu was one of the five students chosen. Full of passion for water, motivation to help others, a spirit of perseverance, and momentum from being a recent high school graduate, we are confident that Bienvenu will be successful.

He knows exactly what job he wants

Bienvenu aspires to work in water distribution for a utility in Goma, and on projects that extend access to clean drinking water. Utilities in the DRC are short of trained people, which makes this a near perfect fit between passion and demand. Graduating him is one of the best investments available in the future of clean water in the DRC.

He came to it the hard way

His family was displaced by the war in the east in 2023. He watched families walk for hours to find water, and then watched people around him get sick from drinking it. He then finished high school and reached the top rank of the national exam. His father is a secondary school teacher, and although the family places a high value on education, there is simply not enough left over to pay for university.

> *"People who dedicate their knowledge to the development of their community inspire me."*
>
> BIENVENU MWISENEZA, ON PROFESSOR JEAN ROBERT MAKANA, JUNE 2026

Byran Fuhrmann

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