2026 – 2027 Scholarship Recipient



Faustin Bahati

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

> *"In Goma, people spend the whole day standing in line for water, and sometimes they do not find any."*

Top 10%
NATIONAL EXAM
The highest score of the five students in the program.

8 years
WAITED TO START
He finished high school in 2018 and could not enroll until 2026.

$22
FAMILY INCOME
What his parents earn each month selling doughnuts.

His story

Faustin finished high school in Goma in 2018 and had the highest score in his program. But he was never able to start university. The wars around Goma destroyed his parents' job opportunities, and his family now lives on $22 a month coming from a small doughnut business. Faustin knows what he wants: to become an engineer when he has the opportunity to attend university. His hometown needs better water infrastructure. In Goma, getting drinking water can take a full day of standing in line, and some days there is nothing at the end of it.

What he will do with the degree

- → Become a hydraulic engineer.
- → Build the infrastructure that supplies Goma and surrounding communities with drinking water.
- → Design treatment systems to reduce waterborne disease.

His promise

- → Pursue his studies with determination and courage, all the way to the end.
- → Carry water development projects through to completion.
- → Show donors that their support works, so they keep helping others in his situation.

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, 2018

AGE
29

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

Faustin Bahati · In his own words, June 2026

To the Clean Water Help organization: I am asking for your help, so that I can continue my academic studies.

Why I want to work on water

I want to make drinking water accessible to the community of Goma and the areas around it, so that we can limit the spread of waterborne diseases.

What I have seen in my city

In our city of Goma, access to drinking water is a major problem. People spend the whole day standing in line for water, and sometimes they do not find any. Waterborne diseases develop out of this, and they threaten the population.

Why I cannot pay

Armed conflict and war have destroyed almost everything. The crisis and the mass displacement that came with it stopped my parents' economic progress. Since then there is no work, and our parents no longer know how to pay their children's school fees. The cost of university is far beyond what they can manage. Their small business selling doughnuts earns 50,000 Congolese francs a month, which is barely enough to live on.

What I will do after I graduate

- Work to help people get water, and to fight the diseases caused by poor water quality and by the lack of water.
- Make infrastructure available, by building taps and water reservoirs, so that drinking water reaches the people of our community.

Who inspires me

I am motivated by what humanitarians do when they support people in need. That is the work I want to do as well, to help others who do not have the means.

My dream

My dream is to become a hydraulic engineer, and to build large infrastructure that can give my community drinking water permanently, so that we can fight waterborne disease for good.

Outside my studies

I help my family, and I take part in activities at my church.

My promises

- To pursue my studies with determination and courage, all the way to the end.
- To develop my knowledge in the field of water, so that donors can see their support working and be encouraged to keep helping others who are in the same situation as us.
- To carry water development projects through to completion.

Faustin Bahati

GOMA, NORTH KIVU · DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF THE CONGO

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

Why We Are Funding Faustin

A note from Clean Water Help

More than thirty young people applied to this program. Faustin earned the highest exam score of the five students we selected, and he finished high school in 2018. He waited eight years for university to become possible. This year it did.

Still hopeful after eight years

Most of our students are a year or two out of high school. Faustin is eight years out. He scored higher on the national exam than any of the other four, and in those eight years he was not once able to act on that result. Eight years is a long time to keep wanting something you cannot buy.

Goma needs water engineers

Civil engineering is the discipline that builds physical infrastructure and keeps it standing. Faustin has been specific about what he wants to build with it: taps and reservoirs first, and a career as a hydraulic engineer after that. Clean Water Help builds water systems in places where the hardest part is not designing them but finding a local engineer who can keep them running for the next twenty years. Faustin is training to be that engineer.

What his family earns

His parents sell doughnuts. It brings in about $22 a month for the whole household, which is $264 a year. One year of university costs more than his family earns every year. No amount of effort on his part closed a gap that size. That is what the scholarship is for.

> *“My dream is to become a hydraulic engineer, and to build the infrastructure that gives my community drinking water permanently.”*
>
> FAUSTIN BAHATI, IN HIS APPLICATION, JUNE 2026

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