2026 – 2027 Scholarship Recipient



Lareine Awezaye

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

> *"This scholarship would not just be financial aid. It would be proof that one can choose to build instead of endure."*

#1
OF 30+ APPLICANTS
Ranked first by our review team.

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

4 years
TO GRADUATION
Civil engineering at Université Libre des Pays des Grands Lacs, in class since October 26, 2026.

Her story

Lareine finished high school in Goma in 2023 as a top student, despite the war and poverty that made progress feel impossible. Her family has lost almost everything in the conflict. There is no work. University tuition costs more than several months of groceries for her household. As she puts it, the obstacle is no longer bombs but the lack of means.

But she refuses to give up. She is going to build: roads, buildings, and the water and drainage systems her country needs. She is excited to be one of the few women in the lecture hall, and she intends to be the example that shows other young women it is possible.

Her commitment

→ Excel in her studies despite the conditions.
→ Be an ambassador for the program to other young women who have given up.
→ Give back what she has been given.

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

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

Lareine Awezaye · In her own words, June 2026

To the Clean Water Help organization: I am taking the liberty of writing to you to request a scholarship so that I can continue my training.

Who I am

I am Lareine Awezaye, a young woman living in Goma, in the province of North Kivu. I hold a state diploma in general pedagogy from the Kanyantende Institute, obtained in 2023. I want to continue into higher education so that I can gain the knowledge and skills I need for myself, and so that I can contribute to the progress of my country.

How I finished school

I finished secondary school with great difficulty. I never believed I would finish at all, but thank God I did, despite the poverty and the endless wars here in the east of the country. My parents never had enough to let me continue into higher education. I told myself that if I ever found someone who could support me, I would give everything I had, so as not to discourage them.

Why I cannot pay

Today the obstacle is no longer bombs but the lack of means. My family has lost everything. There is no work, and there is hunger. A single registration fee is equal to several months of food for the whole family. That is why continuing my studies is impossible without help from outside.

What this would change

Your help would change everything for me. It would give me the means to dedicate myself one hundred percent to my studies, and later to give back what I have been given. This scholarship would not just be financial aid. It would be proof that one can choose to build instead of endure.

If you trust me, I commit to

→ Excel in my studies despite the conditions.

→ Be an ambassador for your program to other young women who have given up.

→ Respect the rules of the scholarship.

I remain at your disposal for any interview or additional document, and above all I thank you sincerely for the attention you have given to my request. Please accept the expression of my high consideration and respect.

Lareine Awezaye

GOMA, NORTH KIVU · DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF THE CONGO

Every fact here comes from Lareine's own application letter. The English has been shortened and tidied for length, and nothing has been added that she did not say. Lareine reviews and approves this text before it is published.

Why We Are Funding Lareine

A note from Clean Water Help

More than thirty young people applied to this program. Lareine was the number one applicant, and she is now funded for her first year at Université Libre des Pays des Grands Lacs in Goma.

Her academic focus on civil engineering is essential for rebuilding the water infrastructure in the war-torn DRC. She has the talent, the motivation and the passion to be a true change maker in her community and in her country. We also see her as a role model for other women in her community, who can look to her as an example of someone who persevered against all odds and found prosperity.

Her field is the one we need most

Civil engineering covers roads, structures, drainage, and the water systems that carry clean water to people and carry waste away from them. Of every application we received, hers was the closest fit to the work Clean Water Help actually does in North Kivu. A water project needs someone who can build and maintain it long after the funding cycle ends, and that person has to be Congolese and local. That is the person we are trying to create here.

> *"Be an ambassador for your program to other young women who have given up."*
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> LAREINE AWEZAYE, ON WHAT SHE COMMITS TO, JUNE 2026

Byran Fuhrmann

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