

# Kasambika 1

## First Impressions





Ashraf - Life seems to be easier that I thought it would be in a village/ countryside setting. All I can say is I left home alone but I am living with a family I want to stay with forever. Kasambika village people are so welcoming and excited that we here just by the way they treat us. I am in love with the teamwork and coordination in our team. I wish my team the best summer ever and to me this is going to be a story to tell.

Helen - Everyone is so happy and friendly. The children are extremely excited to see us. The villagers seem very ready and willing to work with us to improve the health and wellbeing of the community. The village is very large and spread out. It is extremely beautiful and interesting to see how this community lives side by side. Using the latrines in the night time is quite frightening and something I don't think I will get used to! Large cockroaches and snakes. By the way, ant bites on the bottom is unpleasant, too! Building the tippy tap was an awesome learning experience, what a good invention!

Hee Won- As we were heading to Kasambika 1, I was excited but also worried. It was my first time living without electricity and water and I was afraid that I might not be welcomed. My worries vanished when I arrived at the village. Everyone we met in the village greeted us with warm smiles and welcomed us wholeheartedly. Our borehole was very close to our house and kerosene lamps were bright enough to light us through the night. So far, everything is good. Our cook makes us the best food, all of my team mates are awesome and I love our village very much. Everyday is a new adventure for me and I am learning and experiencing so many things. I think it will be an amazing summer.

Mindy - After finally arriving to Entebbe a day late and having my luggage misplaced, coming to Kasambika I was just the pick me up I needed. As the coaster slowly made its way down the bumpy roads, our beautiful house came into view. Our compound is huge, to the say the least, and is surrounded by the most stunning greens. Every day and every evening we step outside, the skies greet us with a variety of pastel sunsets and vibrant blues. Words can't even begin to describe the stars. Along with new landscapes have come new experiences. After building a tippy tap, lids for our latrines, smoking them, building our trash pit and rearranging our living space, it truly feels like home. We've already had our bonding moments, attempting to navigate the cockroaches and spiders every time one of us dares to face the latrines. Our walks through the village have been absolutely wonderful; the warmth and joy that the people of Kasambika I have expressed have only made our stay that much better. I could go on forever about Edith, our fantastically perfect cook, the adorable kids that come by all the time (who apparently know my name well because it means "smoking pipe"), and the kindness of our brilliant VHT's... But for now, I will save you from further rambling.

Philip - Everybody in this village, both the children and adults, were too much excited to receive us. I could see it from their facial expressions. Kasambika I has a cool environment. Making a tippy tap near our latrine was an exciting and unforgettable moment. All the people of Kasambika 1 are very opening and friendly to all of us. Life in the village is cheap and cool.

Reese - Jambo! As our first week here in Kasambika 1 comes to an end, I am humbled by the kindness of the people, the breathtaking views, and the strong sense of community. Within this

short time I have learned how to ride a bike with three 20 liter jerry cans attached, build a tippy tap, dig a trash pit, contract lids for the latrines, and even speak a little Lusoga. I have also tried so many wonderful Ugandan dishes japati, rolex, fene, dodoo and g-nuts. The kids brighten the evenings with laughter and games. Our first evening we spent hour playing jump rope, tag and teaching them our names. Our team is not complete without EDITH our cook. She is by far the most incredible cook on the planet! She even infuses our tea with ginger! In addition to making our house a home, she is the most kind-hearted and hard-working person managing to do it all with her beautiful smile. We are so lucky to be in such a welcoming village with so many kind people. I am eager to get to work and improve the capacity for health in Kasambika 1.