

# 2025 Build Report

## Karuruma

### Suspended Trail Bridge in Rwanda





Dear Thornton Thomasetti Executive Team,

We are excited to report the successful completion of the Karuruma suspended trail bridge project. Thanks to generous support and engagement from Thornton Thomasetti, together with the local communities we were able to complete the construction of a 60 meters-long trail bridge, inaugurated in May of 2025.

The Karuruma trail bridge now serves 5 communities with over 5,600 beneficiaries in the rural Kamonyi District in the Southern Province of Rwanda. The bridge connects these communities to the nearest hospital, government services, markets, and both primary and secondary schools. The Karuruma trail bridge now provides safe access for individuals who were once putting their lives in jeopardy to seek opportunity.

The following pages of this report will show the incredible impact the Karuruma bridge has had on the communities surrounding it. We look forward to continuing our partnership in the years to come. Thank you, once again, for your support in providing safe access.

Sincerely,

Nivi Sharma  
Bridges to Prosperity







## Thornton Thomasetti & B2P

Thornton Thomasetti has supported Bridges to Prosperity with building bridges to better lives since 2016, sending more than 55 volunteers to help our construction team connect over 22,200 people to what matters most.



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Bridges Made Possible



22,200+

People Connected



55+

Volunteers Sent





# About Us

**We envision a world where poverty caused by rural isolation no longer exists.**

## MISSION

We build bridges to better lives in rural communities.

## THE CHALLENGE

Globally, one in seven people lack safe, year-round access to the services and opportunities in their immediate surroundings, due to the lack of transportation infrastructure.

## WHY TRAIL BRIDGES?

Trail bridges link resources and services to the people who benefit from them the most, serving as a single intervention that addresses a myriad of symptoms. Safe, reliable access impacts day-to-day behavior and influences long-term decision-making. Connecting rural communities is a cost-effective, efficient tool for improving livelihoods and well-being.



**+200%**

School Attendance  
for Girls



**+36%**

Labor Market  
Income



**+60%**

Women Entering  
the Labor Force



**+75%**

Farms  
Profits



**+32%**

Health  
Facility Visits



## RWANDA TRAIL BRIDGE PROGRAM

Since 2012, hundreds of bridges have been built in partnership with local partners, also thanks to the program launched by Bridges to Prosperity in 2019, which aims to connect communities across Rwanda through a partnership with the Ministries of Infrastructure, Finance, and Economic Planning, and Local Government, with the common goal of providing connection for over 1,100,000 residents thanks to the construction of more than 300 bridges by 2027.



## UGANDA TRAIL BRIDGE PROGRAM

B2P has been building bridges in partnership with the Ugandan government since 2017. In the first years of implementation, B2P Uganda focused on laying strong foundational partnerships with the Uganda National Roads Authority and Ministry of Works and Transport. Currently, B2P and the Government of Uganda are strategically planning an expanded partnership to drive development of rural transport infrastructure across Uganda.



## ETHIOPIA TRAIL BRIDGE PROGRAM

The Leona M. and Harry B. Helmsley Charitable Trust has provided a generous grant in support of a three-year partnership between Helvetas and B2P in Ethiopia. The TRAIL-Ethiopia program seeks to replicate Helvetas' successful government-owned Amhara program in five additional regions, building the enabling environment to resource the construction of thousands of trail bridges and millions of kilometers in feeder trails in the country in the future and developing a global platform to share learnings and innovations. By the end of the program, we will have built 150 bridges, connecting over 1.3M people to critical resources.





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# Safe Access is Critical

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Safe access is necessary to thrive.



The Akaruruma river is often flooded during the rainy season, being dangerous to cross. The members of the communities surrounding the bridge were risking their lives to reach the health center, the school, and the market on the other shore.

In the past 3 years, multiple people got injured due to the unsafe river crossing.



# Karuruma Trail Bridge Project

Bridges to Prosperity staff, the local community, and 11 amazing individuals from the Thornton Tomasetti team worked for two weeks to complete the construction of the Karuruma Suspended Trail bridge.





# Karuruma Trail Bridge Impact



## TRANSFORMATIVE CHANGE: INCOME

5,625 people served



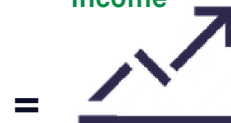
1223 households



\$ 611,413 pre-bridge income



**\$ 183,420**  
in new annual income



4.6 average household size

\$500 average Rwanda household income

30% increase in annual income post-bridge

## EDUCATION

5,625 people served

X

37% Rwandan population of school age

**2,081**

more children with safe access to school



## HEALTHCARE

5,625 people served

X

52% female Rwandan population

X

20% female population who give birth annually

**585**

more women with access to attended births



The Karuruma trail bridge will have a lasting impact on the surrounding communities for the decades to come. From increased farm profits to safe access to education to attended births, the support of Thornton Thomasetti will improve the livelihoods of the more than 5,600 individuals impacted.



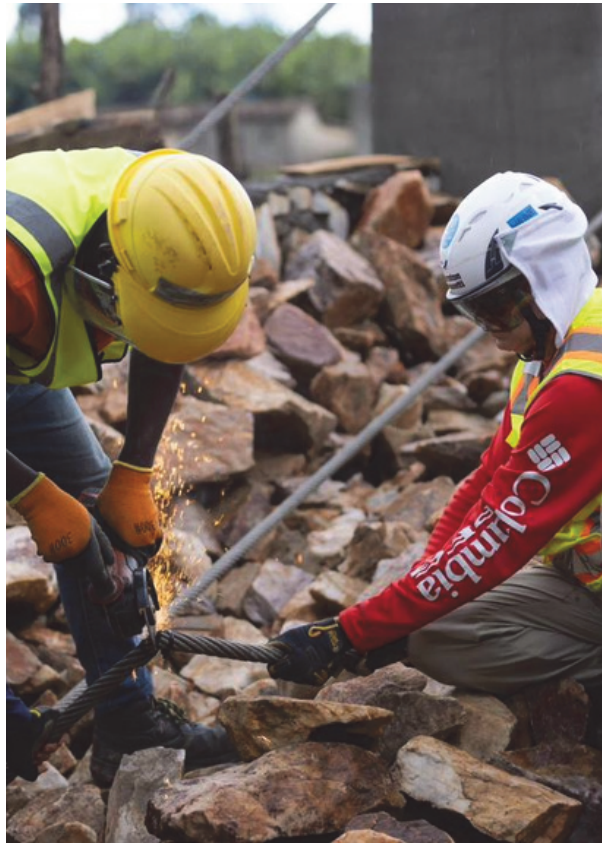














# Karuruma School Visit





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## Stories from the Team

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Wayne Stocks  
Support Member

The experience in Rwanda was incredible, and challenging and rewarding. The B2P staff were excellent and unbelievable: caring, patient, giving, fun, on top of everything, and I could go on and on. The Rwandans we met (adults and kids) were so welcoming and engaging and loving, and so appreciative. Such a joy and privilege for our Thornton Tomasetti team (who were also amazing) to take part in this project and experience their culture if only for a brief time.

Eric Wheeler  
Project Lead



Working on the Bridges to Prosperity (B2P) project was an amazing experience that I will always remember. For two weeks, my team and I worked alongside the B2P staff and local community members to build a 60-meter-long trail bridge. The B2P staff—Grace, Cynthia, Alain, John, Abu, Faustin, and the attendants—were fantastic and made us feel at home. Additionally, it was wonderful to see my team connect with the residents, the workers at a nearby coffee washing station, and the children who visited the construction site daily to watch us build the bridge. Even with the language barrier, we found ways to connect. Some of the highlights included short dance parties with the project team and the end of the build day, as well as playing soccer with the local kids.

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# Stories from the Community

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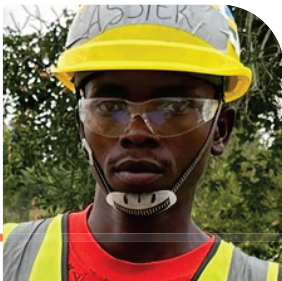
**Sam Niyitegeka**  
**Community Member**

Before this bridge was built, crossing the river was a major challenge, especially during the rainy season. Villagers, including children, had to wade through dangerous currents or take long detours to reach farms, schools, health centers and markets. Many accidents occurred, and transportation of goods was extremely difficult.

**Furaha Nambajimana**  
**Community Member**



I have worked here almost 3 months and I got chance to work together with my neighbors with the goal of impacting our lives through the Karuruma bridge which will help all of us safely carry out our daily activities such as attending the market with our commodities, and it will reduce death and danger on this community.



**Cassier Kubwimana**  
**Community Member**

The Karuruma bridge has already impacted my life because I gained money while working on its construction, which permitted me to buy animals in addition to save money. The knowledge from this experience will also permit me to look for a job in construction. Thanks to this bridge, we will no longer fear to lose our lives or our properties while crossing the river.



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# Karuruma Trail Bridge Inauguration

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# Karuruma Trail Bridge Inauguration

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# THANK YOU!

The Bridges to Prosperity team is deeply grateful for your generosity, commitment, and support in building the bridge.

The team's dedication and tireless efforts have made a significant impact in improving the lives of countless individuals in the community.

The contribution has created reliable access to transportation, which is essential to achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).



The SDGs are a set of 17 goals adopted by the United Nations to end poverty, protect the planet, and reduce inequality. The work with B2P has directly influenced the achievement of 10 of these goals, which is a testament to the importance of the team's efforts.







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