

WATER, SANITATION & HYGIENE

# Wash

## HAND BOOK

May 2021 | Issue 14



## NRM MANIFESTO: How President Museveni plans to tackle WASH issues in 2021-2026



## Malteser: The long, eventful journey to solar-powered water systems in West Nile region

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How the PAG Church has empowered West Nile villages to access clean water

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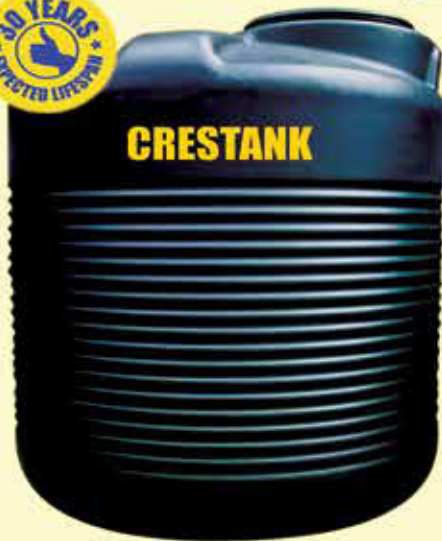
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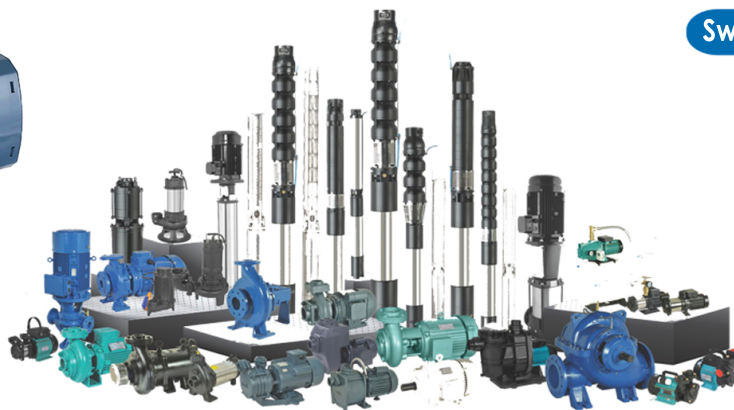
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# Malteser: The long, eventful journey to solar-powered water systems in West Nile region

By RIMILIAH AMANDU

**WEST NILE:** At our arrival somewhere deep along River Enyau in Omugo zone II which is an extension of Rhino Camp Refugee Settlement, the massive 57.3KW shiny array of solar panels greeted us. The surrounding bushes and a general peaceful flow of the Enyau River through the rocks gives such an exciting first impression to greet the guards.



**Malteser  
International**  
Order of Malta Worldwide Relief

Eng Alfred Chadonga (R) inspects the Omugo plant

I am particularly awed as Mr Mathis Biermann, the project manager Malteser International based at the Arua office, in the company of Eng Alfred Chadonga takes us through a step-by-step process of how water from what appears to be a simple borehole in this particular location ends up benefitting more than 9,000 people in two refugee hosting villages in Omugo zone II.

A 120,000 liter capacity tank stands at the highest altitude in the horizon, 4km away from this solar-powered borehole. There are 35 tap stands placed at various points in the villages. Each facility has a varied number of stands and a total of 185 taps are available to the residents.

Malteser International alone has 15 of such water facilities spread across Rhino camp and together with other partners, they ensure the refugees have water to the required standards.

According to statistics from the Office of the Prime Minister, the average refugee now gets slightly above 20 litres of water per day which conforms to the prescribed United Nations standards.

But for one who 'saw it all' from the influx of mainly the South Sudanese refugees, such a trend of water supply nearly seems unbelievable. True to their target, Malteser and the other water suppliers in the refugee settlements in Rhino camp have come a long way to attain success.

## How Malteser championed the march towards solar-powered water systems

Mr Stephen Lumumba, a Malteser programme co-ordinator, says the organisation first established base in February 2014, following the influx of refugees due to the deadly 2013 war in South Sudan.

"We started with WASH because there was an assessment done to ascertain the needs of the refugees and we realised that the most pressing need was water," says Mr Lumumba.

He says there was a continuing problem of insufficiency because the hand pumps that had been drilled in haste were not giving adequate water as the numbers soared. To make matters worse, Lumumba says, the general water table in Rhino camp goes down during the dry spells.

***"We started with WASH because there was an assessment done to ascertain the needs of the refugees and we realised that the most pressing need was water," says Mr Lumumba.***





(L-r) Biermann, Alfred, Lawrence and other support staff at the borehole



Stephen Lumumba, Malteser Program Coordinator

“To avoid that, we came up with the idea of motorising the existing boreholes so that after pump testing to see their capacity, we could try to pump water out of them.

“That’s where the ideas of tap stands in the settlements started and really helped to avert issues of conflict caused by long distances, overcrowding that were associated with the hand pumps. The whole community quickly embraced the new system. So we asked why can’t we do more?” he further explains.

From May to December 2014, Lumumba says Malteser had already motorised 10 existing boreholes using solar power. “Everybody was impressed and that’s how Malteser started getting more funds,” he says.

He added: “In 2015, with those ideas in place, we wrote some proposals and got funding from ECHO to establish four huge systems quite bigger than what we had in Rhino camp for one year to cater for the big influx in Bidi Bidi, Yumbe district.”

These he says were swiftly followed by some funding from BPRM under a consortium, including ZOA and IAS to establish four boreholes and later their biggest project in the region in Omugo.

“That is how our operations expanded in West Nile region,” he explains. Lumumba says 14 out of 15 of their water establishments in Rhino camp are entirely powered using solar, with only one hybrid (both solar and generator).

Fast forward to 2021, he says the main focus is in Rhino camp to try and maintain the systems so that the community is continually served.

### Reaction from other stakeholders

**Dennis Mbaguta, settlement commandant, Rhino Camp**



Dennis Mbaguta

We have had a very good working relationship with Malteser International in Rhino camp with the first water system way back in 2014 in O’dobu. That time we had water shortages in most parts of the settlement because we were using boreholes that would break down all the time and yet around the same time there was an influx.

The general situation of water has greatly improved for both the refugees and the host communities because the partners also repaired some of the broken down systems in the host communities.

**Agnes Kagu, refugee and member of water user committee, Tank VII, Omugo II zone**

In the past, we used to walk very long distances in search of water and we really suffered so much until we received water. Now the situation is much better.

The only problem is that we sometimes receive the water late and we ask that to be improved. As committees we do our best to protect the water sources.

**Fred Apangu, in charge Olujobo Health Center III**



Apangu Fred, Incharge Olujobo Hc Iii

I must appreciate Malteser for what they have done. Actually this is the best facility compared to the ones I have moved to. It has made services very effective. The staff have enough water in the quarters and at the facility. We equally have enough water and part of it has been connected outside the health centre for community use.

“

*From May to December 2014, Lumumba says Malteser had already motorised 10 existing boreholes using solar power.*





Rigbo health assistant (Blue mask) inspects a new pit latrine

## Covering the latrine coverage gap: Malteser approach empowers local groups

**MADI-OKOLLO:** Youthful John Augustino from Ofua One village in Rhino Camp Refugee Settlement, Madi Okollo district shows us around the newly-constructed family latrine.

He says unburnt bricks and other locally obtained materials (grass and poles) were used.

This family latrine and indeed many others spread across this vast settlement of more than 120,000 refugees would have been as ordinary save for a different slab that Augustino has hailed as more comfortable and possibly durable than the previously used plastic slabs that often broke down.

“We built a toilet here before this new one and it broke down because we were using plastic slabs. But this new slab (doom shaped) is more comfortable because it can be easily washed and the slab is made of concrete. We believe it will last longer and relieve us the burden of constructing a latrine very soon,” Augustino narrates as he shows a broken latrine nearby.

Indeed the latrine coverage in the Rhino camp has not been adequate. Current statistics from the Office of the Prime Minister (OPM) indicate that the coverage in the settlement stands at 79%, with partners arguing that the nearly 20% gap is too big and needs to be bridged.

In their efforts to contribute to this improvement, Malteser International zeroed on the production of the doom-



One of the newly constructed latrines with doomshapped slabs

shaped slabs that are freely given to needy families whose mostly temporary latrines have broken down. This they do beside the distribution of latrine excavation kits (Axes, spades, etc) to the office of the refugee welfare councils (RWCs).

Mr Geoffrey Etrima, a field assistant with Malteser in Rhino camp, says the equipment is then borrowed from the RWCs once families need them for excavation of holes before they pick the doom shaped slabs.

“We have been producing the doom-shaped slabs in five locations in Rhino camp settlement, Ofua I, Ofua II, Ocea, Eden and Tika and in each location, we produced 120 slabs to support the community hygiene in latrine excavations,” Etrima explains.

He says unlike the case of the temporary latrines with plastic covers, the new concrete doom-shaped slabs can last as long as 10 years if maintained well.

Apart from the temporary materials, many residents in selected areas had complained in the past of sandy soils that cannot support the excavation of latrines, Etrima says this too had been averted through technical advice in areas such as Eden that had been most affected.

However, despite many implementing partners adopting the use of doom-shaped slabs, Eng Alfred Chadonga, the project coordinator (technical), says the Malteser approach is unique because it focusses on empowering local groups to produce the slabs.

“The slabs are produced by local groups in the refugee settlements which offers a source of livelihood for them. To ensure the quality is not compromised, they work closely with our team before distribution to the final users. The groups were trained by other partners before and so we don’t face so many challenges,” handonga explains.

Besides the efforts in latrine construction, the partners, including Malteser have recruited a group of volunteers (Hygiene promoters) to keep watch of the general hygiene and sanitation situation in their respective villages.

“We teach the communities on the best practices of using the latrines. When we discover that someone doesn’t have a latrine, we report to the block leaders and if it is a vulnerable person, we mobilise as a community to dig a pit for them because they are many here in the community,” says Wiga Aloro, one of the hygiene promoters.

Denis Mbaguta, the Rhino Camp Settlement Commandant under the Office of the Prime Minister (OPM), acknowledges the enormous roles played by the implementing partners such as Malteser in the water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) sector, but says more effort is needed to particularly improve the latrine coverage.

“The main challenge remains latrine coverage that needs to improve in homes and even institutions. Other WASH areas such as handwashing have greatly improved.

That’s why we were able to prevent the spread of COVID-19 in the settlement. We are grateful to Malteser because their interventions just speak for themselves,” Mbaguta expounds.





# Rigbo leaders applaud NGOs for quick response during River Nile floods

Mr Lawrence Asiku, the field assistant inspects the water tank

***“There are some exceptional partners that have maintained a good working relationship with us the local governments and one such partner is Malteser.*”**

**MADI-OKOLLO:** Local leaders of Rigbo sub-county in Madi Okollo district have applauded the Non-governmental organisations (NGOs) for their quick response during the floods that devastated vast parts of the area, displacing many communities along the River Nile. The country-wide floods of 2020 took a heavy toll on the communities along the river banks, drawing fears of water-borne diseases, hunger and a total breakdown in other vital infrastructure like roads.

**T**he local leaders said despite government taking long to respond to the immediate needs of the community, the NGOs better known as implementing partners (IPs) responded swiftly to help the local people.

Rigbo is one of the sub-counties hosting refugees and many services of the IPs usually extend to the host communities.

“There are some exceptional partners that have maintained a good working relationship with us the local governments and one such partner is Malteser.

“During the floods, we were voicing our outcry to the district and the central government, and their response was too slow yet Malteser and other partners came to our rescue and the community is very happy,” Said Mr Wilson Agele, the LC III chairman of the sub-county.

Agele said the mode of motorisation of boreholes had also helped ease a long standing problem of obtaining reliable water for the waterstressed communities of the Nile Belt.

Jacob Odongo, the health assistant, said the latrine coverage in the sub-county reduced drastically after the floods because many communities shifted their homesteads to new locations.

He said the most affected parishes were Luba and Odoi, but expressed optimism that the trend could soon revert to normal with the intervention of partners.

“We had over 80% latrine coverage in the sub-county but that was greatly reduced due to the floods.



Mr Odongo, the health assistant, holds one of the materials for sensitization



***“The major challenge in our findings was the poor latrine coverage because many of them collapsed during the floods.”***

However, I see the people have started using some of the tools like latrine digging kits provided by Malteser. I am hopeful that with such interventions, the situation will soon normalise,” Odongo said.

Emilly Amaniyo, a beneficiary of a borehole rehabilitation project in Elionga village, said she suffered a back problem due to walking long distance to fetch water after the borehole in her neighbourhood broke down because of the floods.

“We suffered so much when this borehole broke down because we used to walk for more than a mile in search of water. Now everything has changed since the borehole was repaired. At least we just walk this short distance and get clean water. We are really grateful for the service,” Amaniyo said.

As a major partner, Malteser international has continued to support in other related areas of WASH to strengthen the communities, including sensitisation campaigns.

The organisation has provided latrine digging kits, water storage containers and given a series of trainings for the village health teams (VHTs) so that they can in turn sensitize their communities in the areas of WASH. Eunice Anderu, a Malteser field assistant in the affected communities, said the choice of what to give to the communities was informed by a survey carried out in



Mr agele wilson and Alfred pose next to materials delivered by Malteser



Wilson Agele

eight of the 15 most affected villages to ascertain the most pressing issues.

“The major challenge in our findings was the poor latrine coverage because many of them collapsed during the floods. The other challenge was the difficulty in accessing safe, clean water after the floods,” Anderu said of the survey conducted in 100 sampled households.

“They asked for new digging kits so that they can excavate new latrines, then they requested for clean water sources and support in drilling new boreholes,” Anderu further stated.

However, Luke Apamaku from Eradriku village who suffered immeasurable damage during the floods, asked the partners to equally intervene in areas of livelihood since most of their crops were destroyed by the floods. Apamaku said he plans to establish a fish pond on the flooded part of his land because the water had remained still.

He and the family depend on a community latrine that was constructed by one of the IPs as he struggles to put his family back to order. He has also asked the local leaders to work with partners to devise more permanent solutions since the floods could still resume in the future.



At one of the newly rehabilitated boreholes for the flood affected communities in Rigbo





His Excellency President Yoweri Museveni

# NRM MANIFESTO: How President Museveni plans to tackle WASH issues in 2021-2026

By Mike Ssegawa

**President Yoweri Kaguta Museveni has spelt out his plans and commitment to tackle matters of Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH) in his term starting May 2021.**

**D**uring campaigns, the President and his party sold their manifesto to Ugandans. Although WASH matters are not highly pronounced in political campaigns, this time round, President Museveni dedicated a chapter on WASH interventions in the country in his manifesto, including promising to put piped water in all parts of Uganda.

***“Water Supply and Sanitation is going to increase overall access to safe and affordable water supply in urban areas, currently standing at 78% with an ultimate aim of 100% coverage. The key interventions will include the following: Invest in construction of piped water supply in small towns and growth centres. In particular, we shall provide safe, reliable water supplies and improved sanitation facilities to all districts and sub-county headquarters.”***

Under the theme, “Securing your Future”, from page 233, President Museveni outlines his government’s successes in the WASH sector, as well as what ought to be done. He lists a number of interventions that he says will lift the health burden off many Ugandans, and improve the wellbeing of the citizens.

**Below is the section on WASH in the 2021-26 manifesto: WATER, SANITATION AND HYGIENE**

Water, sanitation and hygiene are essential for life and health, and are a fundamental human right for every child and adult. Easy access to clean water sources liberates households as it frees up time to do other productive work. Uganda is exceptionally endowed with water resources, covering 43,938sq.km (18%) of its 241,038sq.km total land area. It is NRM’s duty to exploit this endowment for the wellbeing of all Ugandans.

Therefore, NRM is committed to extending clean and safe water to every LC1/village, ultimately providing water to every household. NRM’s priority is to increase safe water supply coverage and equity in the entire country. In 1986, only 10% (1 in 10) of the population in the rural areas had access to clean safe water. We have since increased access in rural areas (a radius of 1km) to 70% (7 in 10) and urban coverage to 80% (8 in 10).

Out of 68,731 villages in Uganda, 48,338 villages have access to clean water. NRM is going to continue focusing on construction of a safe clean water source in every village for the remaining unserved villages while at the same time implementing other planned interventions to increase safe water coverage in the country.

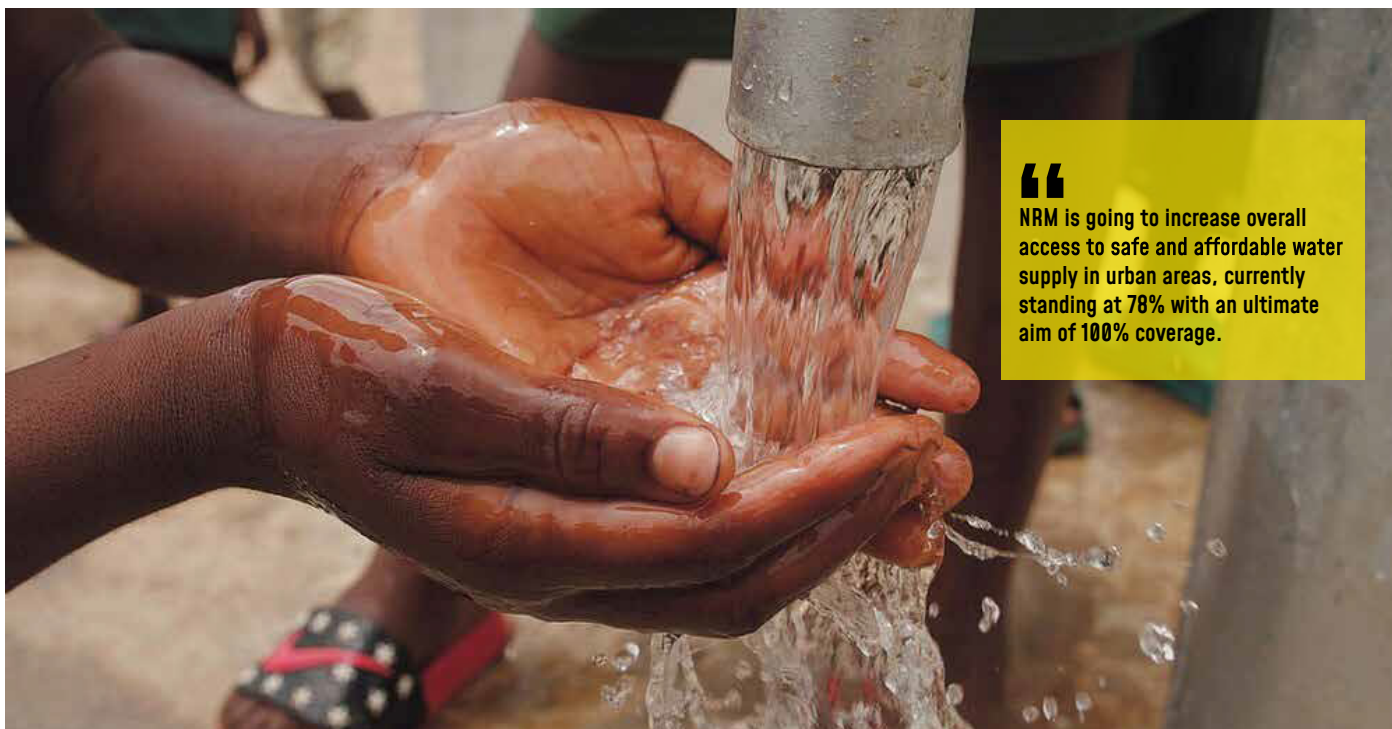
## PROGRESS

Piped water main network system increased to 1,200 in urban areas and over 2,000 gravity flow systems by 2019, up from 37 and over 42 respectively in 1986. In the last four years, over 720,000 new customers, including industrial/institutional/ commercial customers were connected to the water supply network and the following are some of the projects to increase access to clean water:

- a. New large gravity flow schemes were completed in: Lirima – Phase II (Manafwa), Bukwo – Phase II (Bukwo), Bududa-Nabweya - Phase II (Bududa), Bukedea, Upper Sipi (Sironko, Kween, Kapchorwa, Bulambuli) and Ntoroko (Ntoroko).
- b. Construction work is ongoing on the following gravity flow schemes:

***i. Namrwodho – Phase II (Nebbi), Kyanvuma, Lambala in Iganga district; Buseta, Kasasira, Kameke, in Pallisa district; Kapala and Kidetok in Serere district. ii. Lirima***





NRM is going to increase overall access to safe and affordable water supply in urban areas, currently standing at 78% with an ultimate aim of 100% coverage.

**- Phase II (Manafwa) at 90%: Bukedea (Sironko, Kween, Kapchorwa, Bulambuli) at 90%, Ntoroko (Ntoroko) at 98% and Orom (Kitgum) at 51%.**

**Orom (Kitgum).**

c. Completed construction of piped water systems in 26 towns in Bugongi (Sheema), Bukakata (Masaka), Bukwo, Buliisa, Dokolo, Kagoma (Jinja), Kaliro, Kalongo (Agago), Ocapa and Kyere (Serere), Luuka, Midigo (Yumbe), Ntungamo, Kyalubungu (Isingiro), Nyeihanga (Mbarara), Okoro (Arua), Ovujo (Maracha), Pajule (Pader), Sanga (Kiruhura), Kasagama, Kinuuka (Lyantonde), Namagera (Jinja), Nyahuka (Bundibugyo), Iziru (Jinja), Busede-Bugobya (Jinja) and Kapelebyong.

d. Ongoing construction of 11 piped water supply systems, namely Kagadi, Nazigo, Kassanda, Bulegeni, Kacheri-Lokona, Ofua, Bugobya, Bulambuli, Namayingo and Olilim, while 13 towns have been designed to completion and five towns are still under design. Nyakashaka is under procurement and three towns – Mukura, Baale and Wobulenzi not yet designed.

e. The following piped water supply systems to small towns were constructed: Amudat, Kumi-Nyero-Ngora, Namwendwa, Pabbo, Buyende, Pacego, Pallisa, Rukungiri Municipality, Namagera, Namukora, Nyeihanga, Kambuga, Namwendwa, Namwiwa and Bulopa. Another three - Lwemiyaga, Kiwoko and Binyinyi – designs were completed and construction is ongoing.

## WAY FORWARD

### Rural Water Supply and Sanitation

a. Complete construction work on the following gravity flow schemes:

**i. Kyanvuma, Lambala (Iganga), Buseta, Kasasira, Kameke (Pallisa) and Kapala, Kidetok (Serere).**

**ii. Lirima - Phase II (Manafwa): Bukedea (Sironko, Kween, Kapchorwa, Bulambuli), Ntoroko (Ntoroko) and**

b. Construct and extend piped water supply (taps), deep boreholes, shallow wells, protected springs to all unserved villages. Specifically, we are going to:

**i. Construct new large gravity flow schemes in: Siabona Phase I (Bugiri- Namayingo); Nyamugasani Phase I (Kasese); Bitsya (Buhweju), Bwambara - Bugangari (Rukungiri); Ngoma - Wakyato (Nakaseke); Ogili (Agago) and Potika (Lamwo).**

**ii. Complete and expand, under a phased approach, five water systems in Nyabuhikye and Kikyenkya (Ibanda), Shuuku and Masyoro (Sheema), Bukedea Phase II (Sironko, Kween, Kapchorwa, Bulambuli), Kabuyanda water supply (Isingiro), Rwebisengo - Kanaara Phase II (Ntoroko), Orom Phase II (Kitgum/ Agago/Pader) water systems.**

**iii. Drill 5,000 environmentally-friendly and sustainable hand-powered boreholes countrywide, taking into account earth crust drainage informed by science.**

**iv. Install 2,060 environmentally friendly and sustainable solar powered boreholes to increase safe water coverage in the least served villages.**

**v. Rehabilitate old rural piped water supply schemes.**

**vi. Establish a supply chain for spare parts and outlets for borehole infrastructure to ensure regular maintenance of boreholes under supervision of the parish chief as described in the parish model.**

c. We will carry out science-driven geological surveys to map underground water sources.

d. Promote rainwater harvesting by reducing the cost of acquiring necessary equipment such as water tanks. This water will be used for household consumption and irrigation purposes.

e. Prioritise construction of bulk water supply systems in



water-stressed areas. Specifically, we are going to:

***i. Develop large diameter wells in water stressed parts of the country covering Karamoja sub-region, the low-lying, dry expanses of Isingiro, Ntungamo, Kiruhura, Yumbe, Zombo, Koboko, Moyo, Kiboga, Kyankwanzi, Nakaseke, Nakasongola, Rakai, Buyende and Kaliro districts.***

***ii. Bulk transfer of pumped water to water-stressed areas in Isingiro, Kiruhura/Kazo, West Nile, Kyoga basin, Nkanka (Kisoro) and Muko (Rubanda).***

f. Promote appropriate sanitation and hygiene technologies such as bio-digestors across the country, taking into consideration vulnerable persons and those living in areas within difficult soil formations as well as transient and fishing communities.

g. Invest in the construction of sanitation facilities on highways, institutions (including schools and health centres) and public places.

h. Support continuous Community-Led Total Sanitation (CLTS) for improved sanitation and hygiene to prevent diseases.

***i. Improve functionality, sustainability and resilience of water supply systems in rural areas to provide safe water all-year-round and reduce the number of people unable to access safe water.***

### **Small Towns**

Water Supply and Sanitation NRM is going to increase overall access to safe and affordable water supply in urban areas, currently standing at 78% with an ultimate aim of 100% coverage. The key interventions will include the following:

a. Invest in construction of piped water supply in small towns and growth centres. In particular, we shall provide safe, reliable water supplies and improved sanitation facilities to all districts and sub-county headquarters.

c. Construct improved public sanitation facilities in public places and selected institutions, including cluster faecal sludge management facilities in small towns and rural growth centres.

The measures above will be implemented in small towns in the following areas:

*Busia, Butaleja, Busolwe, Budaka, Kadama, Tirinyi, Kibuku, Kyegegwa, Mpara, Ruyonza, Namasale, Kaliro, Namung'alwe, Kanoni, Ngando, Bulu, Nsabwe, Ngomanene, Kiriri, Bukandula, Rugaga, Kabulasoke, Butiti, Kifampa, Kisozi, Kajumiro, Maddu, Rakai, Nsaro, Rumbugu, Birabago, Buyamba, Rwanda-Kooki, Dwaniro, Byakabanda, Kamukala, Kibbale, Bugadde, Kityerera, Busakira, Kuluuba, Kayunga, Busaana, Kamuli, Buikwe, Dokolo, Kapchorwa, Bundibugyo, Kyenjojo, Katooke, Nakasongola, Namayumba-Busunju, Kangulumira-Nazigo, Kabimbiri-Kasawo, Igayaza-Kikwaya, Kassanda, Lwengo, Bugadde-Idudi, Serere area, Soroti-Amuria-Orungo Corner, Ngenge-Chapskunya-Kiriki, Bugweri and Bwondah, Yumbe, Nwoya, Lamwo, Zombo, Amuru, Alebtong, Kole,*

*Omoro, Maracha, Nyamarebe-Rushango-Buremba, Burungi-Engari-Nkungu-Rwemikona, Rubanda, Rukiga, Karenga, Kapedo, Abim, Nyakwai, Alerek, Karita, Kalapata, Kaabong, Kawalakol, Nabilatuk, Namalu, Napak, Kangole, Kakingol, Nadiket, Moroto, Kotido, Nakapelimoru, Kathile and Loregai.*

### **Large Towns Water Supply and Sewerage**

NRM government strategy is to ensure universal access to safe water supply, which entail:

- (a) Improving urban water supply and sewerage coverage.
- (b) All cities, towns, trading centres, wards, cells and zones to get clean safe water (at least one source per village).
- (c) Water and sewerage services for the planned industrial parks.

The specific interventions under National Water and Sewerage Corporation (NWSC) will include:

i. Completion of Kampala Water Lake Victoria Water and Sanitation Project (KW LVWATSAN), which involves:

- **Construction of the Katosi Drinking Water Treatment Plant with capacity to produce 160 million litres per day and Katosi-Kampala transmission mains.**
- **Restructuring of the network in project areas of Kampala Metropolitan.**
- **Extension of water supply and sanitation services in informal settlements with installation of 2,600 communal stand pipes.**

ii. Development of water and sanitation infrastructure for Mbarara, Masaka and Isingiro (southwestern cluster project).

iii. Construction and rehabilitation of water supply and sanitation infrastructure in Mbale City and the six rural growth centres of Busolwe, Butaleja, Kadama, Budaka, Kibuku and Tirinyi.

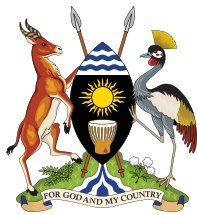
iv. Construction of Karuma water works, Gulu-Karuma transmission mains, supplying water from Karuma through Kamdini, Minakulu, Bobi-Palenga and Koro Abili.

v. Improve and upgrade water supply and sanitation in; Adjumani urban area, including support to refugees and refugee hosting communities, Kapeeka in Nakaseke, Sembabule and Wakiso.

vi. Expansion and development of sewage treatment system in Gaba and Mukono sub-catchments in the Kampala Metropolitan.

vii. Work on water and sanitation projects in Hoima, Masindi, Kasese, Fort Portal, Lira, Jinja/Njeru, Lugazi and Tororo.





MINISTRY  
OF  
WATER AND ENVIRONMENT

## REPORT

# MINISTRY OF WATER AND ENVIRONMENT



## Rural safe water supply improves as national coverage slightly declines

*The percentage of rural villages with safe water supply increased by 2% from 2019 to 2020 according to the latest report.*

*See full report below.*

### INTRODUCTION

**W**ater and Environment are at the core of sustainable development and are critical for socioeconomic development, healthy ecosystems and for human survival itself. It is vital for reducing the global burden of disease and improving the health, welfare and productivity of populations.

It is central to the production and preservation of a host of benefits and services for people. Water is also at the heart of adaptation to climate change, serving as the crucial link between the climate system,

human society and the environment.

Water is a finite and irreplaceable resource that is fundamental to human well-being. It is only renewable if well managed. Although the stakes are high, let me take this opportunity to present the current trends of performance of the Water and Environment Sector for the FY 2019/20.

The 12th Water and Environment sector Performance Report for FY 2019/20 provides information on investments, targets, achievements, and challenges for the sector during the previous financial years.

As of June 2020, the national safe water

coverage in rural areas was estimated at 68%, a decline from 69% as of June 2019.

This was attributed to low reporting of new water sources constructed by districts (47%) coupled with high population rate.

However, the percentage of rural villages with safe water supply increased from 66% in FY 2018/19 to 68%. The population using an improved drinking water source in urban areas reduced from 79% in June 2019 to 70.5% in June 2020. This is due to creation of new cities which engulfed rural areas with low safe water coverage.

It is worth noting that the water and sanitation services managed by the National Water & Sewerage Corporation (NWSC) have now expanded to cover a total of 258 towns. As the ministry strives to meet the objective of promoting development of cost-effective and sustainable water supply and water management for increased production in Uganda.

During the FY 2019/20 the ministry increased national cumulative storage for water for production from 41.124m<sup>3</sup> to 42.0m<sup>3</sup> with a functionality rate of water facilities at 88%.

Implementation of catchment based integrated water resources management activities is ongoing in the 4 Water Management Zones (WMZs).

Twenty surface water stations and eleven groundwater stations of the Water Resources Monitoring Network were upgraded from manual to telemetric data collection, which forms a major component in the development of an Early Warning Telemetry System since it enables quick dissemination of the information products to the public and researchers.

De-forestation remains the major challenge which has led to decline of forest cover from 24% in 1990 to 10% in 2017. Restoration effort is being hindered by unclear forest boundaries which continue to encourage encroachment of forests and increase the cost of law enforcement and litigation.

The measures put in place by the sector have reversed the trend and currently the forest cover stands at 12.4%. A total of 6,642.939 half of critical wetlands were restored across the country. Pivotal to our challenges is inadequate funding. It is estimated that UGX 5.10 trillion is required annually and increasing to 10 trillion by 2030 to serve the population by then.

The sector still has a huge funding requirement to meet her set goals amidst the ever growing population and huge service delivery demands. Finally, on behalf of the Government of Uganda, let me express our gratitude to the Sector Development Partners, the Civil Society Organisations and the Private sector for the support given to

the sector during the FY 2019/20.

The Water and Environment Sector Performance Report (SPR) presents the performance of the sector during the financial year (FY) 2019/20 with respect to investments, targets, achievements, outputs and challenges. It is based on Sector Performance Indicators.

It covers water supplies, sanitation and hygiene, water for production, water resources management, environment and natural resources, climate change and cross cutting issues of gender, HIV/AIDS and governance.

Data used for this report is derived from databases in the Ministry of Water and Environment, District Local Governments, Sector semi-autonomous agencies, Ministry of Health, Ministry of Education and Sports, and the Uganda Bureau of Statistics (UBOS).

## SECTOR FINANCES

The total financing to the Sector, including on-budget and off-budget resources was approximately UGX 1,820.97bn, out of which UGX 1,667.86bn was on-budget having been appropriated by Parliament for the Ministry of Water and Environment (MWE) and all the agencies; National Environment Management Agency (NEMA), National Forestry Authority (NFA), Uganda National Metrological Authority (UNMA) and National Water and Sewerage Corporation (NWSC). UGX 153.11bn was off budget. The donor On-budget allocation was UGX 523.287bn, representing 31.3% of the total on budget funding.

The off-budget financing was provided by Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) both in the Water and Environment Sub-sectors.

The internally generated funds approved by Parliament as Appropriation in Aid (AIA) was UGX 578.00bn; representing 34.6% of the Sector budget. In terms of releases, the total amount released to the Sector was UGX 1,207.58 bn; representing 66.3%. The Government (treasury) released UGX 451.358bn representing 79.7%, Donors UGX 287.964bn (55.0%), AIA UGX 391.00bn (67.6%) and off-budget UGX 82.55bn (54%).

## RURAL WATER SUPPLY

The main technology options used for water supply improvements in rural areas include deep boreholes (44.7%), shallow wells (23.1%), and protected springs (20.8%). Others include tap stands/kiosks of piped schemes and rainwater harvesting tanks (11.3%).

As of June 2020, the national safe water coverage in rural areas was estimated at 68%. There was a decline from 69% as of June 2019. This was attributed to low reporting of new water sources by districts (47%). The percentage of rural villages with safe water supply increased from 66% in FY 2018/19 to 68%. The functionality for rural water supplies stagnated at 85%.

The overall per capita cost for rural water supplies was **USD 72.6** which was lower than **USD 75** in **FY 2018/19**.

**608** new boreholes were constructed and **1,096** rehabilitated. **57** piped water systems with **587** taps and **90** protected springs were constructed.

**116** rainwater harvesting systems (ferro cement tanks, Plastic tanks and Communal) of 10m<sup>3</sup> were installed.

The percentage of water points with functional water and sanitation committees increased from **89%** in **June 2019** to **90%** in **June 2020**.

## URBAN WATER SUPPLY

The population using an improved drinking water source in urban areas reduced from 79% in June 2019 to 70.5% in June 2020. Access to safely managed water (available on premises) remained at 57.11% in urban areas. 3000 villages in large towns and 534 in small towns were served in FY 2019/20. 67,661 new connections made comprising 5,197 connections made by Umbrella Authorities and 61,246 by NWSC.



**De-forestation remains the major challenge which has led to decline of forest cover from 24% in 1990 to 10% in 2017**





towns as at 30th June 2020, a growth of 2%. Functionality of small towns and rural growth centres piped water supply systems reduced from 94.3% in June 2019 to 81.23%. This decline was as a result of taking over many schemes that were originally not functional at all. In large towns, the average hours of service were 18 hours per day.

Non-Revenue Water (NRW) increased from 30.73% to 33.5% in large towns and from 33% to 37.78% in small towns and RGCs. The average per capita investment cost for the new water facilities was USD57.95 compared to USD 58 in FY 2018/19.

## WATER FOR PRODUCTION

The cumulative WFP storage increased from 41.124 million m<sup>3</sup> in FY 2018/19 to 42.0 million m<sup>3</sup>.

The Ministry has completed construction of four (4) medium scale Irrigation schemes of Olweny in Lira District, Agoro in Lamwo District, Mubuku I in Kasese District and Doho I in Butaleja District. Constructed Sixteen (16) valley tanks in the Districts of Soroti (1), Butebo (1), Kapelebyong (1), Kumi (1), Bukedea (1), Kaabong (1), Kotido (1), Lyantonde (1), Mbarara (2), Butambala (1), Rukungiri (1), Ntungamo (1),

Kyankwanzi (1), Sembabule (1), Bushenyi (1) and expanded one (1) valley tank in Bugiri District by 7,000m<sup>3</sup> creating a water storage capacity of 256,000,000 litres. Constructed fifty eight (58) valley tanks in the Districts of Kiruhura (12), Mbarara (6), Kazo (1), Ntungamo (1), Gomba (1), Sembabule (3), Rakai (1), Lyantonde (9), Mubende (1), Busia (1), Nakapiripirit (1), Nabilatuk (1), Moroto (3), Kotido (5), Kamuli (1), Katakwi (2), Kapelebyong (1), Ngora (1), Amudat (3), Karenga (1), Amuria (1), Kumi (1) and Soroti (1) creating a water storage capacity of 645,000,000 litres. Completed construction of one (1) small scale. Irrigation scheme in Nakaseke District.

Functionality of WFP facilities remained at 87.2% and 88% of WFP facilities had functional management systems compared to 86% in FY 2018/19.

## WATER RESOURCES MANAGEMENT

The average compliance to the permits (surface water, groundwater and waste water discharge) conditions increased to 77.6% from 73% in FY 2018/19. The proportion of water safely treated increased from 28% to 30%.

Status of the lakes and rivers was updated and daily updates provided to the Office of the Prime Minister. The Lake Victoria levels have continued to oscillate above the long-term average of 1134.37 metres above mean sea level (11.48 metres above the local datum) since the end of 2013. Lake Victoria recorded a new highest daily level of 13.49

metres on the afternoon of 19th May 2020.

A total of 629 samples were collected to assess the water quality for rural water sources.

Compliance increased to 67% from 64% in FY 2019/20.

## CROSS CUTTING ISSUES

The percentage of Water Source Committees (WSC) with women holding key positions increased to 86% from 85%.

## CRITICAL ISSUES FOR THE SECTOR

Inadequate financing to the sector remains a major challenge and affects the fulfilment of core functions. Capacity gaps in the sector remains a critical issue particularly in newly created local governments, Umbrella Authorities and the ENR subsector.

Inequity in water service coverage is another critical issue affecting the sector. 17 least served districts with less than 55% coverage require special attention. The majority of these districts fall in the dry cattle corridor with low surface and ground water potential and require expensive technologies like bulk piped water supply.

The revised sector performance measurement framework, 2016 remains not disseminated. With limited support from UNICEF, the ministry produced a guide for computation of the WASH indicators but this also needs widespread dissemination across the Water and Sanitation sub-sector. This is partially responsible for the persistent lack of data (including baselines) on a number of sector performance indicators since FY 2016/17 the first year of implementation of the revised framework.



**The Lake Victoria levels have continued to oscillate above the long-term average of 1134.37 metres above mean sea level (11.48 metres above the local datum) since the end of 2013**

## Water and Environment Sector Performance Indicators

PERFORMANCE INDICATORS (N/A = NOT APPLICABLE, ND= NO DATA)		2015/16	2016/17	2017/18	2018/19	2019/20
<b>WATER SUPPLY</b>						
1. Basic water: Percentage of population using an improved drinking water source	Rural	67%	70%	70%	69%	68%
	Urban	71%	71%	77%	79%	70.5%
2. Safely managed water: Percentage of population using safely managed drinking water services located on premises	Rural	n/a	ND	ND	ND	ND
	Urban	n/a	ND	20%	57.2%	57.11%
3. Percentage of villages with a source of safe water supply	Rural	n/a	64%	66%	66%	68%
	Urban	n/a	ND	ND	ND	ND
4. Percentage of towns with pro-poor facilities where people pay less or equal to the house connection tariff in the service area	STs	n/a	ND	38%	31%	31%
	NWSC	n/a	ND	83%	ND	ND
5. Functionality: rural: % of water sources functional at time of spot-check	Rural	86%	85%	85%	85%	85%
urban: % piped water service availability	STs	n/a	92%	93%	94.3%	81%
	NWSC	n/a	ND	ND	ND	ND
6a. Management - rural: % of water points with actively functioning Water & Sanitation Committees	Rural	87%	88%	89%	89%	90%
6b. Management – piped schemes: % of piped water schemes with formal contract-based management structure	STs	n/a	ND	ND	100%	100%
7a. % Non-revenue water (piped schemes)	STs	n/a	ND	42%	33%	37.78%
	NWSC	28%	31.3%	30.7%	30.73%	33.5%
7b. Customer satisfaction: NSWC 's customer satisfaction index	NWSC	88%	84%	85%	86%	77%
8. Financial Sustainability: Ratio between total revenue collection and O&M costs	STs	n/a	ND	158%	79%	ND
9. Per Capita Investment Cost: Average cost per beneficiary of new water and sanitation schemes [USD]	Rural	32	32	68	75	72.6
	Urban	65.5	54	58	41	57.95
10. Drinking water quality: % of water samples taken that comply with national standards (Point water sources / Piped schemes)	Rural	41%	59%	64%	59%	59%
	STs	n/a	ND	89%	93.3%	91.6%
	NWSC	99%	99.6%	99.3%	99.6%	98%



Sanitation and Hygiene						
11. Basic sanitation: Percentage of population using an improved sanitation facility not shared with other households	Rural	n/a	ND	ND	16.6%	18%
	Urban	n/a	ND	36.3%	42.8%	44.8%
12. Safely managed sanitation: Percentage of population using safely managed sanitation services	Rural	n/a	ND	ND	71%	7%
	Urban	n/a	ND	26%	37.4%	38.9%
13. Open defecation: Percentage of population practicing open defecation	Rural	n/a	ND	8%	22.9%	22%
	Urban	n/a	ND	12.6%	12.1%	12.1%
14. Hand washing: Percentage of population with hand washing facilities with soap and water at home	Rural	36%	37%	36.5%	36%	38%
	Urban	39.1%	40%	39.6%	40%	61.1%
Schools: Percentage of pupils enrolled in schools with basic hand washing facilities	Schools	34%	35%	40%	42%	58%
Water for Production						
15. Cumulative Water for Production Storage Capacity (million m <sup>3</sup> )		37.2	38.9	39.3	41.124	42.025
16a. Irrigation: Proportion of irrigation potential utilized		n/a	ND	ND	ND	ND
17a. Irrigation: Proportion of actual water abstraction to total irrigation water requirement		n/a	ND	ND	ND	ND
Performance Indicators (n/a = not applicable, ND = No Data)		2015/16	2016/17	2017/18	2018/19	2019/20
18. WfP Functionality: % of water for production facilities that are functional at time of spot-check		84%	85%	86.7%	87.2%	87.8%
19. WfP Management: % of water for production facilities with actively functioning Water User Committees		81%	83%	84%	86%	88%
Water Resources Management						
20. Compliance with permit conditions: % of permit holders complying with permit conditions		72%	71%	72%	73%	77.6%
21. Proportion of wastewater safely treated		n/a	ND	ND	28%	30%
22. Proportion of bodies of water with good ambient water quality		n/a	ND	ND	ND	ND

23. Water use efficiency: Gross Value Added by irrigated agriculture per vol. of water used [USD/m <sup>3</sup> ]		n/a	ND	ND	ND	ND
24. Level of water stress: Water withdrawal as a proportion of available water resources		n/a	ND	ND	ND	ND
32. % of districts with functioning early warning systems		n/a	28%	29%	48%	53%

## SECTOR FINANCE

### Overview

**Funding to the sector under the FY 2019/20 is classified into two categories based on source of funding;**

i. On budget Funding (funds that are released from National treasury- MoFPED on a quarterly basis) which are appropriated by Parliament of Uganda to all MDAs including Appropriation in Aid (internally generated funds by MDAs that are spent at source).

ii. Off-budget funding composed funds to the sector that do not go through the National Treasury. These are usually transferred to the sector direct from the funders or spent by Development Partners themselves on behalf of the sector based on agreed workplan, activities and outputs

The section provides a highlight of funding to the sector in relation to the approved budget for the year in question, releases of the approved funds in comparison to utilisation. The section further gives an overview of the various funding sources and their category of expenditures in the sector during the financial year 2019/20.

Funds to the sector are obtained from the Government appropriation through treasury releases to the Ministry, parastatals, agencies and local governments from GoU own collections, Government guaranteed Loans, Grants from development Partners and Civil Society Organizations (CSOs), and the private sector through direct funding and direct implementation in the beneficiary communities.

	Funding Source	Approved Budget (UGX Bn)	Released (UGX Bn)	% of budget Released
On budget	GoU	566.577	451.358	79.7%
	Donor	523.287	287.964	55.0%
	AIA	578.00	391.00	67.6%
Off- Budget	Off- Budget	153.11	77.25	50.5%
Total		1,820.97	1,207.58	66.3%

The sector budget for the FY 2019/20 was UUGX 1,820.97bn (including off-budget) which was less than UGX 1,939.12 in FY 2018/19. The funding sources to the sector include, off-budget funding to the Water and environment activities by CSOs, under the umbrella of UWASNET (for water and sanitation CSOs) and Environmental Alert (for Environment and Natural Resource CSOs), and Appropriation in Aid (funds raised by e NWSC ) and Direct funding by other agencies like UNDP, Denmark and UNICEF.

## NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT PLAN

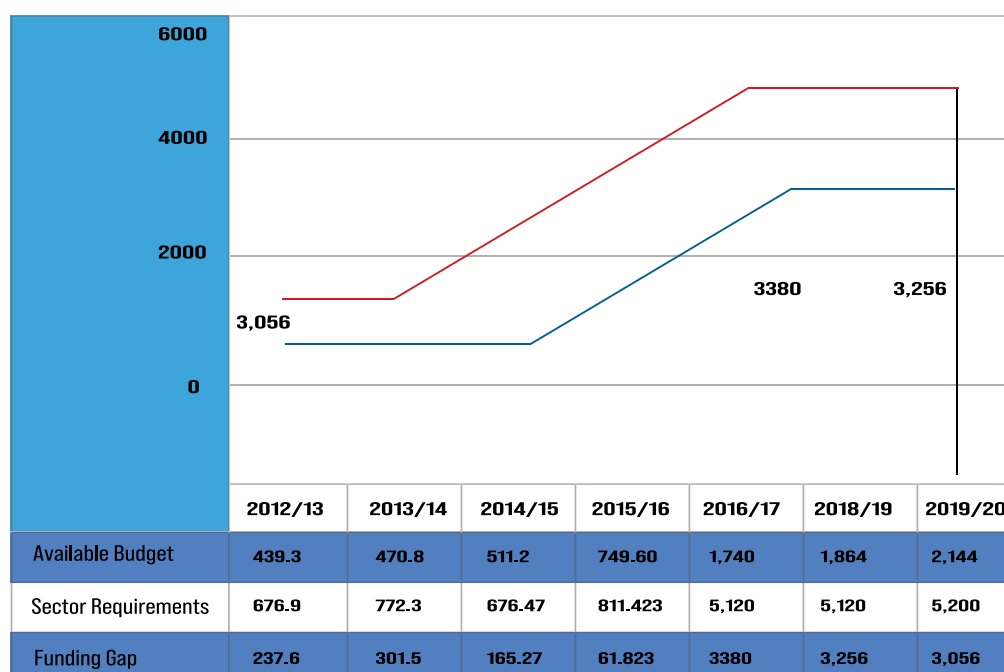
During the FY 2019/20, GoU prepared and submitted the National Development Plan 2020-25 where the water and Environment subsector made contributions to the development plan under chapter 9; Natural Resources, Environment, climate change, land and water management. The sector presented 79 projects to be implemented during the NDP III period at an estimated cost of UGX 13.9trillion.

The sector has an annual financial requirement of approximately UGX 5.10 trillion which will gradually increase to 10 trillion by 2030 if it is to realise its set targets in the sector strategic investment plan (2017) that will take the country to a middle-income status.

The figure 2-2 below shows funding requirement to meet the sector's set goals and the available funding over the 8-year period. Despite the increased allocations to the sector in the medium term, the gaps are increasing due to inadequacies in release of the approved budgets.



## Sector Funding Gap



The funding gap is measured against the actual releases to the sector and the projections set in the strategic sector investment plan 2017-2023. Funding needs to the sector were projected based on the sector targets like infrastructure investment and maintenance requirements, environment and natural resources restoration and management, climate change and weather mapped to the financing trends by the different source of funding to the sector over years by both Government of Uganda and other sector development partners and the private sector. It is no doubt that the sector still requires heavy funding and efficient utilisation of the available resources if it is to deliver on its targets set in NDP III, Vision 2040 and SDGs as well as the NRM Manifesto commitments.

## CSO Financing per subsector (UGX bn)

Sub Sector	Agency	Budget	Release	Spent	% Release
Water supply subsector	UWASNET	145.652	75.1	75.1	48%
Environment and Natural Resources	CSOs	7.45	7.45	7.45	100%
<b>Total</b>		<b>153.102</b>	<b>82.55</b>	<b>82.55</b>	<b>54%</b>

NGOs/CSOs have continued to make significant investments in water supply infrastructure as well as natural resource contributions over years with a total investment of UGX 77.2bn which however, reduced from UGX 105.45bn in the FY 2018/2019. The reasons for reduction were mainly due to the effect of COVID-19 pandemic which affected many outputs and financial sources of the funders. Funds have been invested in financing water supply infrastructure, like drilling of bore holes, piped water supply, sanitation, community management and WASH activities, water for production investment in integrated water resource management, forestry services, wetland management and weather, climatic change activities and other refugee resettlement activities.

## Rural Water Supply

Rural Water Supply and Sanitation Department is the lead department that ensures availability and access to safe and clean water plus hygienic sanitation in rural areas. The Department is tasked to provide water and sanitation infrastructure in all rural communities and is charged with the responsibility of increasing the provision, functionality and effective utilization of existing water facilities. Table 1 shows the categories of existing safe water supply technology as of June 2020.

Furthermore, the Department provides overall technical oversight for the planning, implementation supervision and capacity development and other support services to Local Governments, Private Operators and other service providers for the delivery of rural water and sanitation services across the country.

## Categories of safe water supply technology as of June 2020

Source of Water	Number	No. of persons served	%
Deep Bore hole	41,889	12,566,700	44.7%
Shallow Well	21,616	6,484,800	23.1%
Protected Spring	29,214	5,842,800	20.8%
Tap Stands	20,468	3,070,200	10.9%
Rain Water Harvest Tanks	20,320	121,920	0.4%
	<b>133,507</b>	<b>28,086,420</b>	<b>100.0%</b>

Boreholes remain as the most predominant water supply technology in our rural communities registering an increase from 44.3% in FY 2018/19 to 44.7% in FY 2019/20. The total number of facilities increased from 132,105 in FY 2018/19 to 133,507 in FY 2019/20. Therefore, there was increase by 1,402 from the previous FY and boreholes accounted for 45% of the new facilities constructed.

### Programs and projects for Rural Water Supply and sanitation

The major programs, projects and initiatives under Rural Water Supply and Sanitation Department are;

#### District Water and Sanitation Development Conditional Grants (DWSDCG).

These programmes are implemented through district local governments based on work plans and budgets approved by MWE. The DWSDCG finances construction of water supply and sanitation facilities, community sensitization and mobilization in rural areas. The Six Rural Water and Sanitation Regional Centres (RWSRCs) of MWE provide capacity building, monitoring and technical back-up support to local governments in the implementation of the program. Details of the grant allocation 2019/2020 per district are

shown in Annex.

Achievements under the District Water and Sanitation Development Conditional Grant for FY 2019/20 District Local Governments planned to implement a total of 2,395 water sources (including 1,153 rehabilitated water sources) but achieved a total of 2,029 (84.7%) water sources.

A total of 289,237 persons were served with newly constructed safe water sources. Table 2 below shows the targets and achievements under the DWSDCG.

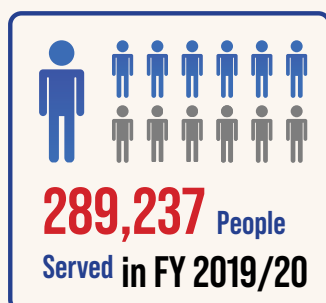
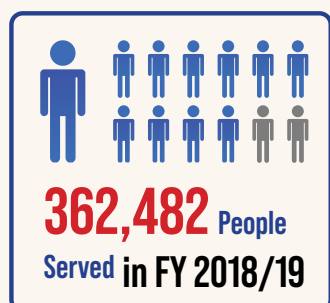
#### Targets and achievements under the DWSDCG for 2018/ 2019

Although there was 100% release of the District Water and Sanitation Conditional Grant (DWSCG) only 108 out of the 134 District Local Government have submitted their reports to Ministry of Water and Environment. Kampala District is excluded as it falls under the Urban area and does not belong in our scope of mandate as a Department to the District Local

Governments (DLGs) by the 3rd Quarter (March 2020), their physical performance was 83% as compared to 91% in FY 2018/19 especially for water supply hardware facilities excluding of design of Piped Water System.

There was a decrease in the number of people served from 362,482 in FY 2018/19 to 289,237 in FY 2019/20 mainly due to 26 DLGs (Adjumani, Gulu, Kitgum, Kole, Kwanja, Madi-Okollo, Obongi, Amuria, Kalaki, Karenga, Kotido, Nakapiripirit, Napak, Ngora, Serere, Buyende, Kayunga, Kween, Manafwa, Kiryandongo, Mukono, Buliisa, Kitagwenda, Lyantonde, Rukiga, Rwampara and Sheema) that did not submit their annual reports translating to UGX 7.2bn (18%) of unaccounted for funds in FY 2019/20.

The decrease in the number of people served was exacerbated by the creation of new 4 districts namely Madi Okollo, Kalaki, Karenga and Kitagwenda; and the outbreak of COVID-19 that has affected the implementation of planned



**UGX 7.2bn (18%)**  
of unaccounted for funds  
in FY 2019/20



## LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

<b>ACCRA</b>	Africa Climate Change Resilience Alliance
<b>ADB</b>	African Development Bank
<b>BFP</b>	Budget Framework Paper
<b>BOD</b>	Biological Oxygen Demand
<b>BoP</b>	Best operational Practices
<b>CBO</b>	Community Based Organisation
<b>CBMS</b>	Community Based Maintenance System
<b>CCU</b>	Climate Change Unit
<b>CDD</b>	Community-Driven Development sub-project
<b>CDM</b>	Clean Development Mechanism
<b>CFA</b>	Cooperative Framework Agreement
<b>CFR</b>	Central Forest Reserves
<b>CLTS</b>	Community Led Total Sanitation
<b>CMO</b>	Catchment Management Organisation
<b>CSO</b>	Civil Society Organisation
<b>DESS</b>	Department of Environment Services
<b>DHI</b>	District Health Inspector
<b>DLG</b>	District Local Government
<b>DP</b>	Development Partner
<b>DWAP</b>	District Wetland Action Plan
<b>DWD</b>	Directorate of Water Development
<b>DWO</b>	District Water Office (r)
<b>DWRM</b>	Directorate of Water Resources Management
<b>DWSCC</b>	District Water and Sanitation Coordination Committee
<b>DWSDCG</b>	District Water and Sanitation Development Conditional Grant
<b>EAC</b>	East African Community
<b>EC</b>	European Commission
<b>EHD</b>	Environment Health Division (of Ministry of Health)
<b>EIS</b>	Environmental Impact Statement
<b>ENR</b>	Environment and Natural Resources
<b>EPPU</b>	Environment Protection Police Unit
<b>FAO</b>	Food and Agricultural Organisation
<b>FGD</b>	Focus Group Discussion
<b>FIEFOC</b>	Farm Income and Enhancement and Forestry Conservation
<b>FMP</b>	Forest Management Plans
<b>FO</b>	Forest Officers
<b>FSSD</b>	Forestry Sector Support department
<b>FY</b>	Financial Year
<b>GEF</b>	Global Environmental Facility
<b>GFS</b>	Gravity Flow Scheme
<b>GIZ</b>	Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit
<b>GGAP</b>	Good Governance Action Plan

<b>GGDS</b>	Green Growth Development Strategy
<b>GGWG</b>	Good Governance sub-sector Working Group
<b>GIS</b>	Geographical Information System
<b>GoU</b>	Government of Uganda
<b>ha</b>	Hectares
<b>HIC</b>	Home Improvement Campaigns
<b>HIP</b>	Hygiene Improvement Programme
<b>HIV/AIDS</b>	Human immunodeficiency virus / acquired immunodeficiency syndrome
<b>HPM</b>	Hand Pump Mechanic
<b>HPMA</b>	Hand Pump Mechanic Association
<b>HWF</b>	Hand Washing Facility
<b>ICT</b>	Information Communication Technology
<b>IDAMC</b>	Internally Delegated Area Management Contract
<b>IDP</b>	Internally Displaced Persons
<b>IGAD</b>	Intergovernmental Authority on Development
<b>ISDP</b>	Infrastructure Service Delivery Plan
<b>ISH</b>	Integrated Sanitation and Hygiene
<b>INDC</b>	Intended Nationally Determined Contributions
<b>JAF</b>	Joint Assessment Framework
<b>JBSF</b>	Joint Budget Support Framework
<b>JPF</b>	Joint Partnership Fund
<b>JSR</b>	Joint Sector Review
<b>JWESSP</b>	Joint Water and Environment Sector Support Programme (2013– 2018)
<b>KCCA</b>	Kampala City Council Authority
<b>KfW</b>	Kreditanstalt für Wiederaufbau
<b>KP</b>	Kyoto Protocol
<b>KPI</b>	Key Performance Indicators
<b>LG</b>	Local Government
<b>LGDP</b>	Local Government Development Programme
<b>LVEMP</b>	Lake Victoria Environmental Management Project
<b>LVWATSAN</b>	Lake Victoria Water and Sanitation Initiative
<b>M&amp;E</b>	Monitoring and evaluation
<b>MAAIF</b>	Ministry of Agriculture, Animal Industry and Fisheries
<b>MIS</b>	Management Information System
<b>MoEMD</b>	Ministry of Energy and Mineral Development
<b>MOES</b>	Ministry of Education and Sports
<b>MoFPED</b>	Ministry of Finance, Planning and Economic Development
<b>MoGLSD</b>	Ministry of Gender Labour and Social Development
<b>MoH</b>	Ministry of Health
<b>MoLG</b>	Ministry of Local Government
<b>MoLHUD</b>	Ministry of Lands Housing and Urban Development
<b>MoTTI</b>	Ministry of Tourism, Trade and Industry
<b>MoU</b>	Memorandum of Understanding
<b>MUCCRI</b>	Makerere University Centre for Climate Change Research and Innovations
<b>MTEF</b>	Medium Term Expenditure Framework
<b>MWE</b>	Ministry of Water and Environment



<b>MRV</b>	Measuring, Reporting and Verification
<b>NAADS</b>	National Agricultural Advisory Services
<b>NAPA</b>	National Adaptation Programme of Action
<b>NAMA</b>	Nationally Appropriate Mitigation Actions
<b>NBI</b>	Nile Basin Initiative
<b>NDP</b>	National Development Plan
<b>NEA</b>	National Environment Act
<b>NEC</b>	National Environment Council
<b>NEMA</b>	National Environment Management Authority
<b>NEMP</b>	National Environmental Management Policy
<b>NFA</b>	National Forestry Authority
<b>NGOs</b>	Non-Government Organisations
<b>NPHC</b>	National Population and Housing Census
<b>NPV</b>	Net Present Value
<b>NRW</b>	Non-Revenue Water
<b>NSDS</b>	National Service Delivery Survey
<b>NSOER</b>	National State of Environment Report
<b>NSWG</b>	National Sanitation Working Group
<b>NWIS</b>	National Wetland Information System
<b>NWSC</b>	National Water and Sewerage Cooperation
<b>NWQRL</b>	National Water Quality Reference Laboratory
<b>O&amp;M</b>	Operation and Maintenance
<b>OBA</b>	Output Based Aid
<b>ODF</b>	Open Defecation Free
<b>PAF</b>	Poverty Action plan
<b>PEAP</b>	Poverty Eradication Action Plan
<b>PES</b>	Payment for Ecosystem Services
<b>PHAST</b>	Participatory Hygiene and Sanitation Transformation
<b>PMF</b>	Performance Measurement Framework
<b>PPDA</b>	Public Procurement and Disposal of Assets Authority
<b>PPEA</b>	Participating Poverty Environment Assessment
<b>PPD</b>	Policy and Planning Department
<b>PPP</b>	Public Private Partnership
<b>PSP</b>	Public Stand Post
<b>PRT</b>	Performance Review Team
<b>PWD</b>	Person(s) with disabilities
<b>PWP</b>	Public water points
<b>REDD</b>	Reducing Carbon Emissions from Forest destruction and Degradation
<b>RG</b>	Rural Growth Centre
<b>R-PP</b>	Readiness Preparation Proposal
<b>RWHT</b>	Rain Water Harvesting Tank
<b>RWSS</b>	Rural Water Supply and Sanitation
<b>RWT</b>	Rain Water Tank
<b>SIM</b>	Sector Investment Model
<b>SIP</b>	Sector Investment Plan
<b>SPGS</b>	Saw log Production Scheme

<b>SPR</b>	Sector Performance Report
<b>SSIP</b>	Sector Strategic Investment Plan
<b>STWSS</b>	Small Towns Water and Sanitation
<b>SWAp</b>	Sector Wide Approach
<b>SWC</b>	Soil and Water Conservation
<b>SWG</b>	Sector Working Group
<b>SWSSB</b>	Sub-county Water Supply and Sanitation Boards
<b>TA</b>	Technical Assistance
<b>ToR</b>	Terms of Reference
<b>TSS</b>	Total Suspended Solids
<b>TSU</b>	Technical Support Unit
<b>UBOS</b>	Uganda Bureau of Statistics
<b>UfW</b>	Unaccounted for Water
<b>UGX</b>	Uganda Shillings
<b>UIA</b>	Uganda Investment Authority
<b>ULGA</b>	Uganda Local Governments Association
<b>UN</b>	United Nations
<b>UNMA</b>	Uganda National Meteorological Authority
<b>UNDP</b>	United Nations Development Programme
<b>UNFCCC</b>	United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change
<b>UNICEF</b>	United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund
<b>UPHC</b>	Uganda Population and Housing Census
<b>USAID</b>	United States Agency for International Development
<b>UWASNET</b>	Uganda Water and Sanitation NGO Network
<b>UWSS</b>	Urban Water Supply and Sanitation
<b>VCT</b>	Voluntary Counselling and Testing
<b>VfM</b>	Value for Money
<b>VHT</b>	Village Health Team
<b>VIP</b>	Ventilated Improved Pit
<b>VT</b>	Valley Tank
<b>WAG</b>	Wetland Advisory Group
<b>WAP</b>	Wetland Action Planning
<b>WASH</b>	Water, Sanitation and Hygiene
<b>WED</b>	World Environment Day
<b>WfP</b>	Water for Production
<b>WMD</b>	Wetland Management Department
<b>WMZ</b>	Water Management Zones
<b>WPC</b>	Water Policy Committee
<b>WQ</b>	Water Quality
<b>WRM</b>	Water Resources Management
<b>WSDF</b>	Water and Sanitation Development Facility
<b>WSP</b>	Water and Sanitation Programme
<b>WSS</b>	Water Supply and Sanitation
<b>WSSWG</b>	Water and Sanitation Sector Working Group
<b>WUC</b>	Water User Committee
<b>WURD</b>	Water Utility Regulation Department



# PRIORITISATION OF WATER, SANITATION AND HYGIENE (WASH) IS THE FIRST DEFENCE AGAINST COVID-19 AND OTHER RELATED DISEASES.

## INVESTMENT IN WASH IS CRITICAL IN AVERTING THE SITUATION



### Introduction

World Health Organization (WHO) advice underscores the importance of WASH in minimizing the spread of COVID-19. Uganda Demographic Health Survey (UDHS 2016), poor WASH in Health Care Facilities (HCFs) contributes to the daily death of 15 mothers during childbirth (UDHS, 2016) and about 31% of all neonatal deaths in Uganda are attributed to sepsis-related to poor WASH in HCFs.

### Status of WASH Service Delivery

► **22 MILLION**

People lack access to safely managed drinking water in Uganda

► **8/10 HOUSEHOLDS**

in terms of Sanitation, In Uganda don't have an improved toilet

► **22%**

Of the population practice Open defecation (OD)

► **ONLY 42%**

Of the schools have access to hand washing facilities

- School sanitation does not meet the recommended standards with pupil latrine stance ratio at 71:1 against the standard of 40:1
- Hand washing with soap is at 36% in rural areas, and 40% in urban areas.



### Progress in ensuring access to clean water and sanitation in Uganda

- Sectors mandated to provide WASH services including but not limited to.
- Ministry of Water and Environment
- Ministry of Education and Sports
- Ministry of Local Government

Have tried but with constraint.

### Clean drinking water, improved sanitation and good hygiene practices are;

- Life sustaining and plays an important role in maintaining public health.
- WASH (Water Sanitation and Hygiene) is a necessity to reduce the spread of Covid 19.
- Poor WASH in Health Care Facilities (HCFs) contributes to the daily death of 15 mothers during child birth (UDHS,2016) and about 31% of all neonatal deaths in Uganda are attributed to sepsis-related to poor WASH in HCFs.



### CHALLENGES TO SUSTAINABLE SAFE WASH SERVICES

- I. Underfunding (allocated only 3% of national budget)
- II. The sector needs 9 times the current financing annually
- III. Increase in annual population growth -3%
- IV. Aging of current water infrastructure
- V. Large influx of refugees- 1.4m
- VI. Rapid annual urban population growth of 5.9%
- VII. The Current budget only caters for population growth
- VIII. National Water and Sewerage Corporation (NWSC) and Umbrella Authorities (UAs) continue to provide WASH services irrespective of the bill status and this is affecting the agencies with revenue loss of 76% and 92% for National Water and Sewerage Corporation and Umbrella Authorities respectively.





## CURRENT EFFORTS BY GOVERNMENT AND OTHER PLAYERS

- The Ministry of Water and Environment developed a yet to be funded response plan estimated at **UGX 138.72 Billion (US\$36.51m)** for a period of 8-10 months with the objective of enhancing prevention and building community resilience against COVID 19.
- **111CSOs** working in the Water supply and Sanitation had undertaken Wash COVID 19 interventions in 108 districts out of **135 districts** in Uganda.

## CONTRIBUTION OF CSOs TO SECTOR TARGETS

CSOs have been essential in providing WASG services during Covid 19 pandemic through;

- Providing WASH commodities and PPEs (Persona Protection Equipment) to the vulnerable communities.
- Contributions to the districts Covid 19 task Forces
- Media sensitization, advocacy and documenting key WASH issues and sharing them on social media and electronic media.

## WHAT DO WE WANT GOVERNMENT AND OTHER STAKEHOLDERS TO DO?

### Ministry of Finance, Planning and Economic Development

#### Short term

- Providing additional funding to the Water and Environment sector in order to build resilience and prevent future pandemics like Covid-19
- Provide adequate support to Water and Sanitation utilities to ensure continuity of Water Supply.

#### Long term

- Allocate more funding to the sector to enable it achieve sector goals.



## Ministry of Water and Environment (MWE)

### Short term

- The Ministry of Water and Environment (MWE) should undertake rehabilitation of non-functional water sources such as boreholes and shallow wells.
- The Ministry of Water and Environment (MWE) should undertake network extensions, construct bigger storage facilities, promote rainwater harvesting technologies, and undertake solar mini piped systems.
- Utilities such as National Water and Sewerage Corporation and Umbrella Authorities (UAs) should for the next 6 months waive tariff.

### Long term

- New piped systems should be implemented as a preferred technology
- MWE Should strengthen coordination and collaboration of the different stakeholders in WASH.

## Development Partners

### Short term

- Provide rapid, flexible funding and technical assistance to Ministry of Water and Environment (MWE) and other agencies responsible for providing the much-needed WASH services.

### Long term

- Embrace partnership to implement programs at scale. E.g. piped water schemes, solar powered schemes among others.

## Ministry of Health (MoH)

### Short term

- MoH should continue large-scale nationwide hygiene promotion campaigns that focus on the importance of hand washing with soap.

### Long term

- Ministry of Health should increase resource allocation to Vote 0881 (Primary Health Care and Sanitation Services grant), specifically under Transitional Development.
- Sensitization of communities on safe disposal of solid waste including masks and promote circular economy.

## Parliament of Uganda

### Short term

- Parliament should priorities WASH approving supplementary budgets to enable increased coverage of WASH facilities.

### Long term

- Parliament should increase budget allocation to the MWE sector as recommended in the MWE sector investment plan (2018-2030).
- Parliament to intensify its oversight role to ensure value for money allocated to the sector.

## Civil Society Organization (CSO) commitment

- The Civil Society Organization under the UWASNET Umbrella will continue to assist government in the identification of vulnerable communities.
- Where possible, CSOs will undertake infrastructure development, operation and maintenance, sanitation and hygiene promotion, provision of Personal Protection Equipment (PPEs) and participate in national and district coordination efforts.







# WASH in the City:

## Boys never notice that girls are in periods

**Menstral hygiene has become a general concern among many early learners. However, the schools sampled in Kampala indicate that boys never notice when the girls become 'red'.**

**O**n top of telling us that girls are trained to keep their periods a top secret from boys, the Kireka Grammar Day and Boarding Primary School deputy head teacher has advised students to wash hands to avoid contracting COVID-19.

Kevin Apolot, the school's in charge of administration, said they have put in place washing facilities for children because of COVID-19.

"We encourage pupils to wash their hands before and after using toilets and eating food," she said.

Apolot disclosed that they have flush toilets, wash rooms and dormitories for girls in boarding and day.

She added that the school gets water from taps, boreholes and rainwater tanks.

Tasked to explain how boys treat girls during menstrual period, Apolot said the girls are trained to take care

of themselves, adding that they do not mess themselves in class in the presence of boys.

The head teacher of Umea Primary School, Madde Makubuya, said their boys are too young to harass girls during menstrual period and that the girls are trained how to take care of themselves.

She said senior women teachers in the school also helps the pupils in case they are stranded.

Makubuya also said when new pupils join school; they first teach them how to wash hands due to COVID-19.

### Parents

The school teachers have implored parents to impart basic skills and knowledge to children from home.

"Since charity begins at home, parents should train their children so that they come to school with basic skills," Makubuya advised.



Using temperature guns at school

**“The girls are trained to take care of themselves, adding that they do not mess themselves in class in the presence of boys.**



St Mary's Kisubi photo credit new vision

## WASH at health centres

Dr. Alex Kizito said at Mengo Hospital, they have water stands in different departments to keep water flowing in case of any scarcity.

He said the washrooms in their health centre are fine and they are in a commendable good hygienic state and well maintained.

"We employ a company to clean wash rooms in my health centre," he revealed.

Kizito added that water in the hospital is outsourced because there is a company that supplies water in their tanks in the hospital.

He added that they use communal water from National Water and Sewerage Cooperation if the company does not provide.

He, however, said that the hospital faces challenges of sanitation and hygiene. "Most clients come to the health facility and leave the toilets dirty."

He, therefore, suggested that patients go through health education.

"We deal with clients from different parts of the world, Uganda being a multi-cultural state with about 52 languages. It is hard to get a common language for all clients," he asserted.

According to Kizito, writings are pinned in areas, where hygiene is most sensitive like in toilets and washrooms.

He said large volume tanks like very many liters can help to avoid those instances like health risks to all health centres.

## Recent study

A recent study (2020) around Kampala indicated that improved WASH in healthcare facilities (HCFs) is of significant public health importance.

The study done in November last year, was titled, Assessment of water, sanitation and hygiene service availability in healthcare facilities in the greater Kampala metropolitan area, Uganda.

"It is associated with a reduction in the transmission of healthcare acquired infections (HAIs), increased trust and uptake of healthcare services, cost saving from infections averted, increased efficiency and improved staff morale," the study said.

However, despite these benefits, there is limited evidence on availability of WASH services in health facilities in the Greater Kampala Metropolitan Area.

## Statistics

Results indicated that overall, 84.5% (49/58) and 12.1% (7/58) of health centres had limited and basic WASH service respectively.

Furthermore, about 48.3% (28/58) had limited water service, 84.5% (49/58) had limited sanitation service, 50.0% (29/58) had limited environmental cleanliness service, 56.9% (33/58) had limited hand hygiene service, and 51.7% (30/58) had limited waste management service.

About 94.4% of public HCFs had limited WASH service compared to only 68.2% of private not for profit facilities. More health centre IIIs, 92.5% and health centre IVs (85.7%) had limited WASH service compared to hospitals (54.5%).



A girl washing hands at aborehole



# Pakwach authorities hail impact of Alwi water project despite enormous challenges



vandalise property under the Andibo dam scheme.

However, disagreements still exist between the authorities and the locals on the mode of usage of the piped water schemes across the district. Whereas some locals want free connections, authorities have insisted that a fee must be paid before one is connected.

Mr Eric Onega, the Pakia water user committee chairperson in Panyango sub-county, said the Government should totally connect all the families for free and even further subsidise the price of water.

**PAKWACH:** Authorities in Pakwach have hailed the impact of the Alwi water project in improving the general coverage of the district despite years of challenges that dragged the project.

In 2015, the government injected sh25b in the Alwi dry corridor water project in an effort to improve access to water in the 10 sub-counties of the then Nebbi district that included Jonam County.

Two years later, Jonam County would be upgraded to a district status and renamed Pakwach. However, the district as was the case under Nebbi, continued to face serious water shortages in some of the sub-counties pending the completion of Alwi piped water scheme.

The project was heavily criticised by locals and their leaders alike, with many calling on National Water and Sewerage Corporation (NWSC) to take over management from northern umbrella of water and sanitation, a support structure developed for operation and maintenance support of rural growth centres and small towns piped water supply and sanitation schemes under the Ministry of Water and Environment.

Some of the locals threatened to vandalise the pipes in protest because their high expectations of receiving water were not met and yet the project was said to have been completed. At some water points in towns such as Parombo with the highest water scarcity, a 20-litre Jerrycan of water (from unsafe sources) would go for shs1,000.

Fast-forward to 2021, the tides have changed according to the district water officer, Ben Okwai, with water coverage as high as 75% in the district.

Much of the success in the water sector has been attributed to the Alwi project that covers the sub-counties of Alwi, Panyimur and Wedelai.

Responding to the earlier management setbacks, Okwai said the district had instituted village water committees to manage the piped water project to mitigate the earlier challenges.

However, despite the rosy picture painted, Okwai was quick to admit that many locals were still suffering adverse effects of water shortage. The worst-hit subcounties include Pakwach, Pokwero, and Ragem.

He said the poor budgetary allocation to the water sector for rehabilitation of the 27 broken boreholes in Panyango and Wedelai dealt a heavy blow in their efforts.

"In the last financial year, we received meager funds and this greatly hampered our plans of attaining a greater water coverage," Okwai said.

"Many boreholes are down and those we tried rehabilitating, their water is all yellowish due to the rust of pipes, now the water users have shunned them," he added.

Besides rehabilitation, Okwai said the district needs to allocate funds for sensitisation of local communities for effective mindset change. This, he said, will help to avert vandalism, especially in Panyango where locals continue to

"The people are willing to connect the water in their homes but in our meetings with them what continuously keeps coming as a main concern is the price of connection and unreliability of the water. But for the boreholes, they have complained about the salty taste," Onega said.

Hellen Adiga, a teacher at Owiny Primary School in Pokwero sub-county, said the district should clearly explain the mode of water usage so that locals understand their stake.

Large parts of the district were ravaged by floods in 2020, thereby displacing over 10,000 locals at the climax with many seeking refuge in churches and nearby schools.

Many toilets and water sources were destroyed, with fears that hygiene-related diseases would easily breakout in the affected communities.

To date, open defecation still remains a big challenge yet many communities continue to rely on open water sources for their water needs, according to local authorizes.

"In the corridors, open defecation is still rampant and this is worst during the rainy season and yet many communities still consume water from the river," said Ms Judith Kigezi, the Pakwach town council health inspector, adding that something needs to be done urgently to change the habit.

**“Many boreholes are down and those we tried rehabilitating, their water is all yellowish due to the rust of pipes”**





PENTECOSTAL ASSEMBLIES  
OF GOD - UGANDA

# How the PAG Church has empowered West Nile villages to access clean water

**ARUA:** A brief experience in the wild off the Ushindi Secondary School junction on Odianyadri-Logiri Road in Vurra sub-county negotiating through the hilly topography ushers one to a totally remote Lumara village in Anzu Parish.

**E**lderly Grace Lekuru, a resident of the village, was one the first persons to welcome our team whose arrival seemed to have surprised many locals. The emotions and passion with which she spoke would easily draw one's attention.

"Our lives have changed; we are no longer suffering. We can't thank God enough for the love He has given to us through His people. I don't know how else to say it but may He reward you all in abundance," teary Lekuru said as she welcomed the team. I would later, as a first timer in the village, discover that her endless words of gratitude were in relation to a borehole project that had benefitted the village, thereby rescuing them from the dirty water they had used for long.

Indeed, the villagers quickly gathered at the sight and sound of the double-cabin vehicle parked under one big tree that I was later told was being used as the community church in the absence of a building.

Braving the scorching heat from the sun, they all rushed to have a glimpse of the strangers who had entered their community.

This vast village, about 5km from the nearest main road, has been cut off from social services. The nearest hospital, Kuluva, a private entity, is about 10km away. But due to lack of an access road, any patient or woman in labour would either be carried by strong men on improvised wooden beds or took the risk of giving birth at home.

The nearest school, Anzu Primary School, is nearly 6km away but with the challenge of access compounding the long distance, many children often stay home without any formal education.

However, the residents' biggest challenge has been the lack of access to safe water, with the villagers only relying on the nearby stream that they shared with animals.

This was the general state of affairs for the Lumara people until the Pentecostal Assemblies of God (PAG) - through the help of Romanian Missionaries - under their humanitarian arm intervened.

**"Our approach as a church is to provide a holistic ministry caring for both the physical and spiritual needs of the people we encounter. Therefore, working with the local government structures, we identify the remotest communities in dire need," said Moses Tumwesigye, the lead pastor at Arua City Church under PAG.**

Pastor Tumwesigye said they had to lobby for additional funds to first construct an access road and a bridge on River Murule before the borehole project could be effected. The villagers had only relied on the narrow paths and unreliable temporary bridges unsuitable for vehicles before this intervention.



*Our lives have changed; we are no longer suffering. We can't thank God enough for the love He has given to us through His people. I don't know how else to say it but may He reward you all in abundance," teary Lekuru*



Women from Lumara village can afford a smile, thanks to the borehole construction



Nearly two years down the road, the community had totally changed, their borehole was efficient and through a committee set up to manage the affairs with Romano Madira as chairman, the dream of clean safe water was now a reality.

The borehole was being guarded jealously to avert a return to the old dark days of unsafe water. "In order to generate funds for any eventual breakdown, we agreed that as committee members, we pay sh3,000 while every homestead that uses the borehole pays sh1,000 every month," Chairman Madira narrates.

With these funds available, the committee is able to undertake any minor repairs and ensure that their prized asset is kept in good condition. Other members are charged with maintaining cleanliness around the borehole and ensuring security.

This holistic approach to their Church ministry by PAG has been replicated in three other villages in Aroi sub-county, Ayivu County (new Arua City). A borehole and a church each in the villages of Kupuru, Panduru and Ojepi nearly with similar challenges as Lumara have changed the lives of the communities.

"We used to get water from very far. I remember accidentally throwing my jerrycan on the way home and yet sometimes they would first ask us to pay sh500 before you can fetch the water," Sylvia Liru, an elderly woman in Ojepi village, recalls.

Mr Lazoro Mulago, the village chairperson of Kupuru, says before the borehole project, women from his village and other surrounding places in Alivu parish used to walk long distances to the neighboring Aliba parish in search of clean water, thereby spending long hours on the way.

He says at the peak of the dry season, many residents slept out in the cold waiting for their turn in the queue to get a few jerrycans filled. However, just like the case in Lumara village, these other villages now breathed a sigh of relief after the boreholes were drilled.



Happy villagers from Ojepi village, Aroi Sub County pose with Pastor Tumwesigye of PAG Church

"We had a lot of problems with our health because of lack of access to clean, safe water but so much has now changed. We have better health and women spend less time fetching water," says Emmanuel Ecou, a youth in Panduru village.

### Next plans

Moses Bradean, one of the Romanian missionaries in Uganda since 2017 attached to the PAG ministry, says the holistic approach of meeting both the physical and spiritual needs of the communities will continue as long as resources can permit.

"As we continue to evangelise and baptise with the help of PAG, we will always, step-by-step, try to improve the quality of life of the people because they have many problems.

"We are very happy that our churches in Romania and here in Uganda have collectively created some impact in the communities wherever we've been," Bradean says. Pastor Tumwesigye says they will, as a church, try to meet the physical needs of the community and use their humanitarian work as a means of preaching the gospel.

"We are here to preach the gospel and as God provides the resources, we shall do what we can but the needs are many," Tumwesigye says. For the beneficiary communities, the challenges are nearly similar,



Lumara village can now be accessed by road thanks to PAG



Mr Bradean has promised to continue supporting the physical needs of the local communities

bad roads, very distant health centres, schools and other social amenities. They have appealed to the Government to provide these services so that the quality of life is further improved.

"We are now hoping that the Government will give us a school and a medical centre because all our children still have to travel long distances to access these services," Micheal Olema, one of the residents in Panduru village, stated. According to a 2020 ACODE report, access to clean water in the greater Arua (Terego, Arua City, Arua district) stood at 77%.

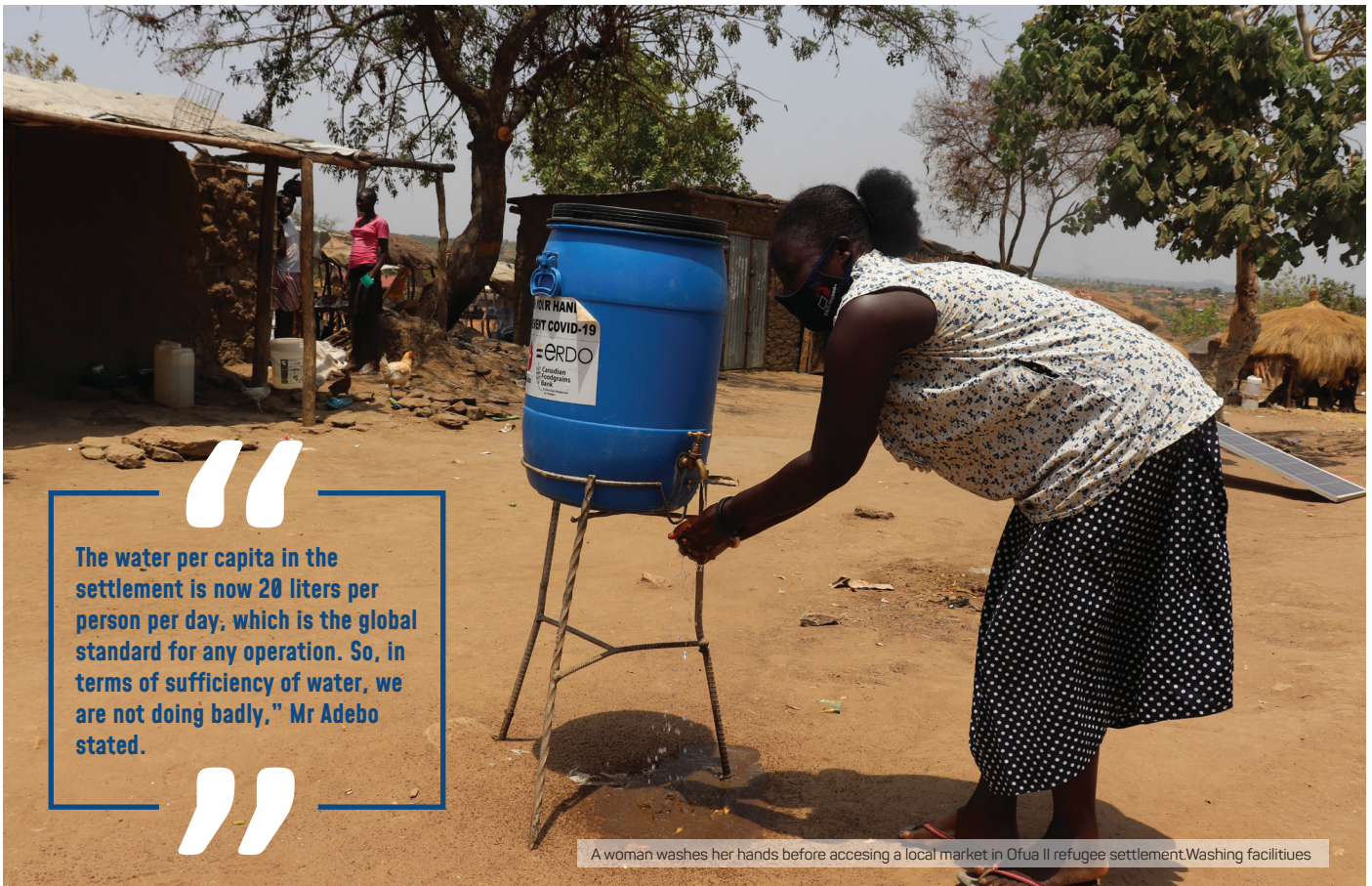
**The district water sector expects to receive only shs 2,675,057,000 for the FY2020/21, a 46% fall from the shs 4,939,478,000 for the FY 2019/20 largely due to the relocation of external funds under UNICEF to the Health sector.**

**"We are here to preach the gospel and as God provides the resources, we shall do what we can but the needs are many," Tumwesigye says.**



# Water sufficiency in refugee settlements a success factor in COVID fight – OPM

**TEREGO DISTRICT:** Sufficiency of water in the Rhino Camp Refugee Settlement in West Nile has been outlined as one key factor for the successful fight against the COVID-19 pandemic. Despite the earlier wobble and anxiety at the onset of the virus in the country that affected particularly some of the humanitarian workers, the refugee population largely sailed through without any serious infections.



“The water per capita in the settlement is now 20 liters per person per day, which is the global standard for any operation. So, in terms of sufficiency of water, we are not doing badly,” Mr Adebo stated.

A woman washes her hands before accessing a local market in Ofua II refugee settlement. Washing facilities

**M**r Ben Adebo, the assistant camp commandant of Rhino Camp under the Office of the Prime Minister (OPM), said the fight has largely been successful because of the sufficient availability of water and the concerted efforts of the implementing partners in the area of water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH).

“The water per capita in the settlement is now 20 liters per person per day, which is the global standard for any operation. So, in terms of sufficiency of water, we are not doing badly,” Mr Adebo stated.

He said the sufficiency of water in Rhino Camp is only affected by the water table that is lower during the long dry spells but not enough to disrupt the response against COVID-19 in the refugee hosting areas.

Mr Gift Peter, the refugee welfare council (RWC I) Chairperson for Ofua II in Rhino Camp, attributed the success of the COVID-19 fight to timely response of implementing partners and the unity of local leaders in sensitisation of the refugee population.

He singled out the church-based Pentecostal Assemblies of God (PAG) for their quick response after the outbreak was reported.

“PAG was our first partner in this fight with training and awareness creation. They provided some handwashing facilities and temperature guns that came in timely. We placed some of the handwashing facilities at market places and some at offices so that the risk for the general public could be reduced,” Mr Gift explained. This, he said, was before embarking on door-to-door sensitisation of the communities together with hygiene promoters and village health teams (VHTs).





Mr Gift Peter washes his hands before accessing his office



Mr Adebo the OPM assistant Commandant for Rhino Camp, during the interview

## Refugee leaders call for sustained efforts in WASH

Despite the largely successful campaign in the fight against COVID-19, refugee leaders have called on partners to maintain their efforts in the face of growing complacency.

Ms Betty Small, a VHT, said many handwashing facilities had broken down due to excessive sun heat and some people had improvised used-up cooking oil jerrycans for handwashing but other necessities such as soap and hand sanitisers were lacking.

She also noted that the populace had become skeptical and complacent about the existence of the virus, with many labelling it politics but not a reality due to the constant misinformation and speculation in different media platforms.

Adebo said the Government through the Office of the Prime Minister was very happy with the efforts of the implementing partners so far but was quick to urge them to continue funding their COVID-19 programmes because the “fight is still on”.

“Currently, the issue is now complacency among the communities in following the standard operating procedures (SOPs). Much as partners have given these facilities, most of them are not put to use. Therefore, my appeal to the partners is to continue with sensitisation of communities so that they don’t relax in following the SOPs,” he implored.

In response to the request for sustained efforts, Mr Moses Shesmond Esalu, the emergency coordinator of PAG, said the organization would continue supporting interventions towards the fight against COVID-19.

Asked how they specifically intend to deal with complacency, he said they, as an organization, want to lead by example in following the SOPs in all their operations.

“Of course, we know it’s not easy to convince someone who doesn’t believe the great danger posed by the pandemic but the people are aware about the disease. We believe we shall be able to use that as a basis to continue sensitization and influence uptake and adherence to the guidelines,” he said.

“So, we believe that we shall keep the momentum on and that they will continue with the same spirit and eventually the vaccination. We shall be at the lead in implementing the SOPs so that they copy from us,” Esalu added.

Rhino camp settlement has a population of 102,577 refugees mainly from South Sudan spread across the seven zones of Ofua, Omugo, Ocea, Siripi, Tika, Odobu and Eden as of March 31, 2019.



***Currently, the issue is complacency among the communities in following the standard operating procedures (SOPs).***





**OXFAM**



Children at Rwamwanja refugee camp in Kamwenge district, Western Uganda enjoy water from an ATM machine. Photo by Felix Basiime

## **OXFAM IS DELIVERING WATER, SANITATION AND HYGIENE (WASH) SERVICES TO REFUGEES IN SOUTH WESTERN UGANDA.**

BY DORAH NTUNGA AND VINCENT OGIRA

### **Water ATMs, delivering inclusive water access in refugees Settlements.**

**A**ccess to water is one of the significant challenges that refugee settlements in Uganda grapple with. Even when water sources are available, they are far and often not convenient for groups such as people living with disabilities, the elderly and women who shoulder the most significant burden of care work.

Agencies like Oxfam and UNHCR have recognised this challenge. They are piloting innovations in various refugee settlements to make access to water reliable and inclusive. One of their recent pilots is the innovative automated water system. Water ATM, as commonly known, is a prepaid water dispenser that provides refugees and their host communities reliable and clean water twenty-four hours a day at an affordable fee. The Water ATMs are connected to existing water supply network managed by Oxfam in Kyaka and National Water and Sewerage Corporation (NWSC) in Rwamwanja.

In two refugee settlements of Rwamwanja and Kyaka II in South Western Uganda, Oxfam, with funding from its humanitarian innovation fund, has installed 30 water ATMs benefiting an estimated population of 10,000 refugees and their host communities.



According to Mr. Ambayo Okudi, the Public Health Engineering Officer at Oxfam, the physical ATM structures are fifteen, with ten in Kyaka II and five in Rwamwanja. Each ATM has two tap stands, giving thirty in total.

Water is accessed through a paid token that is issued to each household. The token is used to dispense only a certain quantity of water per day. To ensure that all refugees including the most vulnerable can access water, the bills are paid by UNHCR only for refugees.

The automated systems have since shortened the distance to access water as they are within reach of the refugee vicinity. Access to safe water has been significantly improved, especially for the people living with disability, the elderly, and women. They can fetch water whenever they want it without worrying about queuing up or walking long distances.

The system allows for flexibility, better planning and minimises wastage. People can fetch water at their convenience and just enough water for their families. Chances of spillage are minimal as water only runs when a token is inserted. The token credits can only be spent on the water so the money cannot be stolen or misspent.

The sustainability of these water systems is very crucial to Oxfam. In Rwamwanja, Ambayo explains that discussion on change of ownership to National Water and Sewerage Corporation is at the advanced stage. This is in line with Oxfam support to the sustainable transition of water supplies to government utilities.



Mr Edwin Nabimanya, the Public Health Engineering Officer of Oxfam at Sweswe water treatment plant explaining the processes of water supply at Kyaka II refugee camp in Kyegegwa district.



Thirty kids from school take water from one of the motorized water points



**We had a challenge of water storage capacity but in April we shall have a water tank of 108,000 litres which will connect unserved villages to 90%**

## Managing water stress

Despite the various interventions by Oxfam and other actors, water supply remains a challenge with low water coverage across the two refugee settlements. Mr. Leo Migabi the camp commandant for Rwamwanja says that Rwamwanja is a water-stressed area, but with partner support, they hope the stress will come down.

Mr. Jackson Birungi, the NWSC branch manager Nkoma-Katalyeba Town council, which is within the settlement, says the company covers 51km of the pipeline but mainly along the road.

"We had a challenge of water storage capacity but in April we shall have a water tank of 108,000 litres which will connect unserved villages to 90 percent," says Birungi, adding: "The Covid-19 pandemic affected our rate of extending water to our target of 1000 individual household connections currently we have 408 customers."

## Delivering water through other water systems

Besides the water ATMS, Oxfam has been supported with funding from the European Union (EU), Belgian Government (DGD) and UNHCR to set up other water supply systems towards addressing the water gaps. The water systems include both the motorised and non-motorised schemes (handpumps and protected springs)

## Motorised water Systems

There are three motorised water systems in Kyaka II designed with eco-friendly hybrid technology. These systems are powered by solar electric power or generator as a backup power with in case of outages. These systems include Sweswe, Buliti and Bujuburi. Oxfam does the management of the water system on behalf of UNHCR.

Mr. Edwin Nabimanya, the Oxfam Public Health Engineering Officer, says Oxfam and its partners pump over 500,000 liters daily from Sweswe Surface Water (dam) in Kyaka II, treat it before it is pumped to three water reservoir tanks of 100,000 liters each and distributed to refugees and the host community.

With funding from European Union, Oxfam has embarked on Sweswe dam catchment protection/restoration to secure it from encroachment and dumping. This will ensure the reliability of clean water.





Oxfam provides washable latrine slabs to refugees

## Non-Motorised Schemes

Edwin says, apart from this piped water system, there are other alternative water sources set up and managed by Oxfam that ensure the refugees get enough water. In Kyaka, there are Sixty-Six (66) hand pumps, and eight (8) protected water springs.

However, Nabimanya says one of the challenges is that water is not enough for both the refugees and the host community.

## Hygiene and sanitation

Oxfam delivers Sanitation and Hygiene services to protect the public health of refugees and the local communities. The interventions include providing technical and material support to communities to construct household level pit latrines, latrine innovation in difficult environments through construction of Urine Diversion and dehydrating toilets (UDDTs) and construction of faecal sludge treatment facilities (FSM).

Oxfam supports institutional WASH and community engagement, risk communication around epidemic preparedness and response. This includes placing awareness materials in public places such as water points, schools among others, to ensure a wide reach and sustainability.

For Hygiene and Promotion, Oxfam works with over 500 Village Health Teams (VHTs) within Kyaka and Rwamwanja Settlement. Management of VHTs is jointly carried out by WASH and Health partners as per the VHT framework.

However, the COVID-19 pandemic changed how Oxfam and partners work within the settlement. "The pandemic changed our approach. We procured a public address system and recorded the messages. This was done to avoid mass gatherings," says Ambayo.

**"The pandemic changed our approach. We procured a public address system and recorded the messages. This was done to avoid mass gatherings," says Ambayo**

## Solid waste

Solid waste management remains a challenge across the settlements. In Rwamwanja there is no treatment facility for faecal waste in the district. There are five markets within the settlement that create waste which Nkoma-Katalyeba Town Council at times picks with trucks to the dumping site, which is close to a wetland.

According to Mr. Michael Ainembabazi, the Oxfam Public Health Promotion Officer at Kyaka II, there are solid waste volunteer groups among the refugees that Oxfam supports with gears who have done a lot to improve hygiene and sanitation.

“We provide these groups with gears. They collect garbage and charge a minimum of Shs1,000 per week per household. Depending on the amount of waste, this money is used to hire public trucks to collect the garbage,” says Ainembabazi.

Oxfam started these groups together with the Office of the Prime Minister. Mr. Odeta Matabishi is a chairperson of a group of volunteers that voluntarily collect garbage in the camp.

“We are 12 in the group and we voluntarily collect garbage up to the dumping site. Oxfam and UNHCR support us with gears such as gloves, gumboots and overalls,” says Matabishi.

## About Oxfam Humanitarian response

Since the beginning of 2014, Oxfam, working with local partners have been providing an integrated response to the humanitarian crisis responding to the needs of South Sudanese refugees in West Nile and later DRC refugees in South Western Uganda. Oxfam has been providing Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH) services and Emergency Food Security and Vulnerable Livelihoods (EFSVL) as a basic need.

Oxfam’s interventions integrate gender and protection across all its programming. We also largely use the evidence generated from this work for advocacy at local national and regional levels. All these interventions are linked to Oxfam’s development to build the resilience of these communities. More about Oxfam in Uganda. <https://uganda.oxfam.org>

## About Kyaka II

Kyaka II refugee settlement was established in 2005 to receive the remaining population of Kyaka I following the mass repatriation of Rwandan refugees the same year. After this movement, Kyaka I was closed. Around mid-December 2017, renewed violence in the Democratic Republic of Congo led to a new refugee influx into Uganda, with an estimated 17,000 new refugee arrivals in Kyaka II.

## About Rwamwanja

Rwamwanja Refugee Settlement is a refugee camp in Kamwenge District in southwestern Uganda and is home to over 70,000 refugees mainly Congolese. The Rwamwanja camp is managed by the UNHCR and the Ugandan Office of the Prime Minister’s Department of Refugees (OPM). Services to refugees are implemented by a host of “implementing partners” – the NGOs that include Oxfam, the Lutheran World Federation, the Windle Charitable Trust, Africa Humanitarian Action and African Initiative for Relief Development.



**We are 12 in the group and we voluntarily collect garbage up to the dumping site**



**17,000**

**New refugee arrivals in Kyaka II.**



**Over 70,000**

**Refugees mainly Congolese in Rwamwanja Refugee Settlement**



# Arua city's chokes on garbage as road works block drainage channels

BY RIMILIAH AMANDU



**ARUA CITY:** Asega, (other name withheld on request), has a daily routine of loading garbage into a waste skip. He and the work colleagues are paid sh70,000 monthly by Arua Hill Division Council (soon to be phased off after the merger with River Oli Division to form Arua central Division).

**H**e says apart from the gumboots he was given three months ago, there is no other protective gear.

The women in his group that go about collecting the garbage on the streets are far worse, they neither have gumboots, gloves nor masks as they bear the stench from the heavy pile of garbage.

The temporary markets erected to pave the way for the construction of the multibillion World Bank-funded central market project have no clear setup of garbage collection.

Authorities are left with less options but ultimately it also means more work for those responsible for its collection.

To make matters worse, this team complains of their salaries not being paid in time.

Asega says in the last four months, they have only been paid once and yet the workload on them has increased.

"Where do we then get the strength and courage to do all this work?" he bitterly asks.



The suffering of the garbage collection group resonates with the general state of sanitation in Arua Central Division formerly the municipality.

City health inspector Godfrey Apangu acknowledges that the challenge has been immense since the construction of the main market and a host of other similar projects that has displaced people and disrupted the normal flow of business in the city centre.

He is, however, quick to point that many vendors had used the situation as an excuse to sell on the streets.

"Many of the vendors refused to use the temporary markets and instead chose to use the streets for vending simply because they thought they would get more customers. Most times the volume of waste they generate remains in the drains, flower beds and in our surrounding, which has really put the town in a bad state," Apangu admits.

"Our drainage for the roads have been obstructed, our environment is being littered with plastic everywhere but I can't really attribute it entirely to the street vending because I feel it's more of an attitude problem.

Someone could still choose to sell on the street but clean the garbage there after," he adds.

As the municipality transitions into the city, funds have been inadequate and yet Apangu says most of the garbage skips have been damaged beyond repair while the garbage trucks often break down.

"At the moment, our capacity has really gone down simply because the tools and equipment that we use to collect

the waste are down. Most of the skips are broken even beyond repair, one of the key vehicles that used to collect the majority of the waste has been down for over a year now," Apangu says.

"This council used to collect 35-50% of the waste generated not only in the city centre but also in the residences but because of this break down, this percentage has dropped drastically. We might even be collecting just 15%, meaning the other waste just remains at large and ends in our drains, water sources, road reserves, in between peoples buildings etc," he laments.

A by-law (now obsolete) that was meant to improve enforcement only remained in the corridors until the municipality was given a city status although Apangu says there are plans to revive it.

In such a wave of confusion, many of the city leaders, especially the politicians, have been accused of being populists by their technical counterparts, siding with illegal acts of street vending and opposing enforcement.

But the deputy town clerk, Cornelius Jobile, warns that despite the dissenting voices, the council will enforce the directives with an iron fist once the market project is complete.

"We believe once the market is opened and the vendors are relocated, we will have a massive enforcement to ensure that all roads are left free. We plan to prosecute people who will defy the directives because we have been sensitising people for a long time, telling them what they are required to do, especially at business premises," He asserts.

He says a desk has already been secured at the magistrate's court in Arua to effect the process, reiterating that the dirty streets with piles of garbage was not only a council problem because even at homes, rubbish was not properly managed.

"If one doesn't have the responsibility to keep their home clean, how can you come to the street and make it clean?" Jobile asks.

However, Arua Central MP-elect Jackson Atima Lee says the various leaders now need to sit at a round table and plan together because without planning, "we shall continue to see this mess in the city, we need to work together with the local authorities to reverse this trend".

## Next plans

Despite the grim sanitation picture of the central division, authorities have laid plans to improve the general garbage collection.

"We have planned for more of the waste skips that have been procured awaiting delivery, possibly at the beginning of the new financial year and with the vehicles in place, we plan to increase garbage collection up to 70-80%," inspector Apangu says.

He says the council was also advocating public-private partnerships to ensure that waste management is not only a council duty but a community module with collective responsibility.

"If we have organised groups that come from the communities, we as council would be doing more of supervision and we believe that can solve much of the problems of littering even if our vehicles are down because the community will be key in that," Apangu further states.

The city authorities also plan to use a multi departmental approach with laws, including the Public Health Act, the Physical Planning and Amendment Act and the Local Government Act being used to control the rampant littering in the absence of a by-law.

**"If one doesn't have the responsibility to keep their home clean, how can you come to the street and make it clean?"**





# Uganda Red Cross Society champions COVID-19 fight across the country

**T**he Uganda Red Cross Society (URCS) has been among the first partners supporting the government through Ministry of Health and Ministry of Water and Environment in controlling the spread of COVID-19 across the country.

With their intervention spreading across the country, specific emphasis was put at the border points of Busia, Malaba, Elegu, Madi Opei, Ngomoromo, Kikagati, and Mirama Hills; in selected markets in Kampala and Wakiso; and in the refugee settlements.

Water, sanitation and hand hygiene, is key in preventing the spread of COVID-19, while adhering to other Standard Operating Procedures, including social distancing and wearing masks.

Hand washing with water and soap kills the virus but requires access to running water in sufficient quantities. In its effort to scale down the spread of COVID-19, URCS undertook a number of interventions.

Making water, sanitation and hygiene available to everyone, eliminating inequalities and leaving no one behind, taking care of those who are most vulnerable to COVID-19 was the first intervention by URCS.

This includes the elderly, people with disabilities, women and girls, and those living in precarious situations, such as in informal settlements, refugee camps, detention centres, homeless people, as well as

people whose livelihoods are limited or destroyed by measures put in place to stop the spread of the virus, and women who shoulder the vast majority of unpaid care work in crisis.

These measures are critical, not just to protect the vulnerable populations from COVID-19, but also to prevent other infectious diseases that can spread when water, sanitation and hygiene services are disrupted.

Working collaboratively with all stakeholders in a coordinated manner to improve water and sanitation services, as each actor, whether public, private, donor or civil society has something to offer to protect populations from COVID-19.



Figure 1: URCS supplies safe drinking water in Bidibidi refugee settlement



***Water, sanitation and hand hygiene, is key in preventing the spread of COVID-19, while adhering to other Standard Operating Procedures, including social distancing and wearing masks.***



Figure 2: URCS with support from GRC and MTN Uganda has been supporting COVID-19 interventions in the markets in Wakiso and Kampala with the main focus on handwashing at all entry points

Coordinated action is more effective, including urgent immediate action to establish hand washing facilities within health care facilities and at entrance points to public or private commercial buildings, markets and public transport facilities. Partnerships such as Sanitation and Water for All are key platforms for national, regional and international cooperation and exchange of experiences.

- i) Delivering accurate information in a transparent manner i.e. consistent and rational messaging based on scientific advice that is accessible to everyone helped people to understand the threat and enable everyone to act accordingly. Information packaging about WASH in COVID-19 through provision of IEC materials, radio messages and district/village structures.

Well packaged information helped the communities to understand more about COVID – 19 and they were able to observe the guidelines of social distancing when at water collection points and other public places.



Figure 3: Delivering accurate information on COVID-19 prevention and control with focus on proper hand washing and drinking safe water



Figure 4: Using IEC materials during health promotion

COVID-19 is not the first and will not be the last epidemic that countries will face. Resilience to future crises depends on actions taken now, as well as on policies, institutions and capacity put in place during normal times. Let us ensure this threat is not a missed opportunity to achieve our vision of universal access to water, sanitation and hygiene during the post COVID-19 interventions.

URCS has adapted all its WASH programming in the context of COVID-19 pandemic, while ensuring strict adherence to the standard operating procedure. Emphasis is being put on comprehensive ideal WASH practices, including provision of safe water, hygiene and sanitation promotion.





Figure 5: Drawing circles on the ground with ash to enforce social distancing at water points in Zone one – Bidibidi refugee Settlement

URCS aims to live no one behind in their programming and implementation. As such, support to the refugee population continues amidst the pandemic. URCS is promoting safe WASH practices in the refugee settlements.

Through the Restoration of Family Links (RFL) programme, URCS has been supporting COVID-19 prevention at the isolation/treatment centers while ensuring the affected family members are supported to reach their loved ones, while adhering to the SOPs.



Figure 6: Installation of Lorentz pump at Imvepi Likido source on March 22, 2021



Figure 7: Installed taps at a new tap stand in village 11 which is now receiving water (Jan 2021)



With funding from Austria Development Cooperation through Austrian Red Cross URCS Ntugamo branch gives out PPEs to safe guard community volunteers against Covid-19 as they carry on their work.

The 31 community volunteer counsellors will provide psychosocial support to gender based violence victims and promote sanitation and hygiene among others



Figure 8: ADA through Austrian Red Cross is funding URCS to implement an integrated WASH program in Lira, Moroto, Ntugamo, Iganga, Gulu and Kampala South



The skybird project with funding from ADA through Austrian Red Cross is supporting clean-up campaign in Makyindi Division-Kampala through urban WASH project.



## URCS Profile

The Uganda Red Cross Society (URCS) is a membership humanitarian organization with over 450,000 registered members and volunteers working in 51 Branch Offices spread across the country. It was incorporated in 1964 by an enactment of the Red Cross Act, Cap 57 of the laws of Uganda and was admitted as a member of International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent in 1965. Besides, URCS collaborates with a diversified portfolio of partners including the Government of Uganda, the United Nations, Red Cross National Societies, Civil Society Organizations, and private corporate entities among others.

URCS offers a wide range of humanitarian emergency response and development activities and is currently intervening mainly in areas of Health/WASH and Disaster Risk Management. Through their interventions, URCS has been able to support emergency water supplies in the refugee settlements including Imvepi and Rhino Camp, as well as sanitation and hygiene promotion.



OVER  
60  
DISTRICTS

126  
SCHOOLS  
CONSTRUCTED

800  
WELLS  
CONSTRUCTED



WE WORK IN  
6  
COUNTRIES

50,000  
BEING  
EDUCATED

OVER  
6,000  
CHILDREN  
SPONSORED

## FIELDS OF LIFE AT A GLANCE

Fields of Life is a non-denominational Christian International Development organisation, with 28 years of experience working in the eastern Africa region.

Our mission is that we are committed to sharing the Christian faith by collaborating with local communities and churches in East Africa to bring about positive change through the provision of quality education, clean water, health promotion and other community based projects.

We also promote health and well-being where we implement Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH) programmes throughout the most poor and marginalised communities in East Africa. We as well implement schools health programmes.

We work towards creating opportunities to foster and encourage sustainable development plans at FOL partner schools; to explore and develop innovative enterprise programmes and initiatives for women.

# MEN GRADUALLY EMBRACING MENSTRUAL HEALTH MANAGEMENT

The challenge menstruating girls and women face is often more than the availability of infrastructure but also rooted in social norms and beliefs.



Boys involved in making re-useable pads

In many cultures, menstruating women are considered impure and are systematically excluded from every-day activities, such as education, employment, cultural and religious practices.

Moreover, the taboos and stigma attached to menstruation lead to an overall culture of silence around the topic, resulting in limited information on menstruation and menstrual health.

Given the multiple challenges women and adolescent girls face, it is evident that promoting menstrual health management (MHM) is not only a sanitation matter but also an important step towards safeguarding the dignity, body integrity and overall life opportunities of women and girls.

Unless handled as a collective responsibility, ensuring proper Menstrual Health Management is still a far-fetched reality, especially in the rural communities.

For most communities, all the men still believe that Menstrual Health Management is entirely a women issue. Unfortunately, in most of the rural communities, men have better access to resources.

However, there is change in sight.

A group of men that are part of the IAG Champions and the Male Action Groups, were surprised about how much the men can do as far as managing Menstrual Health and contributing towards gender equality are concerned.

During a training organized by Fields of Life, the gentlemen were impressed by how much power was in their involvement in such issues that affect women and girl children. Majority of them were very much committed to putting their efforts in ensuring that girls keep in schools.

Mr. Robert Kakulu, a head teacher from Kiiso P/S, said: "I am very happy that I have learnt how to make re-useable sanitary pads. I will keep sewing even for my wife and daughters so that I save the money I have been using to buy for them synthetic pads monthly."

Kakulu is not any different from all the other males that took part in the training and for some of them it was the first time to take part in such a training.

Mr. Thomas Tenywa, the head teacher at Mazzi CU P/S, said: "For over 50 years that I have lived on earth, I had never been concerned about menstruation of not only my wife but also my daughters."

"I always considered it 'not right' for men to know or talk about it. I am now going to treat them with respect because they go through a lot and need our support to enjoy themselves through the menstruation period," Tenywa added.

Kakulu and Tenywa are just a representation of the 122 male participants who took part in the training and have the same feelings and commitment towards ensuring proper menstrual Health Management and achieving gender equality in their communities after the empowerment.

For most of the rural communities to be in position to ensure proper Menstrual Health Management, men need to be brought on board as very important stakeholders. Majority of the men are willing and more prepared to participate in safeguarding the dignity of women and promoting gender equality.

However, the challenge is that most of the men lack the credentials to take part in this fight which limits their participation. Important to note is that the involvement of men is the first step towards ensuring proper menstrual health management and gender equality because attaining results on such pertinent issues needs collective effort of both men and women.



Mr. Kakulu happily making re-useable pads for the girls and women of the community.



# BUGIRI RESIDENTS SAY BYE TO UNCLEAN WATER

Access to clean water was a luxury for the community members in Bugiri because for generations they depended on water from contaminated water sources.



A woman collects water from a contaminated water source.

Walking about 1km to collect contaminated water from the only available open well had become a way of life for the community members in Bugiri, even when they understood the effects of using water from such a water source.

For this community, the quality of water did not matter. Having the open water source could at least save them from the lack of access to water despite the very many effects that were associated with using such a water source.

The community members went through a lot of pain using a contaminated water source, majority of the families have at least had one of their family members suffer from a water-borne disease such as typhoid.

For some children, cough and skin-related problems were very common mainly because of using a contaminated water source. One village chairperson in Bugiri said: "We were aware of the problems our community was facing due to lack of access to a proper water source, we tried to lobby from all corners but there was no any positive response until recently when a team from Fields of Life came to our rescue."

According to the chairperson, the donor that gave this new water source might never understand the kind of joy that he/she has brought to the community, "but I am sure the community members in Bugiri are excited because they have received this new water source."

"As you can see everyone is excited over the blessing of a new water source. For majority of these people, it is going to be their first time to have regular access to safe-clean water."

The chairman said: "I am hopeful that the community members in Bugiri will have their lives changed with this new water source. Diseases such as typhoid and any other water-related infections will automatically reduce with the access to a safe-clean water source."

"We shall take good care of this new water source so it can serve us for as many years as possible. I want to conclude by saying a very big thank you to Brymec Limited and Fields of Life for the gift of clean water to our community. Many lives will be saved by this new water source especially for the children," the chairman concluded.

**// We shall take very good care of this new water source so it can serve us for as many years as possible.**



Residents of ayiira community in oyam district excited to receive a borehole which was constructed by Fields of Life.

# OYAM RESIDENTS FINALLY GET CLEAN WATER, THANKS TO FIELDS OF LIFE

Tom Oyaro, 37, was born in Ayiira community in Oyam district. For him to access clean water had always been a far-fetched reality until recently when he finally saw a drop of clean water in his village.

"My grandparents lived in this village, my parents lived in this village and we are also living in this village. However, none of us had been able to have access to safe clean water," Oyaro said.

"My father told me they used a contaminated water source since they were born," he added.

"Unfortunately, the story has not changed. We still go to the same water source that my parents used. I have more than five children and I do business and farming as my livelihood. However, much of my money is spent treating water-related diseases in my family," Oyaro added.

This water source is not only un-safe but it is also located in the swamp at the end of the gardens, with a lot of bushes around it. This makes it very unsecure for the users, especially the women and children that regularly come for water.

"I am very glad that after all these years, an organization is responding to the cry of this community. Much as this well was not drilled in my community I am very hopeful that God will give us the water this time round," he added.

In October 2018, Ayiira community finally received their first ever safe water source and the joy, the celebrations and jubilations from the community were just the evidence of how long they had waited for this blessing to happen.

The young, the old women and men, were extremely happy beyond explanation when the new water source was handed over to the community.



**I am very glad that after all these years, an organization is responding to the cry of this community. Much as this well was not drilled in my community, I am very hopeful that God will give us the water this time round," he added.**

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# A glance at state of WASH in health institutions in Acholi region



## East Acholi Region

**S**afely managed water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH) services are an essential part of preventing and protecting human health during infectious disease outbreaks, including the current COVID-19 pandemic.

This is because good WASH and waste management practices, which are consistently applied, serve as barriers to human-to-human transmission of the COVID-19 virus in homes, communities, health care facilities, schools, and other public spaces.

Investing in core public health infrastructure, including water and sanitation systems is primarily a key cost-effective strategy in increasing pandemic preparedness, especially in resource-constrained settings. However, one of the challenges of public health in Acholi region is the state of WASH in the many public and private health facilities.

Compounded by the outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic, access to safe water, maintenance of water points in health facilities and the availability of sanitation services, especially toilets and physical access to toilets as well as sanitary conditions in the toilets at health facilities across Acholi region is yet questionable.

The wanting situation is evidence of the dilemma patients who visit these facilities every day go through in accessing hygiene and sanitation facilities.

In Agago district of East Acholi region, for example, Patongo Health Centre III, Lukole Health Centre II as well as Omot Health Centre II were sampled and did not have sufficient facilities in place to manage the situation.

Whereas frequent and proper hand hygiene is one of the most important measures that can be used to prevent infection with the COVID-19 virus, the two handwashing facilities that were positioned at both Lukole and Omot Health centres had some water inside them but did not have soap or hand sanitisers for washing.

Even when patients crowded at the veranda to wait for services, the surrounding of the handwashing facilities remained dry by 11:40am, evidence

that the patients entered and exited the facility without washing or disinfecting their hands.

Just like Omot and Lukole facilities that had broken down boreholes which were yet to be repaired, many health facilities in the district also lacked running water. The water systems in these facilities were found to be broken down while others simply lacked it by design.

Health workers at the facilities could not cooperate to comment on how they were handling the challenges but Ms. Hellen Drajea Iraku, the Agago assistant district health officer in charge of maternal and child health, said that of the 41 health centres in the district, 52% of them did not have running water.

According to her, even facilities with boreholes, some were non-functional while others had poor quality water.

***“In case pregnant mothers come to deliver, the attendants are required to travel long distances to fetch water from streams, protected springs, and wells. Due to this, mothers opt to deliver from home,” Iraku said.***



It becomes hard for a medical facility to prevent the spread of some infections in the absence of clean and safe water during the pandemic since it is essential during maternity sessions and the safety of mothers.

"We have been reporting this concern to the district technical planning committee, but the amount of money given to the water department is too low to cater for our demand," Iraku added.

By March 31, 2021, according to the Water and Environment ministry, clean water access rates in Agago stood at 95 % in Lokole sub-county.

Agago has 1,364 domestic water points which serve 239,036 people – 208,404 in rural areas. The district, however, with only two piped water schemes, has 319 water points that have remained non-functional for over five years and are considered abandoned.

"Safely managed WASH services are critical not only now but also during the recovery phase of a disease outbreak to mitigate secondary impacts on community livelihoods and wellbeing," Iraku said.

If not managed, secondary impacts may most likely increase the risk of further spreading the water-borne diseases, including potential disease outbreaks such as cholera, particularly where the disease is endemic. And this is why we must act," she added.



Mr. Leonard Ojok, Agago district LC5 chairman

In an interview, Mr. Andrew Onyuk, the Agago Resident District Commissioner, said despite the challenges currently faced by the district, the leadership was striving to advocate the establishment and maintenance of the established Standard Operating Procedures.

"It would be unreasonable to say there is enough water supply or there are no challenges. We have many of them but we are restless to try and tackle them by engaging all the active development partners in the district. Last week I was in Arum sub-county to launch several protected wells established with the support of GOAL, a local NGO here," he said.

According to Onyuk, Arum had remained one of the severely hit areas with limited safe water access.

"At our health facilities, there are equal challenges but whatever we are receiving from the government we are emphasizing that they are equitable and effectively used to benefit the communities during the pandemic," he added.

Whereas there are handwashing gears put in place in all health facilities, Onyuk said the district taskforce discovered that supplies of associated requirements such as soap, sanitisers, facemask, etc., get depleted before the planned period due to the many users.

To quantify the extent of the problem, the district health department in 2020 recorded a 39% and 48% in hygiene, and sanitation and health management ranking respectively in their WASH report.

In Lamwo district, the situation was recently improvised with the intervention of the Office of the Prime Minister's Development Response to Displacement Project (DRDIP) programme that equipped learning and health facilities in all sub-counties harboring refugees with sanitation and hygiene facilities.

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**“ The facility had become vulnerable to pressures exerted by the huge number of refugees.”**



A handwashing facility at Kocongako Health Centre III in Omoro district

Mr Richard Omoya is the LC1 chairman for Lakwa village, neighboring Palabek Health Centre III in Palabek-kal sub-county in Lamwo district.

He recalls how antenatal care service at the facility was suspended for two weeks due to lack of hygiene and sanitation facilities. There was also fear that the roof of the maternity ward would collapse on expectant mothers who come for their routine antenatal visits.

According to Omoya, services later resumed after shifting to a new and better location with access to clean but safe water. The facility's theatre with adequate water supply was instead turned into the maternity ward.

“The health unit management team sat down and it was decided that the facility's theatre is turned into a maternity ward. To date, the maternity ward has not been repaired for use despite lobbying for its repair or construction of a new one,” Omoya said.

Francis Okumu, the in-charge, said the facility had become vulnerable to pressures exerted by the huge number of refugees.

“We are very vulnerable right now; a lot is lacking here to handle the big numbers. There is no substantial laboratory, not even a morgue to handle dead bodies, and worst of all, there is an acute shortage of water here that has forced us to use only pit latrines,” Mr. Okumu said.

Due to lack of water and associated facilities, Palabek Health Centre III still uses pit latrines instead of water-borne toilets, something that could further spread infections among patients, health workers and the communities neighboring the facility.

Palabek Health Centre III receives and serves averagely 150 patients per day, with the majority being South Sudanese refugees residing in the nearby Palabek-ogili and Palabek-kal refugee settlements.

The number (of patients) sums to more than 115,000 per month, more than the average of both Kitgum General Hospital and St. Joseph Hospital. It is established that the two facilities sitting in Kitgum town receive 220,000 patients combined, per month.

A year ago, the government commenced the construction of five housing units at the health facility under DRDIP implemented under the Office of the Prime Minister (OPM).

Relief and Disaster Preparedness minister Hilary Oniek, also Lamwo County MP, said that government remains committed to improving the state of the facility under the DRDIP programme in order to save it from the pressure arising from the presence of refugees in the area.

***“These facilities should be put to best use. I do not wish to hear that patients are abandoned because the health workers are arriving late and leaving too early because they are commuting from far places,” Mr. Oniek said.***

DRDIP is a regional project focusing on addressing the impacts of the protracted presence of refugees on the hosting communities from the four countries of Djibouti, Ethiopia, Kenya, and Uganda.



Staff at Loyoboo Health Centre III in Gulu district receive sanitary facilities from Enabel, an NGO partnering with the district to supply facilities during the covid-19 pandemic.

## West Acholi Situation

Just like East Acholi, the situation in the west is no different.

In the Gulu district 2020 maternity scorecard -WASH audit report, only four health facilities (Lacor Hospital, Layibi Health Center III, Aywee Health Centre III and Cwero Health Centre III) scored above the passing marks while Gulu Referral Hospital and six other facilities assessed, failed to reach the scores.

Whereas Gulu Referral Hospital has 89% water access, it scored 46% in the health care waste management and 00% in cleaning and administration, raising several questions on the state of hygiene at the maternity unit of the facility.

Five health centre IIIs scored 00% in clean water access in their facilities. These were; Laroo Health Centre III in Laroo division, Cwero Health Centre III, Pabwor Health Centre III, Patiko Health Centre III, and Awach health centre III.

Meanwhile, Patiko, Pabwor, and Angaya Health Centre IIIs only had 17% bathing facilities for patients whereas Awach, Bardege, Patiko, and Pabwor Health centres scored less than 35% in wastes disposal each.

Only Lacor Hospital, a private-owned facility scored 60% in cleaning and hygiene while the rest of the health facilities in the district, including Gulu Referral Hospital scored less than 20%.

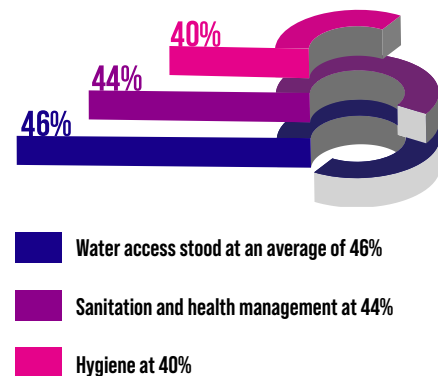
In the same year's health facility WASH audit ranking for Gulu district, water access stood at an average of 46%, hygiene at 40%, and sanitation and health management at 44%.

Mr. Yoweri Idiba, the Gulu DHO, said improving the district's WASH ranking was still lacking the integrated support of the community, adding that funding received by the district was always inadequate to support planned activities per financial year.



Mr. Yoweri Idiba, Gulu DHO

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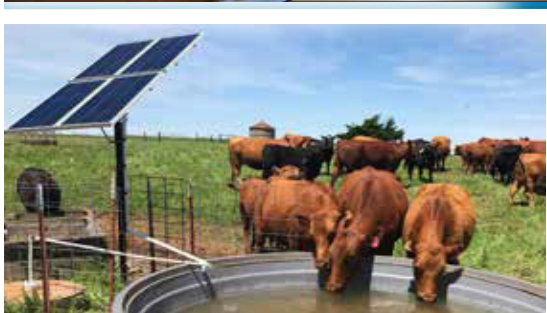
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