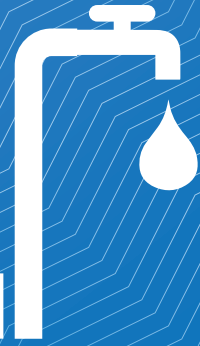


WATER, SANITATION & HYGIENE

# Wash

## JOURNAL



December 2021-March 2022 | Issue 15

## MORE UGANDANS EMBRACE HANDWASHING AS RATES SURPASS NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT PLAN II TARGET

### WELLS OF LIFE

Wells of Life restores hope in Kabale Catholic Diocese

Experts want sanitation hygiene budget increased nine-fold to have universal access

Sustainable WASH Systems Learning Partnership  
STRENGTHENING LOCAL SYSTEMS FOR WASH SERVICES: LEARNING FROM KABAROLE DISTRICT, UGANDA

MALTESER: A quick glance at Water Sanitation and Hygiene Services in South Western Uganda



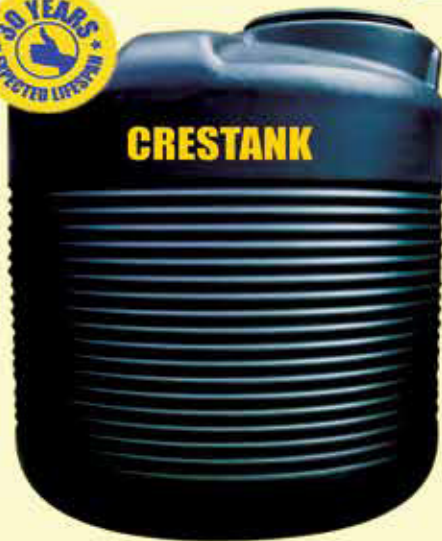
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**COVER PHOTO:**

A young girl washes her hands after using a latrine as a measure to keep good hygiene

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# MORE UGANDANS EMBRACE HANDWASHING AS RATES SURPASS NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT PLAN II TARGET

Global HandWashing Day celebrations, held on 15th of October 2021 at the Ministry of Water and Environment boardroom

Uganda's handwashing rate has climbed to **54.7%** in urban areas, surpassing the country's 2020 National Development Plan II target of **50%**.

Before the COVID-19 pandemic, the handwashing rate in urban areas stood at **40%**. In the rural areas handwashing has also improved from 38% to 44.7%, according to current figures by the water and environment ministry.

Due to the COVID-19 threat, Ugandans embraced handwashing as one of the key measures to reduce the spread of the virus.

The figures were revealed by Joseph Eyatu, the commissioner of rural water supply and sanitation at the water ministry, during the launch of the Global Handwashing Day celebration activities in Kampala.

"For over five years, we were stuck at **37%**, but because of the pandemic, we have jumped to **61%**. This is great progress and we hope the momentum is maintained," Eyatu said. He represented the Minister for Water and Environment, Sam Cheptoris.

In order to educate and encourage the public to see ways and benefits of properly washing their hands with soap, every year Global Handwashing Day is celebrated on October 15.

The day was celebrated under the theme; "Our Future is at Hand, let's move forward together".

"Washing hands frequently with soap and clean water protects you, your family and community against diseases such as like diarrhoea, cholera and typhoid," Cheptoris said.

Diarrhoea is a major cause of morbidity and mortality around



Minister of Water and Environment, Hon. Sam Cheptoris

**"For over five years, we were stuck at 37%, but because of the pandemic, we have jumped to 61%. This is great progress and we hope the momentum is maintained," Eyatu**



the world, and is the second leading cause of death among children under five.

The simple act of handwashing with soap at the correct moments, particularly after contact with faeces, may reduce the risk of diarrhoea by 23–40% “Washing hands will save us money, time and hospital visits,” Cheptoris said.

Inoue Yuki, a representative from Japan International Co-operation Agency (JICA), said sensitisation and increased access to water and handwashing facilities will be key in future.

“Handwashing rates tend to be higher when facilities are accessible and suitably located. This is what we need to be doing to have more people washing hands,” Yuki said.

In response to the COVID-19 pandemic, people installed and used handwashing facilities.

Local governments were supported by nongovernmental organisations and private sector donations for accelerated installation of handwashing stations with soap and water in public places.

“COVID-9 is serious to date. We do not know when it will go away. We are committed to supporting the water ministry fight COVID-19 and promote hygiene,” Yuki said.

Shiva Singh, the water, sanitation, and hygiene services (WASH) manager at Unicef Uganda, said more resources were needed to change the attitude of the communities.

“If there is one thing we have learnt from the COVID-19 era, it is, that personal hygiene is of the utmost importance for our health,” Singh said.

The benefits of having clean hands and proper washing were widely publicised by governments and health agencies across the globe.

“Availability of water is key and we have put interventions to improve access to water during



Mr. Shiva Singh the WASH manager at UNICEF UGANDA

this pandemic and we shall continue improving,” said Martha Naigaga the sanitation co-ordinator at the Ministry of Water and environment.

“Let us make handwashing a way of life,” she added.

The Global Handwashing Day was first observed in 2008 in Stockholm, Sweden. The UN General Assembly later marked October 15 as the day to observe Global Handwashing Day.



“If there is one thing we have learnt from the COVID-19 era, it is that personal hygiene is of the utmost importance for our health,” Singh said.





# GLOBAL HANDWASHING DAY 2021

SPECIAL REPORT PRESENTATION

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UNICEF REPORT

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A girl washing her hands shortly before schools were closed

## Key evidence: Benefits of Handwashing

- Handwashing can reduce diarrheal diseases by 30% to 48%.
- Handwashing can reduce acute respiratory infections by 20%.
- Handwashing plays an important role in reducing the transmission of outbreak-related pathogens such as cholera, Ebola, shigellosis, SARS and hepatitis E.
- Hand hygiene is protective against healthcare-associated infections and reduces the spread of antimicrobial resistance.
- Hand hygiene may contribute to the reduction of Neglected Tropical Diseases.

## Presentation outline

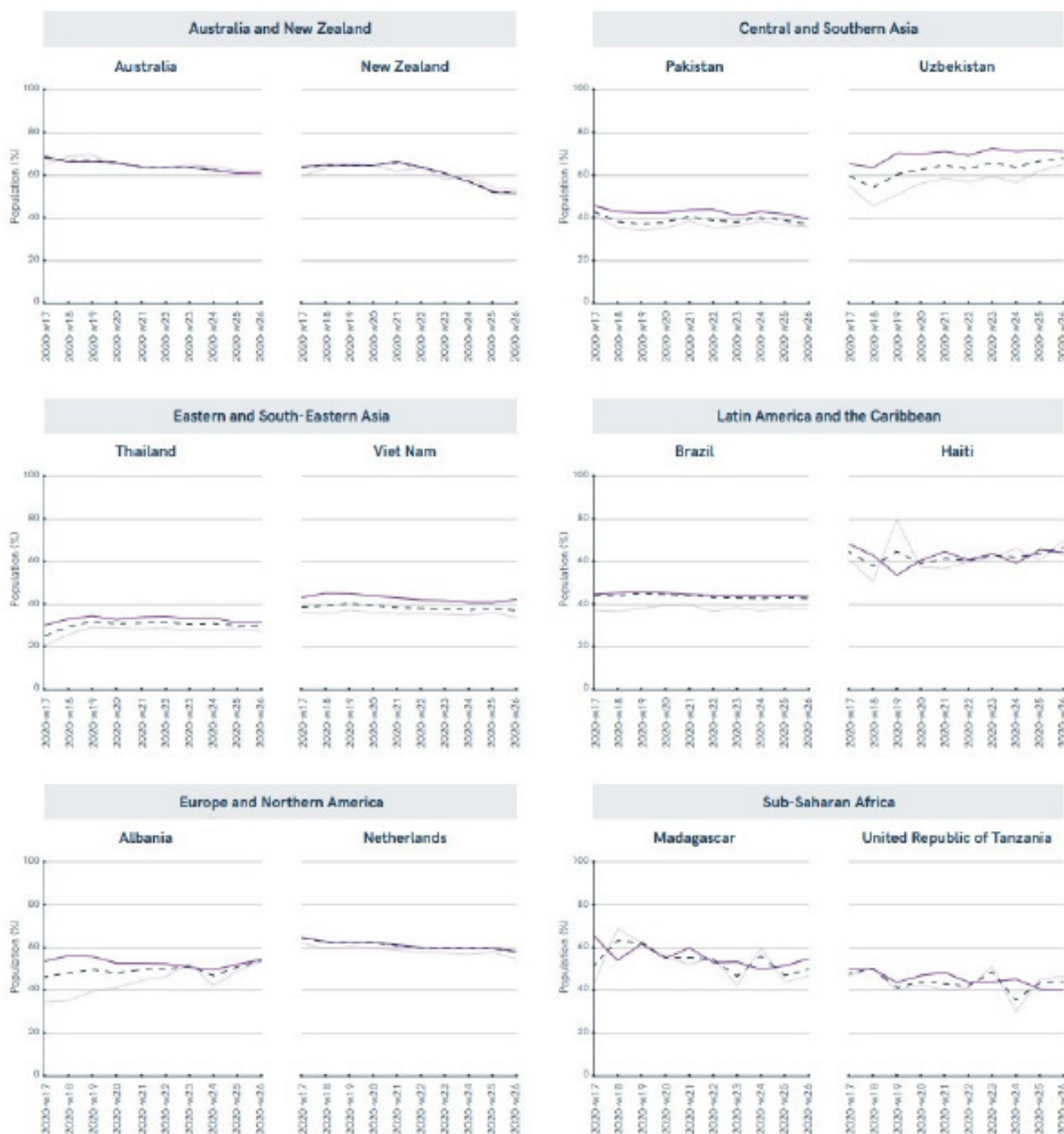
- Evidence on impact of handwashing
- Handwashing during Pandemic
- Reflections on the Handwashing initiatives in Uganda
- UNICEF collaboration to Promote Handwashing
- Advancing Handwashing: Making commitments



We do not need  
**COVID-19** to remind  
us the importance of  
**Handwashing**



## Handwashing during the pandemic

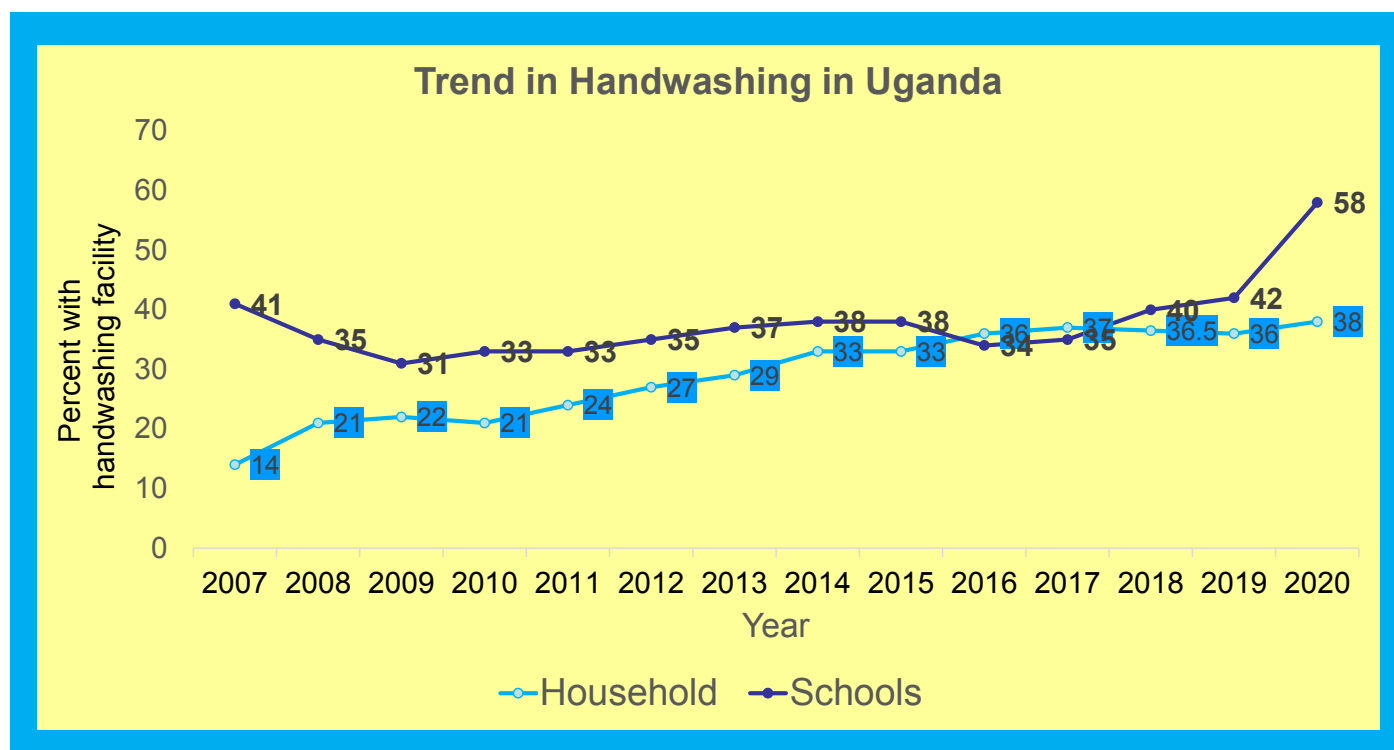




## Handwashing practices in institutional settings: Global Scenario

- Health Facilities ( data from 71 countries)
- **74%** of health care facilities had basic hand hygiene facilities at points of care.
- **50%** of health care facilities do not have water and soap available for handwashing.
- Schools ( data from 107 countries)
- Only **57%** of the schools provide 'basic handwashing facilities' for their students.
- **25%** schools had no service (no water or no other facility at all
- Access to basic handwashing facilities is typically higher in secondary schools than primary schools and higher in urban schools compared to rural schools.

## Handwashing practices in Uganda: Progress





## Handwashing practices in Uganda: Reflections

### Enabling Factors

- Institutional support ( NHWS/ National Forum)
- Large number of NGOs network
- Private Sector involvement
- Handwashing an integral part of community sanitation initiative

### Limiting Factors

- Untapped energy available in three key ministries to advance handwashing
- Messaging versus Behaviour change
- Ensuring availability of products at the last mile
- Improving access to water

### Hand washing facility: foot pedal operated



### Health clubs making liquid soap







## GLOBAL HANDWASHING DAY 2021

### What works to change handwashing behavior

- Provision of information and health knowledge is not enough
- Investing in desirable and convenient hygiene infrastructure and products is likely to result in the greatest change in practices
- Rates of change in access to handwashing facility has been slow, increasing by just 4% between 2015 and 2020 and requiring a 4-fold increase if we are to meet the Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) targets
- Programmes are likely to be more effective and acceptable if they use behavior change theory and a systematic process for programme design.
- Meaningful behavior change is not cheap, quick or easy.
- Hygiene promotion can bring a return of \$2 - \$6 for every \$1 invested
- Community-level action needs to be supported by policy and financing.



Handwashing facilities should be installed at easy-to-access locations

### UNICEF collaboration in Uganda for Handwashing

- Support to the National Handwashing Secretariate
- Development of National Handwashing Strategy and Tools
- Provision of mass handwashing stations in Schools with water system through solar energy
- Provision of handwashing facility other hygiene supplies (1635 schools; 916 HFs, 255 communities)
- Mass handwash campaign ( under implementation in collaboration with MoWE)
- Supporting MoH for national coordination for COVID response
- Supporting MoES for WASH in school scaling up ( developing guidelines and standards)



## Advancing Handwashing : Making Commitments

### LET'S MOVE FORWARD TOGETHER

We must take collective action to accelerate progress for hand hygiene.



**Governments:** Develop and fund country roadmaps toward universal hand hygiene, including a combination of policy, regulation, and awareness raising for hand hygiene



**Donors:** Invest in programs that are hygiene sensitive, promote behavior change, and drive hand hygiene habits



**Businesses:** Contribute toward resilient hand hygiene systems through partnerships, research, policies, financing, and innovation, and promote hand hygiene within your workforce



**Institutions:** Prioritize hand hygiene infrastructure and policies within schools, healthcare facilities, workplaces, and public settings



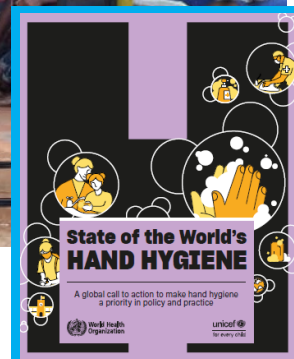
**Researchers:** Make hand hygiene research publicly available and translate complex findings into easy-to-use guidance or recommendations for implementers



**Advocates:** Raise awareness on the importance of hand hygiene behavior change as an essential part of health and development to



<https://www.unicef.org/media/108356/file/State%20of%20the%20World's%20Hand%20Hygiene.pdf>



## Creativity in Handwashing systems







# CSOS' PERFORMANCE ON HAND WASHING PROMOTION

Andrew Samuel Kiiza

## Introduction

Uganda Water and Sanitation Network existence(UWASNET) since 2000  
National umbrella organisation of CSOs (WASH sector)  
197 CSO under WASH (139 registered)

### Thematic areas

- Sanitation & Hygiene
- Water supply
- Integrated water resource management
- Climate change mitigation & adaptation
- Water for production
- WASH in emergency

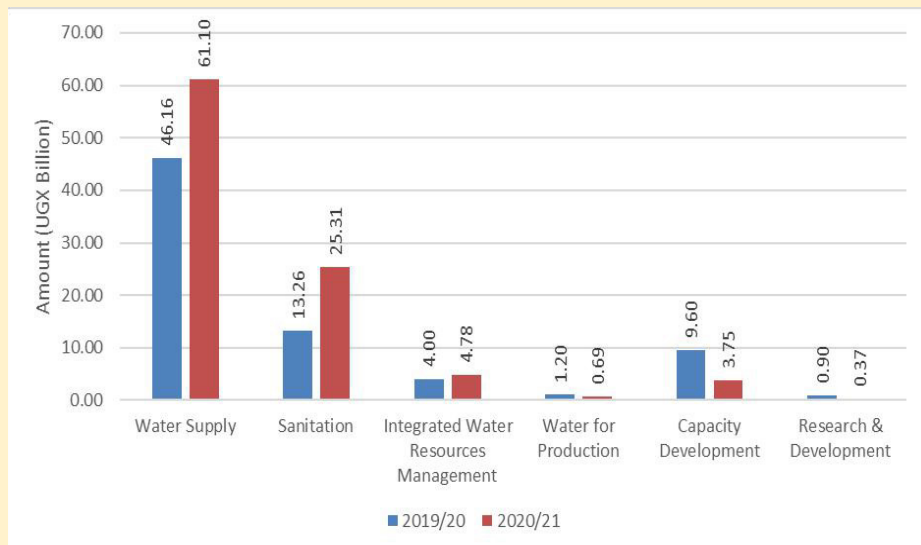




# Contributions

Mobilizing off-budget support for implementation, monitoring and learning interventions

## CSO Investment WASH

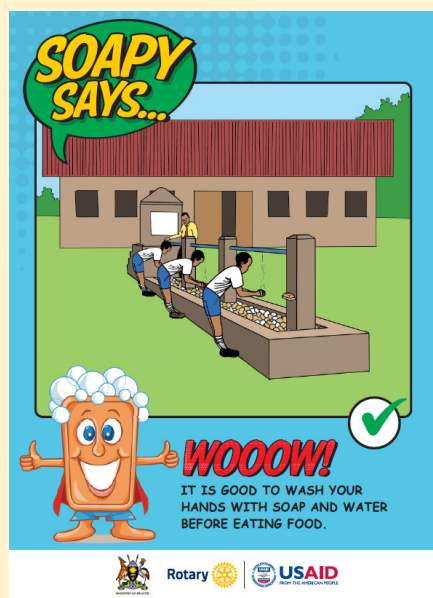


## Research and innovations on appropriate Technologies

- Hand free Hand washing facilities( ELbow

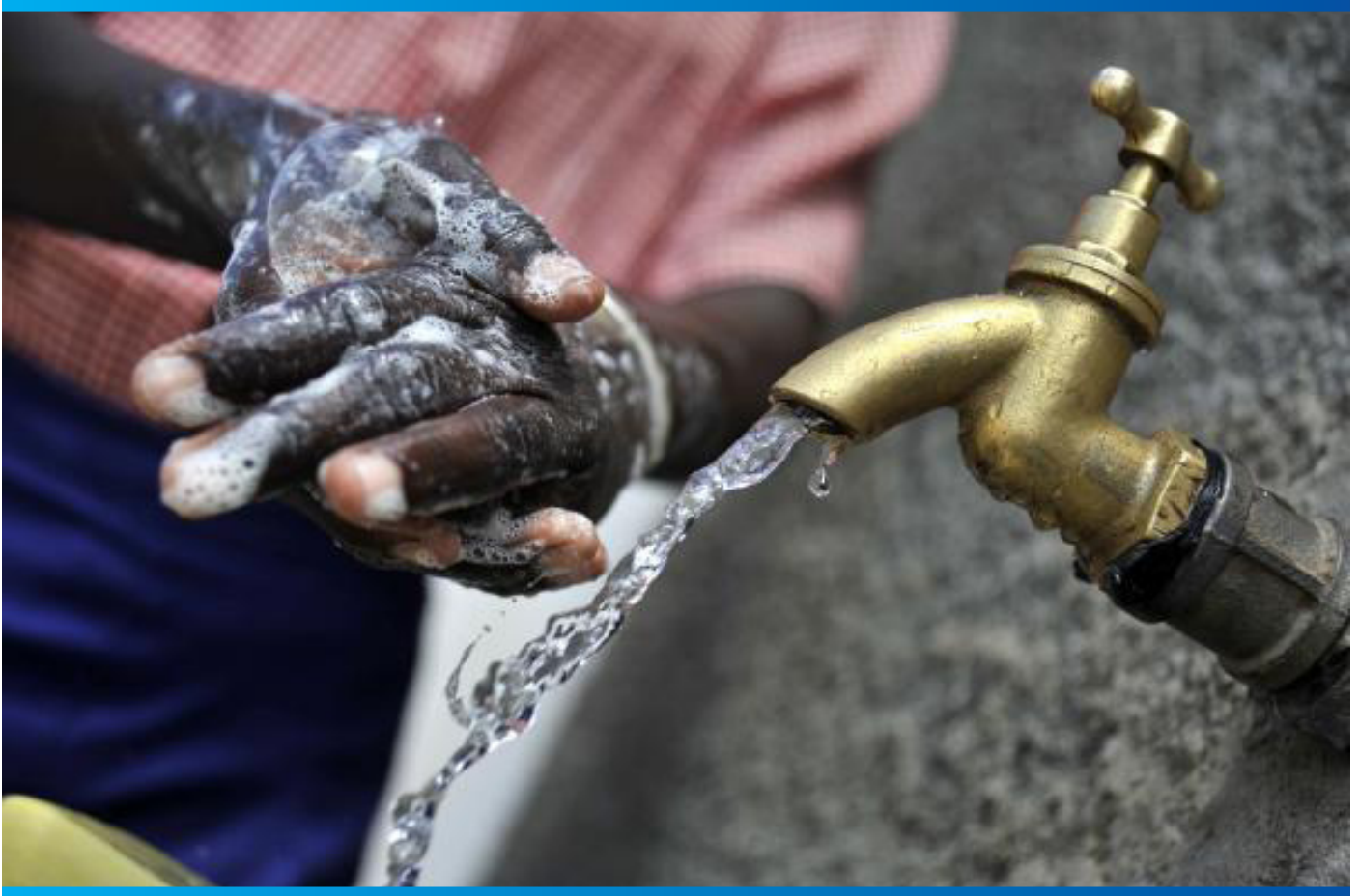


## Development of appropriate IECS on HWS





# ROLE OF WATER AND SANITATION SECTOR IN ACHIEVEMENT OF SDGS - NWSC



## ▼ Mandate

- Provide water and sewerage services in Urban Areas on commercial and financially viable basis.
- NWSC operates in **258** towns/urban centers in Uganda

## ▼ Vision

- The Leading Customer Service Oriented Utility in the World.

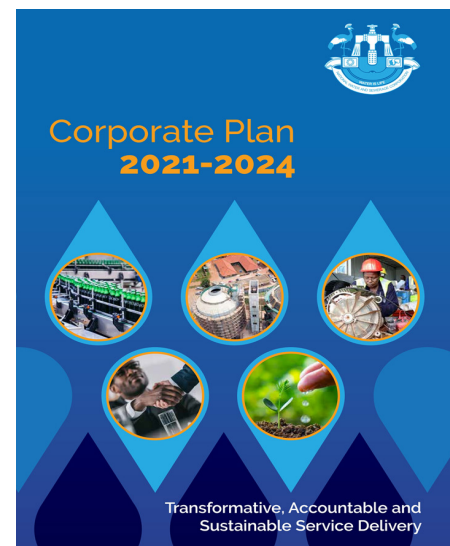
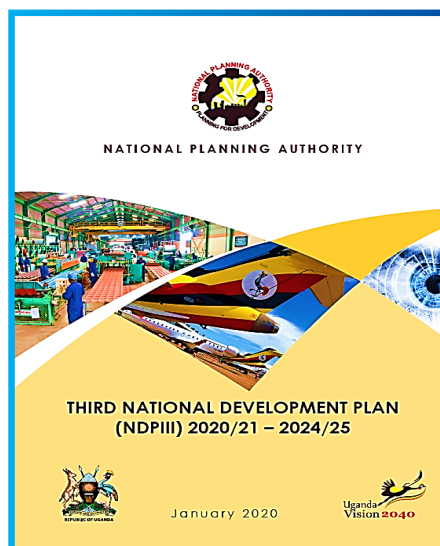
## ▼ Mission

- To Sustainably and Equitably provide Cost Effective, Quality Water and Sewerage Services to the Delight of All Stakeholders, while Conserving the Environment and enhancing stakeholder trust



# Strategic Anchorage

- Sustainable Development Goals 2030
- Vision 2040 and NDP III (2020 - 2030)
- Government Manifesto (NRM) 2021 - 2026
- Water and Environment Strategic Investment Plan (SIP 2018-2030)
- GoU Performance Contract 2021 - 2024
- NWSC Corporate Plan 2021 - 2024



STRATEGIC PRIORITY AREAS (SPAS)		STRATEGIC RESULTS (SR)
	INDUSTRIALIZATION	Well serviced Industrial Parks and Industries
	INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT	Increased access to Water and Sewerage services
	SKILLING AND WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT	Skilled and Productive workforce
	PRIVATE SECTOR INVOLVEMENT	Increased Private sector involvement
	ORGANIZATION HEALTH AND SUSTAINABILITY	A healthy organization with delighted customers

## Performance Overview 2015 - 2021

Region	FY 2015/16	FY 2016/17	FY 2017/18	FY 2018/19	FY 2019/20	FY 2020/21
Geographical Growth (No. of Towns)	170	218	236	253	256	258
Water Production Capacity (million m3)	106	121	126	135	140	144
Volume of Water Supplied(million m3)	103	116	120	128	132	137
Volume of Water Sold (million m3)	74	80	83	91	88	87
Non-Revenue Water (NRW) (%)	28	30.9	31	29.2	33.5	34.6
Water Pipe Network (Km)	9,960	12,113	14,466	17,556	18,410	20,495
Sewer Pipe Network (Km)	557	580	604	663	693	715
Water Connections (No.)	472,193	524,657	587,863	659,157	724,006	775,794
Pro-poor Connections (No.)	9,260	10,424	12,305	17,186	21,600	24,867
Sewer Connections (No.)	20,355	21,072	21,616	22,606	23,914	24,026
Billing (UGX.Billion) - (VAT Incl.)	292	345	390	437	424	419
Collections (UGX.Billion) - (VAT Incl.)	284	323	385	437	391	446
Annual Turnover (UGX.Billion)	276	321	388	442	463	464
Operating Profit (UGX.Billion)	34	38	92	96	103	109
Staff Numbers	2,860	3,131	3,443	3,778	4,126	4,045

# Service Coverage Goals



## Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) – Agenda 2030:

- **SDG No.6:** Ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all (100% service coverage).

## Corporate Plan 2021 – 2024

- Increase geographical Coverage from 258 towns to at least 273 towns
- Increase Overall Water Service Coverage from 78% to 86%
- Increase water connections from 775,794 to at least 1,000,000.
- Increase pro-poor connections from 24,867 to at least 40,000
- Increase sewerage service coverage from 23% to 30%.
- Increase sewer connections from 24,026 to at least 25,000

## Status Of Water Service Coverage As At June 2021

Indicator	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	Target 2021	Target Achiev't
Districts Covered	66	76	81	95	97	136	71%
Towns / Urban Centres	170	236	253	258	258	265	97%
Villages Covered	3,631	4,811	5,653	7,657	8,811	15,631	56%
Population Served	6,310,824	10,590,909	12,444,483	15,703,934	18,104,072	23,365,821	77%
Water Service Coverage (within and Outside Municipal Boundaries)	76.0%	74.3%	74.0%	70.0%	77.5%	84%	92%
Water Service Coverage Within Municipal Boundaries	78.2%	83.7%	83.7%	84%	85%	100%	85%
Customer base	524,657	587,863	659,157	724,006	775,794	783,810	99%
Sewerage Service Coverage	21%	21%	21%	23%	23%	30%	77%



## Key Initiatives Undertaken To Enhance Service Coverage



**Geographical Expansion (Takeover of new towns):**  
Deliberate and systematic takeover of towns.

**Service Coverage Acceleration Project (SCAP 100):**  
Aims at achieving 100% service coverage in all areas under NWSC Jurisdiction (2 PSPs Per Village)

- **Network Expansion (Average: 2500 Km Annually)**
- **New Connections (Average: 58,000 Annually)**
- **New Public Stand Posts (Average: 3000 Annually (where water is sold at Ushs.25 per jerrycan))**
- **Villages Covered (Average 1,300 villages Annually)**



**Water Supply Stabilisation Plans (WSSP):**  
Quick win investments in water production infrastructure which include:

- Installation of water pumps
- Drilling of boreholes
- Rehabilitation of transmission and distribution lines
- Construction of booster stations and construction of reservoirs
- Installation of alternative sources of power for continuous pumpage.

## Implementation Of Capital Development Projects: Completed Projects

#	Project	Objective	Milestones
1.	Kampala Water-Lake Victoria WATSAN Project (KW – LVWATSAN)	Improve Water Supply Reliability in Kampala Metropolitan Region through the Upgrading & Rehabilitation of Water Supply Systems.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Upgrading and rehabilitation of the Ggaba Water Treatment Complex and construction of a new 8,000m<sup>3</sup> reservoir at Namasuba and modification of Muyenga Reservoirs.</li> <li>▪ Construction of the Katosi-Kampala Drinking Water Treatment Plant.</li> <li>▪ Construction of the Katosi-Kampala Transmission Mains</li> </ul>
2.	Kampala Sanitation Project (LVP II)	Improvement of the sewerage and sanitation situation in Kampala and the surrounding Areas.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Construction of Nakivubo Waste Water Treatment Plant at Bugolobi.</li> <li>▪ Kinawataka Pre-treatment and Pumping Station as well as construction of Pumping Mains from Kinawataka Sewerage System to Nakivubo Sewerage System.</li> </ul>
3.	Fort Portal Water Production Improvements	Improving water quality and increasing water production by 3,000m <sup>3</sup> /day.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Construction of flocculator, coagulator, clarifier, filter and ancillary works.</li> </ul>
4.	Water Management and Development Project (WMDP): Arua	Improving water supply and sewerage services in Arua Municipality and surrounding Areas.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Refurbishment and upgrading of the water treatment plant to 10,000m<sup>3</sup>/day.</li> <li>▪ Expansion and rehabilitation of the water supply network and reservoirs.</li> <li>▪ Construction of two sewerage systems serving the central area of Arua town and 10 public toilet facilities.</li> <li>▪ Development of a borehole water supply system.</li> </ul>

#	Project	Objective	Milestones
5.	Water Management and Development Project (WMDP): Bushenyi	Improving water supply and sewerage services in Bushenyi Municipality and surrounding Areas.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Construction of Kitagata Water Treatment Plant (3,150m<sup>3</sup>/day) and reservoirs in Kikuba-Ishaka (1,600m<sup>3</sup>) and Kitagata (90m<sup>3</sup>).</li> <li>Laying of 17 Km of transmission main from the new water treatment plant in Kitagata to the new reservoir at Kikuba, and 5.9Km from Kikuba to Katungu reservoir.</li> <li>Refurbishment of Nyaruzinga Water Treatment Plant.</li> </ul>
6.	Water Management And Development Project (WMDP) - Gulu Water Supply project	Improving water supply and sewerage services in Gulu Municipality and surrounding Areas	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Upgrading and expansion of the existing water treatment plant from 4,000,000 to 10,000,000 litres of water per day.</li> <li>Upgrading of the existing water supply and distribution network (27 km of new pipelines to be laid)</li> <li>Construction of a new intake at Oyitino 2</li> <li>Construction of a faecal sludge reception and treatment centre</li> <li>Upgrading and expansion of the existing wastewater treatment plant and wastewater collection system.</li> </ul>
7.	Sembabule Water Supply Improvement Project	Increasing water production from 300m <sup>3</sup> /day to 3,000m <sup>3</sup> /day.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Upgrading and extension of the water distribution network</li> <li>Construction of a New Intake and Water Treatment</li> <li>Upgrading of the entire distribution network, and extension to the surrounding towns</li> </ul>

#	Project	Objective	Milestones
8.	Upgrading of Kapeeka Water Supply System	To Improve Water Supply Reliability for the Kapeeka Community and Industrial Park.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Upgrading of the Water Treatment Plant.</li> <li>Construction of Borehole System.</li> </ul>
9.	Kapchorwa Water Supply Project	The project is aimed at improvement of water supply services in Kapchorwa town.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Construction of Water Treatment Plant (capacity 3000m<sup>3</sup>/ day).</li> <li>Construction of 4km DN 200mm Delivery main.</li> </ul>
10.	Water Supply Extension to Kasese Industrial Park	Provide adequate water services to foster development of the Park.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>3km extension of DN100mm pipeline</li> </ul>
11.	Upgrade of Lira Water Supply System	To improve water supply services in Lira and the Surrounding Areas.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Expansion of the water network by 17 Km.</li> <li>Installation of 300KVA Standby Generator for the upgraded Angwata Booster Station</li> <li>Installation of 300KVA Standby Generator at the Kacungu Water Treatment Plant</li> </ul>
12.	Parombo Water Supply Project	Developing water supply system for the town of Parombo.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>New water supply system based on ground water</li> </ul>

## Pictorial View Of Projects

Aerial View of the Nakivumbo Water Treatment Plant







Katosi Water Treatment Plant



Sembabule Intake and Water Treatment Plant



H.E President Yoweri Museveni at the Commissioning of Gulu Water Treatment Plant under the WMDP Project





Kapeeka Water Treatment Plant and Intake



Kinawataka Pre-treatment Plant



Reservoir Tanks under the Arua WMDP Project

## On-Going Projects

#	Project	Objective	Milestones	Status
1.	Kampala Water-Lake Victoria WATSAN Project (KW – LVWATSAN)	To improve Water Supply Reliability in Kampala Metropolitan Region	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Network Restructuring &amp; Rehabilitation.</li> <li>Water Supply and Sanitation Services in Informal Settlements.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Detailed designs is at advanced stage.</li> <li>Acquisition of 44 sites for the public sanitation facilities (PSFs) was finalised and geotechnical investigations on the sites completed.</li> </ul>
2.	Hoima Water Supply Improvement Project	Improving water supply reliability in Hoima City.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Construction of a water treatment plant of capacity 3,500m<sup>3</sup>/day</li> <li>Development of production wellfields</li> <li>Expansion of the transmission mains</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The construction works commenced in May 2021.</li> </ul>
3.	Development of Water and Sanitation Infrastructure for the Isingiro, Mbarara – Masaka Areas (South Western cluster)	To improve Water Supply and Sanitation in Mbarara, Masaka and the Surrounding Areas.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Kagera Water Treatment Plant</li> <li>Upgrading Water and Sewerage Infrastructure in Mbarara Town and the surrounding Areas</li> <li>Upgrading Water and Sewerage Infrastructure in Masaka Town and the surrounding Areas</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Project is at Design stage.</li> </ul>



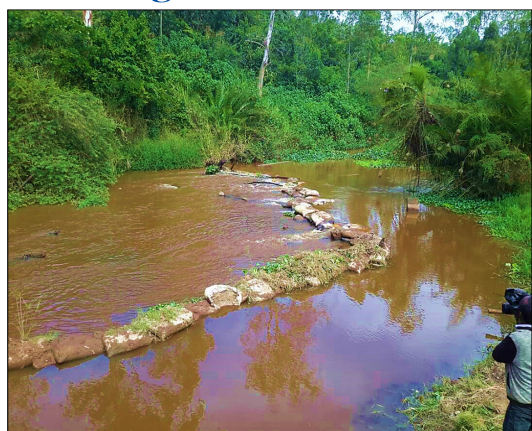
#	Project	Objective	Milestones	Status
4.	Bushenyi Water Supply Augmentation Project	Augmenting water production capacity to meet the needs of Greater Bushenyi	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Upgrading of the Water Supply System.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Detailed designs and Tender Documents for the Project were completed and the works tendered out.</li> </ul>
5.	Kiruddu Waste Water Treatment Plant:	Providing medium to long-term solutions to the wastewater management challenges experienced by Kiruddu Referral Hospital and the surrounding community.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Construction of a compact sewerage treatment plant (150 m<sup>3</sup>/day)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Design of the plant units completed and site handed over to the Contractor.</li> </ul>
6.	Lyantonde Water Supply Project	Improving water supply reliability in Lyantonde town and surrounding areas including Rushara Industrial Park.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Construction of a new water treatment Plant of 5,000m<sup>3</sup>/day using Lake Kakyera as raw water source, 2,000 cubic meter reservoir and 20km of water transmission and distribution pipeline.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Bid Evaluation for Contract Works is on-going.</li> </ul>

#	Project	Objective	Milestones	
7.	Integrated Water Management and Development Project (IWMDP)	Improving water supply and sewerage services in selected Areas.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Construction of Gulu-Karuma Water Supply Project</li> <li>❖ <b>Package 1: (KfW Funded):</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Construction of an intake structure of capacity 30,000m<sup>3</sup>/day, a water treatment plant with an initial design capacity of 10,000 m<sup>3</sup>/day and a storage reservoir of capacity 5,000 m<sup>3</sup>/day.</li> </ul> </li> <li>❖ <b>Package 2 (World Bank Funded)</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Construction of a DN 500 ductile iron transmission pipeline of length 70.2km from Karuma to Gulu Town.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<p><b>Package 1: (KfW Funded):</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Construction of the intake structure was synchronised with the Karuma dam construction and is complete.</li> <li><b>Water Treatment Plant:</b> Technical evaluation completed</li> </ul> <p><b>Package 2 (World Bank Funded):</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Draft Technical Evaluation report was submitted to the WB in April 2021 for No Objection</li> </ul>
			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Construction and Rehabilitation of Water Supply and Sanitation Infrastructure in Mbale municipality:</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Design review and construction supervision consultant was procured.</li> </ul>
			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Water Supply and Sanitation in Adjuman Area</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Design and construction supervision consultant was procured.</li> </ul>

## Projects At Planning / Inception Stage

#	Project	Objective
1.	Wakiso West Water and Sanitation Project:	Promoting sustainable socio-economic growth and improved health of the population residing in the Wakiso West- south and southwest of the Greater Kampala Metropolitan Area.
2.	KSP – Lake Victoria Protection III (LVP III) - Tertiary and Secondary Sewer Network Expansion and Development of Gaba and Mukono Wastewater Treatment Systems:	To improve the living conditions of over 1.5 million people living in Kampala Metropolitan Area through enhanced access to better sanitation and environmental protection.
3.	Water and Sanitation projects for Fort Portal, Hoima and Lira Cities	To improve water and sewerage service.
4.	Water and sanitation services improvement programmes for the towns of Moroto, Soroti, Tororo, Kyakwanzi and Kalungu/Lukaya, among others	To improve water and sewerage service

## Challenges



- **Limited Financing:** Insufficient counterpart financing and delayed release of funds by Government is a major constraint to timely payment of contractors'/service providers.
- **Approvals by Third Parties:** Delayed approvals by the DPs in form of securing "No Objection" is one of the major challenges that has affected timely delivery of project outputs.
- **Climate change and variability** affecting the reliability of water sources in meeting the ever-growing demand especially during long dry seasons.
- **Limited network coverage** and high installation costs especially sewer networks.

## Way Forward

### Key Infrastructure Development and financing Strategies

- Mobilization of funding for downstream sewerage collection infrastructure for Greater Kampala, and design and implementation of low-cost appropriate sewage treatment technologies in other towns.
- Development of concept notes for financing of 6-cities water supply improvement projects to be implemented using modular designs that will increase water production capacity in each of the cities by at least 7,000m<sup>3</sup>/day.
- Financial mobilization and implementation of climate change resilient infrastructure for NWSC Towns, through mixed technology options and decentralized WSS systems.







### Key Infrastructure Development and financing Strategies

iv. Mobilization of financial resources for the implementation of the SCAP 100 Project (Phase II) to enable the Corporation achieve 100% service coverage. This will entail:

- Expansion of the water network by 7,000Km
- Installation of 325,000 new connections including 19,000 PSPs
- Reinforcement of the existing water infrastructure to support increased production and supply.

v. NWSC will also undertake Flagship Infrastructure Development Projects in other towns to enhance water production and supply.



## Conclusion

NWSC has continued to improve managerial efficiency towards the provision of sustainable water and sewerage services.

The Corporation will continue to expand and upgrade its WATSAN Infrastructure to enhance NWSC's capacity to achieve SDGs.



An engineer at the water treatment plant







**Malteser  
International**  
Order of Malta Worldwide Relief

# Malteser International extends clean and safe water to over 140,000 refugees

By John B. Thawite

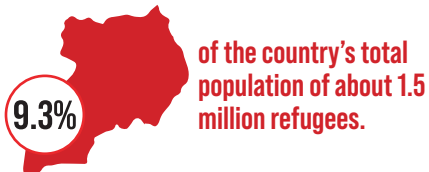
**Isingiro:** Nakivale is one of the largest refugee settlements in Uganda exerting high pressure on available services including water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH).

Located in Isingiro district, south-western Uganda, Nakivale accounts for about 9.3% of the country's total population of about 1.5 million refugees.

The camp commandant, David Mugenyi, says it hosts over 140,000 refugees from different countries, sprawls over 71sqmi or 185sqkm and is shared by five sub-counties.

Some politicians say if the camp were to be gazetted into a local administration, it would make up two districts the size of Ntoroko, whose population is 67,005, according to the National Population and Housing Census of 2014.

Mugenyi says the refugees include Congolese, South Sudanese, Somalis, Rwandan and Burundian nationals.



## 140,000

Refugees from different countries

## Constraints

The influx refugees has become a big constraint to the services despite the interventions of government and development partners.

"Despite support from government and development partners, the gap in service delivery keeps widening as the numbers keep on going up and down depending on the security situation in our neighbouring countries," said Mugenyi.

The camp has over the years attracted many partners, the current ones including Malteser International, the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), Oxfam and the World Food Programme (WFP), all coordinated by the Office of the Prime Minister. Mugenyi says the increasing numbers have particularly impacted on water and hygiene.

"By international standards, each human being is entitled to at least 20 litres of water daily but here we provide 15 - 17 litres," he says.

According to Mugenyi, some of the refugees have to trek several kilometers to fetch water from Lake Nakivale.

But he notes that the lake water is unsafe for human consumption because it has a lot of iron and requires treatment.

"The refugees also been congesting at the water taps that we have been able to put up," he said.

Pit latrine coverage has also been a challenge at the resettlement.



David Mugenyi, Nakivale Refugee Settlement Commandant

"Despite support from government and development partners, the gap in service delivery keeps widening as the numbers keep on going up and down depending on the security situation in our neighbouring countries," said Mugenyi.





Maalteser has provided IDPs at Kasese Humanist School with water containers and blankets.

## Malteser International moves in

Against this background, Mugenyi is optimistic that with the presence of Malteser International, some of the woes in the camp will soon become history.

In September last year, the humanitarian agency, based in Cologne, Germany, launched a three-year intervention primarily aimed at promoting WASH in the districts of Isingiro, Kasese, Bundibugyo and Ntoroko.

The Project Manager in charge of south-western Uganda and Rwenzori region, Amon Aruho, says Malteser has engaged various organisations in the south west to expedite the interventions.

These organisations include Nsamizi Training Institute for Social Development (NTISD) to manage hygiene-related activities in the camp.

Interventions include pit latrine construction, modeling pit latrine slabs, distributing hand-washing facilities at household and community levels as well as constructing drying racks for kitchen utensils.

Malteser has catered for persons with disabilities by providing them with user-friendly hand-washing facilities and pit latrines.

"We have also repaired water sources, excavated others and connected several 10,000-litre water tanks to ensure safe and reliable water for the refugees," Aruho says.

Aruho tells WASH Journal that the water tanks are connected to four-tap outlets that can concurrently and rapidly fill four 20-litre jerrycans at ago.

## Coverage



Some of refugees in Mugenyi A at a water point provided under the Malteser - Nsamizi WASH project.



Malteser staff checking on water use among refugees in Bubukwanga Refugee Transit Camp, Bundibugyo.



Amon Aruho, Malteser International South Western Project Manager



"We have also repaired water sources, excavated others and connected several 10,000-litre water tanks to ensure safe and reliable water for the refugees," says Amon Aruho.

**87,000**

Beneficiaries reached in these districts



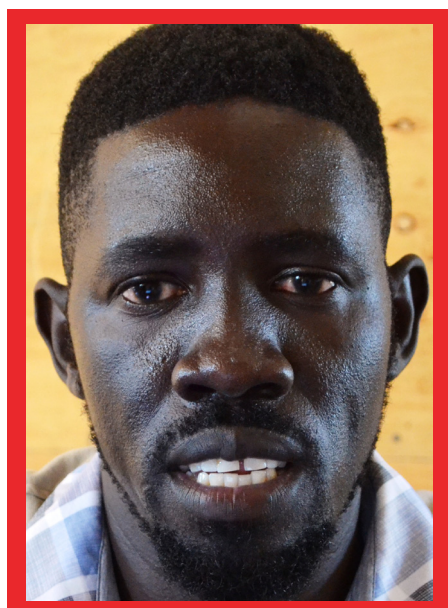
**10,000**

litre water tanks





One of the IDPs in Ntoroko Town Council 16 year-old Jovia Biira at a hand-washing facility installed by CAFOMI under Malteser International Support.



Janan Luwum, the Kasese, Bundibugyo, Ntoroko and Kikube WASH officer

**“Every day, we receive about 80 Congolese refugees here,” Asiimwe says.**

“We have so far reached more than 87,000 beneficiaries in these districts,” says Aruho.

According to Aruho, the interventions, which have so far consumed about 500,000 Euros (about Sh2.070b) since last year, include provision of direct and indirect services.

Malteser International also supports Bubukwanga refugee transit centre in Bundibugyo town, where, according to the camp commandant, Leo Mugabe Asiimwe, the demand for water is still overwhelming, owing to the constant refugee influx from neighbouring DR Congo.

Delivering WASH interventions through the Care for Forced Immigrants (CAFOMI), Malteser International focuses on the refugees in Bubukwanga Refugee Transit Camp in Bundibugyo and in Ntoroko district.

According to the CAFOMI WASH project officer there, Janan Luwum, **1,780** people in **375** households were in March last year displaced when Lake Albert flooded and submerged Ntoroko Town Council.

“We moved into Bubukwanga to respond to the very high need for water supply that the Congolese refugee influx created in the camp,” Luwum says.

“When they moved in around May, there was completely no water supply in the transit camp,” Luwum adds.

He says part of the response has been the installation of three **10,000**-litre water tanks and a **6,000** litre tank to serve the kitchen.

He also says CAFOMI responded to the water shortage in Mirambi sub-county when landslides and floods hit the area.

The organisation has started on the renovation

of water springs to serve two villages in the sub-county.

**“Under Malteser International, we also constructed one 10,000-litre tank to serve the community,” Luwum adds.**

To support adherence to the COVID-19 standard operating standards (SOPs) and stem potential Ebola and cholera among the mingling refugees and host communities, the organisation procured 20 hand-washing facilities, placing 10 at Bubukwanga and four at the IDP camp in Ntoroko district.

To ensure adherence, WASH volunteers have been trained in hygiene maintenance and sanitation in the four districts.

CAFOMI also supports the IDPs who fled to Ntoroko Seed Secondary school after fleeing their homes flooded by Lake Albert in Ntoroko District.

To save the IDPs, numbering 375 households, from consuming unsafe water from Lake Albert, CAFOMI extended two tap stands and provided aqua tablets.

Luwum, however, reported several challenges which included dwindling budget amidst the growing demand among the refugees and IDPs.

“The refugees need relocation because they are currently congested,” he says. According to the Bubukwanga camp commandant, Leo Mugabe Asiimwe, there were 633 refugees.

“Every day, we receive about 80 Congolese refugees here,” Asiimwe says.

Luwum hopes that Malteser, which has so far injected 10,699,951 Euros, into WASH activities in Bundibugyo, Kasese, Kikuube and Ntoroko districts, extends support to CAFOMI.





## Achieving a defecation - free Uganda:

### How Malteser International is improving lives through Water, Sanitation and Hygiene services in the south western Uganda

By John B. Thawite

**One of the eye-catchers in Nakivale Refugee Settlement, in Isingiro district, is the phrase Open Defecation-free village 2021," It is inscribed on a large sign post in one of the 77 villages that make up the 61-year-old settlement in South-Western Uganda. The signpost stands in Mugenyi A village that hosts 2,954 refugees mainly from the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC), Rwanda and Burundi.**

**Next to it is another billboard with writings in Kinyarwanda and drawings of good and bad WASH practices.**



Open defecation is the practice whereby people go in fields, bushes, forests, open water bodies, or other open spaces to defecate.

The practice pre-exposes communities to various risks health risks such as diarrhea, cholera and typhoid.

Such diseases can be extremely contagious and deadly among crowded and confined populations such refugees or internally displaced persons (IDPs).

The open defecation-free initiative in Nakivale is one of the many WASH interventions being funded by Malteser International, a humanitarian agency based in Cologne, Germany.

In partnership with the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), Malteser has partnered with Nsamizi Training Institute for Social Development (NTISD), has demonstrated that open defecation can be eliminated.

Under the collaboration, four of the villages have been turned into models to show-case WASH strategy. According to Peter Kakuru, the four villages are Ruhoko A, Nyakagando A, Mugenyi A and Kyeibare C that host 17,000 refugees living in 2,612.

This one of the four-open defecation-free model villages where we have adopted set up in the settlements says to show that we can achieve an open defecation-free society if we adhered to the set standards, says Kakuru.



A billboard depicting good and bad hygiene practices in Nakivale Refugee Settlement.





Malteser-Nsamizi WASH Project Officer, Peter Kakuru

“  
We ensure that those that have been classified as models have a responsibility not to back-track because they will have earned themselves a name in the community,” Kakuru says.

**81% success**

“We have 100% latrine coverage with other basic sanitation items at household level”, Kakuru says.

### How the model works

Kakuru says Nsamizi “creates shame related to open defecation among the refugees and teaches them to abandon their bad sanitation habits and practices and adopt the good ones”.

The intervention involves constructing pit latrines at household and community levels. “After we have taught them, we single out households that have been performing outstandingly in responding to these interventions”.

“We then classify them as models for others to learn from as a means of continuity so that others can often consult them on how they do things”. Kakuru says

Under the intervention, water sources have also been either constructed or renovated and giant plastic reservoir tanks erected and connected to quadruple tap stands that can concurrently rapidly fill four jerrycans

Malteser supports the construction of pit latrines, production and installation of pit latrine slabs and provision of three-litre tippy-tap hand-washing jerrycans and soap.

“We ensure that those that have been classified as models have a responsibility not to back-track because they will have earned themselves a name in the community,” Kakuru says.

He says a pool of 80 village Health Teams (VHTs) trained on Community-Led Total Sanitation (CLTS).

Education, information and communication materials have also been produced and disseminated to ensure adherence.

As part of inculcating the WASH culture, Malteser-Nsamizi has also introduced a child-focused approach code-named CHAST (Children Hygiene and Sanitation Training).

According to the CHAST focal person, Nice Ahereza, twenty children from each of the four villages have been trained on WASH Practices so that they act as CHAST agents among their peers and also assist adults in maintaining hygiene.

To motivate the children, Malteser-Nsamizi gives them incentives such as refreshments during training or T-shirts.

“But we often get communication challenges because the children hail from different language speaking countries”, says Ahereza.



Pit latrine slabs being made under Malteser-Nsamizi partnership for the WASH project in Nakivale refugee camp.



CHAST members with some of the WASH officers at Mugenyi A village, one of the open defecation-free villages in Isingiro district.

### Children speak out

“We have been taught how to wash our bodies at least thrice a day, sweep our compounds, clean kitchen utensils and dry them on racks”, they chorused Oct 6. They also said they had been taught how to wash hands after visiting a toilet and before eating and clean their teeth with charcoal in the absence of toothpaste.

### Not rocket science

We are not evoking cutting-edge science but simply using community-appropriate and compatible approaches that can survive the test of time. The persons of concern should be able to maintain and continue with the standards we have taught them.- Peter Kakuru



## Efficiency

"Ever since we got into partnership with Malteser International and started applying these measures, we haven't had any issue that comes as result of poor sanitation and hygiene practices, meaning that our approach is really working and are being adopted by the members of the community," Says Kakuru

## Taming Covid-19

Kakuru adds that the Malteser-Nsamizi WASH project has been utilised to implement the COVID-19 standard operating procedures (SOPs).

"We have stepped up exclusive hand-washing campaigns. Malteser has donated 10,000 more three-litre jerrycans which we installed at household level and ensured they always carry enough water for massive hand-washing," he adds.

Besides, Malteser has also provided 1,000 cartons of soap for distribution in the model villages and other areas of the settlement.

No COVID-19 case has been registered in any of these model villages, Kakuru adds.

Malteser has also boosted Nsamizi with some logistical support, which includes a motorcycle, a car and ICT materials.

To alleviate the cost of implementation, Nsamizi has also employed part-time volunteers.



Good upbringing - Davi Longeli, 12, from Congo, has been taught how to use a tippy tap to avoid diseases.

“we have stepped up exclusive handwashing campaign to curb the spread of diseases including covid-19



Musamba and her family are among the households in the open defecation-free village where drying racks have been constructed.

## Beneficiaries speak out

"Before my household became part of this arrangement, my children used to suffer periodic diarrheal infections and body rashes," narrated Silvie Musamba, 36, a Congolese refugee.

Standing at the doorstep of her well-tended temporary house, Musamba adds that back home, she had never seen this high level of sanitation and hygiene.

After being supported to have a drying rack for my utensils, it is now easy to keep them clean, she said in a mixture of Kiswahili of Congolese accent.

For Leodinia, 51, from Viro, Ruchuru, the innovations here are new in her life. "Many people in my home village don't have such well-dug pit latrines," she said.

Paskazia Sebuye from Burundi says bringing water closer to the village has saved her the long distance, time and fear of trekking to Lake Nakivale to fetch water for her six-member family.

To date, the Malteser-Nsamizi model initiative has injected 190,000 Euros in the intervention. Kakuru prays that Malteser support continues after the expected project end this year.

## Defecation status in Uganda

In the sector review performance report last year, the Ministry of Water and Environment reported that 97.9% are open defecation free and only 2.1% Ugandans were still practising open defecation.



Musamba listening to the South-western Uganda WASH Project Manager, Amon Aruho and another staff

“Bringing water closer to the village has saved me the long distance, time and fear of trekking to lake Nakivale to fetch water for my six family members”

97.9%

open defecation free

2.1%

Ugandans still practicing open defecation



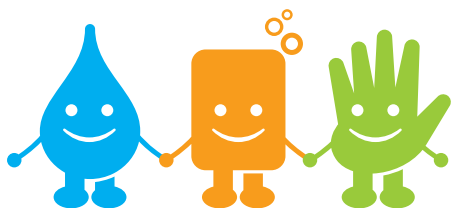


Some of the Isingiro WASH team members during an inspection of the open defecation-free model villages in Isingiro

# A glance at Water, Sanitation and Hygiene Services in South Western Uganda

By John B. Thawite

**On October 15, Uganda joined other nations to commemorate this year's global hand-washing day under the theme, "Our Future is at Hand – Let's Move Forward Together."**



“

**Practical and evidence based-approach has demonstrated Infection Prevention and control with Handwashing is critical to achieve Universal Health Coverage, World Health Organization.**

**A**ccording to the World Health Organisation (WHO), this year's event is primarily aimed at re-energising nations into more hand-washing as one of the most effective ways of fighting off the raging COVID-19 pandemic.

"Infection prevention and control, including hand hygiene, is critical to achieve UHC(Universal health coverage) as it is a practical and evidence-based approach with demonstrated impact on quality of care and patient safety across all levels of the health system," says the WHO on its website.

Though Uganda, in partnership with scores of development partners, has invested heavily in water supply for various uses, including hand-washing, under the water sanitation and hygiene (WASH), water supply remains a challenge to some districts.

A glance at Isingiro, Kasese, Bundibugyo and Ntoroko, indicates that natural disasters, financial constraints, population increases and negative mindsets are among some of the factors frustrating adherence to the water supply.

This is despite heavy investments from Government and agencies like Malteser International who support Water, sanitation and hygiene in the south western districts.

According to the Project Manager in charge of South-Western region, which covers the four districts, Malteser funds WASH intervention worth a 500,000Euro (over Sh2.07b).

## **Kasese:**

Kasese Deputy Chief Administrative Officer, Samuel Ssenku Kimuli, lauds the German-based humanitarian agency for having saved lives from water-related risks after floods devastated nearly all the water sources in the districts.

He says the many interventions by Malteser included the erection of a water-purifying plant at Nkaiga Primary School, Maliba subcounty, from which the agency even supplied clean water to various internally displaced people (IDPs) in the district and some affected communities around the school.

This was besides the provision of water storage containers, hundreds of cartons of soap, construction of temporary pit latrines and the establishment and training of a district-based emergency medical services (EMS) team.

"Malteser has also invested heavily in repairing many of our water points but the recurrent floods have betrayed us," regrets the DACO. According to the district senior planner, Joseph Isingoma, the floods have crippled about 33 gravity flow water schemes (GFSs) and several health centres, disrupting WASH opportunities.

But Isingoma notes that Malteser International emptied 8 blocks of pit latrines at some of institutions that hosted the IPDs.

However, Isingoma notes that the displaced girls and women were finding it hard to adhere to WASH standards due to lack of segregated





Raphaelina Katusabe - Kasese Assistant Water Engineering Officer

toilet and bathing facilities in the current four camps hosting about 2,000 IDPs. He also cites poor waste water disposal as another challenge in the camps, urging partners to move in and support the district's Sh54b post-disaster two-year recovery required budget.

Raphaelina Katusabe, the Kasese district Assistant Water Engineer, says the restoration of some water sources has saved around 815 households (about 4,890) from spending their money on buying water.

But she adds that water coverage has declined to 57% partly due to the floods have partly changed the water quality and the de-commissioning of some water plants,

She also says only 25 (about 3.2%) of the 783 villages are open defecation-free.

"Most of our findings show that we are below the recommended WASH standards"

She says much as the district latrine coverage is at 79%, 74% and 98% at schools and health facilities respectively, hand-washing is at 35% at community level.

This is despite the COVID-19 SOPs which emphasize regular hand-washing among others.

"At first Covid-19 boosted hand-washing but now people have relaxed," she says.

According to a water supervisor at the district, Asha Muhindo, adherence to WASH standards is still low because some communities still wash their clothes and kitchen utensils in rivers.

Katusabe adds that water quality remains one of the challenges because the district doesn't have appropriate technology and reagents.

However, according to the district budget framework paper, the district water sector budget increased from Sh1,405,439,000 2019/2020 to Sh1,653,831,000 in the 2020/2021 financial year.

Annet Luwambo, The National Union of Disabled Persons of Uganda (NUDIPU), is the Project Officer of the Kasese-based NAWODU (National Women Organisation of Uganda).



Annet Luwambo, the WASH Officer - National Union for Disabled persons of Uganda (NUDIPU)

"We are concerned that some public facilities are not WASH-oriented and not special needs-sensitive," she says.

She cites the recently constructed Kasese main market in the heart of Kasese Municipality, which was commissioned by President Museveni earlier this year.

Luwambo, whose organisation partnered with Malteser mainly to sensitise fellow Persons with disabilities (PWDs) and the community, complains some of the toilets in the market are not friendly to PWD.

The initial plan was not disability friendly until I resisted it and had it adjusted," Peter Baluku, the Coordinator Kasese district Persons with Disabilities (KADUPEDI) says.

He adds that ramps and some toilet provision were consequently adjusted.

Supported by Malteser, NAWODU has supported WASH and supplied face masks to RAP-CD (Rwenzori Association of Parents of Children with Disabilities).

"We have been taught on hand-washing, sanitising and given face masks to safeguard our children and their parents from COVID-19," says Mali Nehemiya Segunya, the RAP-CD administrator.

Some of the IPDs that Malteser has supported included the 19 households camped at Kasese Humanist School, Kasese Municipality where the humanitarian agency has repaired a tap stand, installed a fifty-litre hand-washing refillable water container, supplied basins, jerrycans and kitchen utensils.

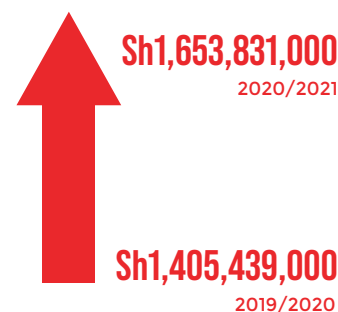
"Before that, we were fetching dirty water from River Nyamwamba or buying a 20 litre jerrycan at Sh100 when we could afford," says Molly Saidaki, an elderly woman who hails from Mbarara and has been living in Kasese since she was a young girl but could not recall her age.

A widow of a former Nyakasura School teacher, she is among the IDPs from Kyondo

Ward of Nyamwamba Division after her house was washed away by Nyamwamba last year.

"Malteser has done what government hasn't done," says the camp chairperson, Mustafa Kisuki, 60.

#### The district water sector budget



**"We are concerned that some public facilities are not WASH-oriented and not special needs-sensitive," says Annet Luwambo**



Isingiro water engineering assistant Douglas Rweyeshera

## Bundibugyo

Bundibugyo has numerous rivers and streams that gush billions of litres of water down the steep Mt Rwenzori terrain.

Paradoxically, 37% of the population, projected at 224,387, doesn't have access to clean water.

Water coverage, according to the acting District Water Officer, Ismail Tusiime, has been dropping since 2016 due to the increasing population.

"Our coverage has been declining since 2016 because it was then at 65%," he says.

He attributes the population explosion partly on the Kabarole-Bundibugyo road construction.

"So the population has grown higher than the supply of water," says Tusiime.

Located on the foot of Mt Rwenzori, the district has water schemes which depend on the gravity water from the mountains in form of rivers, springs and streams from which most water supply systems have been tapped.

"In total we have about twenty-six piped water schemes which serve majorly the lowland parts of the district where the water tapping is done.

"This leaves the population in the mountains largely unserved with piped water.

He, however, says protected springs have been provided in some parts of the mountain highland areas.

According to the district budget, the water department allocation dropped from Sh586,575,000 in 2019/2020 to Sh573,607,000 in the 2020/2021 financial year.

He also blames the inadequate water supply on low water quantities in some parts, citing Burondo subcounty neighbouring Ntoroko district.

He adds that functionality of the available water resource systems has also dropped from between 85 and 90% in 2019 to 62% in 2021.

He attributed the drop to heavy floods and landslides that hit the district in December 2019.

"The disaster destroyed more than 21 water systems in the whole district, leaving them non functional."

He, however, hails partners, including Malteser, Norwegian Refugee Council, World Harvest Mission and Government, for having intervened and repaired some of the crippled systems.

Tusiime notes that the district was still unable to resurrect the remaining defunct ones due to low financing.

He also says the community-based water management system has generally been non-functional.

"Now the government is working on a new approach, the Community-based-led Maintenance Systems Plus, which will be a little more centralized," he says.

Tusiime explains that under the new approach water leadership systems are to be jointly managed by the districts and government, enabling the government to have more direct control.

The government has also brought a new system whereby the piped water systems are supposed be handed over or gazetted for maintenance by an umbrella organisation mandated to operate as utilities under central government.

Also frustrating WASH in the districts are the loose soils on the mountain slopes and lower lands.

"During these disasters, the loose soils break or flood our water system affecting our functionality and water quality."

Tusiime says due to the low district capacity, it is hard to restore the broken systems in time despite the presence of the District Disaster Management Committee, which is under the Office of the Prime Minister.

According to Tusiime, though the mountain population accounts for 40% of the district population, it heavily contributes to the destruction of water services in the lowlands.

He explains that the heavily cultivated and occupied mountain terrain experiences a lot of siltation and soil erosion into the rivers and streams.

Tusiime also says WASH standards are compromised by old waste systems and the D.R.Congolese refugees that transit through Bubukwanga Refugee Transit Camp in the district.

According to the transit camp commandant, Leo Mugabi Asimwe, the demand for water is higher than the supply, explaining that the camp receives about 80 refugees daily.

This is despite the presence of the Malteser-funded Care for Forced Immigrants (CAFOMI), whose main focus is the provision of adequate safe and clean water.

## Isingiro

Whereas Isingiro district boast of close to 500 water sources, some 55% of the projected population of about 420,000 people, has no access to safe and clean water.

Douglas Rweyeshera, an Engineering Assistant, says there are 455 ground water sources and 1,389 water-harvesting tanks of various categories and outputs. He says whenever a water sources is indentified, private land owners are resistant to allow free excavation.

"Yet as a district we don't have enough money to compensate the landowner," says Rweyeshera, adding that some politicians have de-campaigned the Sh90,000 annual operation and maintenance fee the communities are supposed to pay.

"When we ask the communities to pay, some politician block the process, telling the residents that water is free," laments Rweyeshera.

He also says that some communities vandalise the water infrastructure either out of malice or to go sell the parts to metal scrap factory in Mbarara City.

According to the district budget estimates contained in the district budget framework paper, the water budget of about Sh2,707b in the 2019/2020 financial year declined to Sh2,450,390,000 in 2020/2021. The district hosts many humanitarian agencies, especially because of the presence of the 61-year-old Nakivale Refugee Settlement.

## Ntoroko

When Lake Albert flooded in April 2019, it submerged Ntoroko Parish, displacing over 300 residents, adding an extra WASH burden on the already water-stressed administration.

"If it weren't for the quick intervention of Malteser, there would have been a disease outbreak," says the Town Council LC III chairperson, Sylvester Kiiza.

Malteser-supported WASH activities are also implemented by CAFOMI.

CAFOMI project officer, Janan Luwum, says the IDPS previously depended on the water from the lake.

CAFOMI has installed water tanks, hand-washing facilities, and embarked on mobilisation against COVID-19.

**"Agencies such as Malteser International have come to our rescue and repaired water sytems which were crippled by floods and landslides," says Tusiime.**





PENTECOSTAL ASSEMBLIES  
OF GOD - UGANDA



Some of the Maliba subcounty Menstrual Health Management trainers of trainers group demonstrating how re-usable sanitary pads are made.

# Church aids Kasese girls, women to subdue menstrual woes

By John Thawite

**If menstrual periods are among the factors behind the dropout of thousands of schoolgirls, the Pentecostal Assemblies of God (PAG) is out to combat the challenge in various districts.**

**S**ponsored by the Canadian-based Emergency Relief Development Overseas (ERDO) organisation, the PAG has launched a capacity building approach to empower girls and women to sustainably make and use their own re-usable sanitary pads while extending the skills to their community members.

Through the measure, known as the Menstrual Hygiene Management (MHM) Project, the Church has started training the beneficiaries to make the pads, especially following recent floods in Kasese and the lockdown occasioned by the COVID-19 pandemic.

The PAG has, since last year, run three projects, one called Emergency Response and Preparedness for Kasese District Floods, a second being the Support to the Victims of Floods in Kasese and the third being the MHM.

"Each of the first two projects targeted two hundred beneficiaries, providing relief food supplies. The first project also provided hoes and pangas besides planting materials such as maize seeds and beans," says Linda Katta, the MHM Projects Officer in Kasese district.



Helping each other to make sanitary pads

**"To kick-start the process, we procured and supplied the beneficiaries with the items to make the pads," adds Linda Katta.**



## Multiplier strategy

"We have initially trained 60 trainers of trainers (TOTs) and commissioned them to train nine others each until as many girls and women are trained to make their own re-usable pads," says Katta.

Katta says the MHM innovation, started last year, operates in various parts of the country including Kasese district, where it initially started with the flood survivors.

The intervention started in Nyamwamba Division of Kasese Municipality, Maliba and Karusandara, where it will be expected to initially benefit at least 600 girls and women but cascade to the grassroots.

"To kick-start the process, we procured and supplied the beneficiaries with the items to make the pads," adds Katta.



Christine Kave a student at kyeizooba girls' secondary school

## Beneficiaries testify

"Before being trained, I was spending at least Sh5,000 monthly on buying myself disposable pads to manage my menstrual periods," said Christine Kave, 15, of Railway Cell, Nyamwamba Division.

The senior One student at St Thomas Secondary School in Rubirizi district but now home due to the covid-19 lockdown testifies that after acquiring the skill, she is able to spend her little pocket money on other personal effects.

"It has always been hard to ask daddy for pads or money to buy them. How could i?" she asked rhetorically.

Hailing from Kasese but studying at Kyeizooba Girls Secondary School, Bushenyi district, Shanita Nansamba, says she had been saving Sh1,000 daily from looking after her uncle's school library.

Saying she started menstruating about one and a half years ago, Nansamba says the skill has saved her from spending on buying disposable sanitary. "I have also started teaching my young sisters so that they stop depending on our mother," she narrated.

But unlike Kave, Nansamba says she hadn't been having any problem asking her father, an engineer, for either pads or money to buy them.

## Temptations

"The hard times posed by Covid-19 have been tempting us to have sex to raise money for pads," Precious Kabagambe narrated at her trainer Hildah Angeyo's residence.

Media were recently awash with reports that girls in Kasese had started selling sex for pads to cope with the hard-hitting COVID-19 lockdown which has kept learners home for nearly two academic years.

A former staff at Kasese Cobalt Company which is now hardly functional, Angeyo says all one requires to make a pad are a skill and materials, which mainly comprise a needle, cotton, baby blanket, buttons, a pair of scissors and cloth.

"A sewing machine is an added advantage," says Angeyo, who is also LC I Secretary for Railway Cell.

Leah Basaasa, 28, a mother of one child, says the skill will save her from buying disposable sanitary pads every month since the re-usable ones are long-lasting.

"I expect to re-invest my Mobile Money business income, which I have been partly spending on buying pads," says Basaasa.

But Joyline Biira, 23, of Buhunga I village, Maliba subcounty, where she is a hair dresser, wonders how she will raise more materials to continue making herself the much-needed pads and train others.

"The needle slows work. I wish we had sewing machines," says Biira, noting that it is hard to make more than three pads a day with a needle.

But she is grateful that her skill has saved the money she was spending on buying herself the disposable sanitary pads.

Lauding her husband for sometimes buying pads for her, she says she intends to go into large-scale production of the re-usable sanitary pads for sale.

Esther Takwenda, who trained for two days, says she has so far trained nine other people.

An accounting and finance certificate graduate from Rwenzori Vocational College, Takwenda says her ambition is to transform the girls and women in her area into an association to lobby more support to commercially produce the re-usable sanitary pads.

19-year-old Bridget Kobugabe the training in making own pads has saved her from the embarrassment of having to borrow her mother's wrappers, locally known as bitenge, to pad at school.



Leah Susan Basaasa, a mother of one

"I expect to re-invest my Mobile Money business income, which I have been partly spending on buying pads," says Basaasa.



"It was challenging when it came to having to change them during the day," she says, explaining that she had to use the senior teacher's house while at school.

She adds that given that girls and boys share the toilets at Karusandara Primary School, she used to be nervous during her periods since she was not free to use the latrines.

"I now feel safe with my personally-made pads," says the P.7 leaver.

The PAG Rwenzori regional Secretary and Treasurer, Pastor Yofesi Buthanga says the intervention is aimed at enabling the girls and women to be self-staining in their needs

Accompanying the pad-making skills is the Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH) element to support the retention of primary school girls. The Church has embarked on constructing five-stance VIP pit latrines specifically dedicated to school girls at two schools," says the WASH Project Assistant, Allan Kasangaki.

By the time of filing this report, two five-stance VIP latrines, one of them at Destiny Nursery and Primary School, owned by the Rwenzori regional PAG Church headquarters and another at the government-owned Karusandara Primary School, were under construction.

"We have so far also supplied water buckets and soap to the flood - internally displaced persons (IDPs) at Kanyangeya Primary School and Muhokya camps," says Kasangaki.



Bridget Kobugabe of Karusandara Primary School no longer worried about her menstrual periods

**"I now feel safe with my personally-made pads," says the P.7 leaver.**



Yolesi Kabugho is a eucalyptus tree planter of Katindo cell in Ibanda-Kyanya Town Council

### Sustainable livelihoods

Beyond pad-making, relief food supplies and the WASH interventions, the Church has also supplied nearly 20,000 eucalyptus trees for the beneficiaries' post-disaster livelihoods but also environmental protection and supplied goats, hoes and pangas.

Floods in Kasese have been partly attributed to poor land management, including unsustainable tree-cutting.

Yolesi Kabugho, 52, of Katindo Cell of Ibanda-Kyanya Town Council, Bugoye subcounty, has managed to plant 800 eucalyptus trees from which she expects to harvest money and fuel wood in the next five years.

"I foresee money in the future and feel safe that I shall be able to look after my seven grandchildren that my son has fathered from different women and put under my care," she says.

**"I foresee money in the future and feel safe that I shall be able to look after my seven grandchildren that my son has fathered from different women and put under my care," she says.**

## Why we do it, Bishop Moses Okum

The PAG Church in Rwenzori region is headed by Bishop Moses Okum, who oversees nine districts in the region.

Speaking at the Church regional headquarters in Kasese Municipality, Okum said the interventions are under the Social Development arm of evangelism.

"We have given out goats to 40 households in the second project. Each household has to pass the first kid to another household to create a multiplier effect," says Bishop Okum.

"All these WASH activities are aimed at promoting menstrual hygiene," says the Bishop.

Bishop Okum adds that last year, Church also cleared a Sh900,000 water bill to the National Water and Sewerage Corporation which the IDPs had caused Kanyangeya Primary School after the IPDs were relocated an IDP at Muhokya .

"Our interventions are part of spreading the love of Christ. We run a holistic ministry focusing not only on the spiritual being but also on the social and economic needs of our people," he says.

He explains that the provision of the trees and goats are aimed at facilitating the beneficiaries to establish long-term and sustainable livelihoods.



Bishop Okum, Head of PAG in kasese



The old pit latrine that girls and boys were sharing at Karusandara Primary School.



Deo Kule Isemamba of Kanyangeya main cell



Completed works with foundation stone

## Funds

"Funded by our partner, the ERDO, we have so far spent Sh292m on all these interventions since we started eleven months ago," Okum says.

He adds that the biggest amount of Sh134m was spent in the second phase, while phases one and three consumed Sh68m and Sh90m respectively.

But the Bishop challenges the communities not to "just wait for government to things for them but also contribute something."

## COVID-19 mainstreamed

Combined with these interventions, the Church says it has also carried out door-to-door mobilisation against the deadly COVID-19 pandemic.

## Leaders hail PAG

Lauding the church for clearing the water bill, the chairman of Kanyangeya Main Cell, Deo Kule Isemamba, appeals for relief for another recently floods-displaced group of residents now camped at Kanyangeya Primary School.

"The training method of making re-usable pads is effective. I can foresee the skills trickling down to the last person in the community," says Isaac Bwambale, the chairperson of Kyanya Central Cell in Ibanda/Kyanya Town Council.

He adds "Since the intervention started, I have been promoting it in my community mobilisation activities to embrace it."

The training method of making re-usable pads is effective. I can foresee the skills trickling down to the last person in the community,"



**T**his month Wells of Life drilled its 617th well and rehabilitated its 117th well as a contribution to ending water scarcity and as a chance to alleviate some of the 2.2 billion people living without access to safe water across the globe.

Like the rest of the world, Uganda faces major challenges: population growth, climate change and the current health crisis threaten people and their livelihoods. Home to 3.3% of Africa's population today (45 million people), the World Bank growth forecasts are formidable: by 2050 Uganda's population is expected to double. Needless to say, population growth will amplify the challenges related to drinking water access.

On a positive note, some initiatives are underway to improve water access in the country. Wells of Life is involved in numerous projects that directly address water scarcity through construction and rehabilitation of quality wells for abstraction of ground water in different parts of Uganda.

## Wells of Life restores hope in Kabale Catholic Diocese



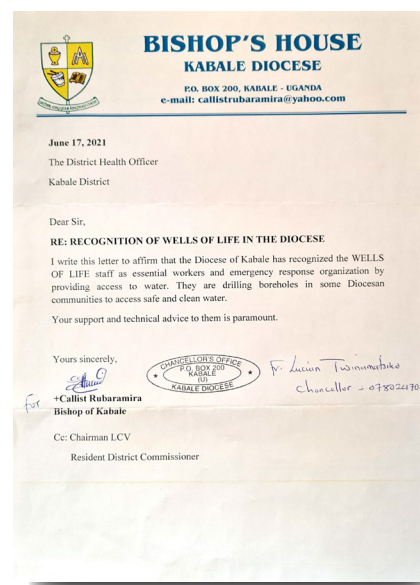
One of the boreholes sunk by Wells Of Life

**T**he Kabale Catholic Diocese covers six districts: Kabale, Rubanda, Rukungiri, Kisoro, Kanungu and Ntungamo. In these districts, statistics show a rosy picture of high levels of water coverage ranging from 90% in Kanungu to 43% in Kisoro. However the reality on the ground are dry taps from non-functional gravity flow schemes with women and children moving over 3 kilometers to locate water at the foot of the hills. Groundwater abstraction has also been controversial in these districts of southwestern Uganda, with several attempts to drilling failing. Districts such as Kabale, Rubanda and Kisoro have some of the lowest numbers of boreholes much as the borehole technology remains the most commonly used in rural water supply nationally.

According to the District Water Officer (DWO) of Kabale - Patience Aharinta, no well has been drilled in Kabale in her tenure since 2019 and the district is in great need of access to clean water.

From what seemed like an impossible mission, this year Wells of Life constructed 11 wells in the 2 neighboring districts of Kabale and Rubanda for the Catholic Dioceses of Kabale with support of the Mercy Works Foundation. Over the next 2 years, Wells of Life will drill 20 more wells in the Diocese of Kabale.

Bishop Rt. Rev. Callist Rubaramira who is a strong advocate of community responsibility for well sustainability is committed to setting up highly functional Water Committees. Priests and local leaders will oversee these committees with a goal to ensure the maintenance of the well.



**“** No well has been drilled in Kabale in her tenure since 2019 and the district is in great need of access to clean water. **”**

Before Nyonga village received a well, Julius and his siblings walked nearly an hour to a pond called Mbilidde. On top of the water at the pond being contaminated, fetching water for his family by walking every morning and evening, made him to arrive at school late and tired most of the time.

This meant he missed class time, which led to his poor performance. "I lost count of times that I needed to use water but could not access it to brush my teeth daily, bathe and quench my thirst after playing soccer with my friends at school." Said Julius. With the various tasks that made up his daily routine, inaccessibility to clean water was such an obstacle to his happiness as a child.

He comes from a family of 10 children. Now that he and his siblings have access to safe water nearby, they can focus on studying and enjoying their childhood.



Julius Sselwanga, a 13-year-old boy, is one of the beneficiaries of Well #538 constructed by Wells of Life in in Nyonga Village, Kassanda District this year.



When our well broke down, my son Joel (13 years old) used to walk a distance of about 4 miles to fetch water in the valley. It was such a long walk from our home, and it was always exhausting for my child. The situation has changed ever since Wells of Life repaired our well, providing clean water and easy access to it. We have realized sanitation and hygiene-related improvements within just months. Our children now drink clean water and bathe regularly without necessarily worrying about the water accessibility. They reach school in time, which has improved their performance. Pregnant mothers no longer walk long distances for water, which is a guaranteed safety for their unborn babies." **Mary Gutti of Ssekanyonyi Village, Mityana District where Wells of Life Rehabilitated well #R81**



Residents of Ssekanyonyi village fetching water from the rehabilitated well #R81.



L-R: Rev. Fr. Lucian Twinamatsiko, Secretary of the Bishop Rt. Rev. Callist Rubaramira, Bishop of Kabale Diocese and Adrian Laurentiu, Country Director Wells of Life Uganda

## Data Triangulation for Better Monitoring of sector indicators

For the past four years Wells of Life has concentrated its efforts in 3 neighboring districts of Mityana, Mubende and Kasanda with an aim of saturating wells and ultimately contributing towards universal access to safe water. Through this move over 350 new wells have been sunk in the region.

In 2009 the International Institute for Environment and Development (IIED) estimated that up to \$360m had been spent on building boreholes and wells that then become useless because they were not maintained or fixed when they break down.

Uganda has a Water Supply Atlas (database) which covers all 136 districts with water information from Point Water Sources, Piped Schemes and National Water & Sewerage Corporation. The purpose of this Water Supply Database (WSDB) is to provide stakeholders with good knowledge and information on matters concerning the current safe water supply coverage, functionality and distribution of water among others. According to this database, Uganda currently has about 15% of its wells in rural areas not functioning.

For reasons like this, Wells of Life started rehabilitating non functional wells in their region of operation and have since restored 117 wells in Mityana District alone. We also assigned all wells we drilled or restored to an Area Service Provider in charge of ensuring continuous functionality through a preventative maintenance approach.

In April 2021 Wells of Life tabled a discussion on the need for triangulation of MWE WSDB data with members of the UWASNET Good Governance Technical Working Group. Data from the Water Atlas was assessed side by side with data from water supply interventions carried out in the region where we operate and we realized some gaps. For instance, functionality in Mityana District has been at 68% for the past 3 years despite the investment wells of Life has made in restoring 117 nonfunctional wells in the district.

Now, one might argue that wells keep breaking

down but before you throw my argument out, consider the fact that in April 2021 the WSDB indicated that there are 298 functional and 100 nonfunctional wells in Mityana. Fast forward, five months later the database still indicates the same figures despite the fact that Wells of Life rehabilitated 33 wells between April and August 2021. We also shared construction reports with the authorities in Mityana.

In May 2021, Wells of Life and Whave Solutions conducted a census for water sources in Kassanda District to serve as a baseline for scaling their operation restoration program there. The study also revealed discrepancies between data in the WSDB and the reality on the ground, e.g. the study found a total of 197 deep boreholes in existence in the district while the WSDB today indicates a total of 153 wells. Between May and August 2021 alone, Wells of Life constructed 10 new deep wells in Kassanda district.

It is in this regard that we continue to advocate triangulation of sector data in order for effective monitoring of Uganda's sector indicators to take place. Triangulation facilitates validation of data through cross verification from more than two sources.

From the UWASNET Good Governance TWC meeting of April, the following practices were tabled for adoption by sector partners to help improve quality of sector data;

- District level data validation meetings (During the District Water Sanitation Coordination Committee Meeting's)
- Strengthened comprehensive reporting for CSOs
- Roll out SDG 6.1-2 Monitoring framework further to all partners
- District wide surveys
- Creation of a parallel database to mirror government data
- Disseminations

*'Despite the input by partners like Wells of Life, Water coverage statistics in the region barely change.'*



# Sustainable WASH Improvement: Empowering Health workers through Community Led Total Sanitation (CLTS) and Follow Up MANDONA (FUM) Trainings



In 2021 Wells of Life teamed up with the Ministry of Health's Environmental Health Unit to build capacity of health workers to realize a more sustainable future for Mityana's rural communities.

**A**s part of Wells of Life's hygiene and Sanitation Improvement initiative, known as the Healthy Village Program, 30 health extension workers from Mityana District were trained in WASH development approaches of Community Led Total Sanitation (CLTS) and Follow Up MANDONA (FUM). Categories of health workers trained included, Community Development Officers, Health inspectors, Health assistants as well as VHT Parish coordinators.

The trainings which were both theoretical and practical had the latter aspects carried out in the communities of Kakindu where Wells of Life's Healthy Village Program is being implemented.



District local government extension workers have a lot of local knowledge and experience from working in communities where they are deployed; It is sustainable to build their capacity because once this is done they can deliver even beyond the lifespan and geographic scope of projects". Pascal Olinga, Deputy Country Director - Wells of Life

The Wells of Life, Healthy Village initiative which closely aligns with the UN's water related Sustainable Development Goals, seeks to inspire action to address Mityana's water, sanitation and hygiene challenges and restore dignity to families.

The CLTS and FUM approaches main goal is to end open defecation and its consequences of spread of deadly diseases like Cholera, diarrhea etc. In order to end Open Defecation, environmentally safe sanitary facilities (which prevent human contact with human waste) are a must have in all households. This is to be achieved through promoting the construction of improved latrine structures by households; the project also promotes use of other facilities like drying racks and bathing shelters in households.

This year Wells of Life is targeting 20 villages in Kakindu Sub County, having 2274 households. Of these households, 23% still practice open defecation.



Alex Akaka - Health Inspector in Mityana,



Wells of Life have invested in building capacity of health workers from Mityana district in CLTS and FUM, we are grateful for their support and will use the skills to support their programs in Kakindu. The training we have received will also help us in implementing CLTS in Ssekanyonyi and Bulera Sub Counties under the district sanitation grant this financial year. **Alex Akaka - Health Inspector in Mityana,**

## Before



## After



Transformation from a traditional latrine with limited privacy to an improved latrine.

**We provide one thing:**  
DIGNITY!!! To people that have nothing and are valued by nobody. We offer the opportunity to receive one vital human distinction: Dignity in the image of God.



# Tales of Lockdown and Menstruation

**“Wells of Life partnered with Miss Uganda Foundation and Skin Guard during distribution of menstrual kits to girls in Mityana district.”**



(L-R) Miss Uganda 20/21 Elizabeth Bagaya, 2nd Runner Up Petronella Achen and 1st Runner Up Mariam Nyamatte

**Y**ou have probably heard of the adage that ‘the average Ugandan is a 17 year old adolescent girl who struggles to manage her menstruation with dignity’. Well you ought to know that during this current COVID-19 pandemic many of these girls struggled more to manage their menstruation with dignity. Uganda has over 20 million girls and women who are or have been menstruating while simultaneously coping with the COVID-19 pandemic. For many, the ability to safely manage their menstrual health and hygiene remains a widely unmet need, in part because discussion of menstruation is time and again considered taboo.

Water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH) plays a vital role in menstrual hygiene management and can either help or hinder peoples’ healthy and dignified management of their periods. However, in many settings around Uganda, the difficulties of managing menstrual hygiene while simultaneously grappling with a continued lack of access to WASH resources remains an everyday struggle. It is estimated that roughly 15.53 million people lack access to safely managed drinking water services, and only about 34.2 million Ugandans living in rural areas lack access to safely managed sanitation services. Too often, these basic resources are not easily accessible for particularly women and girls who menstruate.

*The increased demand for limited WASH resources, particularly in rural communities that are water stressed put further constraints on menstrual hygiene management. There is tension between competing needs: using water to combat the spread of COVID-19 or using water to support menstruators’ needs. More often than not, menstrual hygiene management needs become secondary – Harriet Ayugi*



Harriet Ayugi, Senior WASH Officer Wells of Life

The impacts of COVID-19 have reinforced the challenges associated with menstruation, as crucial WASH resources have been diverted to cope with the pandemic, further intensifying existing inequalities for women, girls, and others who menstruate. Failing to adequately and respectfully address menstrual hygiene needs can compromise menstruators’ physical and mental health, and limit their social and economic development opportunities.

With the closure of schools due to COVID-19 lockdown effects, there has been a lack of access to both necessary menstrual hygiene information and supplies. Restrictions around freedom of movement and mandatory quarantining have forced many to remain at home where they are often unable to access sufficient sanitary supplies. According to a 2021 study by Forum for African Women Educationalists Uganda (FAWEU), Some families with a high number of children cannot feed their children cannot provide the basic needs.

A parent may consider buying a sanitary towel when a girl is going back to a boarding school, however, when this girl is at home, it’s not seen as an emergency. This study by FAWEU calls for a need to place strong emphasis on ensuring that girls have access to sanitary materials.

In view of this, during the 2nd Wave of the COVID-19 associated lockdowns, Wells of Life not only accelerated its water supply initiatives but also donated reusable menstrual hygiene kits to girls from rural villages of Mityana District. In partnership with the Miss Uganda Foundation and the Movit Products brand Skinguard we reached out to 4,000 girls with a menstrual kit comprising 3 sanitary pads, a piece of soap and a pair of knickers. The girls also received mentorship and discussed pertinent life issues affecting them with the girls from the Miss Uganda Foundation.



In this campaign Miss Uganda 20/21 Elizabeth Bagaya flanked by her 1st and 2nd runners up played a big role in spreading information and awareness about menstruation and how to manage it, encouraging use of adequate safe water and materials by women and girls to stay clean during their period and also being confident.



Confidence is a virtue that many of our sisters, daughters, friends and mothers lack in life. It is generally hard to overcome any of life challenges if one is not confident including overcoming menstrual related issues, I am grateful to Wells of Life for the partnership with Miss Uganda Foundation that has granted us an opportunity to interact with the girls in the communities of Mityana and get to share with them vital issues such as Confidence and menstrual hygiene health. Mariam Nyamatte \_ Miss Uganda 1st Runner Up 20/21





"Effectively tackling menstruation stigma and achieving good menstrual hygiene practices in rural communities requires a multifaceted approach. Thank you Wells of Life for your generous donations that are helping girls in Mityana district. With menstrual knowledge and resources, young girls can continue to pursue what they dream to become in future. Some want to be beauty queens like Me," Elizabeth Bagaya, Miss Uganda – 2020/21.



Adrian Laurentiu – Country Director, Wells of Life Uganda receives donation of soap from Herbert Egesa- Brand Manager Skin Guard.

## A menstrual kit brought hope to a better future.

"Today, during the awareness session, Wells of Life and Miss Uganda told us it is okay to share our thoughts and feelings. So most of us came out and shared our experiences, what we did the first time we had our period, challenges we are meeting while managing menstruation during the lockdown period when schools are closed and other problems we face as girls. My grandmother, had taught me a bit about menstruation, but today I have learnt a lot more, received a menstrual hygiene kit and even chatted with Miss Uganda. Thank you Wells of Life," Oliver 13, Kileku Village, Mityana



Oliver Mugisha, holding out her menstrual kit donated by Wells of Life.





Mityana District Health Officer, Dr. Fred Lwasampijja (in pink) together with Wells of Life team during the handover of the donations to Mityana district local government.

## Wells of Life COVID-19 donations to Uganda.

Still about COVID-19, unlike its 2020 comparative, the second Wave this year shocked many with a higher rate of infections and death among people of all ages, including children. While the country's health system was under pressure with high numbers of patients, health workers and their families were exposed to unprecedented levels of risk of infection and or death because of limited availability of personal protective equipment and in some cases inadequate WASH facilities that foster good Infection and Prevention and Control.

Wells of Life are members of COVID 19 Taskforce in districts of Mityana, Kasanda and Mubende Districts, in the spirit of fast response, the organization supported 04 districts with supplies for improving infection prevention and control (IPC) including Hand sanitizers, Liquid soap, Surgical masks, Latex medical gloves and Temperature guns.

The support was handed over to District Health Offices for redistribution among Hospitals in 04 districts of Mityana, Kassanda, Mubende and Kabale.

During the handing over of supplies at Mityana district local government offices, in the presence of representatives from Wells of Life and Mityana district Covid-19 Task force team, led by the Mityana District Health Officer, Dr. Lwasampijja Fred, the donation from the organization was warmly received and appreciated by the task force team. The supplies

will help supplement in the local government health facilities and protect health workers as they respond to the major health crisis.

"We are thankful to Wells of Life for its integrated endeavor here in Mityana district. We pledge as the district task force team to properly manage the supplies received to save lives in our communities." Dr. Fred Lwasampijja – District Health Officer, Mityana.

In Schools Wells of Life has provided both temporary and permanent hand washing stations to boost prevention of spread of COVID-19 among pupils. Many of the schools struggle to meet the required Ministry of Health SOPs and some schools were forced to close operations even before the government closed schools generally in June this year. Wells of Life has supported 40 primary schools with temporary facilities and constructed permanent facilities for hand washing in 07 schools in Mityana District.



"We are thankful to Wells of Life for its integrated endeavor here in Mityana district. We pledge as the district task force team to properly manage the supplies received to save lives in our communities."

Dr. Fred Lwasampijja – District Health Officer, Mityana.



# Sustainable WASH Systems Learning Partnership STRENGTHENING LOCAL SYSTEMS FOR WASH SERVICES: LEARNING FROM KABAROLE DISTRICT, UGANDA



November 2021

## INTRODUCTION: Kabarole's WASH Journey

Over the last 5 years, Uganda's Kabarole District has seen positive change and development for water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH). These improvements include progress across fundamental WASH system building blocks, improved policy and planning, and more efficient maintenance and support structures. Coverage has steadily increased: water targets for basic and safely managed service are on track to meet Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 2030 goals, and sanitation targets for basic coverage are on track, although there are challenges to meeting safely-managed sanitation targets.

WASH services in Kabarole District are generally underfunded; receiving \$292,000 in the 2020-2021 financial year. The 2018-2030 Kabarole District WASH Master Plan (WMP) estimates the cost of providing universal access to water services by 2030 is \$24 million, and access to sanitation services is \$48 million.

With a population of 403,000, 80% of Kabarole District's population is engaged in subsistence farming. Administratively, the district is made up of one municipality (Fort Portal city), one county, five town councils, three municipal divisions, 13 sub-counties, 67 parishes and wards, and 503 villages.

The Local Government Management of Service Delivery Performance Assessment in 2019 and 2020 assessed the water and sanitation sector in Uganda on human resource management, environmental and social safeguards, and on six performance measures related to service delivery, reporting, management, and environmental and social requirements. Kabarole was ranked second out of 134 local governments with a score of 79 percent for water and 76 percent for sanitation.

The remainder of this brief introduces an innovative structure that has a role in some of this change. It is based on reviewing key documents, available data, and interviews with stakeholders.

## The District WASH Task Team

Kabarole has a special structure that does not exist elsewhere. The DWTT is led by the District Secretary for Works and Technical Services. Its membership comprises of representatives from the political and technical wings of the local government at all levels as well as other government agencies, the private sector, and civil society such as NGOs, religions organizations, the media and individual stakeholders. The DWTT mobilizes and convenes a diverse range of sector players in pursuit of a common WASH agenda.

IRC, with support from the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) Sustainable WASH Systems Learning Partnership, formed the DWTT in March 2017 as a forum for learning and influencing WASH planning, implementation, and monitoring. The DWTT provides a mechanism to connect people on the ground, sub-national organizations and agencies responsible for providing services and support, and decision-makers at the national level to engage in collective learning to influence WASH. Following IRC's learning alliance approach, the DWTT serves as a multi-stakeholder platform to steer the development and implementation of the WMP. Since the WMP was launched in February 2019, the DWTT has served as the reference point for a shared vision and guiding strategy for WASH in Kabarole.

## Key Takeaways:

Improving knowledge sharing leads to increased uptake of technology and capacity for operating and maintaining water infrastructure, as well as improved soft skills such as community engagement.

Influencing policy leads to a newly formulated District WASH Ordinance.

Better understanding the WASH situation through data collection and using data for planning and goal setting enables increased advocacy for finance and other resources to meet targets.

Increasing the use of evidence for decision making, including optimizing investment through focusing on full coverage in one area at a time, maximizes impact.

Transitioning toward large-scale piped systems that reach beyond the geographic challenges of point supply systems results in a more inclusive and equitable WASH system.

Working together maximizes resources and helps involve a wider group of stakeholders in WASH.



Figure 1: Map of Uganda's districts with Kabarole highlighted in orange



Figure 2 The DWTT meeting to develop the roadmap for establishing the District and Sub-County Water Boards (Photo credit: IRC)

## The Learning Alliance Approach

Learning alliances are platforms for convening stakeholders with the purpose of developing a shared vision and change agenda<sup>1</sup>. The learning alliance process can be used to strengthen capacities, generate evidence, document the outcomes of interventions, ascertain needs and gaps, or inform public and private sector as well as local and national policies. IRC implemented the learning alliance approach in Kabarole District to engage a new group of stakeholders to help find new solutions to sustainability challenges within the local WASH sector.

## Findings: Influence and Impact of the DWTT

### Knowledge transfer

**Uptake of technology:** Many of the improvements in sanitation and hygiene originated from discussions within the DWTT. These have included introducing SaTo (safe toilet) pan latrine technology and replacing tippy taps with hands-free or pedal taps.

**Knowledge and skills:** The DWTT have facilitated learning and capacity development through training Water User Committees on best practices in operating and maintaining water infrastructure, messaging around hygiene, and protecting water sources. The DWTT has also facilitated capacity development for water and sanitation committee members and community development officers in the “software” aspects of WASH such as managing group dynamics, community engagement, and mindset change.

**Efficiency in operation and maintenance of infrastructure:** During a visit to Kamuli District, members of the Kabarole Hand Pump Mechanics Association discovered that the district maintained a stock of equipment to ensure that spare parts were readily available when needed. This approach eliminated the frustrating delays that often happen when parts have to be ordered through lengthy procurement procedures. Back in Kabarole, the DWTT recommended adoption of the same approach. Today, the District Water Office maintains a stock of equipment that allows for quick responses when repairs are needed. This ensures minimal interruption in service and reinforces communities' belief in the system of paying for water.

Additionally, although the WMP has not yet brought the anticipated boost in funding, the performance of the district has nonetheless improved due to efficiencies gained through the positive changes recommended by the DWTT as can be seen in its rankings nationally and improvement across the building blocks and QIS ladder as seen in Figure 3.

1 For more information on the learning alliance approach, see [www.ircwash.org/projects/sustainable-wash-systems-sws/facilitating-change](http://www.ircwash.org/projects/sustainable-wash-systems-sws/facilitating-change).

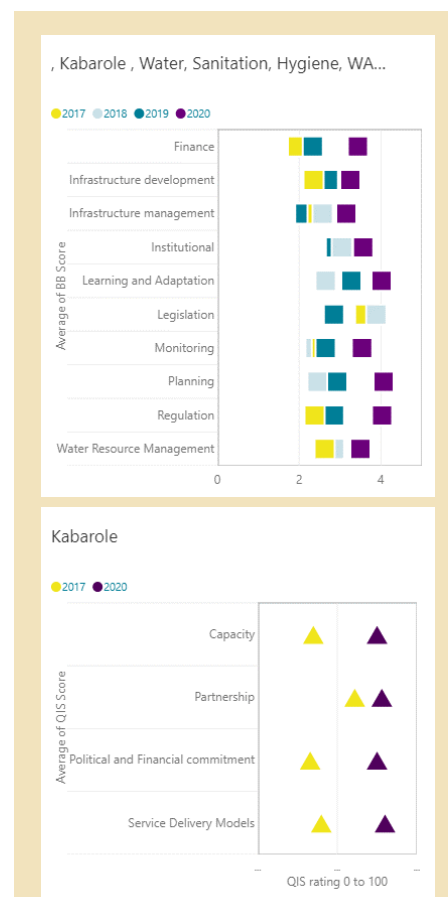


Figure 3: Building block assessment (top) and QIS ladder (bottom) results showing positive trends in Kabarole. Source: IRC Monitoring Report, 2020.



## Policy change

**Improvement in sanitation standards:** Following development of the WMP, the DWTT embarked on the formulation of a District WASH Ordinance, currently going through the ratification process. The ordinance will consolidate headways in sanitation by legally backing measures to promote safely managed facilities. Today, drainable pit latrines are recommended and ecological sanitation (commonly known as “eco-san”) practices are gradually taking hold.

**Paying for water is gaining acceptance:** In spite of occasional resistance, consistent advocacy among local leaders and community engagement have yielded increased acceptance of the idea of paying for water. As recommended by the DWTT, the District Council passed a resolution that requires every household to pay a monthly water tariff.

## Planning and data

**Optimizing investments:** The tendency to invest in multiple water systems simultaneously across sub-counties resulted in resources being spread so thin that they could not create meaningful impact. To rationalize investments, the DWTT advised against scattering resources. The district subsequently adopted a policy that focuses on attaining full coverage in one area at a time. Likewise, WASH in schools and health facilities used to be treated as a responsibility of the ministries of education and health. The DWTT was instrumental in the policy shift that led to the integration of institutional WASH into mainstream planning for the sector.

**Planning roadmap:** The WMP serves as a planning blueprint. It is the baseline upon which targets and priorities are defined and resources allocated. Figure 4 shows the 2030 vision against 2017 and 2020 data.

The WMP target for Kabarole District is to provide basic water services to all by 2030, with 21% of the population having access to safely managed services and 79% having access to basic services. According to 2020 water services monitoring data, the overall level of water service improved. Twelve percent of the population had access to safely managed services, up from zero percent in 2017 and exceeding the 2021 target. Thirty-three percent had access to basic services, up from 22% in 2017, 26% had access to limited services, and 29% had access to unimproved services.

The 2030 target set by the WMP is to provide basic sanitation services for 72% of households, and safely managed services for 28%. The 2020 sanitation services monitoring data indicates that the proportion of households with access to basic sanitation increased from 28% in 2017 to 63% in 2020, exceeding the 2021 target. The proportion of those with access to limited services declined from 53% to 22%, also exceeding the 2021 target. Open defecation, however, remained a challenge as the evidence showed that it was still practiced in 15% of households; the target is zero percent. Safely managed sanitation also remains a problem with the 2020 achievement still at zero percent against the 2021 target of 5.9%.

Progress toward 2030 targets calls for doubling up on investment in water and sanitation. Data of this kind equips DWTT members for advocacy and resource mobilization efforts.<sup>2</sup>

**Integration of WASH in planning:** Adopting the WMP in Kabarole District was a significant milestone. It inspired the local government's decision to invest only in piped systems as opposed to water point sources. This clarity in policy has equally encouraged the private sector, such as financial service providers, to create WASH-related financial products and facilities for their clients. WASH is now integral to the district development strategy which has resulted in improved funding for the sector and contributed to Kabarole's top rating in national WASH performance. Due to the budget allocations for WASH following the enactment of the WMP, the number of unserved villages dropped from 60 in 2017 to 13 in 2021.

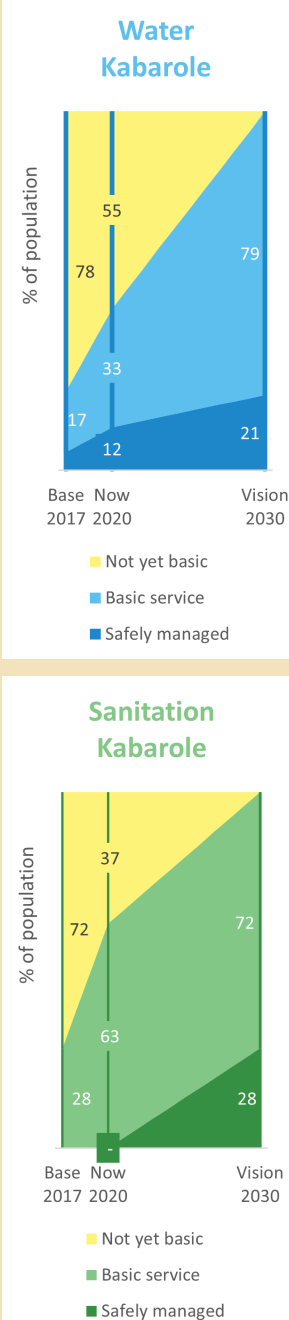


Figure 4: 2017 baseline and 2020 interim data against the 2030 vision for water (top) and sanitation (bottom) in Kabarole

**Evidence-based decision-making:** A baseline study on the status of WASH in Kabarole District became the basis of the WMP<sup>3</sup>. DWTT members involved in the baseline study and other similar studies have benefitted from training and experience in data management, analysis, and utilization. In interactions with DWTT members, the importance of facts as the basis for policy was routinely reiterated and they were glad evidence is being used more than in the past when decisions were driven by other factors such as political interests.

## Working together

**The power of collective action:** There are many examples of partnerships and engagements forged through the DWTT. IRC pooled resources with the local government and funded a water project in Masongora parish in Kabende sub-county that was implemented and co-funded by the National Water and Sewerage Corporation. The local government had earmarked funds but they were inadequate. IRC came in to plug the deficit, then the corporation contributed by providing the pipes and carrying out the works. In a similar scenario, African Agency for Integrated Development (AAID) partnered with the local government in a cost-sharing arrangement through which the two pooled their resources to fund the supply of water in Kasenda and Kichwamba sub-counties.

### Inclusiveness and equity:

Inclusiveness and equity are now entrenched as bedrocks of WASH service delivery in Kabarole. For instance, previously geography was a key determinant of access to services, especially water. As a policy, the district has moved away from small-scale water point supply systems to large-scale piped systems that provide access to more quantity and quality of water for larger populations, regardless of geography.

**Process monitoring:** DWTT meetings serve as a mechanism for WASH partners in Kabarole to monitor each other's plans and activities. Information received through updates and feedback on activities

allows stakeholders to understand progress on actions and to give input on next steps. These interactions are a useful mechanism for monitoring, influencing, and holding each other and the district authorities accountable in line with the agreed commitments under the WMP.

## Looking forward

The DWTT is institutionalized and focused on influencing the district to prioritize WASH services in its planning and resource allocation through community engagement and political commitment to attain the goal of universal and sustainable access to WASH services. The success of the WMP will ultimately be judged by the extent to which it generates resources needed to fund its targets. The insights generated, recommendations made, and reports produced by the DWTT are key drivers of advocacy and lobbying to influence budget allocations toward WASH. With funding from SWS ending, the DWTT has requested financial resources from the district, and there is commitment across the board on continuing the platform, including from government stakeholders, but funds have yet to be made available.

The source of the DWTT's influence is its membership. It is composed of individuals who are well connected and therefore able to carry its ideas and proposals directly to decision makers. Individual members in positions of authority can influence the actions and decisions of their respective organizations, thereby accelerating the change process. The success of the DWTT in mobilizing action is proof of how a diversity of actors – including politicians, technocrats, private sector, and civil society – can synchronize interests and effect change.

## Acknowledgements

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### About the Sustainable WASH Systems Learning Partnership:

The Sustainable WASH Systems Learning Partnership is a global United States Agency for International Development (USAID) cooperative agreement to identify locally-driven solutions to the challenge of developing robust local systems capable of sustaining water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH) service delivery. This report is made possible by the generous support of the American people through USAID under the terms of the Cooperative Agreement AID-OAA-A-16-00075. The contents are the responsibility of the Sustainable WASH Systems Learning Partnership and do not necessarily reflect the views of USAID or the United States Government. For more information, visit [www.globalwaters.org/SWS](http://www.globalwaters.org/SWS), or contact Karl Linden ([karl.linden@colorado.edu](mailto:karl.linden@colorado.edu)) or Ryan Mahoney ([rymahoney@usaid.gov](mailto:rymahoney@usaid.gov)).



3 Magara, P. & Houston, A. (2018) A Local Systems Analysis for Water Services Delivery – Baseline Assessment Synthesis Report. Kampala: IRC Uganda.





Ms. Yunia Musaazi the Executive Director UWASNET (Right) receiving certificate of recognition from the Chief Guest

## Experts want sanitation and hygiene budget increased nine-fold to have universal access

By Our Reporter

In a bid to increase access to water and good sanitation, which remain a luxury for many Ugandans, experts in the water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) sector have called on the Government to dedicate more funds to the sector.

Uganda set an ambitious target of universal access to water, sanitation and hygiene services (WASH) by 2030.

In Uganda, an estimated 75% of the overall disease burden comes from poor sanitation and hygiene.

According to the Ministry of Health, each year, 23,000 Ugandans die from diarrhoea, of which 19,700 are children below the age of five.

Some 90% of these deaths are directly attributable to inadequate

water, poor sanitation and unhygienic practices. In other words, they would be entirely preventable through basic water, sanitation and hygiene interventions.

To end this challenge, there needs to be greater financial resources, estimated to be nine times the current budget spent on WASH services.

Currently, Uganda spends at least 3% of its budget towards water and environment, which experts say needs to be increased by at least nine times to 13%.

The current budget is sh648.3b for both rural and urban water activities in the 2021/22 financial year.

Silas Aogon, the chairperson of Uganda Parliamentary Forum on

“

Uganda spends at least **3%** of its budget towards water and environment, which experts say needs to be increased by at least nine times to **13%.**

Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (UPF-WASH), said these current levels of spending are woefully inadequate.

"The financing gap is a real and, perhaps, most immediate problem working against the realisation of universal access to water and sanitation," Aogon said.

Aogon made the remarks during the third annual WASH symposium organised by the UPF-WASH in partnership with other stakeholders.

The symposium was held recently in Kampala under the theme; "COVID-19 and WASH: Mitigating the negative socio-economic impacts on the Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH) Sector".

He revealed that with the effects of COVID-19, the current **3%** of the budget put in the sector is not enough to wipe out the challenge.

"With the effects of COVID-19 and need for water as a preventive measure for the pandemic, we need to increase the budgets urgently," Aogon said.

He added that access to water needs to improve in both rural and urban areas, institutions of learning and health facilities.

"Many schools lack safe water; if you visit them, you will be disappointed by the water sources. They are contaminated and sometimes far away from the schools, which affects the learning of the children," Aogon said.

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, many sectors such as WASH were affected with budget cuts which now need to be enhanced.

"When money was cut, it meant no water for some people. For example, last year, the people of Kumi municipality expected to get water but the budget was cut and they never got it," he said.

Apart from the Government failing to deliver on some promises, COVID-19 has made it hard for Ugandans to pay for WASH services since many have lost jobs and are not able to work.

"Water is now a priority for everyone, there is an increase in demand for water, but the supply still low," Aogon said.

Yunia Musaazi, the executive director of Uganda Water and Sanitation NGO Network (UWASNET), said increasing funding to the WASH sector will have positive effects in other sectors such as health, including nutrition.

"A lack of access to clean water can lead to diseases such as cholera and diarrhoea as well as malnutrition and wasting. We need to curb these by increasing access to safe water," Musaazi said.

She explained that the Government needs to take the lead to transform lives by improving access to safe water, hygiene and sanitation.

Musaazi said the COVID-19 pandemic has helped to expose the gaps in WASH, especially the lack of hand hygiene facilities

"I do not think we are ready for school re-opening if WASH facilities are not put in place. The available facilities are not enough now that we are looking at full re-opening of schools," Musaazi said.

She noted that close to 70% of the schools do not have these facilities.

"The MPs and finance ministry should give schools funds to schools with a specific percentage dedicated to ensure adequate WASH facilities," Musaazi suggested.

The National Development Plan (NDP) III sets out a five-year target to increase access to safe water supply from **70% to 85%** in rural areas and from **74% to 100%** in urban areas. It also sets to increase access to basic sanitation from 19% to **40%**.

However, experts note that such policy promises need to be backed up with resources so as not to remain white elephants.

Increase our financing 10 times, from the current **3% to 13%** by 2030 if we are to achieve the universal access to safe water.

"Look for innovative ways of financing the water and sanitation sector and trigger the private sector to invest in water and sanitation, reduce on the



Hon. Silas Aogon, Chairperson UPF-WASH making his remarks during the WASH Symposium

cost of WASH items," Musaazi said.

Samuel Andrew Kiiza, a technical advisor for water at Plan International, said the COVID-19 pandemic, has worsened the WASH facilities in places such as schools and health care facilities.

"As schools re-open, we need to fast-track the restoring of water supply in schools and add more water points. The current points are going to be overwhelmed by the numbers," Kiiza said.

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*"I do not think we are ready for school re-opening if WASH facilities are not put in place."*

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He noted that the resources allocated to schools in form of grants should have a vote on WASH.

"The Government must ensure the schools are safe and have adequate handwashing facilities which are areas of prevention," Kiiza said.

He said learners are still facing the challenge of moving long distances to access water at school.

"Schools are supposed to have safe clean water within a radius of 100 metres, but our schools have water source in a radius of 3km, and is in most cases shared with the community, which raises safety concerns," Kiiza said.

Safe water coverage in rural and urban areas is estimated at 68% and 71% respectively. Consequently, 48,000 villages, representing 70% of all villages, have at least a source of water.

Meeting Sustainable Development Goal 6 on water and sanitation for all by 2030 is a massive opportunity for the country.

Gideon Thembo Mujungu, the MP Busongora South, said lack of local maintenance of WASH facilities could mean it continues to be a challenge.

"Most boreholes drilled 10 years ago have broken down and little is being put in rehabilitation, but they claim we have 70% water coverage yet boreholes are not functioning," Mujungu said.

Functionality of WASH facilities has stagnated to 85% for over five years. In most parts of Uganda, the burden of collecting water falls especially hard on women and children, further inhibiting their opportunities and education.

"Lack of access impacts work and school time. When children miss school, it affects their performance, when women miss work while at the water source, it affects their productivity and earning. This means development will not be achieved," Mujungu said.

Girls are especially likely to drop out of school when sanitation facilities are not available, particularly during menstruation.

Mohamood Lutaya, the Kampala area general manager at the National Water and Sewerage Corporation (NWSC), said leaders must interest themselves in water and sanitation issues by boosting funding.

"You cannot prioritise what you do not have interest in. Water touches every one and every aspect of life; our leaders must ensure everyone accesses clean and safe water," Lutaya said.

The NWSC has a target of ensuring at least each village in Uganda has two public water stands.

Out of 57,893 villages, only 38,809 have one source of safe water.

The permanent secretary of the Ministry of Water and Environment, Alfred Okot Okidi, said the Government is committed to increasing access to safe water to every Uganda.

"No one must be left behind. As Government, we are doing all we can to give people safe water and we are progressing steadily," Okidi said.

Currently, more than half of the world's population does not have access to safely managed sanitation and three billion people lack basic hygiene services.

Across the world, including Uganda, people still live with inadequate sanitation and hygiene services in their houses, schools and even in their health care facilities.



Mrs. Ashabrick Nantege Bamutaze, the coordinator Appropriate Technology Center ( ATC )

**"The Government must ensure the schools are safe and have adequate handwashing facilities which are areas of prevention," Kiiza**

Out of **57,893** villages, only **38,809** have one source of safe water.



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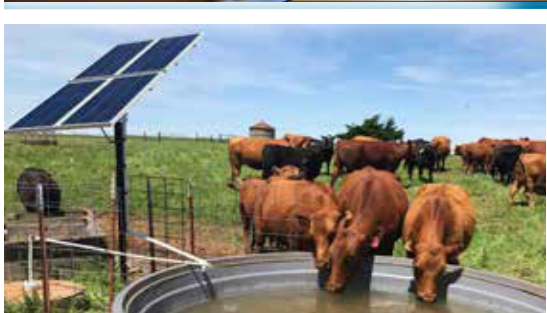
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