

Tracing the SNV foot print in Kabarole (1990-2016)

An Interview with the Chief Administrative Officer Kabarole, Dunstan Balaba



Working together to eradicate open defecation in our district

Journalist: What would you say about your relationship with development organisations like SNV in Kabarole?

CAO: SNV is a valued partner to us as a district and in the larger Western region. SNV has been consistent, supporting the development of Kabarole district in several projects over the last 16 years of their presence in Kabarole.

Journalist: What are some of the SNV projects that you remember?

CAO: **Deepening decentralisation;** in the early days of decentralisation SNV built our capacity especially in financial and human resource management. SNV also helped us streamline our local revenue mobilisation efforts to ensure that the resources that the district generated were optimally utilised.

Civil Society Strengthening: SNV built the capacity of some of the community development organisations like Strengthening of Joint Efforts to Save the Environment (JESE); HEWASA, Sustainable Agriculture Network (SATNET); Bunyangabo Beekeepers Community. These organisations are still standing today, not only rendering services to our communities but providing jobs to our people.

South Western Integrated Health Programme: In 1990, SNV began supporting the South Western Integrated Health Programme (SWIP). SWIP was funded by UNICEF and covered 10 districts: Kisoro, Kabale, Ntungamo, Bushenyi, Kasese, Kabarole, Mbarara, Kanungu, Bundibugyo and Rukungiri. The programme's main objective was to improve the health conditions and well-being of the communities living in these districts. SNV supported the programme by providing technical assistance to the district water departments. They were trained on how to identify, operate, maintain, survey, design and construct gravity flow schemes. 50 gravity flow schemes were built in the 10 districts giving 590,000 people access to clean drinking water.

As a result of decentralisation, the districts were commissioned to implement programmes and manage their water and sanitation development grants. Subsequently, the district water departments embarked on a massive recruitment of graduates creating a need for skilled staff to provide hands-on training to newly recruited staff. This led to the creation of technical support units (TSUs). SNV directly supported two TSUs in Arua and Kabarole with capacity building and training based on skills gaps that were identified through self-assessments carried out by the districts. The two TSUs later became models for the rest of the units.

Capacity development support to the Honey Value Chain: One of the key things that SNV did was initiate and link stakeholders within the honey value to banks. SNV engaged several banks and Centenary rural development Bank was willing to take up the challenge. Centenary Bank started financing individual bee keepers with loans to buy beehives, protective clothes, gloves. The support has increased honey supply of locally produced honey in the region. Bunyangabu Beekeeping community and Kabarole Beekeepers Association are some of the organisations that benefitted from this support.

Through the **Sustainable Sanitation and Hygiene for all Results project**, SNV with funding from DFID is supporting 136,400 people sustain good sanitation and hygiene practices. Results of the mid-term monitoring report carried out at the end of December 2015, reported a 6% increase in the number of households with improved toilets in the four sub-counties where the project is being implemented.

Kabarole district has grown from strength to strength because of the support of strong partners like SNV. We are grateful to SNV for the support over the years and look forward to more years of partnership.

A focus on Community Organisations in Kabarole

We have graduated from dependency to an Independent organisation

Health through Water and Sanitation Programme – HEWASA (1995-2006)

By Vincent Rwakijuma, Head of finance and Administration
SNV started supporting the (HEWASA), a local NGO in Fort Portal, Kabarole District in 1996. SNV support was aimed at helping us streamline our operations as an NGOs. SNV supported HEWASA in writing a financial proposal that was approved by MISEREOR, a German development organisation.

“Between 1993 and 1996, the HEWASA Programme had a resident engineer technical advisor from SNV. He introduced the different safe water supply technologies like rainwater harvesting, spring protection, shallow-well construction and gravity flow schemes to the HEWASA Programme. He also provided technical support in the development of designs and bills of quantities as well as construction of a number of gravity flow schemes. We were thus able to construct a number of gravity flow schemes and water point sources during his time with HEWASA. Because of the support from SNV, we now have a pool of technical advisors based in the regional portfolio offices but available on demand to client organisations.” Andrew Katorotorwa, Programme Manager, HEWASA.

SNV guided us in the design of Rwenzori integrated water and sanitation project (RWA), a 5 year project that ended in 2015. We are able to use our newly learnt skills to design projects and access funding, manage projects well and realise positive outcomes and impacts. We have graduated from dependence to independence in project design and management. SNV has unique approach to project implementation. SNV focuses on realising outcomes and impact rather than mere concentration on outputs!

While we were partnering with SNV in implementing the community empowerment programme, SNV introduced the approach of targeting schools as an entry point to the community and the approach worked.



Tackling menstrual hygiene management in schools, a flagship of SNV Uganda

By using schools as entry points the link between schools and the communities was strengthen. We have adopted this approach in other projects that we are implementing.

SNV also introduced HEWASA to a unique monitoring and evaluation tool that uses a smart phone under the Sustainable Sanitation and Hygiene for All Results project. This has revolutionised field monitoring because it enables us to monitor progress of the project right at our desk with 100% coverage of the target community

As HEWASA, we have expanded our coverage and visibility in the

community through the implementation of various project that we started with SNV and that we have adopted as our own like the menstrual hygiene project.

We developed a strategic plan with SNV's support

**Joint Efforts to Save the Environment
By Patrick Baguma -Team leader JESE**

We started working with SNV in 2000. One of the first things that SNV did with us was review our strategic plan. From our engagement with



Handpump mechanics carrying out repair works

them we were able to develop a five year plan that guided our planning unlike before. From it was birthed the Rwenzori WASH Alliance to facilitate learning on water, sanitation and hygiene activities.

SNV also trained us on the handpump mechanics initiative so as enhance coverage of safe and clean water within the district. We have continued to support the handpump mechanics associations within the district.

SNV helped us transition from a project to a company.

PRICON

By Paul Kasande Chief Executive PRICON

We started working with SNV in 2001. One of the first things that SNV did was orient us in business planning. At the time we were implementing a project and looked at ourselves as a project. SNV soon helped us change that and we registered ourselves as a Company.

SNV also built our capacity in areas of micro finance, research and this has continued to be relevant in our activities. Today we carry out consultancy services and we are proud of the quality of our work. We have been able to access funding from other organisations because of SNV's recommendations.

Through SNV support, we established partnerships with groups and institutions in the community to contribute to the community economic development agenda for example we worked with to promoted the pineapple value chain and the bee keeping project within the district. SNV guided us on how to strategically guide the Kabarole bee keepers association to think through their future and sustainability. The association took up our advice and are still operational to this day, providing employment to the communities and market for bee farmers.



Bee keeping in the region was boosted by SNV's support to the sector