



# MINISTRY OF WATER AND ENVIRONMENT

## WATER AND SANITATION DEVELOPMENT FACILITY – EAST

World Water Day Celebrations 2016 Theme: “Water and Jobs”

Uganda will join the rest of the world to commemorate World Water Day and this year's celebrations will be held on 22<sup>nd</sup> March 2016 under the theme “Water and Jobs” preceded by sanitation week in Serere District in Eastern Uganda where Water and Sanitation Development Facility – East operates (WSDF-E).

Job creation which this year's theme touches on is central to the national socio-economic development process. Uganda is one of the countries with the highest population growth rate, however, unemployment rates are high on an average of about 3.8%. The Ministry of Water and Environment received funding from the European Union (EU) through the Austria Development Cooperation (ADC) and the Germany Government through the KfW to a tune of € 8.2m and 8.5m respectively and additional € 4.5m from KfW for phase II to implement activities under the Water and Sanitation Development Facility East (WSDF-E). An estimated population of more than 200,000 people has benefitted from the WSDF-E interventions in the region in the selected rural growth centres (RGCs) and small towns (STs) from development of piped water supply systems and improved sanitation services.

The Government of Uganda (GoU) is committed to providing safe and clean water within easy reach and improving sanitation. The WSDF-E is a funding mechanism with the objective of improving the socio-economic situation and opportunities of people living in the small towns (STs) and Rural Growth Centres (RGCs) in 39 districts of eastern and north eastern Uganda namely:- Amuria, Kotido, Kaabong, Abim, Moroto, Katakwi, Soroti, Kaberamaido, Kumi, Bukedea, Bukwo, Kapchorwa, Nakapiripirit, Sironko, Manafwa, Bududa, Mbale, Tororo, Busia, Butaleja, Pallisa, Budaka, Namutumba, Bugiri, Kaliro, Iganga, Mayuge, Kamuli, Jinja, Buyende, Namayingo, Amudat, Serere, Luuka, Bulambuli, Napak, Ngora, Kibuku and Kween.

As WSDF-E joins the world to mark World Water Day with the theme “Water and Jobs.” WSDF-E has provided job opportunities by sourcing for potential service providers with the capacity and expertise to implement services and works for improved water supply and sanitation systems in small towns and rural growth centres.



Inspection of a pump and generator house for Kaliro Town water supply system

### Implementation of WSDF-E activities

The WSDF-E implementation follows modalities spelt out in the WSDF Operational Manual which emphasizes a demand responsive approach; where communities express their demand for water through written application for services and commit to fulfilling their obligations. Environmental enhancement measures are also promoted through protecting water source catchment areas and training communities in safe environment practices. WSDF-E employs a private sector approach in its daily operations through the use of consultants, contractors and other service providers.

### Water development

From 2012 to date, with support from EU through ADC and KfW, WSDF-E has completed construction

of 19 piped water supply and sanitation systems STs/ RGCs of Tirinyi, Kibuuku, Abim, Kaabong, Karenga, Katakwi, Bukedea, Kapchorwa, Busiu, Namutumba, Mbulamuti, Kachumbala, Ochero, Irundu, Matany, Namalu, Suam, Buwuni and Kaliro TC. Construction of six (6) piped water supply and sanitation systems are still on-going in the STs/RGCs of Ocapa, Luuka, Kyere, Bukwo, Nakapiripirit and Kagoma.

A total of 24 engineering designs for STs/RGCs under WSDF-E are ready for implementation out of which six (6) have already secured potential contractors through an open domestic bidding procurement process. In addition procurement of a contractor to construct a regional faecal sludge treatment plant was also completed. Mobilisation and scheme designing is still on-going for eight (8) STs/RGCs in selected areas.

WSDF-E has been able to successfully deliver this number of projects using a mix of contractors, consultants and in-house expertise.



Solar panels used as energy for pumping water

### Linkage between water and jobs

The water development and sanitation improvement in the Eastern and North Eastern region has provided employment opportunities. Nearly all sectors depend directly or indirectly on water. Directly, WSDF-E employs different professionals who contribute to the improvement in water supply and sanitation. These include; Technical Advisors, Consultants, contractors, system operators and other service providers who are involved in the design, implementation, management, operation and maintenance of the built water supply infrastructure. These service providers use both skilled and unskilled labour. Today, almost half of the world's workers - 1.5 billion people - work in water related sectors and nearly all jobs depend on water and those that ensure its safe delivery. WSDF-E has created jobs to the world population both directly and indirectly.

Improved water and supply in the areas is known to attract and stimulate investments. The beneficiaries within these areas engage in small scale industrial

businesses like water vending, brick laying, car washing and other cleaning services. The water supply systems not only stimulate small scale industries in the areas where they are constructed but also stimulate construction of large industries. Clean water is required in significant amounts both as an input into the manufacturing process and for use in cooling towers, an essential component in many factories. Many micro-processing factories have been seen to emerge in some

small towns where piped water has been provided for the first time. Furthermore, availability of clean and safe water contributes to the emergence/ growth of the service industry such as Hotel Services, recreational services, Banking Services and tourism services. As a minimum, none of the above services can succeed where there is no clean and safe water.



Water reservoir tank for Kachumbala Town water supply system

These industries set up as well the services providers engaged in improved water supply also contribute to the National Tax Base through the different taxes paid by their employees and the industries as well. An increased Tax Base allows for the government to make investments in different sectors which provide employment opportunities.

Availability of safe and clean water contributes to the improvement of the health and consequently the productivity of human capital through contributing to the reduction in the disease burden, thus releasing more productive people into the value production chain. In addition to this, savings from diminished medical bills as a result of reduced disease burden could be used to set up income generating activities for the households, thus facilitating creation of employment for household members.

Provision of safe water closer to the homes of consumers reduces the distances to the water sources and thus significantly reduces the time and effort people, especially women and children, spend while fetching water. This time saving allows for the women to engage in more productive activities and the children to go to school. Education of the children will give them an opportunity to acquire

skills needed to get them employment or enable them create jobs.

### Challenges

- The demand for safe, adequate and equitable piped water and improved sanitation services rises each day due to rural-urban migration and increased population. Moreover, the demand is higher than the resource envelop needed to serve every individual.
- Massive environmental degradation including rampant deforestation, reclamation of wetlands, and bush burning pose a big threat to sustainability of both ground water and fresh water resources for the current and future generation
- Dwindling financial support to the water and environment sector both locally and internationally



Testing functionality of a public stand post in Luuka TC

The availability of piped water systems at household levels and short distance public kiosks have reduced the walking distances previously trekked by water users to less than 50 meters or more thus enabling People with disabilities, women, men and children to spare enough time to do other jobs or other income generating activities for household and national development.

More than 200,000 people have and are still benefiting from the current funding cycle ending December 2016. As it is for other countries around the world, jobs are essential for Uganda's development because they determine the living standards of individuals and household, support economic transformation, and promote social cohesion. Therefore, with increased and continued funding from the EU through the Austria Development Cooperation, the Germany Government through the KfW, Government of Uganda and other development partners, larger populations can benefit from the piped water services implemented by WSDF-E and more jobs can be created in the long run. As we celebrate World water Day, the WSDF-E re-commits to improving water supply and sanitation to realise the theme- Water and Jobs together with the Development Partners.



Construction of an office block for O&M for Buwuni town water supply system