



WaterAid and the European Union celebrates 5 years of partnership to improve access to safe water, sanitation and hygiene



“This is the first borehole ever constructed in Abibico village. The borehole is very unique because people like me, living with disabilities, have somewhere to sit while pumping water and it's less of a struggle” Olupot Martin, 50 years, Abibico village, Ogoi sub- county, Amuria district. Photo: WaterAid/James Kiyimba

WaterAid is proud to be associated with the European Union in transforming people's lives through improving access to safe water, sanitation and hygiene education. Since 2011, WaterAid Uganda has been in partnership with the European Union – Water Facility implementing a €2.744 million programmes titled the “Equitable and sustainable access to safe water, improved sanitation and hygiene (WASH) for poor communities in post-conflict areas of Uganda” targeting the districts of Napak, Katakwi, Amuria, Pallisa, Kibuku and Masindi. Programme partners and key achievements After five years of project implementation, working hand in hand with the host District Local Government leadership of programme implementation, our partner NGOs that is; Wera Development Agency, Church of Uganda – Teso Dioceses Planning and Development office, Health through Water and Sanitation, Karamoja-Agro Pastoral Development Program. We have enabled 99,086 people again access to safe water and 250,572 people with improved sanitation and hygiene education. The big number of people benefiting from the programmes was achieved through construction of safe water sources in water stressed communities, construction of institutional latrines especially in primary schools and building community capacity using community led sanitation approaches (Umoja) to improve sanitation and hygiene practices at household level. Summary of safe water and sanitation infrastructure constructed in five years:

Facilities by technology	No. of facilities constructed or rehabilitated
Ferro cement Tanks (10,000 Litres Capacity)	41
New Deep Boreholes installed with Hand pumps	109
Rehabilitation of Deep Boreholes	21
Sand Dams	1
Rain water harvesting jars	75
Shallow (Hand dug) Wells	2
Spring Protection	2
Institutional Latrines	29

The change

Improved access to safe water, sanitation and good hygiene practices in our programme area has significantly contributed to reduction in WASH related diseases including hepatitis E and diarrhoea diseases. In schools we work, there is increased attendance of pupils but more so the girls since they have good sanitary facilities and safe water nearby. Together with our implementing partners, we have used a community led sanitation approach called “Umoja” (a Swahili word that means unity) to mobilised communities to take lead in improving their sanitation and hygiene conditions. The Umoja approach follows the steps of triggering a community to have disgust for open defecation, developing community action plans, clustering households in smaller units to promote cohesion and mutual support, training community structures of sanitation and hygiene promoters to lead the change process at community level. Using the mobile Phone for Water (M4W), the programme has strengthened the capacity of district local government in data management, monitoring and effective delivery of WASH services. The programme has continued to supported district local governments to improve coordination among WASH actors, leading to harmonised planning, reporting and increased use



Pendo Petronidam 43 years old, Local Council (LC1) chairperson of Katanga village, Nyantozo parish, Budongo sub-county, Masindi district has this to say: “In 2011, in our village, only 35 out of 80 households had latrines and most of these were in poor condition. As a village leader, I felt challenged leading people without latrines in their homes. Together with the village health team, we moved house to house to ensure that everyone constructs a latrine and a hand washing facility. In 2013 our village was declared open defecation free (ODF) village. And we have maintained this high level. To date 110 out of the 120 households in the village have latrines, those who don't have are new in the village and they are in the process of constructing their own latrines. In addition, many community members have mastered the art of constructing bath shelters, dish drying racks and tippy taps (hand washing facilities) for use after visiting latrine.” Photo: WaterAid/James Kiyimba

of human rights based approach in resource allocation and programming.

**Sustainability of project achievements**

To sustain the achievements, together with our partners we have enhanced the capacity of community based structures including; village health teams, cluster heads, hygiene educators, water user committees and advocacy committees to effectively mobilise user communities to contribute towards operation and maintenance of the WASH facilities in place.

We have equipped communities with community led advocacy skills so as to advocate for their own needs as well as setting their WASH priorities to forward to different development partners.

The project has also mobilised communities and trained them in Village Savings and Loans Associations (VSLA) using WASH as a building block. We have also continued to work with the district local governments to train hand pump mechanics; these work with water and sanitation user committees to give timely support when a water facility needs repair.

Lessons

As highlighted above, after five years of programme implementation, we have many lessons to draw. First and foremost, WaterAid working in a tripartite nature with the district local government in leadership of project implementation, active community participation and involvement at different stages of project implementation leads to sustainability of the project achievements since it leads to ownership.

From our school WASH initiatives, it is evident that placing children at the centre of sanitation and hygiene promotion stimulates interactive learning and development. Through their school health clubs, children become sanitation and hygiene ambassadors among their peers and homes. We have seen adolescent girls teaching their mothers how to make reusable sanitary pads and members of health school clubs constructing tippy taps (water saving hand washing facilities) in their homes.

In Wera sub County of Amuria district, the programme piloted the use the Sub County Water Supply and Sanitation Boards' approach as a platform where community members engage with water utility (National Water and Sewerage Corporation) for improved service deliver. With this pilot, there has



“Every Tuesday, we hold our Village Savings and Loans Association (VSLA) meeting, where each of the 68 household in the village is supposed to contributes UGX. 200 to the Water Fund and thereafter start our ordinary savings. At the moment, we have saved UGX. 90,000 in the water fund, UGX. 260,000 in ordinary saving and 200,000 shillings has been loaned out. We don't give out money from the Water Fund, it is kept for repairing the borehole when it gets problem. Last month we got 10,500 shillings from the Water Fund to repair the borehole,” Abura Zakaria, Chairperson Water Users' Committee, Lopuke Village, Napak District, Karamoja region. Photo: WaterAid/James Kiyimba

been improved relation and trust between the water utility and the water users leading to more connections of public water stand taps. Community members have learnt to count water metres thus more trust in the bills given and above all this has improved hygiene at public water stands and creation of employment to the water stand operators.

The project has supported the construction of a sand dam On River Omaniman in Napak district. A sand dam is a reinforced rubble cement wall built across a seasonal sandy river. The technology was relatively new to the community and it fist many people in the community were sceptical of its potential. From the sand dam project, we learnt that when introducing a new technology in a community it's important to involvement different stakeholders (community members, cultural and local leaders at different levels) working hand in hand with the technical people from the project design and implementation (that is inception meetings, site identification, during and after sand dam construction). This leads to elimination of miss information, clearing of cultural taboos' that surround the technology building mutual trust and cultural acceptance of a projector technology. In the long run, Sand dams are the most cost-effective method of water conservation in dry land environments. In Lopeei, since the sand dam provides water throughout the dry season, it has greatly contributed to reduction of conflicts among community members over water for their livestock especially during dry seasons. The dam has also reduced on floods in Lopeei, in the previous years each rainy season people and animals used to die in the river but for the two years no person or livestock has died in Lopeei due to floods. In the previous dry season people living nearby the dam started growing vegetables on the banks of the river to sell in the market for an income and better nutrition. At WaterAid Uganda, we extend our appreciation to the European Union whose financial support has allowed us to continuously to transform people's lives in post conflict target districts, there by contributing to our vision of a world where everyone, everywhere has safe water, sanitation and hygiene.

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