



AUSTRIAN
DEVELOPMENT
COOPERATION

MINISTRY OF WATER AND ENVIRONMENT

WATER AND SANITATION DEVELOPMENT FACILITY – SOUTH WEST

World Water Day Celebrations 2016

Theme: “Water and Jobs”

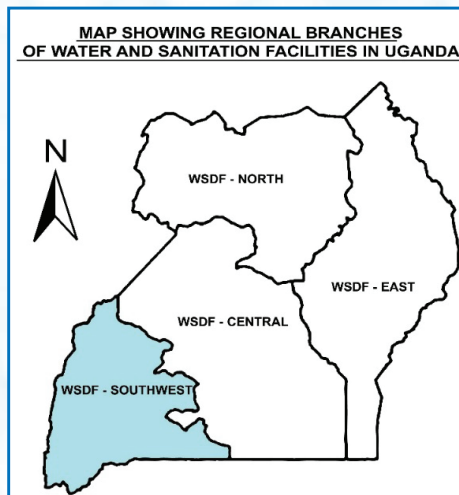
Back ground:

In 1992, an international observance for water was recommended during the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development. In response to this recommendation in 1993, the United Nations General Assembly designated 22nd March as World Water Day. Global celebrations have been held annually under various themes since then and the theme for this year is ‘Water and Jobs’.

Theme: Water and Jobs.

Uganda will once again join the rest of the international community to commemorate World Water Day. This year the National Celebrations will be held in Serere District in Eastern Uganda on 22nd March 2016 under the theme “Water and Jobs”. Sanitation week will also be held in Serere district a week before these celebrations from 14th March to 20th March 2016.

Today, almost half of the world’s workers - 1.5 billion people - work to ensure the safe



delivery and disposal of water and others in water related sectors that directly or indirectly depend on water. The theme - “Water and Jobs” - shows how enough quantity and quality of water can change workers’ lives and livelihoods, and even transform societies and economies. This provides an important opportunity to



An official carrying out water quality test

consolidate and build upon the previous World Water Day themes to highlight the two-way relationship between water and the decent work agenda in the quest for sustainable development especially in a country like Uganda where agriculture is the back bone of the economy.

Water and Sanitation Development Facility – South West [WSDF-SW]

Through the Ministry of Water and Environment (MWE), the Government of Uganda (GoU) initiated Water and Sanitation Development Facility-South West (WSDF-SW) as a mechanism of funding water and sanitation investments in Small Towns (STs) and Rural Growth Centres (RGCs) across the 24 Districts of South-Western Uganda.

This strategic move was implemented with an overall objective of improving the socio-economic situation and opportunities for people living in the STs/RGCs through improved access to safe, clean adequate, reliable and sustainable water supply, and promotion of improved practices of hygiene and sanitation.

This has been achieved through 2 theme areas as provided for in the Joint Partnership Fund’s (JPF’s) 05-year strategic planning framework 2014 - 2018 of Ministry of Water and Environment as indicated below:

- Increase water supply service coverage for STs/RGCs in a pro-poor sensitive manner.
- Improved Urban Sanitation and Hygiene Services.

WSDF-SW is in the 4th and last year of program funding of the “Support to the Water Supply and Sanitation Development in STs/RGCs under the EU MDG-Initiative”. This bilateral funding is up to a tune of Twenty Two Million and One Hundred and Ninety Six Thousand Euros (Euros 22.196M) with European Union funding about 88.7% (Euros 19.646M) and counterpart funding from the Government of Uganda of about 11.3% (Euros 2.5M).

EU program specific objectives

- Access to safe piped water supply for at least 350,000 people (equivalent to a design population of 630,000, considering a 20-year population scenario) in line with national standards in terms of service quality, quantity and distance as well as water quality and source protection;

- Adequate sanitation for the same target population, by achieving 100% latrine coverage (this being one of the community obligations), promoting the improvement of sanitation facilities through an incentive scheme, and improving the environmental health situation by constructing public toilets and sludge treatment facilities;
- Sustainable and efficient functionality of the new water and
- Sanitation infrastructure, to be ensured by appropriate arrangements for operation and maintenance, and cost recovery.

Achievements under WSDF-SW

Since 2006, WSDF-SW has developed and Completed Piped Water Supply and Sanitation Systems for 67 STs/RGCs. These interventions have created jobs during the initial stages of implementation to various categories of people both skilled and unskilled. On completion of these facilities, in addition to provision of safe water and improved sanitation services to over 670,000 people, Jobs were created mainly for management of these facilities.

Under the theme “Water and Jobs”, WSDF-SW has tremendously offered job opportunities either directly in form of staff or indirectly in liaison with the private sector as; consultants, contractors, system operators and other service providers who contribute to the planning, design and implementation of safe piped water supply.

The water sector requires and directly employs different professions with skills and knowledge in engineering, social works / sociology, sanitation, public health, development studies, surveying,

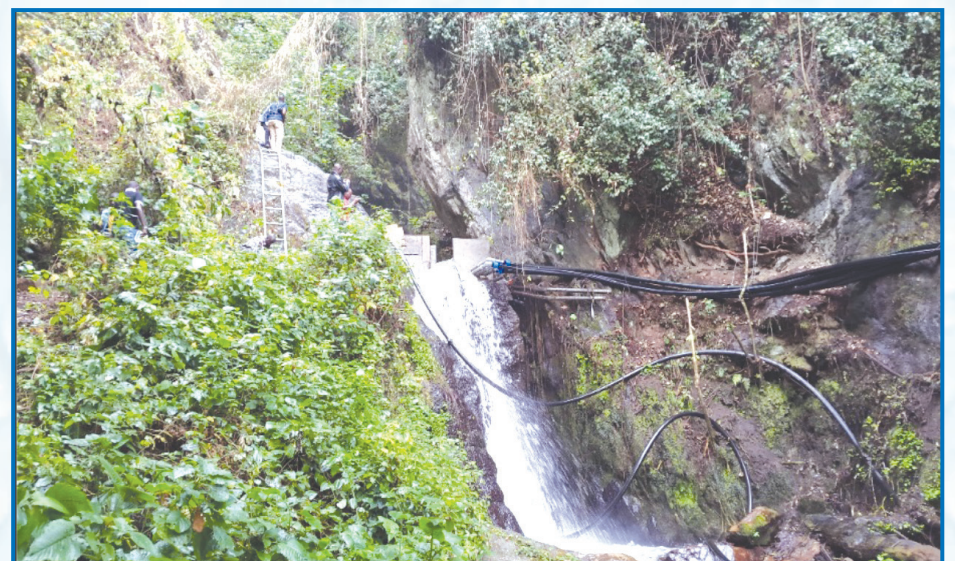


Workers laying pipes for a water supply system

water quality analysis, monitoring and evaluation and operation and maintenance of water supply systems.

Employment opportunities are also indirectly offered by the contracted service providers who deliver water-related services on behalf of the WSDF-SW. These service providers employ both skilled and un-skilled people to carry-out activities such as trenching for pipe networks, construction of reservoir tanks, and electro-mechanical installations and fittings.

Extension of water to un-served areas has attracted various investors in businesses that could not have been set up without the available water supply. These businesses create employment opportunities and market for agricultural produce from the surrounding community.



Construction works on River Ngite; Water source for Nyahuka Town Council system in Bundibugyo district; employs both skilled and un-skilled local labour