

World Vision extending safe water and good hygiene practices to communities

World Vision

The World Vision Uganda WASH programme cuts across all sectors of health, education, livelihoods, economic empowerment and child protection. It directly falls under the Health Sector because of its significant contribution to preventing the deaths related to diarrhea and the poor sanitation and hygiene practices.

Through partnerships with local government, the private sector and other development agencies working in the WASH sector, our purpose is to reduce the spread of WASH related diseases by availing safe drinking water and improving sanitation and hygiene practices to communities.

Striving to increase equitable access to safe drinking, World Vision over the years has drilled over 1,000 boreholes, constructed gravity and mechanized systems, constructed springs, rain water harvesting systems including underground tanks, encouraged self supply through manual drilling and constructed shallow boreholes spread in communities, schools, health centres and public centres like markets in Gulu, Oyam, Pader, Agago, Kitgum, West-Buliisa, Hoima, Kibale, Kiboga, Bundibugyo Central- Nakasongola, Buikwe, Eastern-Busia, Butaleja, Tororo, Bugiri, Karamoja- Abim, Kotido, Kaabong, West Nile-Arua and Adjumani among others. As a result more than 599,659 people mainly women and children have accessed clean water.



Community members collecting water from a piped water system in Buliisa District



A person living with disability draws water from a borehole

Through strong partnership with Government, World Vision ensures all water sources constructed remain functional and are owned by the community. To ensure functionality of the constructed water sources, World Vision ensures quality materials are used in the construction of the water sources, replenishes catchments through planting fruit trees and adhering to the six critical requirements before any water source construction is done and also uses community structures to collect operation and maintenance fees.

In some communities management of the funds has been a challenge but World Vision through the Village Saving and Lending Associations has negotiated with some Banking institutions and SACOs to open accounts for some of the water source committees. In northern and eastern regions, sub county water and sanitation boards have been established to oversee regular functioning of the water sources.

Through the community own effort of triggering communities to construct latrines using their own local resources, World Vision has constructed drainable latrines separate for both girls and boys with a provision for hand washing with soap and as a result over 483,162 people, women, men and children have had access to improved hygiene and sanitation.



A drying rack constructed through community sensitization



A latrine constructed through community triggering in Eastern Uganda



A latrine block in Oyam District with a special changing room for the girls

World Vision Uganda through the introduction of sanitation as a business is anticipated to create small community enterprises manufacturing low cost sanitation products which are all targeted towards improving on the quality of latrines constructed. Sanitation as a business will also provide solutions to draining latrines in institutions by mobilizing and creating awareness among entrepreneurs on available demand for their services.

World Vision through the School WASH approach also establishes School Health Clubs which are trained on hygiene practices and through the child to child approach, the clubs pass on messages studied in the groups to other peers. Learning from the approach, children have in most cases passed on the messages back home which has resulted into improvements in hygiene and sanitation in homes. Menstrual Hygiene Management is another key hygiene component. World Vision has constructed latrines with wash rooms for girls to manage menstrual hygiene. World Vision has also distributed menstrual pads and trained community groups in the manufacture of pads using local materials.

Promotion of water for production by constructing water troughs on boreholes, Dams and water ponds in Karamoja and other Area Development Programmes are other key interventions.



A water dam for animals in Karamoja



A cow drinking water from an animal trough

World Vision is an international non-governmental relief and development organization, founded on Christian principles with a focus on child wellbeing. World Vision started operation in 1986 to help reconstruct districts in central Uganda ravaged by the 1981-1986 war. Today, World Vision has presence in 71 out of the 112 districts in the country.