



MINISTRY OF WATER AND ENVIRONMENT

Water and Sanitation Development Facility – East

World Water Day Celebrations 2019

Theme: “Leaving No One Behind”

Uganda joins the world to commemorate the World Water Day on 22nd March every year with an aim of focusing attention on the importance of Water. This year, the commemoration will be held at the Ministry of Water and Environment's (MWE) Water Resource Institute (WRI) in Entebbe, under the theme: 'Leaving No One Behind'. This year's theme explores the central promise of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development Goal 6 which focuses on ensuring sustainable management, availability and access to safe clean water and sanitation facilities for all by 2030.

The UN recognized access to safe clean water as an essential human right for the full enjoyment of life. However, increased environmental degradation and climate change, are driving water-related crises across the globe. Floods, drought and water pollution are all made worse by degraded environment ecosystems such as: wetlands, forests, vegetation, soil, rivers and lakes. Neglecting our ecosystems makes it hard to provide everyone with the water they need to survive and thrive.

Sustainable Development Goal 6 (SDG 6) aims at ensuring availability and sustainable management of water for all by 2030 which means 'leaving no one behind! Leaving no one behind means improving water and environment natural resource management with focus on all the 6 targets of the Sustainable Development Goal on Water.

The Government of Uganda (GoU) is committed to the provision of safe clean water within easy reach and to improve sanitation for every Ugandan. The WSDf-E is a funding mechanism with the objective of improving the socio-economic situation and the opportunities of people living in the small towns (STs) and Rural Growth Centres (RGCs) in 44 Districts in 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, Kalirong, Iganga, Mayuge, Kamuli, Jinja, Buyende, Namayingo, Amudat, Serere, Luuka, Bulambuli, Napak, Ngora, Kibuku, Kween, Butebo, Namisindwa, Nabilatuk, Bugweri and Kapelebyong.

A population of 575,574 persons has already 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. Support from European Union (EU) and German Government through KfW among others enabled WSDf-E to supply the above population through grants but the funding has since ended. The need for continued funding from development partners is evident in order to achieve the theme, "Leaving No One Behind".

WSDf-E joined the entire world to commemorate World Water Day on 22nd March 2019, by holding the first Eastern Regional Water and Environment Week in the Mbale from 11th – 14th March 2019 and participating in the 2nd Uganda Water

and Environment Week (UWEWK) from 18th – 22nd March 2019 under the theme: Water and Environment a strategic driver in attainment of Sustainable Development Goals 2030; **Five sub-themes were elaborated, including: water- food-energy nexus, water, environment and society, green growth, blue economy and SDGs and financing SDGs.**

The UWEWK events preceded the commemoration of three important International Days: World Forest Day, World Water Day and World Meteorological Day annually slated for 21st, 22nd and 23rd March with an overall goal of contributing to the national development goals through effective management of Water and Environment resources for sustainable socio-economic development of Uganda.

WSDf-E progress to-date (Leaving No One Behind)

An integrated approach to management and utilisation of water and environment resources has the potential to solve many of our water challenges and ensure that both the current and future generations have access to these critical resources. We need to do so much more with 'green' infrastructure and harmonize it with 'grey' infrastructure wherever possible. Planting new forests, reconnecting rivers to floodplains, and restoring wetlands to rebalance the water cycle and improve human health and livelihoods. WSDf-E has contributed by reducing the pressure on fresh, surface and ground water systems by developing mechanisms to bring water closer to the people through access to piped water systems, protection of water catchment areas, and sanitation improvement among others.

To date, the WSDf-E has:

- Served a total population of **575,574** (Design) in **35 RGCs/STs** that have been implemented to completion since 2009.
- Completed Rehabilitation works **1 RGC/ST** in Namwendwa
- 4 RGCs/STs** with ongoing Construction works. They include; Namwiwa(75%), Bulegeni(85%), Bulopa(50%) and Binyinyi(35%)
- Ongoing Construction works for **1 Faecal sludge treatment plant** in Kamuli(98%)
- Completed designs for **20 RGCs/STs**.
- Constructed **146 Household** Ecological Sanitation toilets to completion.
- Completed construction of 21 Public** Sanitation toilets (Water borne toilets)
- Completed construction of 14 Institutional** Sanitation toilets (urine diversion dry toilets and lined pit latrines)
- In Uganda today, leaving no one behind in the strive to ensure access to safe clean water supply and sanitation for all is not just a challenge of service provision, but it is intrinsically linked with climate change and environment natural resources management.

Access to safe clean water and adequate sanitation is a basic human right and underpins success in development areas such as agriculture, energy, disaster resilience, human health, the environment, and ultimately economic growth. In many countries, economic and population growth, as well as urbanization, have increased water demand while supply has remained unchanged or even decreased due to climate change. To sustain economic growth and access to clean safe water and sanitation facilities for all Ugandans we must adopt an integrated approach by protecting and restoring water-related ecosystems, while leaving no one behind.

Challenges

- The demand for safe, adequate and equitable piped water and improved sanitation services rises each day due rural-urban migration and increased population. Moreover, the demand is higher than the resource envelop available to serve every individual.
- Massive environmental degradation including rampant deforestation, reclamation of wetlands, uncontrolled waste water disposal 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

Conclusion

Progress towards target SDG6 will help achieve the SDGs on health and well-being (SDG 3), safe water and sanitation (SDG 6), affordable and clean energy (SDG 7), sustainable cities and communities (SDG 11), life below water (SDG 14), and life on land (SDG 15), among others. For sustainability, water has to be carefully managed during every part of the water cycle: from fresh water abstraction, pre-treatment, distribution, use, collection and post-treatment, to the use of treated wastewater and its ultimate return to the environment, ready to be abstracted to start the cycle again.

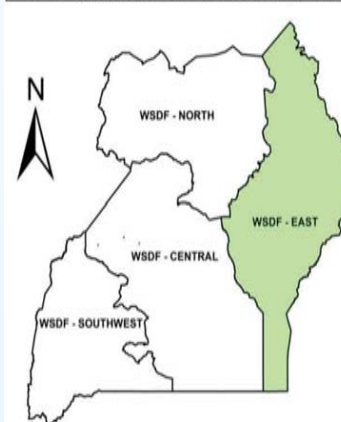
Therefore, with increased and continued funding from the Government of Uganda and development partners, larger populations can benefit from sustainable utilisation and management of water schemes and piped water services implemented by WSDf-E. As it is globally, leaving no one behind in the access of clean safe water and sanitation services is essential for Uganda to achieve a middle income status, Vision 2030 and NDP2.

As we celebrate World Water Day, the WSDf-E re-commits to improving water supply and sanitation to realise the theme- Leaving no one behind. The Government of Uganda through MWE is committed to providing all Ugandans with access to safe clean water and sanitation facilities.

Table showing O&M arrangements for completed systems under WSDf-E

Completed Piped Water and Sanitation Schemes	No.	Management and Sustainability
Amuria, Bukedea, Busiu, Kachumbala, Kapchorwa, Matany, Mbulamuti, Buwuni, Luuka, Kalirong, Kagoma, Kyando	12	Transferred to National Water and Sewerage Cooperation (NWSC) for O&M
Tirinyi, Kibuku, Katakwi, Ochero, Suam, Kapelebyong, Ocapa, Kyere, Iziru, Busedde-Bugobya, Buyende, Bubwaya, Kasilo-Kamod, Bukwo, Irundu, Namagera, Namutumba, Kasambira	18	Gazetted to Eastern Umbrella of Water and Sanitation (eUWs) for O&M
Kaabong, Abim, Karenga, Namalu, Nakapiripirit	5	Gazetted to Karamoja Umbrella of Water and Sanitation (kUWs) for O&M
Total	35	

MAP SHOWING REGIONAL BRANCHES OF WATER AND SANITATION FACILITIES IN UGANDA



WSDf-E Manager Eng. George Alito briefs Hon. Ronald Kibuule during the inspection of Iziru Water Supply System



Hon. Ronald Kibuule hands over a bucket of safe clean water to one of the woman councillors in Iziru as a sign of government's commitment to provide clean and safe water to all Ugandans



The joy of "Leaving no one behind"

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