The WASH Alliance Uganda envisions a world in which all people have sustainable access to WASH services. To realise this, we need to drastically change the way we approach this challenge. Traditional solutions focused on building infrastructure, are not sustainable and cannot meet the needs of a growing population.

It is our mission to change mindsets and create systems for sustainable and affordable WASH services that can accelerate. This is the only way to adapt to fast population growth. A guiding principle in our work is therefore facilitating the development of a system in which all stakeholders, such as businesses, governments, citizens and NGOs work effectively together.

In Uganda the number of people with access to safe water and sanitation has improved over the past 10 years, although there are still many communities (both rural and urban) that rely on contaminated water sources, such as streams and open wells. More than half of all residents in Uganda do not have access to improved sanitation, sharing overcrowded pit latrines or practicing open defecation. The lack of safe drinking water, hygiene and sanitation facilities are strongly influencing the wellbeing and health of the communities.

Our work in Uganda 2011-2014

In the last 3 years, the Uganda WASH Alliance has been successful to achieve most of its planned results in realising access to WASH. These are the results of a coherent country programme based on three pillars:

1. Building a functioning WASH market
2. Building a functioning public sector for WASH
3. Empowering and organizing citizens

Highlights of our programme in Uganda:

Building a Functioning WASH Market

Finance and technological innovation
To build a sustainable WASH market we aim to improve all the relevant fields that make a market work: from technological innovations (for hand drilling) to finance for urban sanitation, and the inclusion of Village Saving and Loan Schemes. Special attention goes to the Rwenzori region where we have been able to link sanitation entrepreneurs, masons and households to sanitation loans to a local micro finance institute in the region. This range of sanitation entrepreneurs has been equipped with marketing skills, knowledge of operational management of different sanitation solutions and well as basic book keeping and financial management approaches. Finally, three WASH credit products were institutionalised in Uganda.

Building a Functioning public sector for WASH

Lobby & advocacy
We succeeded to get in place strong national advocacy programme, resulting in an increase of the local WASH budget of 101 million UGS in the two districts in which we are active. Activities in this area include:

- Training on Right To Water and Sanitation of Civil Society Organisations and private sector
- Budget tracking
- Launch of a journalist network for WASH: the WASH media Network
- Strategic involvement with the Uganda Parliamentary commission WASH parliamentary forum, the Ministry of Water and Environment and other key line ministries

WASH situation in Uganda

- 32% Unsufficient / unsafe water
- 8% open defecation
- 27% Poor sanitation

Results 2011 - 2014

- €4,808,000 country budget 2011 -2015
- 138,740 additional persons are using improved sanitation
- 190,430 additional persons have gained access to and are using improved water
- 209,165 additional persons increased access to and are using improved WASH facilities
- 3 credit products developed
Empowering and organising citizens

**Women empowerment**

Raising awareness on hygienic menstrual behaviour improved significantly in the schools that were targeted in Uganda, leading to higher school enrolment of girls. We realised this mainly through the training of girls and mothers in making reusable sanitary towels and well as the support of senior female teachers to provide counselling services to girls.

**Capacity building**

Community empowerment is an important element of our work. A specific focus is on formation and strengthening of Water User Committees, Water User Associations, water boards, Village Health Teams, next to training of women groups and sanitation social marketing to create demand for sanitation services and facilities in the communities.

Capacity development of our partners

All members of the WASH Alliance work together on the three pillars and collaborate to ensure that WASH services will be sustained and will even scale up after our support has stopped. Therefore we support our members to fulfil their role as facilitators of change and promoters of sustainability.

**Environmental sustainability**

The concept of environmental sustainability was received very well in Uganda: 27 partners were trained on the importance of mainstreaming ecosystem service provision into their water resource management. Consequently, a third of the partners adopted key elements of environmental sustainability in their strategies, whereas two partners clearly adopted the approach also in their programming for the benefit of communities as well as to build local capacity in environmental sustainability.

**Business development**

Supporting partners on business development approaches in WASH, amongst others by making use of business coaches and mentors in the communities.

**Environmental sustainability**

Activities related to environmental sustainability will shift from the implementation of catchment-based resource management to lobby and advocacy for further enhancement of environmental sustainability.

**Technological sustainability**

Launch our well drilling program with the local fabrication of rope pumps.

**Access to finance**

Supporting Village Savings and Loans Associations to get access to micro credit from banks and other financial institutions.

**Sustainability**

Our work is always focused on achieving sustainable results. In order to realise these goals, we have developed the FIETS sustainability approach. This approach consists of five elements of sustainability: financial, institutional, environmental, technological and social sustainability. Special focus within our sustainability approach is the recognition of the interdependencies between water, energy, food security and climate change.