

TELLING OUR STORY

Field stories from Uganda WASH Alliance

Volume 3, December 2016

Special points of interest:

- A realistic approach to achieving rapid sanitation coverage in CLTS-failed villages in Northern Uganda
- LEAVING NO ONE BEHIND, Our Collective Responsibility
- Manual Drilling: A cheaper alternative for safe drinking water in Lango Sub region
- Prepaid water system ensuring 100% operation and maintenance of Kibasi Borehole
- There is need to promote WASH through media engagements
- Hofokam WASH loans have improved income status of people in Kyenjojo
- Subcounty Water Boards are important in promoting good O&M for water sources



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- Editorial
- Word from Dutch WASH Alliance
- Sector learning
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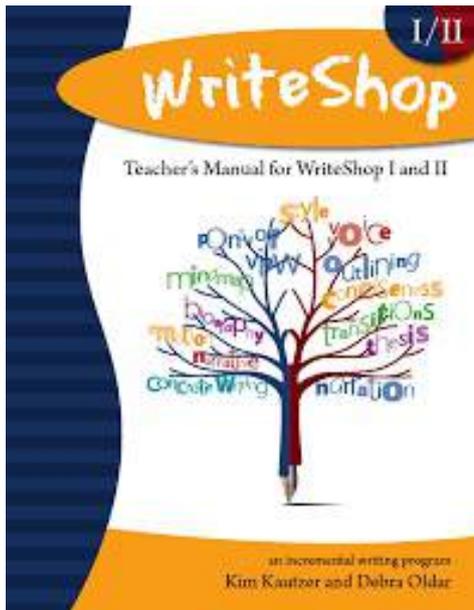


NETWAS (U)
Network for Water and Sanitation Uganda

WASH ALLIANCE
International
Accelerating WASH



Simavi



Time to write: Uganda WASH Alliance Partners tell their story

An abundance of innovative ideas and knowledge exist in the Ugandan water and sanitation (WASH) sector. Due mostly to a lack of time or confidence in writing skills, these insights are seldom put on paper and shared with a wider audience. To stimulate the distribution of knowledge that is generated in various projects and organisations in the Ugandan WASH sector, Network for Water and Sanitation (NETWAS) organised a three day 'writeshop' in December 2016. As a result of the writeshop, 14 outputs were created by the participants from Uganda WASH Alliance.

"Write down the thoughts of the moment. Those that come unsought for are commonly the most valuable."

Telling our story: 'Ugandan WASH sector writeshops as a tool to support knowledge sharing'

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shared with a wider audience. To stimulate the distribution of knowledge that is generated in various projects and organisations in the Ugandan WASH sector, NETWAS Uganda organised a three day 'writeshop' in December 2016. As a result of the writeshop, 14 outputs were created by the Rwenzori, Northern and National level partners

A writeshop was meant to provide time and support for a group of people to produce publishable outputs. In its essence it is a workshop where people sit down in one room together and individually write a variety of outputs based on the knowledge gained in their daily work. Participants said that "A lot of interesting things are happening in our day to day work in various projects of partner organisations in Uganda. However, project staff often do not have the time or confidence in their skills to communicate to the sector about what is happening in the field. To achieve more impact participants said they would like to improve communication to the sector and share new insights and thinking generated in the various projects".

Editorial

In this edition Water, Sanitation and Hygiene experiences are shared from practical field interventions in Rwenzori and Northern Regions with support of resource persons. These stories documented in the Field stories magazine are products of the writeshop which NETWAS with support from Simavi proudly presents to the WASH sector in collaboration with Uganda WASH Alliance.

Prepaid water system promoting functionality; A case of Kibasi Borehole in Hakibaale sub county-Photo story



By Kazooba M Diana

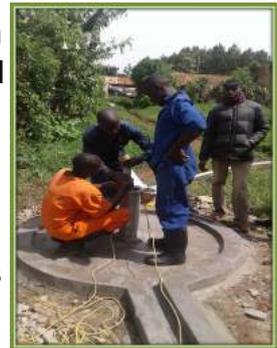
Since June 2014, community members of Kibasi village have since failed to raise 500,000/= for repair of rusted pipes and broken head pump.



Residents of Kibasi village had resorted to alternative sources of water from unprotected water sources while some would buy 20liters of water at 300/= from water vendors .



In October, 2016, JESE in collaboration with SIMAVI and Practica foundation installed a prepaid water system on the broken down water pump of Kibasi. The borehole was also given a complete rehabilitation



The residents were trained through a prepaid water system from which they embraced the idea



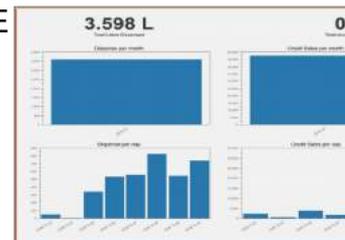
A water user committee was elected to oversee general management of the collected user fees paid per 20liters. The community selected a shop keeper who would sell water to the community. It was agreed that 20liters of water should cost 100/= . A memorandum of understanding was signed by the chairperson of the water user committee on behalf of the community and the JESE



Shop keeper uses the prepaid water system



One can monitor the system by logging in on the dashboard. JESE received an account on the dash board. Both systems can be monitored by logging in and selecting the hubs. Main information provided by the dashboard are; Credits sold and Water pumped. Check the dashboard regularly. Credits sold should directly result in credit on their bank account.



BENEFITS OF PREPAID WATER SYTEM AS TOLD BY THE COMMUNITY OF KIBASI

- Prepaid meters solve cost recovery problems.
- Improved technical performance and reliability
- Better safeguards against inconvenience and hardship
- Improve water fee collection





By Wamalwa Isaac-National Association for Women 's Action in Development

The Uganda WASH Alliance (UWA) -a consortium of 9 Ugandan NGOS working in the WASH sector underwent a Gender Audit in 2012 as part of an effort to mainstream Gender in water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) programming. The UWA members (NAWAD,Network for water and sanitation (NETWAS),Uganda water and sanitation NGO network (UWASNET),Health through water and sanitation(HEWASA),Joint effort to save the environment (JESSE),Agency for sustainable rural transformation (AFSRT),Uganda rainwater association (URWA),AMREF Uganda and EMESCO development foundation) then committed to have gender mainstreaming carried out in their organizations, their work and that of their partners. This year (2016), the WASH Alliance International (WAI) with support financial support from SIMAVI conducted a Gender Equity and Social Inclusion (GESI) Audit on the UWA Partners, this time broadening the scope of the audit beyond gender to inclusion. Given that 'social inclusion' was a new concept that was gaining importance in the WASH sector, it was important to assess the members understating of the same as well as create a shared understanding about the concept in order for them to become more reflective and responsive to the needs of the people we serve. The gender audit offered ways to raise awareness about the importance of Inclusion within member organizations and enable them to initiate dialogue with policy makers and plan for the inclusion of the un-served groups that could easily be left behind.

The audit established that on the whole, most members were averaged out of the invisible bracket, some came through the awareness bracket while the majority peaked at the Intentional Inclusion level. While a number of organizations

rated themselves as invisible on some organizational components, most organizations averaged around the rating of intentional inclusion. Only one member seemed to rate themselves mostly around the area of strategic and the culture of inclusion on a number of organizational components. During GESI audit validation workshop held on 30th/august/2016, members committed to adopt the recommendations of the report thus,

Recruiting a GESI Focal person or a full time GESI staff to spearhead and oversee the mainstreaming of GESI in the partner organisations and communities, Top management to lead the process of GESI planning, budgeting and implementation, however noting that GESI is everyone's business in the organisation, Training of staff in GESI programming, Developing partners need to support GESI mainstreaming for UWA Members, creation of awareness in the communities and schools about the importance of GESI, engage with government Ministries, Departments and Agencies (MDAs) as well as parliament on promoting GESI in WASH as an entry point but also in all other sectors..

This GESI Audit therefore provided an opportunity to have the UWA members reflect on how far they had gone to mainstream gender and social inclusion in the work, partners and the wider communities they serve. A few challenges still remain given that in most cases this concept was seen as new. Nevertheless, many partners were implementing some aspects of the concept although unconsciously. There is however a huge opportunity in embracing the spirit, principles and practice of the concept to make it possible for everyone to be brought on board in whatever we plan and do. It is the right time not to leave anyone behind.

The Sanitation Countdown

A realistic approach to achieving rapid sanitation coverage in CLTS-failed villages in Northern Uganda



*By: Isa Sematimba
Amref Health Africa.*

In spite of the numerous approaches undertaken to achieve full water and sanitation coverage, in rural areas, the sanitation coverage is generally still alarming. Whilst the Uganda sanitation coverage for rural has improved up to 67% (MoWE Sector Performance Report 2015), in Pader and Agago Districts of northern Uganda alone, the average sanitation coverage currently stands at 54%, with as low as 10% in some villages (Pader and Agago District WASH reports, 2016).

With support from the Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs through the WASH Alliance, Amref Health Africa has been implementing a one-year WASH Alliance project, aimed at Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH) acceleration and sustainability. Among the major activities conducted were; promoting ideal WASH homesteads in communities with main focus on promoting latrine construction and use especially in villages that practice large scale open defecation as a result of having no latrines. Having drawn lesson from previous WASH intervention approaches such as Community-led Total Sanitation (CLTS), Participatory Hygiene And Sanitation Transformation (PHAST), among other, that yielded less results in achieving total sanitation coverage, the project took a relatively different approach code named the "Count-down Sanitation-promotion Approach"

Employing this approach, selected villages practicing large-scale open defecation were mobilized through community dialogue, consultative meetings held and participatory WASH knowledge sharing activities conducted. It should be noted that these communities had much knowledge WASH since most had been previously supported with several interventions such as CLTS, but had failed to change. Continually, community sanitation mapping and joint household visits were conducted. beginning with community leaders' homes. Subsequently all households with names household leaders were identified in a particular village, listing and highlighting those with and without latrines. Additionally, exchange visits were conducted and a timeline meetings held were individual villages gave timelines for completion of different stages of latrine completion including constructing handwashing facility among other WASH requirements. In these meetings, communities also set by-laws including rewards for the first homesteads and penalties for the slow or non complying households.

Among the rewards and penalties included, receiving community honorary recognition as a sanitation promotion champion, receiving animals such as goats and hens especially confiscated from non-complying homesteads, publicly naming and shaming non-complying household members, including isolation by the rest of the community among others. As the process goes on, short lists of household heads with latrines and those with out are developed and circulated and the final sanitation deadline counts down.

Resultantly, six out of the eight villages which on average previously had 16% latrine coverage had achieved 100% latrine coverage in two months whilst the other two had achieved 84% latrine coverage on average. These villages included; Abaktwomere, Winykwotor, Orakul, Can-beno, Amugu and Lacekomyela in Pader District. And now, community members have embraced the need to have proper WASH homesteads as they jointly vowed never to accept a homestead without an improved latrine in their community.

Sharpening the FIETS Approach through learning



By Sekuma S Peter

The FIETS (Financial, institutional, Environmental Technological and Social Sustainability) approach to attain sustainability is cherished by the Dutch WASH Alliance and the Network of Water and Sanitation (NETWAS) Uganda is scaling it up through the learning alliances.

NETWAS Uganda is renowned for learning and knowledge management, Water, Sanitation and Hygiene sector, in this role it has continued to advance in the Uganda WASH Alliance partnership.

The saying of a fisher casting a net wide to capture his treasurers is something NETWAS Uganda is familiar with in its approach of casting out the learning net and capturing learning experiences as well as knowledge that builds the Uganda WASH Alliance.

This is not done as an exclusive venture but through collaboration with Uganda WASH Alliance partners who include JESE, HEWASA, NAWAD, AFRST, AMREF and UWASNET.

In 2016, NETWAS Uganda cast its to stimulates activities that trigger acceleration of access and use of sustainable WASH services in our operational areas as well as promoting learning and innovation on sustainability and acceleration.

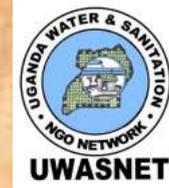
This first cast was thrown aimed at scaling up water supply and sustainability with emphasis on quality, quantity and reliability in Northern Uganda. As result *Alebtong district adopted the Subcounty Water Boards Approach to address O&M of water sources after learning from a model presented by Lira at the Northern region learning forum.*

The second cast by NETWAS Uganda targeted strengthening regional learning in the Rwenzori WASH Alliance. In this regard, a learning reflection was organised. The yields of the learning reflection are registered in establishment of a secretariat for the Rwenzori learning forum as well identifying modalities for improving the learning experience at the learning forums for Rwenzori.

Still exploring the opportunities for strengthening learning in the Uganda WASH Alliance, NETWAS Organised a National Learning Forum on WASH based Climate Change adaptation strategies. At the forum participants explored building blocks for adopting WASH Based Climate Change adaption strategies and also looked at what it will take for this to happen.

The role of NETWAS submits to the Chinese proverb "Learning is a treasure that will follow its owners everywhere" in this role NETWAS works to groom good practices for replication using learning platforms and alliance in regional and national level to ensure sustainable interventions.

PROMOTION OF WASH THROUGH MEDIA ENGAGEMENT



By Reymond Tumuhairre

Nationally, tremendous efforts have been made by stakeholders in the water and sanitation sector to ensure that citizens have access to safe water and improved standards of sanitation and hygiene. According to the sector performance report 2016, the population with access to safe water stands at 71% in urban areas and 67% in the rural areas a notable increase of 2% from the previous year. With regard to sanitation, access to rural sanitation has only increased by 2% from 77% to 79%. Uganda committed to the new Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and goal 6 in particular which calls for



universal access to safe water and improved sanitation and hygiene a reality for all. The question the sector is still grappling with is; How to achieve universal coverage by the year 2030?

Time is now to shift and change strategies as a sector and think creatively. Media is one of the greatest untapped resources in the country. It's important as a sector to appreciate and realize the role media plays in promoting access to water and improved standards of sanitation and hygiene (WASH) in communities. Besides promoting coverage of WASH issues at local, national and international level, media plays a central role in triggering transparency and accountability among the duty bearers. This enables communities to demand and advocate for improved WASH services leading to better service delivery. A case in point was the celebration of the World Toilet Day on 14th November 2016. Uganda Water and Sanitation NGO Network (UWASNET) an umbrella organization of all NGOs in the water and sanitation sector used two radio talk shows to raise awareness on the economic values of toilets. This was part of a national media engagement campaign being carried out by UWASNET to raise the profile of WASH in the public agenda, policy and inspire action towards achieving universal coverage by 2030.

During the talk-shows, Water for People a UWASNET member and a representative from Government were able to share the current sanitation statistics, interventions previously done, what is working or not working and the way to go to ensure that everyone everywhere has access to WASH.

Therefore without leaving anyone behind, it's imperative that media involvement and the role it plays in the WASH sector is strengthened. This will contribute to achieving of the Water and Environment sector targets and goal 6 of the Sustainable Development Goals by 2030

WATER AS PROFITABLE BUSINESS USING HOFAKAM WASH LOAN.



By Patrick Kaahwa

Water supply in Kyenjojo Town Council is a problem and basing on statistics, about 85% of people leaving in the town council lack access to safe water. During a meeting with water & sanitation entrepreneurs, the operational manager of Hofakam, Mr. Herbert Apuuli introduced the Hofakam WASH loan to the members.

Betty Ngonzi who was in the meeting embraced the idea and applied for the WASH Loan from Hofakam for water for production. The lady applied for sh 3,500,000 to construct a borehole within the Town Council, later she applied for piece of land from town council, and the town council granted her the piece of land . The WASH loan she acquired from Hofakam, enabled her to purchase a water tank, drilled a borehole and used part of it to pay the masons. Currently she is supplying 200 people of

Kyenjojo Town Council with water daily where she charges each Jerrican (20 Liters) at Shs 300 and besides, she has set aside a car washing bay where she gets 10 to 20 cars a day and each is charged Shs 7000/= She earns about sh 60,000/= and sh 140,000 per day and she is able to record and keep track of the business. Her expenditure per day amounts to about Shs 50000 and the net income is Shs 150000 per day. She has now managed to pay back her loan within 6 Months and she has applied for more funds to expand her business.



SUBCOUNTY WATER BOARD IMPROVES ACCESS TO WATER IN KICWAMBA, KABAROLE DISTRICT



By Rujumba Moses (HEWASA)

Poor operation and maintenance of water sources has greatly contributed to lack of access to water in rural areas in Uganda today which stands at an estimated 67 %. (SPR 2016). Villages in Kicwamba Sub County have for long struggled with their water facilities due to poor operation and maintenance. The revitalization of the water management structures in the area spearheaded by Health through Water and Sanitation Programme (HEWASA) with funding from SIMAVI (an organization from the Netherlands) has had a significant impact on the levels of access to safe drinking water.

A sub county water board formed in 2010 by the district water office had a lot of challenges which had hampered its functionality. Through HEWASA's interventions, the problems were identified and solutions were developed. The main solution was reestablishing a new board executive to replace the old nonfunctional water board with support from the sub county technical and political wing.

The new water board was trained on their roles and responsibilities and it was tasked with revitalizing all the water user committees of the 56 public tap stands on the Kicwamba Gravity Flow Scheme. HEWASA jointly worked with the water board to ensure that all the Water User Committees were reestablished and had refresher trainings.

The water board members together with HEWASA and the Sub county community development team jointly carried out sensitization of the water users. This was mainly focusing on the collection of Water User Fees for the operation and maintenance of the public water facilities.

A new tariff was agreed upon which was to be paid by all the water users, an account with a local SACCO (Kihondo) was opened where the user fees collected were to be banked.

The water board raised 2 million shillings from the water user fee collections which was used as a contribution towards the 2.1km extension of pipelines to the villages of Kirangara and Kitumbi, Kyamaiba in Kitumbi parish.

The water board mobilized and supervised the community members to dig trenches where the pipes were laid as part of the efforts to extend water to the unserved areas.

Since the revitalization of the Sub county water board in Kicwamba, access to safe drinking water has increased. This has been due to the improvement in the coordination between all the water management structures, Development Partners and the sub county leadership.

For Further Information Contact

NETWAS (U) Plot M640, Church Road
BIINA
P.O BOX 40223 Kampala
Tel: +256(0)414-577463
Email: netwasuganda@gmail.com
Website: www.netwasuganda.org

