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Inside

| | |
|---------------------------------------|----|
| WORD FROM THE EDITOR | 2 |
| OPINION | 3 |
| UGANDA TURNS INTO GSF's | |
| LEARNING HUB | 5 |
| MINISTER TOURS NEBBI..... | 7 |
| PCM MEMBERS TOUR MAYUGE | 10 |
| FIRST 15 USF DISTRICTS | 12 |
| COMMITTED TO DELIVERING | 13 |
| A LATRINE IS DIGNITY | 15 |
| EXCHANGE LEARNING IMPROVE | |
| SANITATION..... | 17 |
| BEHAVIOUR CHANGE TAKES ROOT | 19 |
| VILLAGE COMMITTEES | 20 |
| SANITATION & HYGIENE COMPETITION | 22 |
| ZAINAB BEATS ALL DDS | 24 |
| FROM OUR PARTNERS | 26 |

2



Word from the editor.....

Warm greeting to our esteemed readers!

This is the second issue of our publication *Sanitation Matters*. In this issue we present to you stories highlighting the impact of our interventions across all regions where the Uganda Sanitation Fund programme operates.

This publication builds on the previous one and presents in-depth interactions with community members who have benefited from interventions supported by the Uganda Sanitation Fund programme.

It is aimed at bringing to the fore testimonies of people who have felt the real impact of sanitation interventions in their households and communities in general. Thus most of the stories are more of case studies of what has worked in different areas where the programme operates.

At the USF, we are honored to share with you these case studies and testimonies that demonstrate the commitment and dedication of our team in serving the communities.

We appreciate and celebrate having you as a reader of this newsletter as we work towards keeping all our stakeholders informed about our activities and the impact they create.

We look forward to receiving your valued feedback that could be useful in improving on our next publications.

Abundant thanks.

Bashir Hangi

Editor

ZERO TOLERANCE TO OPEN DEFECATION



By **Bashir Hangi**

Community empowerment is essential for sanitation improvement.

We have lamented the death of many Ugandans to several causes such as accidents, murders and diseases both communicable and non-communicable.

The undisputed fact is that whatever the cause of death, we lose lives as a country some whose potential has been exploited while others especially children under five years we haven't even seen their potential. The country loses on the much needed contribution of these two categories of people who would otherwise play a role in national development.

However, we have in our midst preventable diseases that are killing people and this trend has been taken as something acceptable that we should live with. Diarrhea kills many children in Uganda and has won itself a position among the top infant mortality causing diseases. Open defecation contributes to diarrheal deaths especially among children under the age of five. Open defecation contaminates water sources; foods and drinks because people rarely wash hands after using a toilet.

According to the World Health Organization, Uganda lost 7000 children in 2015 due to diarrhea making it the second highest killer next to Malaria. Additionally, Sanitation related

diseases also claim the lives of adults; diseases such as dysentery, typhoid and cholera among others often lead to many deaths as witnessed in the frequent cholera outbreaks that happen in different parts of the country. These cholera outbreaks claim lives including breadwinners leaving their dependents to suffer.

According to the World Health Organization, Uganda lost over 7000 children under the age of five in 2015 due to diarrhea making it the second highest killer next to Malaria.

That aside, the productivity sectors such as agriculture, industries, trade and the economy including other government sectors are often affected leading to lower productivity as many affected persons are unable to go to work and instead spend time at home; this does not spare the caregivers who too have to stay home or in health facilities attending to the sick.

In Uganda, latrine coverage stands at 80% which means 20% of the households lack latrines and inhabitants still practice open defecation. This is a big population that should worry us as a country. As they practice open defecation, even those who use toilets are affected through contamination of water, utensils, foods and drinks. That notwithstanding, hand washing stands at a paltry 37% which also aggravates the situation since we shake hands on a daily basis with people whose behaviors we don't know. This further exposes us to the risk of getting in contact with germ carrying humans.

Opinion.....

Primary health care is important if we are to have a healthy population that works towards self-sustenance. Good sanitation is one of the critical pathways to keeping our communities healthy. It is through building resilient communities and

a productive population that Uganda shall be able to focus on achieving the middle income status by 2021.

Using Community Led Total Sanitation (CLTS), the Ministry of Health has promoted sanitation in 30 districts under the Uganda Sanitation Fund programme with outstanding achievement of results. Coverage of latrine and hand washing in the programme area stands at 97 % and 96% respectively and this can be replicated in other districts to take sanitation to scale.

The Uganda Sanitation Fund adopted the CLTS approach considering the immense benefits it offers. The programme trains and builds capacity of district and sub county health extension workers to equip them with knowledge and skills that enable them to apply the CLTS approach in community mobilization.

The programme has therefore built a pool of skilled people who work closely with communities; they have created a sense of ownership of sanitation innovations among the commu-



A Community Meeting discussing how to improve sanitation in Lira District

In Uganda, latrine coverage stands at 80%. 20% of the households lack latrines and inhabitants still practice open defecation.

nities which has resulted into acceptance of programme interventions.

Contrary to the conventional methods of teaching, CLTS is an innovative methodology that mobilises communities to completely eliminate open defecation by facilitating them to conduct their own appraisal and analysis of open defecation and take their own actions to become open defecation free. CLTS triggers the community's desire for collective change, propels people into action and encourages innovation, mutual support and appropriate local solutions, thus leading



USF Field Officer Emmery Mbaha training Health Extension workers of Paliisa in application of the CLTS approach.

Hear
Informed.
Convinced.
Decide
Action
Reinforced
Maintained

CLTS STEPS

- ① Pre-triggering
- ② Triggering
- ③ Post triggering
- ④ Scaling up (Post ODF)

to greater ownership and sustainability.

The application of CLTS approach by the Uganda Sanitation Fund has yielded success by improving sanitation in communities. It has demonstrated that if communities are

empowered to be in charge of their sanitation, they observe high standards of hygiene, keep healthy and productive. Therefore, we should

consider putting communities at the forefront of sanitation and hygiene promotion in order to achieve total sanitation at scale.

Uganda turns into GSF`s learning hub on implementation through government structures.

USF is now establishing itself as a learning hub because of its unique implementation of activities through well-established government structures.

This was evident when a team of five from the Republic of Togo visited the Uganda Sanitation Fund programme to benchmark on implementing programme activities through existing government structures.

While in Uganda, the Togolese held meetings with the Uganda Sanitation Fund Executing Agency at the Ministry of Health and also visited different partners to acquaint themselves with government operations.

The objectives of the team from Togo was to understand how to implement GSF activities within a government structure, roles and responsibilities of stakeholders, mobilization of resources especially from government counter funding programme activities and sustainability of interventions put in place by the USF.

“We have come to Uganda because you offer a perfect learning opportunity of how the Global Sanitation Fund is implemented through existing government structures and by the time we go back, we shall have learned a lot” said, Fataou Salami the UNICEF Togo GSF coordinator

The visitors also attended a regional stakeholders’ advocacy forum in Lira where they had an opportunity to interact with various

leaders in Lango region and shared experiences regarding programme implementation, challenges and successes.

“One of the strengths of the Uganda Sanitation Fund is its implementation of activities through an elaborate government structure which runs from the center to the village level, which gives us hope of sustainability of interventions even long after the programme has ended” David Mukama USF Programme Manager told the visitors.



Visitors from the Togo GSF and USF Officials in a group photo

The assistant Commissioner Environmental Health who is also the USF Programme Coordinator, Julian Kyomuhangi took the visitors through the history of the USF right from inception to where it is and highlighted adequate preparation, inter-sector coordination and existence of the required manpower as important aspects that helped Uganda to get funding and start the programme.

She informed the team that sanitation in the country has many stakeholders who are

Uganda Turns Into GSF`S.....

brought together through the National Sanitation Working group which has representatives from different actors in the Water, Sanitation and hygiene (WASH) Sector. She also informed the team that a number of NGOs operate in the WASH sector under an umbrella body; Uganda Water and Sanitation NGO Network (UWASNET) which brings them together as players in the sector.

The visitors held discussions with the chairman Programme Coordination Mechanism (PCM) engineer Ian Arebahona and the Country Coordinator Water Supply and Sanitation Collaborative Council (WSSCC) Ms. Jane Nabunya Mulumba.

The PCM Chairman briefed them on the roles and responsibilities of the PCM and it's added value to programme operations. Eng Arebahona informed the visitors that the PCM has enhanced the realization of programme objectives through regular monitoring of its activities in the districts where it operates

6

“The PCM has provided strategic guidance and direction to programme implementation hence helping the programme to achieve its objective. PCM undertakes regular monitoring visits on ground to ensure the quality of work done is good and beneficial to communities.” Said Arebahona.

The National Coordinator briefed the Togolese on her role especially ensuring a linkage with the media, the visibility of WSSCC, documentation and sharing of best practices, promotion

One of the strengths of the Uganda Sanitation Fund in is the implementation of activities through an elaborate government structure which ensures sustainability of interventions.

of learning and advocacy. *“In addition to undertaking standalone activities that are directly funded by WSSCC, the National Coordinator dedicates time to support USF whenever called upon especially in areas of advocacy, communication and learning”* Jane Mulumba.

The team visited the districts of Soroti and Apach where they interacted with communities in villages, which gave them an on the ground picture of the success of Uganda Sanitation Fund Programme activities.

In Togo the GSF started operating in 2013 when the United Nations Office for Project Services (UNOPS) signed the grant support agreement with UNICEF. It is implemented through non-government organizations (NGOs) with UNICEF as the Executing Agency while sub grantee NGOs implement activities at community level. The visit was precipitated by the impending transfer of Executing Agency roles from UNICEF to the Togolese government through the Ministry of Health and social protection. The whole transfer process is expected to be completed by 2019. Even with the transfer, the implementation of the Togo GSF remains different from the USF because Uganda has an elab-



The Visitors attending a community meeting in Aroba Village, Soroti District

Uganda Turns Into GSF`S.....



The Visitors being received by community members in Atek A Village, Apac District

orate decentralized system while the Ministry of Health and social protection in Togo will continue working with NGOs as subgrantees.

The visit by the Togo GSF followed that of delegations from Madagascar, Kenya and Ethiopia. These visits are based on Uganda's success in implementing activities through

the existing government structures under the long term institutional arrangement. Implementing activities through an elaborate government structure is seen as a sure way of ensuring sustainability of results because of skills transfer and availability of institutions to take forward the interventions.

Minister tours SNV/Netherlands operations in Nebbi

“The only way out of the dilemma that we are facing in health service delivery is to go preventive and it is a sure way that will yield positive results.”

The remarks were made by the Minister of State for Primary Health Care Honorable Dr. Joyce Moriku Kaducu while meeting Nebbi district leaders during a learning visit to SNV areas of operation.

Hon. Dr. Moriku said that the strength in health interventions lies in disease prevention measures adding that there is need to do much in the area of disease prevention.



Minister Moriku addressing Nebbi district leaders at the district headquarters

She emphasized that if homesteads have good sanitation and hygiene, people would not suffer from preventable diseases and would put their energy and time to productive work which would lead to improved household incomes.

The Minister also addressed the community of Gotaciku at Kuchwiny Health Center III, where she thanked VHTs for being vigilant and asked the community to sustain the good work they are doing to improve sanitation in their homesteads in order to keep healthy and do productive work to fight poverty.



Minister Moriku addressing the community at Kuhcwiny Health center III

Minister Tours.....

The Minister told the community that the improvement of sanitation and hygiene in homes should be the first thing before health facilities are improved because health is made at home.

“Until we improve sanitation in the homesteads, we cannot successfully improve the health facilities because people will continue going to facilities and after getting medicine, they go back to unhygienic homes where they continue to live in an unhealthy environment”.

The Assistant Commissioner Environmental Health in the Ministry of Health also USF programme coordinator Julian Kyomuhangi told the district leaders that USF is implementing activities alongside SNV using the same implementation modalities. She underscored the importance of building partnerships, sharing and learning from one another for improved performance *“As our implementing partners, we are here to see what they have done in Nebbi, support and appreciate their efforts for changing the lives of the communities.”*

8

“With partners, we can do better, because together we can”



Julian Kyomuhangi speaking to district officials in the office of the Chief Administrative officer Nebbi.

The Ag. District Health Officer Nebbi Okumu Patricia informed the team that when SNV started working in the district in 2014, sanitation coverage was at 52% but has since improved to 84% and that they are aiming at achieving

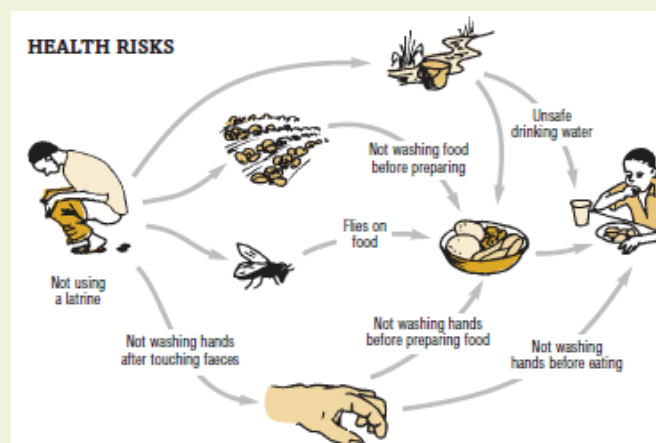
100%. She appreciated the support extended by both USF and SNV towards improving sanitation in the district.

The SNV WASH advisor Lillian Nabasiye informed the Minister and her team that the Sustainable Sanitation and Hygiene for All programme was able to achieve positive results in the district because of the enabling environment created by both the technical and political leadership. She said SNV interventions have reduced open defecation from 19 to 6% in the district due to the support rendered by the leaders in the district.



Lillian Nabasiye giving a brief on SNV operations in Nebbi district

The Minister and her team were taken on a tour of Gotaciku village in Kuchwiny Sub County where they inspected various households to have an on-site view of the impact of SNV interventions. The team looked at among others existence of sanitation facilities, their quality and functionality, must haves for an ideal homestead and also interacted with people to appreciate the level of behavior change among the community members.



About Gotaciku Village.

Located in Kuchwiny Sub County, the village has 115 households. It was triggered in October 2016 by Water school a sub grantee of SNV. They used a youth group called Parpilengo (Think of sanitation and health), which promotes sanitation.

The village is not Open Defecation Free but is among those that have claimed to be and are awaiting verification before being declared Open Defecation Free.

A visit through the village revealed a community that is mindful of their sanitation as evidenced by the existence of the required sanitation and other facilities ideal for a home with evidence of use of the facilities. Every household has a latrine, hand washing facility, though a number of them have no soap

or ash but with demonstrated evidence that the facilities are being used. Other facilities are drying racks for utensils, drying lines for clothes and they have clean compounds.

Community members have an understanding of sanitation and children demonstrated knowledge of using the facilities which is a good behavior change aspect that show the potential to sustain the behaviors. All facilities are made of locally available material which means they can be repaired in case they breakdown.

Households have Clean latrines with smeared floors and hand washing facilities. With more triggering, the community can adopt washable floor made with cement



One of the homesteads in Gotaciku Village.



A drying rack for utensils



A latrine tightfitting squat hole cover



A youth leader stands in front of his latrine.

Although Latrine structures are small and short with tiny entrances like in many other communities, community members say they are comfortable using the latrines as they are.

SNV is working in West Nile districts towards Strengthening capacity for steering and implementation of sanitation demand creation, Strengthening capacity for sanitation supply chains and finance, Strengthening capacity

for behavioral change communication (Bcc) for hygiene promotion and Strengthening capacity for WASH governance.

The USF and SNV have been jointly implementing activities on a 50/50 arrangement in West Nile districts using Community Let Total Sanitation through a memorandum of understanding.

PCM Members on a familiarization tour of Mayuge District

Members of the Uganda Sanitation Fund Programme Coordinating Mechanism (PCM) visited Mayuge district in July, one of the new districts receiving support from the programme to familiarize themselves with the baseline conditions in the district.

Led by the PCM Chairman Engineer Ian Arebahona, members held discussions with the district leaders of Mayuge and informed the district leadership of the desire by the programme to see that people are helped to live in acceptable environments with good sanitation and hygiene.

The Chief Administrative Officer Joyce Nambozo expressed optimism that with support from Uganda Sanitation Fund, communities in the district will live healthy lives in better environments.

“As leaders, we also want at some point declare Mayuge District Open Defecation Free”



PCM Members meeting leaders of Mayuge District at the District headquarters.



CAO Mayuge Joyce Nambozo speaking to the PCM members

The team was informed that latrine coverage stands at 69% in the district while hand washing stands at 35%, both figures are below the national levels.

Alluding to the relationship between health and wealth, Nambozo told PCM members that the district leadership appreciates the relationship between health and wealth; “When people are unhealthy, they spend much time and resources on treatment instead of working to earn income and fight poverty. Health is wealth, we spend a lot on treatment yet if we did the basics of disease prevention we

PCM Members in Mayuge..

would save”

The PCM Chairman Engineer Ian Arebahona advised that all leaders in the district be triggered to make them realize the dangers of poor sanitation especially open defecation so that they can appreciate the importance of program interventions and eventually bring about the desired change.

He called for a multi stakeholder approach to promotion of sanitation in the district and encouraged the district leaders to involve people in other sectors so that they can also play a role.

He said that there are people in other sectors with a role to play in sanitation and it should go beyond health offices and spread out to every corner of the district.

“Sanitation should be a key message everywhere we go because it impacts on many people, therefore we need all stakeholders on board”

Eng. Arebahona.

Eng. Arebahona said that after three years, PCM members and the programme management team should see a big change and peoples’ lives should have improved as a result of the support from Uganda Sanitation Fund.



Eng. Ian Arebahona addressing the leaders of Mayuge District at the District headquarters.

The USF Programme Manager David Mukama told the leaders that the programme wants to see Open Defecation Free environments in all the 38 supported districts. He advised the district leaders of Mayuge to relate the immediate benefits of a toilet with the communities through strong community

engagement and also reminded them to be accountable and transparent.

“We should be accountable for the outcomes of our activities, we want 100% in everything we do”.

He said the Executing Agency will have a strong engagement with the districts but there is need for political support and a good working relationship for the engagements to be meaningful.



David Mukama speaks to leaders of Mayuge District at the District headquarters.

The team visited three sub counties of Imanyiro, Buwaaya and Malongo where they interacted with the communities and assessed the sanitation situation which was found to be appalling with a number of households lacking latrines while others including schools were found to be wanting in terms of sanitation and hygiene.

The visit gave PCM members a feel of the enormous task ahead of the implementers as the programme commences in Mayuge District.



Mayuge District Vice Chairperson Ruth Kibowa expressing political support towards programme activities.

Mayuge District Vice Chairperson Ruth Kibowa attended the meeting with PCM and promised political support towards programme activities.

"There will be no political interference be cause as political leaders, we want people alive".

First 15 USF districts meet in Mbale, resolve to improve performance

In Late June this year, Focal persons, CAOs, District Health Officers and extension staff from Pallisa, Kibuuku, Bukedea, Kumi, Ngora, Serere, Soroti, Katakwi, Amuria, Kaberamaido, Dokolo, Amolatar, Mbarara, Bushenyi, and Sheema converged at Wash and Wills Hotel, Mbale for an inter district meeting for the first 15 district to be supported by the Uganda Sanitation Fund. Other participants were from the USF Programme Coordinating Mechanism, Country Programme Monitor, Civil society and Technical Support Unit in the Ministry of Water and Environment .

12

The meeting was aimed at sharing experiences by taking stock of where they have come from, challenges encountered along the way, successes registered and mooting solutions for improvement of future programme performance in the districts.

The event featured presentations on strategies to improve the sanitation supply chain and creating an enabling environment which was made by Mbarara. Soroti made a presentation on strategies to create demand for improved sanitation and hygiene practices. These presentations were used as a benchmark and discussed in detail by participants to see what has worked and where improvements have to be done.

The enriching engagement that participants first hand opportunity to frankly and openly share operational challenges and get advice from amongst themselves, the Executing Agency and partners.



Participants from the first phase districts and wash and will hotel in Mbale district

Away from the workshop venue, participants were taken on a learning journey to Bulambuli district where they visited households in Nabugobeyi Cell, Macala Ward, Bulegeni Town council to see how Bulambuli district has managed to implement programme activities, successes and challenges it is encountering and also offer advice on how the district can improve.

During the visit, participants observed that there was a need to trigger for standards considering that most structures were not up to standards although they were good and clean.

In the village, latrines are kept clean all the time, washable floors would make cleaning the facilities much easier and therefore, the district was advised to implore community members to start improving on the floors of their latrines by using cement to make them washable.



A latrine in Nabugobeyi Cell Bulegeni, Bulambuli district

Participants also observed that all houses had the required facilities; Latrines, Hand washing Facilities with evidence of use, drying racks and demonstrated behavior change among the community members had a good understanding of the importance of good sanitation and dangers associated with open defecation.

At the end of the inter district meeting, participants made recommendations for improving programme performance in their respective districts. Some of the recommended actions are to be taken by the Executing Agency and others by the districts themselves.

Committed to delivering a Sub county to ODF through CLTS.



Bagonza Simon

Simon Bagonza is a Health Assistant for Kakanju Sub County Bushenyi district. Having been posted to the area two years ago from Kyamuhunga and Bitooma, he has turned into a household talk because of his regular visits to households to help people maintain good sanitation.

With 5 Parishes and 49 villages that make up Kakanju sub County, 39 villages in 2 parishes have been declared open defecation free.

The sub county has a population of 22,910 with 4023 households. Latrine coverage stands at 97.8% while hand washing stands at 55%.

Before USF supported interventions started in the area, people had a problem especially outbreaks of diseases as Bagonza explains *“The area was prone to outbreaks of sanitation related diseases. Cholera and other diseases used to be very common in this area but the situation has changed greatly. People just didn’t know what to do at that time but when we triggered them, they realized that poor sanitation was their own problem and it was their responsibility to change the situation”*

“The area was prone to outbreaks of sanitation related diseases. Cholera and other diseases used to be very common in this area but the situation has changed greatly.....”

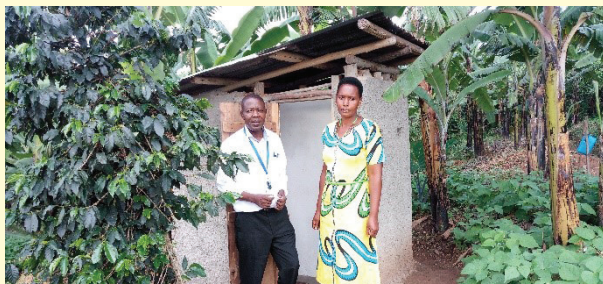
Bagonza’s claim is attested to by community members who have benefited from his message of good sanitation. Muhwezi Julius is one of those who have hosted Bagonza countless times and every time he visits his home, the talk is on sanitation. Julius says *“The Health Assistant keeps visiting me to make sure I use a tippy tap, he checks if it is functional and*

Committed to delivering.....

also goes to the bath shelter to see if it is clean. He has made me realize that when I maintain good sanitation, I don't suffer from sanitation related diseases. The VHT also comes to my home to remind me to maintain a clean latrine and bath shelter, she also checks on the drying rack."

Julius proudly tells of how no member of his family goes to hospitals anymore to treat sanitation related diseases as it used to be. The reduction in the disease burden has enabled him to put all the time to productive work and he receives visitors who come to learn from his sanitation practices which he says has given him prestige in the community which he never had before.

Agnes leads by example.....



Agnes with the USF programme manager David Mukama in front of her latrine

Trained by Bagonza, Nuwagira Nice Agnes uses exemplary leadership as a VHT member for Kakanju "A" to work with the community.

She has an improved latrine, a hand washing facility a drying rack for utensils and maintains a clean compound. She has been a VHT for six years but started observing the real impact of her work when USF started supporting sanitation in her village.

She now moves around the entire village sensitizing households about sanitation and makes regular follow ups with households that she visited to see the progress made in doing what she advised them to do.

"The Health Assistant from the sub county kept on talking to us about good sanitation because I was already selected by the community to be their VHT, I took the mes-

sage seriously and I attended more training sessions on sanitation. We were told that as leaders we have to be exemplary so I decided to build a good latrine with a washable floor using locally available material, made sure I have anal cleansing material and I also put up a hand washing facility" says Agnes.

Agnes reveals that having a good latrine has not only brought her prestige but she has increased on her income because she doesn't spend money on treatment and she utilizes all her time attending to her gardens where she earns a living. She says she has benefited the community because when she tells them what to do and they follow, they live healthy lives and that is a big benefit they are getting from her. *" People have benefited a lot from me because I remind them how to observe good sanitation and those who don't know how to make a tippy tap I do it for them because I have those skills as well"*



Interior of Agnes' Latrine

Bagonza has picked his lessons from interacting with people in his desire to make the entire sub county open defecation free. He attributes all that has been achieved to working closely with VHT members. *"It is hard to reach every area so the VHTs have been there when am not there and they have done a good job; they are very helpful"*

Teaming up with other health workers is a good practice. He has established a close working relationship with other health workers at the Health Center and he usually get a slot to talk to patients and their attendants who go to the health facility. The health facility also orga-

Committed to delivering.....



Bagonza(left), USF Programme Manager David Mukama (middle) and USF Focal Person Bushenyi Gregory Mugisha fixing a tippy tap at one of the households in Kakanju A village

nizes health days and Bagonza is always there to participate in the health talks about sanitation under the theme of *Good Latrine*. He also established a good working relationship with the political leadership in the sub county who in turn have supported his work. The political support from the leaders in the area further provided an enabling environment for him to do his job.

Frequent visits and follow ups yield results. When households are visited frequently by a health worker and the VHT members, they take the message serious and start doing what they are told.

Capacity building keeps health workers up-to-date with emerging trends which makes

“Before USF came to support us, we knew that smearing a latrine was enough but through training, we have learned that a washable floor and tight fitting squat-hole cover are important and we have told the communities who have started adopting the practice. It is through training that we got to know the importance of a tippy tap”

them more effective. *“Before USF came to support us, we knew that smearing a latrine was enough but through training, we have learned that a washable floor and tight fitting squat-hole cover are important and we have told the communities who have started adopting the practice. It is through training that we got to know the importance of a tippy tap”*

Bagonza and Agnes have been driven by the response they get from the communities. To the two, the communities have been responding positively taking the message they pass on to them and putting things into practice. They hope that someday the entire sub county will be declared open defecation free and they look forward to a big celebration.

15

A latrine brought dignity to our home.



David and Stella Ogwang in front of their latrine

Ogwang David and Stella Ogwang live in Acato Village Bala Parish, Bala Subcounty, Kole district. The couple had a latrine they were using for years and at that time, the latrine was ok, its condition was not a big deal to them, after all they only went there to defecate.

They were called for a meeting by Health workers and a village health team member in February 2017 where they were triggered. They discussed the importance of having a clean latrine, washing hands after defecating, having a hand washing facility, use of ash or smoking the latrine and having anal cleansing material in the latrine.

A latrine brought.....

“We realized that defecating in a latrine prevents diseases such as diarrhea, typhoid, cholera and other illnesses like endless stomach pains. The health workers told us that when people defecate in the open, we shall get diseases because we will be eating their feaces” Ogwang says.

He adds that they were also told that if a neighbor does not have a latrine, they should allow him to use their latrine but keep sensitizing him about the importance of having their own latrine.

Fully triggered, Ogwang returned home with one thing on his mind; digging a new latrine that would earn him respect in the community and destroying the old one. *“I had to act quickly when the message was still fresh, I realized the old latrine had no door, hand washing facility, squat hole cover, anal cleansing material and worst of it we were not washing hands after defecating. It was disgusting and I felt bad!”*

16

“Defecating in a latrine prevents diseases such as diarrhea, typhoid, cholera and other illnesses like endless stomach pains.....”

Now Ogwang has built a new latrine with a door, tight fitting squat hole cover, hand washing facility and the family has adopted the practice of hand washing after defecating. The new latrine has brought pride to the family and Stella Ogwang’s wife says she is happy to have a latrine that bring respect to the family. *“Now there is a lot of comfort because we don’t feel ashamed we can proudly direct a visitor to the latrine, now we have privacy and the latrine has brought dignity to our family”*



Ogwang says initially he lacked knowledge before being triggered and they devised ways of notifying someone coming to the latrine that it is occupied. *“We used to cough from time to time since the latrine had no door so the cough would alert people that there is someone in the latrine but now all that ended”*

He confesses that since he was triggered, a lot has changed; he has come to appreciate that it is important to have a good latrine at home. He has also seen the benefits of having a good latrine thus improving the health status of family members. For example he says they no longer visit the health facilities to treat sanitation related diseases because they have learned to avoid getting them.

He plans to cement the latrine floor and make it washable to ease the cleaning of the interior and he wants to roof it with iron sheets. Ogwang has not only benefited his own family, he is turning out to be an asset to the neighbors; on top of being a good example to others, he is also helping them to fix hand washing facilities in their homes.

Acato village has a total population of 649 with 143 households. All the households have latrines and 138 have hand washing facilities.

Exchange learning improve sanitation in Metu sub county Moyo District.

A signpost with a reminder *don't defecate out, use a latrine* is what welcomes you as you enter Pagonyidra /Patabo village. The village is a classic example of the benefits brought about by competition in observing good sanitation. Located in Airo parish, Metu Sub County Paginyindra/Patabo is a village that is quickly adapting to standards by putting up latrines and structures different from those found in other villages in the area.

At the time of triggering the village in November 2016, out of 151 households only 71 had latrines of which 45 had hand washing facilities. This means a village with total population of approximately 755 people, majority were practicing open defecation and suffering from associated dangers. But something changed; Andevuku Dominic a community engineer in the village says they were invited to a neighboring village of Iyua to celebrate Iyua day (Iyua village is ODF and every year they organize the Iyua day to celebrate their achievement). When they reached Iyua, they were taken through the village to see the sanitation situation. *"We saw they have washable squat area. Later six people from our village were taken to Era village to see what was happening there, we also saw the good work they were doing. When we returned we convened a community meeting and shared with them what we saw in other villages and from that point, the whole community agreed that each household contributes UGX 3000 to cement the whole floor of the latrines"*



Inside Ceku's latrine. It has a washable floor and a tightfitting cover



A Welcome signpost in Panyindra/Patabo Village

What is fascinating is that the six community engineers are doing the job voluntarily without expecting any pay in return; all a household need is to have cement and call one of the engineers who will do the job.

Different from other villages in the area, the community of Paginyindra/Patabo village have built on the shortcomings they observed in other villages. They putting up latrines with structures that have enough height even for a tall person to enter with ease. Additionally, they are making wide doors so that big sized people can easily enter the latrines plus, they have spacious interior that offer the convenience of cleaning them. To ensure, everything goes according to the village approved recommendations, the community put in place a monitoring committee that goes around the villages inspecting those doing construction to ensure adherence to standards.

Culua Florence a treasure of the village sanitation committee says they are joining hands by working together as a community to ensure the village is open defecation free. She adds that they have started supporting the disabled where need arise so that all the latrines look

uniform without any discrimination.



Culua Florence, (Treasurer Village Sanitation Committee)

Destroying old structures

As luck would have it, to some people their latrines were filling up and the village resolution offered a perfect opportunity for them to start building new latrines according to the agreed up on criteria. i.e Washable floor, wide entrance with hinged shutter, raised height, spacious interior and well smeared exterior.

18

Betty Ceku has a latrine built according to the village criteria. She says the size of the structure and how the floor should be were agreed up on in a village meeting so she and her husband followed what the community engineers were telling them to do.



Betty Ceku standing in front of her latrine.

“During the meeting, we were told that every latrine should be clean, with a high structure and a wide door and proper roofing. My husband said we have to be an example for others to learn from. The previous latrine was short, had no washable floor, it had a tinny door; fat people and tall people could not enter but now all that is the past” Betty narrates.

She says they have taught their children proper use of the latrine and washing hands using a tippy tap every after defecating in the latrine.

Future plans

These efforts have not been in vain, as Florence observes, there are no cases of diarrhea and stomach aches as used to be the case in the past. Recognizing this important benefit, she says they want to build a latrine at the village center so that people there don't have to run to peoples' homes in case they want to defecate.

The community also wants to ensure that all children in the village go to school. *“Now that we have started fighting diseases, we want to see that no child is left behind, all our children should go to school so that they can come and develop our area in future”* Florence concludes.

This is a story of a village that had made strides through learning from others and improving on what they learned in order to better their lives. The idea of community engineers offering free labor to do washable latrine floors is simply a demonstration of a commitment to attaining open defecation free status and possibly be a new shining example in the sub county.



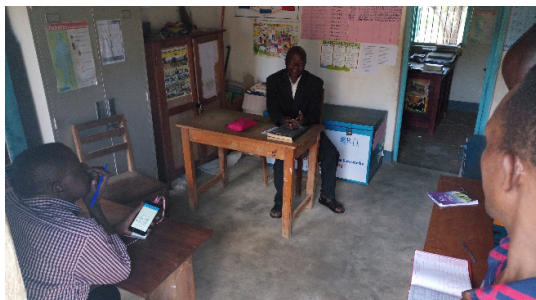
Andevuku Dominic (Community Engineer)

Behavior change takes root in Rwentanga Primary School as a result of Institutional Triggering.

Located in Bubare I, Rwenshanku Parish, Bubare Sun County, Mbarara District, Rwentanga Primary School is one of the schools that were triggered with support from Uganda Sanitation Fund.

Previously, both teachers and pupils knew washing hands was something to do when people are going to eat food and use soap after eating. Little did they know that it is even more important to wash hands with soap after using a latrine than after eating.

Richard Nankunda the school head teacher confesses to the previous practices; *“we knew washing hands is a good thing but we could only wash hands when going to eat food and we could use soap after eating”*



The Headmaster Rwentanga Primary School Richard Ankunda in his office speaking to the USF team, left with back to Camera is USF Programme manager David Mukama

After triggering by health workers, Richard learnt that actually all along they did not know how to wash hands and was surprised when he realized that washing hands was more than just using water and soap. During the follow up visits by district and sub county officials, the staff and pupils were taken through the six steps of washing hands *“when we were taught how to*

“Now all staff and pupils are aware of the dangers of open defecation and have adopted the practice of washing hands with soap after using a latrine and I believe they are taking the practice to their homes”

wash hands, I was amazed because all my life it had never occurred to me that there is a systematic way of washing hands but it is a better one because it leaves all the hands clean. Now all staff and pupils are aware of the dangers of open defecation and have adopted the practice of washing hands with soap after using a latrine and I believe they are taking the practice to their homes” he says.

Richard adds that *“when they sensitized us, we also sensitized the parents of our pupils on the importance of washing hands with soap after using a latrine. We also put to their attention the need to have safe drinking water for pupils at the school and they accepted so they helped us to put in place a machine for safe drinking water and the school erected hand washing facilities for both teachers and pupils”*.

As a measure of ensuring sustainability of the practice, the District Health Inspector sits with teachers every term to review progress, and emerging challenges associated with maintaining good sanitation and hygiene in the school. As a result Richard says, the school put in place a designated area for girls where they can always go when in menstruation and this has stopped absenteeism among girls due to improved

Rwentanga Primary.....

menstrual hygiene management in the school.

Rwentanga Primary School is a typical example of the success of institutional triggering. Triggered pupils went home and triggered their parents a clear manifestation that when a child's behavior changes, the community changes behavior eventually.



Pupils of Rwentanga Primary School using a hand washing facility at school

Key facts about the Rwentanga Primary School

Rwentanga Primary School

- Located in Bubaare 1 Village – Rwentanga Parish
- Enrollment: 736
- Latrine stances: 18 for Pupils and 2 Stances for Teachers.
- Pupil stance ratio 41:1
- Adequate hand washing facilities, Good water Storage, Clean and adequate food store and a Wash room for girls.
- The school has a Functional Health /Sanitation Committee.

20

Village committees have kept Ayongkedin village open defecation free in Aleptong district.

Formation of committees and giving specific tasks to these committees is one thing the residents of Ayonkedin Village Omoro Sub County, Alebtong District are always proud of. Triggered on February 7, 2015, Ayonkedin village has undergone tremendous transformation and a village that hitherto had 12 latrines and 5 hand washing facilities out of 40 households is turning out to be an example in the sub county.

Obwor Kuranimo is an elder, a VHT and secretary of the Local Council of the village. He says a triggering session was facilitated

by health workers from the district and Sub County after which, people realized that it was important to have latrines in order to prevent diseases. The health workers also told community members to ensure that latrines have squat-hole covers, anal cleansing materials, have a hand washing facility for use every after defecating in a latrine, a rubbish pit, kitchen, drying line, animal houses and also to slash the bush around the households.

“They told us that if we can do all those, we cannot get infections from sanitation related diseases because we will not be eating feaces

which contain germs that cause the diseases. As VHT members we decided to keep moving around the village encouraging people to have latrines in order to prevent diseases”.

Ayonkedin village was declared Open Defecation Free in November 2016 and since then, committees have been put in place together with bylaws to ensure the ODF status they have achieved is maintained.

Striking among the measures adopted to maintain the current ODF status is the formation of village committees and tasking them with specific roles and a team of advisers distributed to the five committees. According

Ayongkedin.....

to Obwor, the village has a sanitation committee responsible for general sanitation in the village; it looks after all paths in the village to ensure they are well maintained and that all latrines are smeared. A transport committee also exists. It is responsible for delivering materials for use in latrine construction such as cement and logs, there is a planning committee whose role is to planning for the development of the village. Each committee comes up with different proposals that have to be approved by the entire village before implementation.

To keep the community informed, a committee for information was put in place. It is also responsible for mobilizing the entire community and lastly the design committee responsible for the design of the houses and latrines. This committee decides on the decoration and color to use on both houses and latrines.

- Sanitation - Committee Responsible for general sanitation in the village
- Transport committee - Responsible for delivering materials for use in latrine construction
- Planning committee - planning for the development of the village.
- Information Committee - Mobilization and keeping the community informed on anything happening
- Design committee - Design of the houses and latrines

“These committees enhance teamwork and as a village, we have achieved a lot because committee members are elected by the community and they are respected; what they say, the community listens to them” explains Obwor.

Aware that some people from other areas will visit their village, the community put in place a bye-law that compels every home to allow passersby to use their latrine as a measure to guard against open defecation

Abled differently but an example

After being sensitized and realizing the dangers of open defecation, Odongo Henry took the message right to his home. Considering that he cannot do certain things, because of the physical disability on one of his legs. As a result of the disability, he sometimes slides and falls in a latrine. Therefore he needed a latrine with a floor that would not fall in case he slides and falls. With small earnings using his skills, he decided to build a latrine that would not only bring him pride but one that would be convenient to him as a person with a disability.



Henry Odongo at his home in Ayogkedin village

“When we were sensitized I appreciated the importance not only of a latrine but a good and clean one. My latrine is better than my house because it is also used by visitors. I repair radios, bicycles and I have a sewing machine so I also do tailoring. When people bring me business I want them to go to a decent place in case nature calls, I don’t want to be ashamed and even lose customers” says Odongo.

There is no doubt Odongo’s latrine is the best in the whole village but he says he has set a standard for others to follow and some have already started doing washable floor at least.



Henry Odongo's latrine. He has turned into a good example in the whole village



Odongo's latrine has a washable floor with a unique squat hole cover specially made for his convenience

Obwor an elder says “Odongo is an exemplary person that people look up to; they have tried to come up with similar things like his. Despite his physical disability, when the programme started, he was elected by the community to be one of the engineers because of his skills. He helps people by making squat hole covers and fixing hand washing facilities for them”.

Odongo’s story is a demonstration that disability is not inability; he has beaten odds and is now an example in the entire village of Ayongkedin.



Sanitation and hygiene competitions yield results in Rushoroza village - Sheema district.

Rose Kaijuka had been recognized for outstanding work in maintaining good sanitation and hygiene in the whole village.

In Kitojo Ward, Kwabwohe Municipality in Sheema District sanitation competitions are organized by the district and the best performers recognized by the leaders.

Rose Kaijuka was recognized by Sheema District Local Government for outstanding work in maintaining good sanitation and hygiene in the whole village and awarded a certificate. This made her proud and she is motivated to work harder by imploring other households to maintain good sanitation and hygiene.

In order for her efforts to yield results, Rose mobilized other women in her village and formed groups of 8 households and she is the leader of



Mary Kaijuka in front of her bath shelter



A Certificate that was awarded to Mary Kaijuka for her emerging winner in her Village

Sanitation in Rushoroza.....

her group.

She says *“leaders kept telling us about sanitation, they told us about the dangers associated with open defecation and lack of a latrine in a home. We realized they were right in every sense because we were suffering from diarrhea especially our children and stomach pains all the time, we were spending much of the time and money on attending to the sick in hospitals and buying medicines instead of attending to our gardens”*

Rose realized people are naturally gifted differently and decided to take advantage of the different abilities that people have so she mobilized other households and they formed a group of eight.

“We formed a group of eight households and we have maintained good sanitation in our respective households, we all have latrines with squat-hole covers, and hand washing facilities. We visit every household and advise a member where they find something lacking” says Rose.

Previously, having a door on a latrine was not an issue to the people of Rushoroza but Rose acted as an example by being the first to put a door on her latrine in the whole village. She now says a latrine without a door is an issue of the past. *“Since we were sensitized, we appreciated the importance of privacy while defecating and when I put a door on my latrine, others also started putting doors on their latrines”* she says.



Rose Kaijuka's two stance latrine



Figure 1 USF Programme Manager David Mukama expresses satisfaction with the functionality of Rose Kaijuka's handwashing facility

As a way of ensuring sustainability of the practice, groups in Rushoroza involve children in their activities and parents who cannot attend group members send children as their representatives. This include involving such delegated children in activities that their parents would undertake. To Rose, this has made children to grow with the practices and as such, sustainability is ensured.

The village is still challenged with shelters for the hand washing facilities and bath shelters but Rose is confident that since her group has started, other will also follow.

Zainab beats all odds and is determined to deliver a parish to ODF in Koboko district.

A story of a Natural Leader.....

“I saw commitment and unity in Moyo and learned from them ways of preventing eating faeces so decided that my village should be like theirs and we should also stop eating faeces”.

In August 2016, a team of people from Koboko was taken to Moyo on a learning journey to learn the best practices in the villages of Iyua, Romogi and Irepi West. Among those who went on the learning journey is Aliru Zainab a resident of Diobe Village Matino Parish, Koboko district.

24

She says when they went to Moyo they found all people had latrines with the squat area cemented with squat hole cover and very clean with no flies yet back home in Koboko they just smear the latrines and flies are all over.

Zainab says *“I realized this is something that can be done so when we returned home, I discussed it with the VHT member of our village who welcomed the idea. We both agreed to first improve our latrines before telling the community in our village and other villages in the whole parish. After improving our latrines, I discussed with the village chairman who convened a meeting and I started sensitizing the community”*



Zainab Stands in front of her latrine

Zainab says while on a learning visit to Moyo, she was most struck by people telling her that they no longer eat faeces because they cut the fecal oral route long time ago and are leaving healthy lives. It moved her and she decided to do the same in her community. *“I realized we are still eating our faeces in my village and the entire parish because the conditions are the same. I saw commitment and unity in Moyo and learned from them ways of preventing eating faeces so decided that my village should be like theirs and we should also stop eating faeces”.*

People have taken Zainab’s message although initially 3 households rejected whatever she said. They went around saying she was given money while in Moyo so she was working for a pay; this kind of misinformation was meant to demoralize others but Zainab never relented and she kept on with her mission of sensitizing the communities. Later, the three households also joined her and are constructing latrines as well.



Inside Zainab’s latrine. It is spacious with a washable floor and a squat hole cover

What makes Zainab unique is the fact that she does not only mobilize and sensitize the community about good sanitation, she goes ahead to do the washable floor by herself, this has turned her into a community engineer although she only does so to help those who need help. Unfortunately neither does she have building tools nor does she know how to use them. *“Am not builder so I don’t know how to use those tools but I use a stone and I do a good washable floor with cement. I only*

Determined to deliver.....

do it to help those who have no money to pay a mason and those who lack the skills I just want to help the community". Says a smiling Zainab.

Motivation?

Even if she has improved her latrine, Zainab says the desire to see no one eat faeces makes her move the entire parish of 11 villages. She says when she was in Iyua she learned that open defecation leads to contamination of water sources leading to people eating faeces unknowingly by drinking water contaminated by faecal matter. She wants to first change her parish then the entire sub county. Together with the village VHT member, they have held meetings with HVTs from other villages and told them to start working on sanitation improvement in their villages before she goes there so that her visit does not act as ground breaking but as a boost to what is already being done by the communities

Despite the deserve to serve the community and district demands, Zainab has not abandoned her family either, she works for the community and at the same time fulfills her responsibility as a wife and mother. She does community work after attending to her gardens. *"I first go to the garden and before I leave for community work, I first tell my husband where I am going and he has been understanding and supportive because he knows the importance of what I do for the community"* she says.

Future?

In the next one year, Zainab wants the entire community of Matino parish to be better than those of Moyo in both sanitation facilities and behavior change.

What others say about Zainab?

Zainab's work is not that of an ordinary person, many people in her community see what she is doing but picking the courage to do the same is a challenge. Some leaders have how-

ever seen value in what Zainab is doing and all they have is respect for her.

Sanya Charles the VHT member in her village says Zainab has helped improve sanitation in the village. *"She is very active and when we have activities in the village we involve her and this further motivates her. When she started mobilizing people to improve sanitation some community members resisted saying government gave her money but she insisted and today many have seen the importance of what she does"*



Sanya Charles, VHT member Diobe Village

For understanding, there is always one person who acts first before others can join and Zainab is a living example in this case. She has inspired a number of other women as Sanya sums it up *"As a result of her relentless good work, some other women in the area are coming up emulating her good work and have also started mobilizing people in their villages telling them about good sanitation. She is helpful and the parish is going to change because she works closely with LCI chairpersons. She helps families that need assistance especially those that cannot pay mason. When such households have cement she helps by doing washable floor for them by herself at no pay"*

The village chairperson for Diobe, Onzima Allan Asuga is happy with what Zainab is doing. *"If she was in the army, she would have been promoted from one rank to another; she is doing what many cannot do moreover voluntarily, it is unusual, such people are rare. She has made our village known at all levels and people have started coming to our village*



Onzima Allan Asuga, Chairman Diobe village

to see what we are doing.” He adds that some households in the village resisted her message but she handled them in such a way that they eventually accepted her message and they were also building latrines.

Zainab has awakened the leaders and they have remembered their responsibility towards the communities. They also help her by reaching out to families that still resist her message and also they organize meetings where they invite her to talk to the people and so she has made the work of the leaders easier. She made VHT members aware of their roles and they started collecting data on sanitation facilities in the whole parish. According to the village chairman, they decided to always work with her even in other programmes to enable her acquire more skills.

From Our Partners,,,

Grandmother knows best.....,!

26



L - R: Faith Edilu, Alleluya and Francis Edilu, Elias Edilu

Francis Edilu is a farmer with an impressive business card. The words ‘agric-consultancy’ are emphasized on it, because he is ready to give advice to farmers who want to enter the same chili business he is a part of.

Currently he grows chili in Okidoi village then sells it to a middleman who finds market for it throughout Soroti district.

“We went around and created awareness about the sanitation structures using songs, dances and skits. We travelled with the Eastern Choice Drama Actors who were facilitated by Water For People. The plays were all sanitation and hygiene related.”

The fruits of his labor are evident in the concrete house he has built for his wife and their young son. Inside, a small color television shows the latest Nigerian film.

Clearly, Francis is someone that other farmers would like to seek business advice from.

There is one unlikely person, however, who might have given him the best advice ever-

Grandmother knows best.....

his grandmother Alleluya, who lives a short walk away from the young couple.

One month ago, Alleluya told her grandson that his home needed a satopan-fitted latrine. At the time, Francis had no latrine in the new home he had built for his young family.

Says Francis, *“Grandmother told me that an organization called Water For People had come here to Okidoi while I was away on business, and had sensitized everyone about good sanitation. Even the local leaders were there.”*

According to Martin Eyura, the District Health Inspector (DHI), *“We went around and created awareness about the sanitation structures using songs, dances and skits. We travelled with the Eastern Choice Drama Actors who were facilitated by Water For People. The plays were all sanitation and hygiene related.”*

Under Water For People’s sanitation as a business (SAAB) approach, the organization engages local leaders to not only sensitize people about good sanitation, but also create the demand for sanitation goods and services. The service providers such as local masons and sanitation retailers, are also facilitated and trained.

“Grandmother told me that I could have a mason come over and build a satopan fitted latrine. This latrine would be unlike any other, as it would have no smells and no flies,” recalls Francis.

Intrigued by the prospect of such a latrine, Francis contacted the leader of his savings group to express his interest.

The savings group immediately put Francis in touch with a local mason. When the mason presented the different options, Francis decided to pay for a latrine fitted with a ceramic squat pan, the more high-end alternative to the satopan.

Up to today, Alleluya credits herself with having introduced her grandson to good sanitation, *“I*



Francis and Elias Edilu stand at their squat pan fitted latrine

was the first to tell him about it.”

Francis’ next goal is to get his grandmother an appropriate latrine as well, that she can use with ease.

Francis can find the raised satopan for his grandmother at SANQUA Engineering, the local depot facilitated by Water For People to sell sanitation products.

This time however, he won’t need to call a mason as the last one trained him to fix satopans as well.

Under the SAAB approach, Water For People wishes to improve sanitation but also boost the local economy.

Thanks to wise grandmothers like Alleluya, and obedient grandsons like Francis, Water For People’s goal is being realized one household at a time.

The Uganda Sanitation Fund is working in partnership with Water for People under a memorandum of understanding to improve the sanitation supply chain in Soroti district.

Sanitation Quotes



Last year I spoke about Clean India and open defecation, it was criticised then but that has been the main point with which the government has touched the lives of the people.

— Narendra Modi —



No innovation in the past 200 years has done more to save lives and improve health than the sanitation revolution triggered by invention of the toilet. But it did not go far enough. It only reached one-third of the world.

Sylvia Mathews Burwell



SDG TARGET 6.2

By 2030, achieve access to adequate and equitable sanitation and hygiene for all and end open defecation, paying special attention to the needs of women and girls and those in vulnerable situations.

Water and sanitation

783 million people do not have access to clean water 

2.4 billion people worldwide lack proper sanitation 

1,000 children die every day  due to preventable water and sanitation-related diarrhoeal diseases

1.8 billion people globally use a source of drinking water that is fecally contaminated 



Clean hands, hands to be proud of.

About USF Programme:

The Uganda Sanitation Fund is a programme through which financial support from the Global Sanitation Fund (GSF) is provided to Uganda for work in Sanitation and Hygiene. The GSF is a trust fund created by the Water Supply and Sanitation Collaborative Council (WSSCC). The programme is implemented by the Environmental Health Division in the Ministry of Health as the executing Agency (EA), through participating Districts as sub-grantees.

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