

Achievements to date

- WaterAid has helped over one million people gain access to safe water
- At the request of the Uganda Government WaterAid has helped establish the Uganda Water and Sanitation Network which aims to raise the profile and coordination of organisations involved in water and sanitation provision
- WaterAid has recently developed an advocacy strategy to help promote a more integrated approach to projects across Uganda



WaterAid/Caroline Irby

£5 buys a 50kg bag of cement to make seven latrine slabs

£25 pays an engineer to cap a natural spring

£50 pays to construct a hand-dug well or a rainwater tank

£100 trains a water user committee to manage water and sanitation facilities

£600 constructs a rainwater harvesting system for a primary school

£5000 pays for a well and a handpump to provide up to 500 people with safe water



WaterAid's mission is to overcome poverty by enabling the world's poorest people to gain access to safe water, sanitation and hygiene education.

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Solomon Odeke, aged 11, at the WaterAid funded pump in Katine Parish in north east Uganda.



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Solomon Odeke's family now have access to safe, clean drinking water as WaterAid and local partner organisation WEDA have helped the community to construct a borehole, and have plans to construct another to reduce the average distance people have to walk for water.

In 2006 WaterAid and WEDA also started to raise awareness of the importance of good hygiene practices in the village. A community hygiene educator runs information sessions and to date 33 pit latrines have been built by the villagers.

"My family used to collect water from the swamp and the water was milky and smelt very bad. Now that we have a borehole in the village we use it to collect drinking water. The water looks clean now and it doesn't make us ill. We still use the swamp water for washing utensils and sometimes for bathing because the borehole is half an hour away.

My family have also built a dish rack, a bathing shelter and a latrine. I'm very proud of my village and my home now."

Sarah standing in her new latrine, built with support from WaterAid and local partner the Busoga Trust.



WaterAid/Caroline Irby

Sarah's latrine cost just £0.10 to build as the only item that needed to be bought was the container fitted to the hand washing tippy tap device. The rest of the latrine was constructed from locally available materials such as mud, wood and reeds. It took her husband about a week to build it.

"When Busoga Trust came to Nsasa they showed us pictures of latrines and I wanted one. Before I got a latrine I used to defecate in the bush.

It was not comfortable to go to the toilet there because there was no privacy. I was always looking around for snakes or people watching. Many people used to go to the toilet in the bush and when it would rain I would get hookworms from walking in the grass. I would have to take time to clean my legs and the baby thoroughly because I feared we may have picked up worms from the faeces on the grass.

Now I have a latrine I look at my home as beautiful and am very proud. I feel that my parents are also proud of me because I have a clean house and latrine."

Uganda



WaterAid/Caroline Irby

Uganda lies on the northern shore of Lake Victoria in equatorial east Africa. Landlocked by Sudan, Kenya, Tanzania, Rwanda and the Democratic Republic of Congo, one sixth of this fertile country consists of lakes, rivers and wetlands. Since the late 1980s democratic reforms have helped the country to recover from civil war and economic catastrophe to become relatively peaceful and stable.

However, the country is still desperately poor and two fifths of the population live with no access to a safe water supply, and nearly three fifths lack an adequate latrine. In the north, a truce between the Government and one of Africa's most brutal rebellions seems to be holding, although there are reports of continuing violence in some areas and many lives remain blighted by the conflict.

WaterAid in Uganda



WaterAid / Caroline Irby

WaterAid has worked in Uganda since 1983, and the country office opened in 1992. Since then we have helped over one million poor people gain access to safe water. Our overriding goal is to reduce poverty and our work focuses on the poorest and most disadvantaged people, including women and people living with HIV/AIDS.

WaterAid's work is vital. Safe water and sanitation dramatically reduce diarrhoeal diseases, which are the world's second biggest killer of children. With 40% of the population in Uganda living without access to clean drinking water, and around 60% without a safe place to go to the toilet, disease is widespread and the need for improved water supply and sanitation is still great. Hygiene education is also vitally important as the provision of handwashing facilities is currently woefully inadequate – estimated at 25% amongst rural households and 40% amongst urban households in a Ministry of Health survey.

The relative political stability enjoyed since the late 1980s has created the opportunity for many non governmental organisations (NGOs) to establish. WaterAid now works with seven local partner NGOs to help communities establish lasting supplies of clean drinking water and make improvements to their sanitation using simple and affordable technologies that

people can set up and maintain themselves after initial support and guidance. We now work in four rural districts; Mpigi, Katakwi, Amuria and Wakiso; (with pilot work in a fifth district, Masindi) and in one district of the capital city Kampala.

Uganda's natural water resources are under threat from climate change and over-abstraction from wetlands and groundwater supplies. To ensure drinking supplies are sustainable WaterAid's partners use a range of methods such as boreholes, hand-dug shallow wells or spring protection, where a water source is tapped and made available at a paved collection area. Rainwater harvesting, where rainwater run-off from roofs is collected in tanks and filtered for safe domestic use, is also used to supplement groundwater and surface water supplies.

In rural areas sanitation improvements such as the composting latrine have greatly reduced open defecation in the bush surrounding villages and therefore cut the spread of

disease. In composting latrines human waste is mixed with soil and ash to decompose into compost which can be dug out after a period of time and used in agriculture.

The aim in rural areas is to achieve 100% access to water and sanitation services in a certain area, and, through hygiene education, to make sure these services have the maximum health benefits. From these areas of success, the approach can be adopted by neighbouring communities.

Our urban work began in July 2004, focused on the poor slum areas in the Kawempe Division of Kampala, where we have been working with local partner CIDI to help residents gain access to safe water and sanitation. Sanitation is being promoted via 'social marketing', where we work with communities to explain the benefits of sanitation improvements and people can then choose from appropriate versions of latrines. Some latrines are in communal blocks that also have washing facilities. In these huge, crowded, unplanned settlements, environmental sanitation is particularly important so our programme also encompasses drainage, street cleaning and solid waste (rubbish) management.

Mr Massabidi promotes good hygiene practices to members of his community in the village of Nabinaka in the Wakiso District.



WaterAid / Caroline Irby

Mr Massabidi works as a Functional Adult Literacy instructor, responsible for educating households in literacy, farming practices, animal keeping, conserving the environment and energy use. Following discussions with WaterAid's local partner YIFODA, he now also promotes good hygiene.

"I use tools such as picture cards to explain sanitation messages to the community. I tell people they have to maintain their water sources regularly and prevent animals from using the source. I explain to people how they can construct latrines from local materials. Without latrines, drinking water becomes contaminated with faeces.

I got involved in teaching these messages because I love cleanliness and want the best for others."

Community members are then helped to form committees to operate and maintain the waterpoints and sanitation facilities.

We are also promoting our Citizens' Action initiative in Kawempe, in which communities are informed about their entitlements to water and sanitation service provision and are helped to hold those responsible for providing services to account through a process of negotiation.

Information is vital to the demand for improved services so WaterAid's partners use various methods to carry out surveys to assess the current state of water and sanitation service provision and create detailed maps clearly showing the location and the condition of waterpoints and sanitation facilities in any given area.

Plans: 2006-2011

A new strategy running from 2006 to 2011 sets out the plans and activities for WaterAid in Uganda. During this time WaterAid will continue to focus on water, sanitation and hygiene education working with local partners on community managed projects. Our work in Uganda will continue to be pro-poor and sustainable.

The key aims are to:

- Fund partners to directly help 39,000 people to gain access to water, sanitation and hygiene education every year by 2011
- Support and strengthen local partner organisations and other non governmental organisations to ensure at least a further 20,000 gain access to these services every year by 2011

The majority of work will continue to be in rural areas, but we aim to increase urban work to 15% of the programme, measured in expenditure terms, by the end of 2007, with a particular emphasis on environmental sanitation. Based on the initial success of the Citizens' Action Project, access to information about entitlement to service provision will also be prioritised in urban areas.

In remote, dry rural areas, WaterAid will continue to promote improvements such as composting latrines and rainwater harvesting that can not only help to reduce disease and the amount of time spent fetching water, but also ensure that living environments are kept clean and safe. In both rural and urban areas hygiene education will continue to help eliminate open defecation and disease.

A variety of measures will be adopted in order to ensure the very poorest groups in society are catered for, including offering more choices in technology, which will increase the likelihood that everyone can afford at least the most basic option.

Responsibility for providing water, sanitation and hygiene education has largely been decentralised in Uganda, but the resources of local governments to deliver on these promises is often limited. WaterAid will continue to work to strengthen the capacity of the five district authorities it works with to deliver water and sanitation services to the poor to contribute towards the UN Millennium Development Goal target of halving the proportions of people without access to water and sanitation by 2015. Districts will be supported in updating maps of water provision to ensure that future provision is planned in an equitable manner.

Along with all of WaterAid's other country programmes, WaterAid in Uganda will also increasingly address the issues of water depletion and contamination through appropriate water resources management. At project level this will mean more composting latrines, which are less likely to contaminate the water table than conventional pit latrines and more rainwater harvesting and water catchment measures to recharge the aquifer.

