



SANITATION FOR MILLIONS IN UGANDA

Promoting Sustainable WASH Practices and Behavior Change through Religious Institutions

“Access to safe water and sanitation is a human right and safe hygiene is a basic prerequisite for the mitigation of health risks and pandemic”

Background

4.5 million people worldwide do not have access to safe sanitation, and 80% of these are attached to religious institutions or in communities (WHO and UNICEF joint monitoring programme). Faith-based and cultural institutions in Uganda today ably perform a central role in creating and promoting access to safe sanitation and hygiene in local communities. The Sanitation for Millions project in the intervention areas of Kampala and Apac cluster of towns including: Apac Municipal Council, Aduku Town Council and Ibulje Urban Council is fulfilling this mandate through support to 9 faith-based model centers across the commonest religious sects of Islam, Catholicism, Seventh Day Adventism and Anglicanism. The hybrid of interventions comprising model water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) infrastructural facilities and capacity building to leverage on “Religion for WASH advocacy” has enhanced good sanitation and hygiene practices among the communities of believers. Additionally, leaders at these institutions ensure that operation and maintenance mechanisms (O&M) for WASH facilities are functional, and promote good hygiene practices and behavioral change multiplier effects within the faithful congregations and the community at large.

Activity beneficiary population

Over 7,500 believers, who regularly gather to worship across 6 faith-based institutions in Kampala (2 Mosques and 4 churches), 3 institutions in Apac (2 churches and 1 Mosque), all enjoy safe WASH environments, despite their high numbers.



Above: Commemoration of World Water Day with inter-religious actors in Kampala.



Above: Design of an ablution station constructed at Sanitation for Millions beneficiary mosques.



Above: The committee members at Biina Mosque convene for a WASH O & M training.



Above: The Vicars and congregants of St. Peter's Naguru C.O.U participate in a sanitation campaign around the church premises during the Uganda Sanitation Week 2022

Using an agile approach

The project uses a stakeholders consultative and phased approach that involves; selecting and engaging with selected faith-based institutions within the larger intervention community in undertaking assessments to establish the WASH situation at the particular centres and to help inform improvements and maintenance plans. Sustainable and affordable sanitation technologies are adopted. The selected faith-based institutions act as demonstration models for the improved sanitation facilities and practices. By this, individual households and other proprietors within the community are inspired through evidence, mobilization and awareness creation organized at the faith-based institutions within their faith affiliation. Advocacy and awareness creation by religious leaders based on holy literature like the Bible and Koran are utilized as soft tools that support Behavior Change Communication around good sanitation and hygiene practices in the community. Moreover, in the Apac cluster, households have been guaranteed by their local churches to access sanitation related home improvement loans for construction of improved toilets.

Outcomes and Results

- Increased safe sanitation awareness for large numbers of congregants within direct and indirect project target community;
- Improved sanitation and hygiene practices at households and institutions within congregants from the targeted faith affiliation;
- Model WASH practices at faith-based institutions emulated by congregants;
- Knowledge on sustainable WASH has triggered institutionalization of Innovative sanitation financing options.



Above: Gender segregated dry-lined toilet facility constructed at a church in Apac Municipal Council

Background

Sanitation for Millions is a global programme improving access to safe sanitation and hygiene with a focus on vulnerable and disadvantaged groups. In Uganda, the programme has been under implementation since 2016 in Kampala City and the northern Uganda towns of Apac, Aduku and Ibuje (Apac Cluster). Sanitation for Millions builds female-friendly and inclusive sanitary facilities at schools, healthcare facilities and faith-based institutions, trains local professionals to operate and maintain them, and promotes safe hygiene practices through targeted campaigns and knowledge transfer. Furthermore, the project promotes the treatment and reuse of sanitary wastewater and faecal sludge through the elaboration of concepts and the construction of appropriate facilities. Sanitation for Millions strengthens the management capacities of institutional partners and municipal administrations in direct cooperation. To ensure the operation of the facilities in the long term, financing mechanisms are developed jointly with the local partner.

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