



SANITATION FOR MILLIONS IN UGANDA

Championing Sustainable WASH in Schools (Wins)

Sanitation for Millions supports young people in target schools of Kampala and the Apac Cluster (Apac Municipal Council, Aduku & Ibutje Town Councils) in northern Uganda to actively champion and sustain sanitation and hygiene behaviours and practices. In addition to construction of inclusive, female-friendly toilets and hand-washing facilities, Sanitation for Millions works with selected schools to promote a 'peer-to-peer' approach through established water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) school clubs and the scouts and girl guides to enhance WASH improvements, functionality and usability through an integrated system that promotes sustainable maintenance of WASH and hygiene facilities. Under the "what cannot be maintained shouldn't be built" approach of the programme, planning and budgeting to support adequate maintenance schedules for WASH, promotion of hygiene routines, and clear roles, responsibilities and accountability of different stakeholders, is first established before new toilets and handwashing facilities are constructed. This approach aims at establishing best practice model schools in WASH improvement.

The initiative has directly targeted selected public primary and secondary level schools and so far infrastructure fully complete in 26 schools and serves over 25,000 learners, 51% of whom are female (12,750). The multi-pronged activities promote WASH in schools (WinS) in the target schools, combine WASH awareness creation among pupils and capacity building among stakeholders, and ensure routine adequate maintenance schedules and accountability. Beyond the primary target of model schools, awareness and mobilization through competitions has been successfully carried out to reach 79 KCCA schools in Kampala, 26 public schools in the Apac cluster and 44 schools in Lira city reaching over 160,000 learners.



Above: A sanitation teacher supervising a group handwashing session.



Left: Emptying of the used sanitary towels into to the incinerator connected to the Menstrual Hygiene change room on the model toilet facility; Right: The WASH in Schools - Models That Work publication.



Above: The school WASH club members of a primary school in Central Division, Kampala



Above: Stakeholders inspecting a newly built toilet facility for handover at a school in Kawempe Division, Kampala.

An Integrated, Sustainable and Inclusive Approach to WASH in Schools

This approach is encompassed by Joint WASH status Assessments; with the respective Urban Council authorities for beneficiary identification following a pre-agreed criterion. This is followed by capacity-building training in O&M to ensure sustained maintenance practices within the O&M facilities (“what cannot be maintained shouldn’t be built”). Thereafter, the design and construction of inclusive, female-friendly infrastructure, and promotion of behavioural and awareness on WASH, including menstrual hygiene management and COVID-19 protocols, periodic Training of Trainers training and other innovations including the Toilets Making the Grade school competition are all put in place become a built-in support system. Additionally, these routines have been further strengthened through WASH advocacy sports, school WASH/Health clubs and self-monitoring through the Three-Star Approach.

Outcomes and Results

- Increased knowledge and awareness of good hygiene and sanitation practices in schools including toilet cleaning, and handwashing among others. Over 149 schools and 160,000 people reached;
- Increased access to improved and inclusive sanitation facilities (317 toilet stances, 120 HWFs in 26 primary target model schools);
- Increased rate of retention and completion among the pupils especially to the 12,750 girls;
- Improved Operation and Maintenance (O&M) mechanism for WASH facilities;
- Improved general well-being of the target schools because of functional WinS.



Above: A school cleaner maintains a PWD stance at a school in Kampala; WASH in Schools cleaning materials.

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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Division 102: Water, sanitation, hygiene

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