



SANITATION FOR MILLIONS IN UGANDA

Sanitation Contributing to Improving Grades

Background

Schools with well-maintained toilet facilities, improve the learners studying experience, support their concentration and contribute to their overall health. Sanitation for Millions programme together with partners implements the Toilets Making the Grade (TMG) School competition initiative in Kampala, Lira City and Apac Cluster of Towns (Apac, Aduku and Ibuje), to promote sanitation and hygiene through innovative measures, behaviors and practices of school stakeholders.

Rationale

Keeping WASH facilities (toilets, washrooms, urinals, incinerators, hand-washing facilities etc.) clean while promoting functional hygiene routines like regular hand washing with soap, help to develop and achieve a sanitation vision for schools. This also requires identifying feasible solutions through implementation, collaboration and coordination.

The TMG School competition brings together the school community of learners, teachers, school administrators, parents, cleaning staff, guards, facility managers and others to ensure that cleaning, maintenance and good use of school toilets, washrooms and hand washing facilities, is promoted and maintained. The TMG activity drives stakeholder's interactions to effectively promote WASH knowledge, and ensure awareness creation and hygiene behaviour change and practices among learners without restrictions. Additionally TMG supports the identification of sanitation challenges and competitively rewards actions that schools take towards lasting solutions. Based on the promising results from the programme so far, the Ministry of Education and Sports is planning to institutionalize and upscale the TMG approach country wide, as one way to sustainably promote WASH in schools.

TMG initiative has so far benefited more than 165,800 pupils across 149 schools in Kampala and Lira cities, and the Apac cluster towns.



Above: Toilets Making the Grade (TMG) engraved give-away bracelets to learners.



Above: WASH -Educational performances by learners.



Above: TMG award ceremony in Kampala in 2019.



Above: Certificates ready for presentation to TMG participating schools in Lira City.



Above: A winner school celebrates upon awarding at the TMG event in Apac.

Outcomes and Results

- Improved operation and maintenance of facilities (better WASH planning and budgeting);
- Peer to peer information sharing of WASH knowledge;
- Increased practises of regular hygiene routines among school pupils;
- WASH improvements registered in schools due to increased awareness of stakeholder roles;
- The contest has risen awareness in the Ugandan society and specifically Kampala community about the issue of clean and functional toilets and hand-washing facilities in schools;
- The Ministry of Education and Sports (MoES) has expressed interest and have adopted and institutionalized TMG in their planning and programming. National up-scale will reach millions of students in Uganda;
- TMG competition concepts have been co-opted by KCCA at community level in 5 city divisions under their popular “Weyonje” campaign of the CWIS programme;
- Political buy-in as change agents advocate for country wide WASH improvements in public institutions;
- Discourse and shared responsibility between the school stakeholders (pupils, head teachers, teachers, SMC members, cleaners, PTA, etc.) on sanitation issues thus triggering joint solutions for sanitation and hygiene improvement.

Success drivers for RBF

- Schools self-monitoring to attain and maintain the three-star rating;
- Capacity development of school stakeholders on O & M of WASH facilities;
- Stakeholder engagements to identify and develop solutions to sanitation challenges in schools;
- Participation of school pupils built on WASH knowledge and understanding.



Above: The TMG 2022 awarding event in Kampala.

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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