



Sanitation for Millions – Uganda

SAFE SANITATION IN PUBLIC INSTITUTIONS AND COMMUNITIES

Background

Sanitation for Millions is a multi-donor programme set up in 2016 to contribute to safe and adequate access to sanitation. It considers the entire sanitation chain and applies sustainability criteria to ensure long-lasting results in line with the *Sustainable Development Goals*, in particular SDGs 6, 4 and 3. The programme operates worldwide, focusing notably on the needs of disadvantaged and vulnerable groups such as children, women and girls, indigenous communities, refugees and internally displaced people as well as persons with disabilities.

Sanitation for Millions is mandated by the *Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ)* as lead donor and co-financed by the *Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation*, *Water Unite*, the *Hungarian Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade* and the *Inter-American Development Bank*. The *Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH* executes the programme in close cooperation with local partners.

Sanitation Challenges in Uganda

According to the Joint Monitoring Programme of the *WHO* and *UNICEF*, around 4.5 billion people worldwide still do not have access to safe sanitation. More than 600 million students do not have adequate toilets in their schools and 1.5 billion people use services in hospitals and clinics lacking basic sanitation. According to *UNICEF*, at least 1,000 children under the age of five die every day from diarrheal diseases caused by contaminated drinking water, a lack of sanitary facilities and poor hygiene. The 2020 Ugandan Water and Environment sector performance report puts access to safe sanitation at 39% (urban) and 7% (rural) and access to handwashing with soap at 61% and 38% respectively. The situation is precarious due to inadequate sanitation and hygiene infrastructure and exacerbated by the continued influx of refugees, internally displaced persons and other vulnerable groups in urban informal settlements. Services along the sanitation chain in most areas are inadequate, insufficient and neither fully regulated nor controlled.



Bracelet campaign at MHM (Menstrual Hygiene Management) Day 2021



Local partners during an awareness tour at health centres that received new WASH facilities in Kampala



Intervention of Sanitation for Millions in Uganda

Sanitation for Millions started its interventions in Kampala in 2017 and expanded its activities to small towns in Northern Uganda in 2018. It cooperates closely with the *Government of Uganda*. Primary local partners are the *Kampala Capital City Authority*, *Apac Municipal Council*, the *Ministry of Water and Environment*, the *Ministry of Education and Sports* and the *Ministry of Health*.

Sanitation for Millions targets the improvement of access to safe and adequate sanitation and hygiene conditions in urban areas, especially characterized by a population with low-income and high demand for sanitation services. The programme implements along following lines of intervention and action areas:

- Improvement of sanitation and hygiene facilities and building hygiene routines in public institutions with special attention to hand-hygiene, inclusion of gender aspects and needs of persons with impaired mobility.
- Sustainable Operations & Maintenance (O&M) of facilities.
- Advisory services to political stakeholders to create enabling framework conditions for delivering sustainable sanitation services.
- Support to private service providers for the improvement of services along the sanitation chain.
- Exploring and testing measures to improve access through innovative financing mechanisms for household investments in safe sanitation.

Sanitation for Millions combines *WASH (Water, Sanitation and Hygiene)* infrastructure development with measures on advocacy, behavior change and integrates hygiene and O&M into institutional systems. The programme strengthens existing frameworks and implements best practices to ensure a functional sanitation service chain.

Uganda Highlights 2017-2021

- Access to safe sanitation and hygiene was improved through construction of simple and inclusive high-quality toilet infrastructure at public schools and health care facilities, accompanied by supportive measures on O&M and hygiene routines.
- Hand hygiene was promoted through the rollout of innovative group handwashing facilities with accompanying awareness and routine triggering at schools and health centres. WASHaLOTs and MoCH (Millions of Clean Hands) stations gained immense popularity and support by the local actors.
- Capacities at institutions were developed to sustainably integrate WASH improvements into programming. The cascading approach of training trainers and applying peer-to-peer learning were a success factor in leveraging impact. Moreover, the famous Toilets Making the Grade (TMG) competition led to quick improvements at schools with minimal investment by the programme.
- The activities under “innovative financing” attracted private sector investments into sanitation and hygiene business through a combination of commercial lending and Results-Based-Financing. Affordable credits were provided by financial institutions for toilet construction to households, service providers and institutions. The partnership with local governments through smart enforcement catalyzed the market. Through a market-based approach, awareness was raised and the supply chain was streamlined.

A strengthened enabling environment was achieved through:

- Implementation and enforcement of sanitation bylaws
- Development of local minimum standards for infrastructure
- Promotion of institutional budgeting for O&M
- Integration of safety planning aspects into town sanitation planning
- Monitoring mechanisms for system strengthening
- Improved capacities of the operators of the local faecal sludge treatment plant.

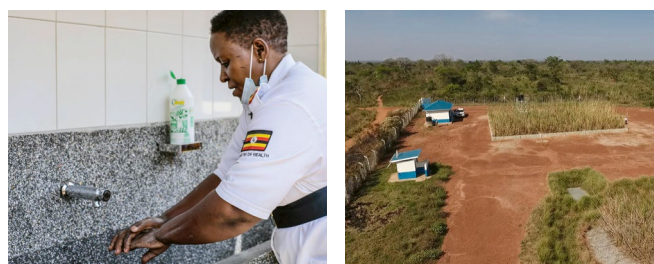


From left to right: New WASH facilities at two schools; A WASHaLOT; Improved maintenance routine

Outlook

Access to safe sanitation as well as improved environmental and human health conditions will be further enhanced by *Sanitation for Millions* in Uganda through a continued combination of policy advice, development of robust and up-scalable infrastructure, awareness raising, measures for behavioral change, and facilitative results-based financing mechanisms for household sanitation.

With credible lessons learnt, appreciated and supported by partners, the ongoing upscale of programme activities presents opportunities for further achievements and refinement of present concepts. Furthermore, through ongoing policy reforms, there are possibilities for future expansion of measures and the potential that elements of the programme’s approaches will be applied on national level in the future.



From left to right: Demonstration of handwashing at new MoCH station; A part of the Apac Faecal Sludge Treatment Plant

Funded by



BILL & MELINDA
GATES foundation



Implemented by



Published by

Deutsche Gesellschaft für
Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH

Registered offices Bonn and Eschborn, Germany

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As at

June 2021

GIZ is responsible for the content of this publication.

On behalf of

Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation
and Development (BMZ)

Division

Division 103 – Water, sanitation, hygiene

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