



SANITATION FOR MILLIONS IN UGANDA

Innovative WASH technologies: WASHaLOTs and Millions of Clean Hands Stations (MoCHs)

Background/rationale

Sanitation for Millions follows an integrated approach that combines the construction of sanitation and hygiene facilities with capacity building and strengthening of the institutional environment for sustainable management of the facilities. The programme has rolled out innovative group handwashing technologies like the WASHaLOTs and the dedicated Millions of Clean Hands (MoCHs) stations at selected institutions in Kampala and the Apac Cluster of towns. Combined with awareness trainings, these innovations have enhanced community/public hand-washing practices with soap that is central to basic personal hygiene. Moreover, handwashing with soap is key to prevention of hygiene related diseases including pandemic like COVID-19.

The WASHaLOT 3.0 Handwashing Technology

The WASHaLOT 3.0 is a simple, low-cost, water-saving technology that enables both group and individual handwashing. This appropriate and innovative technology is suitable for selected public institutions like schools, and emergency settings such as refugee settlements, where despite high populations, hand washing is well facilitated. This technology was introduced in Uganda by the Sanitation for Millions programme in 2018 and has been nationally scaled up beyond the programme's target scope and now is popular in 5 regions in Uganda (South-Western, Eastern, Karamoja, Northern and Central). It enjoys the collaborative support and drive of local governments, line Ministries and Civil Society Organizations within the sector.

What makes WASHaLOTs technologies unique?

- The WASHaLOT technology is attractive, inviting to users and easy to use for hand-washing.
- The WASHaLOT 3.0 is a simple, low-cost, water-saving hand-washing technology that enables both group and individual hand-washing at any time.
- The water-saving attribute of the hand-washing outlets makes them attractive both to public and private sector developers in locations with high numbers of people.

As an alternative to WASHaLOTs, the project developed the Millions-of-Clean-Hands-Stations (MOCHs), another innovative hand-washing technology, suitable to serve hospitals and markets amongst other public spaces characterised by high human traffic.



Above: A pupil washing hands with soap at the WASHaLOT.



Above: The manual for the WASHaLOT handwashing technology for use in schools and public institutions.



Above: A sanitation teacher supervising a group handwashing session at a primary school in Kampala.

Millions-of-Clean-Hands-Stations (MoCHS)

A MoCH station is a contactless push tap system connected to piped water or an elevated water tank in areas of low water reliability and allows multiple users at any one time. Its design promotes social distancing of people and caters for up-to 1.000 persons to wash their hands per day. It is suitable for settings like health centres, markets, and faith-based institutions among others. This facility was jointly designed by Sanitation for Millions and local partners, i.e. the Kampala Capital City Authority in Uganda.

What makes MoCHs unique?

Its appeal and standout attractiveness make it nudge users to hand-washing routines;

- The MoCH's wall structure can be utilised as a talking wall to support awareness, especially on hand hygiene;
- MoCHs provide a high level of dedicated hand hygiene service in places of high human traffic.

Outcomes and Results

The installation of the WASHaLOT and MoCH technology has so far benefited over 1.8 million persons. Through the national upscale of the WASHaLOT technology, over 300 public institutions including 190 schools, 23 Religious centres, 31 Health Care facilities, 7 markets and 26 other public offices in urban councils have been reached. An additional 28 public institutions have been reached through MoCH installations including 15 health care facilities, 9 faith-based institutions and 4 markets reaching over 100,000 persons within and beyond the programme intervention areas of Kampala and the Apac Cluster of towns.

These effective 'group hand-washing technologies' have greatly contributed to sustained community WASH practices, while the stakeholders work with Sanitation for Millions to ensure that the technologies are not only replicated in other public spaces but also accompanied by operation and maintenance measures to ensure their appropriate operation and effective service.



Above: Millions of Clean Hands stations installed at hospitals 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.

Sanitation for Millions was commissioned by the German Federal Ministry of Economic Cooperation and Development in 2016. With the BMZ as the lead donor, Sanitation for Millions has received additional funding from the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, Water Unite, the Hungarian Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade, the Inter-American Development Bank, and share GmbH. The Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH executes the global programme in close cooperation with local partners in Colombia, Jordan, Pakistan, and Uganda.



Funded by



Implemented by



Published by

Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH
Registered offices Bonn and Eschborn, Germany

Sanitation for Millions Uganda
Plot 128, Luthuli Avenue, Bugolobi
PO Box 10346
Kampala, Uganda
T +256 312 263069/70
E S4M@giz.de
I www.sanitationformillions.org

Authors

John Bosco Oryema, Fred Nuwagaba, Vanessa Mugide, Irene Faith Alinga, Gladys Nantume, Joan Asiimwe

As at

September 2022

On behalf of

German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ)

Division

Division 102: Water, sanitation, hygiene

Postal address of BMZ offices

BMZ Bonn Dahlmannstraße 4 53113 Bonn, Germany T +49 228 99 5 35 - 0 F +49 228 99 5 35 - 3500	BMZ Berlin Stresemannstraße 94 10963 Berlin, Germany T +49 30 18 535 - 0 F +49 30 18 535 - 2501
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poststelle@bmz.bund.de
www.bmz.de

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