



CHILD FRIENDLY SANITATION AND HYGIENE PROMOTION FOR SCHOOLS IN KAMWENGE DISTRICT

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September 2018

Background

Water For People Uganda, through the school water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) program in Kamwenge district, is promoting WASH using a games approach. The games being used are products of Wash United, with whom Water For People has an Memorandum of Understanding. To cause fast adoption of appropriate sanitation and hygiene practices by the children, Water For People uses games and sports to teach children proper latrine use, handwashing with soap, and safe drinking water habits. Under the approach children are drivers of change in their own society, and they make pledges to eliminate all bad behaviors and continue with the good ones. The approach has been implemented in 20 public schools in three sub-counties of Biguli, Bihanga, and Bwizi in the district.

The games approach focuses on promotion of three key behaviors categorized under sanitation, hygiene, and water modules. Under the sanitation module, games include:

- **Musical Toilet:** explains the importance of using latrines and how to use them correctly
- **Stick it:** explains the role of latrine use versus open defecation
- **Pick the clean habit:** explains what is needed to keep latrine clean
- **Knock down the germs:** explains effectiveness of soap for getting rid of germs on hands
- **Wash-like-I-wash & handwashing buddy:** shows proper handwashing with soap techniques

The water module games include:

- **Safe water detective:** shows that not all clear water is safe for drinking
- **Water defenders:** explains the importance of keeping water safe

Problem Statement

In FY17 Water For People conducted a baseline survey in public institutions in the district of Kamwenge. Results indicated low hygiene service level amongst schools where handwashing with soap stood at 5.9%, and sanitation infrastructure in good hygienic condition stood at 19.1%. In FY18, the games approach was implemented alongside other approaches to improve the levels of service focusing on proper latrine use, handwashing with soap, and water management in schools.

There is common practice among schools to treat hygiene practices like cleaning latrines and sweeping the compound and classrooms as punitive actions rather than behavior learning disciplines which discourages children from practicing good hygiene and sanitation behaviors because they associate it with punishment.

Scope of Work

Capacity building: Water For People Uganda, in partnership with WASH United, conducted Training of Trainers (TOT) for sanitation teachers, head teachers, district officials and staff in WASH games using the toolkit. The trained teachers were expected to pass on the skills to pupils and fellow teachers.

WASH games toolkit supplied: After the TOT workshop Water For People supplied toolkits to 10 public schools. The toolkit guides the pupils on how to play these games.

Action plans: Water For People facilitated the process of developing integrated action plans for each school to ensure the games are well mainstreamed in school programs. The WASH action plans clearly describe the activities, dates, time, and responsible person for these games. Through action plans the messages are well disseminated to pupils, teachers, and parents through different engagements.

Inter-school exchange learning: To further strengthen capacities of teachers, Water For People has facilitated a process of inter-teacher learning experiences where a teacher is picked to go and share experience to another school. This has scaled up the approach further to other schools that were not trained without necessarily incurring extra costs.

Support supervision: Water For People conducts monthly follow ups to provide technical support to teachers and pupils in playing the games.

Achievements

- Improved cleanliness of latrines, handwashing with soap, and water treatment practices observed in the trained schools during monitoring.
 - The games and messages have been integrated into other school programs, such as Physical Exercise, games time, debate, assemblies, health parades, and parents general meetings.
 - Trainers directly trained by WASH United in Kamwenge were taken to train teachers and government officials in Kitgum and Kole districts. The same teachers are going to share experience and train teachers that work with Water For people Rwanda.
- “Since the introduction of WASH games in our school, the children liked them. You can even see the materials have already grown old, an indicator that they are being used and liked by the pupils. At least now my work as a sanitation teacher was simplified when I request for brooms, water containers and soap to clean, my head teacher doesn’t refuse because we were trained together. The children also spy on their colleagues who don’t practice good habits, that’s why you see change compared to the last time you were here.”*
- sanitation teacher for Nkoni primary school, Miss Kabakama Gladys
- Children take charge of their own cleanliness without sanitation teachers’ instructions. The health club members, prefects, and pupils take up roles to ensure better hygiene

practices are observed in their environment. For example, the big pupils took it upon themselves to escort and train young and new pupils on the proper use of the latrines, refilling the handwashing facilities with water.

- The introduction of the games provided an alternative to other co-curricular activities that never existed before. The games are inclusive in nature and attractive to pupils. The pupils have a range of games to choose from.
- Water For People has scaled the approach to other districts like Kole and Kitgum in northern Uganda. Based on the pupils' testimonies, the approach has proven effective to behavior change because of fun and games.



Drivers of Success

Our partnership with WASH United to build capacities of teachers and provision of materials enabled easy practice of the games. The existence of co-curricular activities programs in the schools made the integration of WASH games easy and interesting for the children.

Challenges

There is a capacity gap of some teachers to play all the games effectively and bring out the messages. To address this gap, Water For People has provided support supervision and inter-school learning amongst the teachers.

Lessons Learnt & Best Practices

The use of games stimulates learning, and pupils learn better from their fellow pupils away from the classroom environment. Once children realize the gaps they will make pledges to eliminate unwanted behaviors without necessarily relying on their sanitation teachers.



Recommendations & Next Steps

- Scale up the approach to other schools to cover the whole district as well as other districts where Water For People operates.
- Advocate for the integration of games in WASH sector guidelines.
- Carry out an evaluation of this intervention after one year to determine the estimated outcomes attributed to this work.