



# WASH

Story Book

TRANSFORMING LIVES WITH  
SUSTAINABLE **WASH** SERVICES  
ACROSS UGANDA



water for people  
**UGANDA**  
everyone forever



## Foreword by the Country Director



Cate Zziwa Nimanya,  
Country Director, Water For People Uganda

Water For People's 2017-2021 Strategic Plan is aimed at Increasing our Impact X 20. The plan outlines our three strategic goals of Proof, Global Leadership, and Scale. As an organization, we aim to accelerate social change through collaboration and sharing our learnings (Global Leadership). We work with national governments and other implementing partners to reach full water coverage across 9 countries, one of which is Uganda, and use business approaches to increase sanitation coverage (Scale).

With funding from various donors including Conrad. N Hilton Foundation, Stone Family Foundation, Charity Water, The Adventure Project, Latter Day Saints, GiZ, Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, Water Supply and Sanitation Collaborative Council (WSSCC) and working with the various District Local Governments, Water For People has reached over 802,888 people with safe water and sanitation services.

Our WASH services are anchored on key building blocks including; Reaching Everyone through infrastructure development, Financing, Monitoring, Voicing & accountability and institutional strengthening.

Water For People has explored different management models and approaches to support sustainable water systems. In Kamwenge, Water

For People is using a Water as a Business (WAAB) model, which explores the private sector's and water entrepreneurs' potential to manage water systems. To improve water quality in the district, we promote the implementation of water safety plans, which outline how to protect water sources to decrease water contamination, especially forms of E. coli.

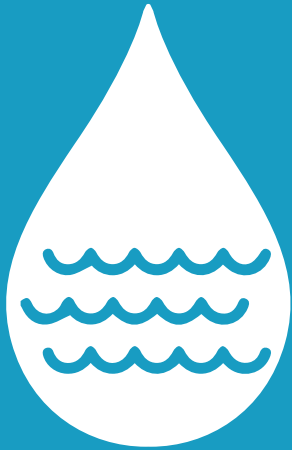
Water For People also promotes a market-based approach to sanitation by working with sanitation businesses and testing different approaches to increase supply and demand of sanitation services across the country. In Uganda, our work is researched through the Sanitation Hub (SaniHub), a team of engineers that tests different sanitation technologies to best meet community sanitation needs.

As we make final strides towards the end of our strategic plan in 2021, we are taking stock of our impact including lives that we have touched and changed across the country.

I, therefore, welcome you to read this WASH story book as you appreciate lives changed.

Cate Z zwiwa N imanya





## WATER STORIES

*A decision to stay in Kamwenge and  
not migrate to Kyenjojo because of clean water*



PHOTO 1: Dufuroza Ngiraburaro of  
Busingye Village, Biguli Parish, Biguli Sub  
County



Seventy-one year (71) old Dafuroza Ngiraburaro, was born in 1946 in the South-Western Uganda district of Rukungiri. With her nearly same age or seemingly slightly older husband; Dominico Tainawaabo, she has given birth to 13 children, of which 6 are deceased (RIP) and 7 are alive. When asked to disaggregate the 7 by gender, she pauses a bit and later reveals that she only had 2 girls, and all are deceased. With a smile on her face she is fast to ask us to have her mention the names of her children from the oldest to youngest; Edward Barisimaho, Zaveriyo Tumuranye, Miriano Mwesigye, Sabiiti Silverino, Callist Tukamuhabwa, Innocent Nuwagaba and Izidoro Byamukama. When asked about the ages of the 7 sons, she laughs and says she can hardly remember how old each one of them is.

All Dafuroza's children are adults and have blessed her with more than 10 grandchildren. While none of her children still goes to school, her grandchildren still do. She undoubtedly believes the acquisition of a private water connection in her courtyard has greatly impacted the education of her grandchildren. They would every evening after school walk an hour's distance to and from the stream to fetch water; to ensure that I had enough to take me through the following day while they are at school. This costed them time to revise their books as well as attend to their homework.

Dafuroza's home stands in the center of four other households belonging to her sons. Besides her kitchen is a tap stand, one of the private connections on Busingye-Buhuriro water supply system. The tap stand is fitted with a prepaid water meter. According to Dafuroza, it costed them Uganda shillings one hundred thousand (UGX 100,000, approx. USD 27) to get the connection. She shares her water weekly bills payments of about Uganda Shillings twenty thousand (UGX 20,000 approx. USD 5) with her sons whose households are in a radius of between 50-100metres from hers. The pooling of funds with her sons for water has not only started with payment of the water bills, but rather with payment for the connection to which they equally contributed.

To Dafuroza, safe water and good hygiene are equal to good health and prosperity. Her definition of safe water and hygiene derives from her comparison of the situation before and after getting the private connection. The water situation was so bad that we were planning to migrate to the neighboring district of Kyenjojo to escape from the bad water and related effects. The effects presented by lack of access to safe water are innumerable. When prompted to mention a few she goes on to say the following; "my grandchildren would waste a lot of time walking for water instead of concentrating on revising their books, members of my household and I unceasingly suffered from stomach aches and other ailments, I am sure were due to drinking and using bad water which costed us money to seek treatment. We had given up on wearing white and other light-colored clothes because they lose their brightness whenever we would wash them with the water from the stream. Additionally, we used a lot of time to and from fetching water instead of doing other productive work".

On seeking to know how her day looked like then and how it is currently, she says there is no major difference because all the fetching of water from the stream before getting a connection was done by her grandchildren. Her typical day program lineup includes waking up, saying her morning prayers, cleaning up, going to dig in her garden, lunch preparation and ends with preparing dinner for her seven-member household (4 grandchildren, herself and her husband). Even with water connection the schedule hasn't changed much apart adding fetching water without waiting for the children to come from school, because it's just an arm's distance from her kitchen, dish drying rack and residential house.

Defuroza could not hide the testimony that she feels proud that she has safe water in her yard, simply because she can now fulfill water borne chores like cooking washing clothes and utensils and well as refilling her handwashing facility on time and in the best quality possible.

Like the grandmother, the thirteen-year old Junior Turinawe, can hardly hide his innocent smile when asked to talk about safe water supply that her home got a year ago! He recollects the bad times the Busingye Buhumuriro water supply and sanitation system came into being. He can hardly miss out on talking about how the water from stream not only turned whatever food his grandmother prepared blackish in color, but also how it could hardly wash his school uniform clean. "my school uniform had lost its original color because of bad water" Junior narrated. He also has bad memories of the one hour distance he used to walk to fetch water from the stream in the valley beneath their home and at time a distance longer than an hour whenever he had to go for cleaner water from a handpump a village away; that was characterized by very long queues. Junior says safe clean water is important because it washes clothes well, and cooks food without changing color as well as does not make him and family members sick. Junior who is in form three (3) at African Primary School is a happy boy because he no longer treks long distance to fetch water every evening; he has time to play and read his books.

Both Defuroza and Junior have future dreams. Dufuroza's main dream is to accumulate some money from her crop farming to venture in goat rearing to supplement her income as well as to keep her busier and exercising in her older age. One wonders as to whether she is able to cultivate enough to feed her family and save some for the market to earn her an income to fulfill her dream; she brags a bit "I am still strong, I am still able to work hard"; to prove it, she goes ahead to say "I never beg of anyone money because I earn it through farming" Indeed one can fast prove her statements right after looking at the well maintained banana plantation with water conservation and retention trenches below her residence.

Junior's dream is to become a teacher in future. As he mentions this; her grandmother is fast to testify to it; "he has always talked of becoming a teacher, like his uncle; one of my sons is a teacher"



# Making Fortunes in the Management of Community Wells

WATER FOR PEOPLE - UGANDA



PHOTO 2: Kamwenge Hand Pump Mechanics Association repairing a borehole in Kabambiro trading center



Moses Twinomujuni is one of the Water As A Business (WAAB) entrepreneurs in the Kamwenge district, and also serves as publicity secretary of the Hand Pump Mechanics Association in Kamwenge. Water For People started WAAB in 2013, and tested various management models before settling on the most successful model, where Moses and other hand pump mechanics were handpicked and trained to run WAAB. Today the WAAB management model is popular in the district, and that model, combined with hand pump mechanics, has resulted in a borehole functionality rate of 91% in Kamwenge according to this year's Ministry of Water and Environment sector performance report.

Moses holds many roles. He is a WAAB hand pump mechanic, entrepreneur and also a people's councilor at the sub county of Nyabani. In his early 30s, he lives in Nyabani sub county of Kamwenge district and is married with five children - one boy, and four girls, one of whom is an orphan he and his wife are raising. Four of the children are of school age and are attending school. Moses manages ten wells in four sub counties in Kamwenge district, and works with local leadership and the community to select a care taker for each well, and then manages those care takers. Care takers are responsible for the daily collections of water fees under the Pay-As-You-Fetch model. At end of every month, Moses moves and visits wells to perform minor repairs, servicing and to collect money from caretakers.

'I have both material and social gains. For example, I have bought sofa sets for my house. Something I had failed

to acquire before, I have acquired half an acre of land where my wife can grow food for our family. I have also bought a goat out of this job and paid school fees for my children for the last two terms. As a means of corporate social responsibility, I have given back to my community by buying a solar lamp for my church.' Moses is always excited to introduce himself as a WAAB entrepreneur and a 'doctor of water.' The district officials have nicknamed him **'the man from abroad'** as he normally says he exported his skills to abroad, referring to other neighboring districts.

Moses, who is also a political councilor, says this job has helped him to acquire popularity in the district as he can link up with special grassroot leaders and district officials.

"I take this job seriously and I can't mess up with it because the good work I do speaks for me, now I can get calls from District community development officer consulting me on water issues," he states.

'The grassroots people are excited to pay for a working service.' Moses refers to Nyabitusi community where their borehole had been broken down for the last nine months, forcing people to fetching water from shallow wells 5km away. Pregnant women used to collapse along the way because of the steep slope.

Moses has plans to grow his business further. Moses plans to go back to a technical school to acquire vocational qualifications in water and sanitation engineering, so he can fully become a water engineer and specialist. He also plans to partner with NGOs and local government to popularize this management model to expand his marketing to reach more communities

*"I collect an average of UGX 606,000 (\$180) from all the 10 wells during the peak season and use part of the money to pay a caretaker, deposit 20% of that total collect to the sub county water account and deposit 10% to the mechanics association account to build a association. The balance is used to buy spare parts and cover transportation to different wells." After making these payments, Moses says, with a brilliant smile, that, "I make an average profit of UGX 275,250 (\$75) a month if it's a dry season"*

# A HAPPY WATER OPERATOR

John Batuma

*“The communities no longer walk kilometers in search of water”*

“I feel so happy when my community has [access to] water 24 hours a day,” Mr. John Batuma explains. The small-framed, 24-year-old never ceases to smile even after walking the daily two kilometers necessary to accomplish the rigorous work involved in managing a piped water scheme.

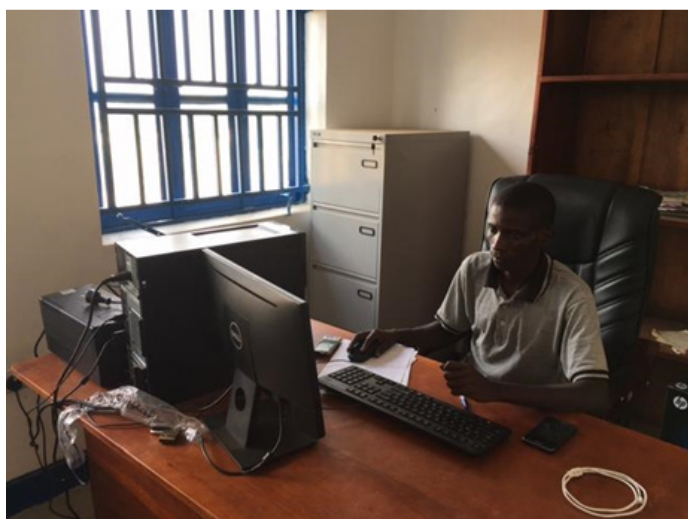


PHOTO 3: John Batuma, water operator

Mr. Batuma received his diploma in plumbing and has resided in Biguli since last year when he was recruited to manage Rwebishahi and Busingye- Buhumiro piped water schemes. The schemes, which were constructed by Water For People, began functioning in February of 2016 with an initial count of 2 household private connections, 2 kiosks and 8 public tap stands. John was mentored by Water For People staff and received the education necessary to make him successful in his role. After receiving the technical training in piped repairs and business management, Mr. Batuma is now largely responsible for the increased number of connections, which is now total 54 for both Rwebishahi and Busingye-Buhumiro schemes!

Currently, Mr. Batuma makes an average monthly collection of UGX 1,101,000 (\$300) from water users. His costs include management and operational cost of about UGX 760,000 (\$ 207) after which he saves about \$45 in the sub county water escrow account and remains with a profit of UGX 176,000 (\$48). He has also been contracted by the government department to extend different connections to other schemes in Biguli Sub-county, which enables him to earn supplemental income, which results in approximately UGX 2,202,000 (\$600) annually. Mr. Batuma also employs ten tap attendants and one assistant manager who is responsible for assisting him with collections and with the overall monitoring of the scheme. As a fresh graduate, Mr. Batuma had not previously managed any project of this magnitude, but now appreciates the fact that he now has the skillset to manage piped water schemes, operate diesel pump generators, account for funds and possess business management acumen. “I would also say that I am now exposed to different people from government and NGOs due to business presentations I normally make to different stakeholders,” Mr. Batuma adds.

When asked if he thinks that his job is important to the community, Mr. Batuma laughs and explains that the communities could not survive without his efforts – any time a water issues arises, everyone calls on him to help. He adds that excitingly, the community no longer walks kilometers to fetch unsafe water. On a personal note, Mr. Batuma was excited to mention the plot of land that he had purchased as a result of his employment and added that he is consistently saving to build a family home prior to returning to school to pursue a degree in water engineering, to help him fulfill his dream of becoming a technical supervisor to a number of water systems in the region and continuing to work to ensure that Everyone in his community has access to water Forever.



Kyabwayo spring in Buhanda subcounty, Kamwenge district, is a pretty popular water source and no one knows that more than its caretaker Pastore Kyarigonza and Village Heath Team member Peninah Katusiime, a duo to be reckoned with, if you want to use their spring.

“I now see people from other communities fetching water from here,” says Pastore.

Due to the spring’s recently improved status, men, women and children with jerry cans flock to it daily and leave with 10 or 20 litres of crystal clear, and more importantly, squeaky clean water which has zero percent e-coli, or fecal matter according to recent findings by Water for People.

## “ No more Open Defecation Around Our spring



PHOTO 4: Peninah Katusiime, VHT, Kyabwayo spring, Kamwenge district





PHOTO 5: Children entering the Kyabwayo enclosure, the right way



PHOTO 6: Trenches diverting dirty running water away from water source

Kyabwayo spring is one of several water sources in Buhanda district that has undergone Water Safety Planning, an approach introduced by Water for People under their Everyone Forever program, which aims at having every household and every institution have access to safe water and appropriate hygiene and sanitation. Water safety is implemented through the rehabilitation and construction of water supply systems, to ensure a safe water chain right to the end point – the household.

Water for People as an organization is currently implementing two approaches in Kamwenge district: model villages and water safety planning. However, having a model home is dependent on having a safe water source and vice versa. The general sanitation and health of families in Buhanda district is directly affected by the water coming out of springs like Kyabwayo.

It is no wonder that Peninah Katusiime, despite being a mother of three, can be found at the spring almost daily, inspecting it and ensuring that its users are on their best behaviour, so to speak.

“As a VHT I have make sure the water source is clean. Before water safety planning, people had bad habits such as openly defecating in and around the spring and using a footpath above the spring box.”

Describing people’s changed behaviour, Peninah smiles, “People now treasure and respect the spring, there is no more open defecation. They appreciate the clean water they are fetching.”

Pastore, whose role is to take care of the water source, has seen changes as well.

“The area around this spring was bushy, with banana plantations and people used to pass over the spring box using a footpath. We decided to block that footpath. We also built a fence around the spring and built trenches around it to divert the open running water that was entering the spring.”

Peninah adds, “That diverted water can then be used for farming.” Indeed, a herd of cows silently grazes a few kilometres away from the water source.

The Water Safety Planning approach is still fairly new for Water For People but is already producing great results as evidenced by Kyabwayo spring. Explaining why the approach is more effective than previous approaches that the NGO was implementing, Brenda Achiro-Muthemba, Senior Programmes Officer at Water For People Uganda says, “Before, Water For People used to identify and then facilitate focal point people to go and monitor their water points. After a year, the water points remained non-functional. We had to sit down as a team and change our strategy. We decided to form sanitation committees consisting of different respected leaders from different departments, who would go out to the water sources as a team. We developed water safety plans. That was how this approach came about.”

Peninah is one such respected leader who sits on the sanitation committee that takes care of Kyabwayo spring. It does not escape her community however that she is a woman giving them orders.

“When I first tell people to change their behaviour, they are hesitant. However, after I explain the dangers of dirty water to them, such as their children falling sick, they end up listening to me.”

As for how to curb the traffic flocking to her community’s water source, Peninah says she is working on it.

“I am sharing what I have learnt with VHTs in other communities. We now hold meetings and tell them what we have done to improve our water source. We go to their water sources with them and show them what they have to do.”

As the Water Safety Planning approach replicates, Water for People’s goal to reach Everyone Forever, looks closer than ever.





PHOTO 7: Catherine (left) and a colleague hold up their improved watermelons

## ◀ THE WATERMELON LADY

It is getting harder for Catherine Tugineyo to pick up and carry the watermelons that she harvests on the farm where she works. She considers this a good thing because the watermelons have increased in size, as well as in number.

On this farm in Malere parish, Kamwenge district- where she used to pick one small watermelons, she now picks two big ones. These large green watermelons lay scattered all over the land, ready to be sold in the market.

According to Catherine, this boom in her harvest comes down to one thing. The land where she and several other women grow watermelon and maize, recently acquired a private water connection.

Catherine says, "This private water connection irrigates the farm during the drought. So even in the dry season, the watermelons get enough water and they can flourish."

The owners of the land where Catherine grows the watermelons heard of a promotion being offered by Water For People, under their Water As A Business Approach. In this promotion, water users could connect to the piped water system at an initial fee of UGX100,000 (\$27) regardless of their location in Malere parish, Biguli Sub county, Kamwenge district.

The owners immediately signed up and have had no water shortages since.

"Before we got the private connection, we used to spend money hiring commercial motorcycle riders, who would fetch for us water to irrigate our crop from distant sources. This was very expensive and thus raised the cost of production and lowered our profit." Says Catherine.

Moreover, she adds, this water was usually dirty. Under the WAAB approach, Water For People not only created the piped water scheme but also engaged with the community and donors to revamp the boreholes in the area.

The new and improved watermelons are now sold at higher prices, and this has improved the life of Catherine, coworkers and their families, increased access and proximity to water, they have started planting beans as well, in addition to the watermelons; something they are hopeful to come with marginal benefits.

Catherine hopes to educate all her children using the progressively increasing income and hopes to eventually graduate to y livestock farmer with potential income from the current farming business.

Thanks to Water For People, her dreams may be realized sooner than later.





## CHILDREN SPEAK OUT

“WATER IS EDUCATION”

Tucked away in a remote rural sub-county of Kamwenge district is Biguli Primary School, where Moreen leads the school's health club. Her face exudes confidence and leadership. Moreen lives with her grandmother and some of her siblings. Before joining the health club, her family used untreated water for drinking and cooking, which caused water-related diseases. “We used to get stomach problems, typhoid, and diarrhea,” Moreen said. “One day I drank dirty water and got typhoid and stayed in the hospital for one week. I felt so sick, like the body was not mine,” she added.

But thanks to JESE and Water for People WASH Program and health clubs like the one at our School. The situation has improved. Our schoolteachers coordinate with executive club members to teach pupil's good hygiene and sanitation practices. The children learn to treat water and wash their hands at critical times (before eating and after using the latrine). “Through our health club, we have been taught to treat drinking water (using Water Guard, a chlorine compound sold in shops). We have also learned about the importance and proper use of latrines and also about general body cleanliness,” said Moreen.

Biguli Primary School is now teaching other children of their age in the area how to run vibrant health clubs, construct tippy taps with locally available resources, wash their bodies, how to sustain menstrual hygiene management through making sanitary pads (wash with soap, dry and iron).

“The school has won many local prizes in organized health and sanitation competitions, e.g.; music, dance and drama, poetry slam.” said Monica, the health club patron.





Many students say the health club has made a positive difference in their lives says Claire; a primary four girl, "I did not know science very well, but because in the health club we learn science, my grades have improved." Indeed, school attendance has improved since hand- washing facilities were installed and the health club began spreading messages on good hygiene practices. This has contributed to school enrollment increasing from 305 to 500 pupils. And the school is among the best performing schools in Biguli Sub county.

According to teacher Monica, (club patron) pupils volunteer willingly to ensure the school and latrines are kept clean. The health club trains children to be leaders in their school, home, and community. This behavior change will carry on into their adult life, which means change also happens in the community. "We now have toilets at home and handwashing points at our homes; said Rovence another student.







## SANITATION STORIES

### Mr. Byamukama Sayid, A Local Mason Installing Sato Pans in Kamwenge District.

Mr. Byamukama Sayid is a local mason in his mid-30's. He is married to Ninsiima Zam and have been married for close to 1 year now. They do not have any children yet. Sayid is an orphan- he never had a chance to see his mother and father and because of that he never had a chance to go to school. Sayid barely knows any English and visibly suffered low self-esteem.

He narrates his story of becoming a mason, Sayid started as a casual laborer on construction sites; basically, passing on construction tools and materials to other skilled builders. Through this, he too learnt the skilled of building and has been doing so for 6 years now. Sayid was introduced to the business of installing Sato Pans on pit latrines by Michael a marketer from Water For People. He is happy with this business because he is able to get additional income. He already has the skill and he possess the required tools- a shovel, an axe blade, a chisel and hammer. In the past 2 months, Sayid was able to make additional income of about 500,000 UGX (195USD) from installing the pans. He narrates an instance when he ably paid off his wife's medical bills from this income. Sayid has so far trained 5 other local masons in the community with the skill on installing sato pans and has installed a total of 102 pans; 12 in Ntara sub county, 19 in Kahunge sub county and 71 in Kamwenge Town council.





## ◀ THE QUIET CALM OF A CLEAN HOME



PHOTO 8: Helen assists her husband Esaph in washing his hands at the tippy tap



PHOTO 9: Helen stands beside their two level dishrack

The only sound you will hear in Esaph and Helen's home in Ntara B village, Western Uganda, is the rustling of the leaves from their banana plantation. The married couple sport relaxed smiles, evidence that they benefit from this calm.

There is good reason for their quiet happiness- six healthy children.

Helen does not remember the last time her and her husband had a couple's argument over sick children. It has been a long while since any of them touched their little stomach, while wailing in pain, or ran outside to vomit in the grass. In fact, she does not remember the last time any of the children refused to eat food- which is to say, they have not recently suffered from dysentery,

typhoid or any other water and hygiene-related diseases.

At least not since March 2016, when the couple were paid a life changing visit from two enthusiastic men- the County Health Inspector Joshua Bwanero and one of his health assistants Richard.

There have been enough follow up visits for Helen to know them by name.

"We began improving our home when Joshua and Richard were passing through the village, telling all of us about proper hygiene and sanitation."

Now, thanks to the sensitization from those two health officials, Helen, Esaph and their children live in a 'model home' where they can take an outside shower in privacy, eat from a well-dried plate and enter their gender's side of the latrine.





PHOTO 11: DHI Joshua Bwanero stands at a hand pump in Ntara B village, with health assistant Richard and the pump's caretaker Wilson



PHOTO 10: Esaph stands next to their gendered latrine currently under construction

These are all facilities that Helen says did not take long for her and Esaph to build.

"It only takes commitment," she says.

What it also takes, is committed and passionate health officials like Joshua and Richard, who truly care about their community. Esaph and Helen's home is just one of the thousands in Kamwenge district that the two men frequently visit, sometimes with a bigger team, to sensitize people about hygiene and sanitation.

Their sensitization campaign is a part of Water for People's program 'Everyone Forever' which aims at having every household and every institution have access to safe water and appropriate hygiene and sanitation.

Currently the program is concentrating on Kamwenge district, and Water for People believes that they will reach their goal of everyone there having appropriate hygiene and sanitation, by encouraging them to have what is known as a model home with specific requirements. Joshua and Richard are the main messengers of this vital information.

From the way Esaph and Helen affectionately mention Joshua and Richard's names when talking about their transformed home, it is clearly that the two health officials' good community engagement has contributed greatly to this peaceful home.





## CREATING **GULPERS FOR A NATION**



PHOTO 12: *James Kirabira inspects a stainless steel pipe that will create a gulper, at his workshop in Katwe*



## ◀ CREATING GULPERS FOR A NATION

It is another noisy day in the entrepreneurial neighborhood of Katwe in Kampala district, Uganda.

There, a young apprentice intently saws into a stainless-steel pipe while his mentor looks on. The two men, who are actually father and son, are creating their most popular sanitation product, the gulper, and selling it in all four corners of the country. Their market is as wide as it is, thanks to Water For People.

In 2012, Water For People Uganda piloted the 'Sanitation as a Business' (SAAB) project, with the aim of moving people up the sanitation ladder in a cost-effective manner.

Not only would the sanitation of target districts be improved, but these improvements would be effected by community members themselves, after being trained as entrepreneurs in sanitation.

When Water For People wanted to introduce the SAAB approach in Kampala, James Kirabira was identified as an appropriate entrepreneur, namely a gulper 'fabricator'.



**PHOTO 13:** James Kirabira (right) and his apprentice son (left) hold the pipe of a gulper at his workshop in Katwe

According to a Water For People engineer who coordinates the research branch of Water For People known as SaniHub, "Out of all the sanitation businesses we identified, we found WATCOM to be very flexible and innovative."

James adds, "We were already working in the same sanitation field which was an advantage to partner with Water For People. We were invited for several trainings in 2013 and we got to know the expectations they had. We were also taught how to construct the gulper. We were even given samples to take back and look at."

The gulper, which is used to empty pit latrines, is a direct lift pump that can extend three meters into a pit latrine and collects sludge into a fixed cylinder. With funding from Water Research Commission, Water For People undertook the development of this low cost device aimed at being a cheaper option of emptying pit latrines in informal and rural settings.

Not only did James, his son and his other workers learn how to construct the gulper, but they got to share that knowledge with other fabricators across the country.

Says Osbert Atwijukye, "In 2013, Water For People received a call from ICCO to introduce gulping in Kitgum. In 2014, we received a call to go to Mbarara. In both cases, we took WATCOM to train the fabricators in creating gulpers."

In 2015 and 2016, fabricators travelled all the way from Lira to Kampala to be trained by WATCOM, and they bought gulpers in the process. Fabricators in Gulu ordered for gulpers from WATCOM in 2016.

The customers were not limited to fellow fabricators. Says James, "Water for People also linked us to pit-emptiers who provided us with more feedback on how these items work."

Currently, there are around five pit-emptying groups in Kampala and more in Lira, Kitgum and Kamwenge buying gulpers from WATCOM.

"We sell the gulpers for up to UGX400,000 (\$109) but customers can pay in instalments," says James.

The improvements in his household are evident. James, who has five children including his apprentice son, has recently purchased three acres of land on which to expand their maize but also start growing coffee.

Asked what the biggest contribution was from Water For People, James says it has been the linkages created.

"Water for People's partnering with KCCA has increased our opportunities. They have also supported us with customers. Water For People has linked us to entrepreneurs who link us to others including sanitation groups. It is a great chain."

On what remains a challenge in his work James states, "The gulpers often get blockages while emptying pit latrines, as a result of polythene bags among other materials."

As James finds a solution to that particular issue, WATCOM's reach only gets wider.

When his apprentice son eventually takes over the family business, WATCOM will be a force to be reckoned with.





# A PIT EMPTYING ENTREPRENEUR IN KITGUM

Nixon Oyanya



PHOTO 14: Nixon Oyanya and colleagues train a new group of local sanitation workers, in pit-emptying. Here they show how to collect the waste into barrels, and transport it to a proper dumping ground



As the chairperson of Warib Cing Gulping Group, which empties pit latrines, Nixon Oyenya uses this tricycle to visit clients in Kitgum and Gulu districts, and then collect and dump the waste properly.

This is why Nixon's service fee is mostly made up of the fuel needed for the multiple trips the tricycle makes to and from the dumping ground.

"Last year alone, my group made UGX 3 million from emptying pit latrines in homes, schools and hospitals and taking the waste to a proper dumping ground."

Nixon learnt of the concept of a 'dumping ground' after being trained under the Sanitation As A Business (SAAB) approach implemented by Water For People.

The aim of this approach is to improve community sanitation in a cost-effective manner, by training local entrepreneurs to offer sanitation services.

One of these local entrepreneurs was Nixon who at that time, used to dump the waste from the pits anywhere where there was empty space. The SAAB approach discourages this practice and encourages proper waste collection and treatment.

Under the SAAB approach, Water For People engaged with the Kitgum Municipal Council and together they formalized groups of sanitation workers, taught them entrepreneurship skills, provided them with guplers and

showed them how to properly empty a pit latrine and collect the waste.

"The municipality told us we could no longer dump the waste anywhere. We had to take it to dumping grounds."

These designated dumping grounds are a small distance away from residential areas, and Nixon uses his tricycle to transport the waste there.

For all these trips that the tricycle makes between the pit latrine and the dumping ground, Nixon charges a negotiable fee to the client. The money obtained from this venture has impacted Nixon's family positively.

"I use this money to pay for my own medical bills, as well as school fees for my eight children and eighteen grandchildren."

Nixon's group is also in the process of opening a bank account, and their first deposit will be the UGX600,000 (\$163) that the local hospital owes them for their work.

"We also have some schools that are asking for our services."

Thanks to being trained under the SAAB approach, Nixon's group properly collects and dumps the community's waste, while making sure its members earn a sustainable income.



PHOTOS 15: Nixon Oyenya inspects a filled-up latrine with Rhina Kareo, Senior Health Inspector, Kitgum District.



PHOTOS 16: Nixon Oyenya and colleagues train a new group of local sanitation workers, in pit-emptying.



## ◀ MAKING THE OLD NEW AGAIN

**W**hat happens when a small town starts to expand rapidly, and people begin flocking to it for business and commerce?

In the case of Rhina Kareo's town, more people began settling there and the land became scarce.

As the Senior Health Inspector in Kitgum district, Rhina Kareo saw this as a major sanitation issue.

"Before, when a latrine filled up to one meter, we would destroy it and replace it with a new one."

However, as Kitgum became a more popular destination, there was no more land upon which to build new pit latrines.

This is why Rhina is grateful for the Sanitation As A Business (SAAB) approach recently introduced by Water For People. The aim of this approach is to improve community sanitation in a cost-effective manner, by training local entrepreneurs to offer sanitation services.

In Rhina's town, officials from Water For People consulted with the municipal council that Rhina sits on, and engaged with an informal group consisting of cleaners from the local hospitals.

According to Joan Asimwe of Water For People, "The group existed informally before we came in, but when we introduced gulping, together with Rhina identified more members. The group then registered with the municipal council, formed a constitution and is currently opening a bank account in Centenary Bank."

The two women and eight men in 'Lapit Pe Der Cleaners Group' were then trained by Water For People to use guplers to empty filled up latrines. They also received business training.

Today, the group moves from home to home practicing what they were taught, thus improving their community's sanitation, whilst earning an additional income.

Says Rhina, "With pit-emptying, residents no longer have to destroy and rebuild their latrine, moreover we no longer have the land for that. Instead, residents now pay to have their old latrines emptied in order to reuse them."

Rhina has noticed the impact, "The overall sanitation and health of residents has improved. Also, the waste that is collected is put to good use." When the pit latrines are emptied, the waste is transported by pickup truck to a collection point where it is treated. Most this waste is now being used to fertilize a garden in a pilot project.

Says Rhina, "The garden is flourishing, so we will soon give out this manure to be used in people's gardens as volumes increase."

Having seen how well the SAAB approach has benefitted households, local entrepreneurs and the community at large, Rhina hopes to form more groups of sanitation workers to be trained by Water For People.

"I want these pit-emptying services to reach even further, so that everyone can be supported. I am grateful to Water For People, and they should not get tired of us."



**PHOTO 17:** Rhina Kareo, Municipal Senior Health Inspector, and Water For People staff training new group of cleaners in business and entrepreneurship





PHOTO 18: Anthony Olupot stands in front of his home

## ANTHONY, THE PEOPLE'S MASON

Anthony Olupot has fixed hundreds of latrines over the years, but when asked how many households in Soroti district he has transformed, he replies, “The last three.”

This is because in the last three homes that Anthony has worked on, he applied all the knowledge he had acquired from a recent training by Water For People.

***“Water For People came and taught us how to build all types of safe latrines fitted with satopans.”***

Under the ‘Sanitation As A Business’ approach, Water For People identifies community engineers and masons such as Anthony to provide sanitation services to households, while also creating demand for these services.

Water For People aims to cost-effectively move people up the sanitation ladder using a sanitation as a business industry facilitation approach. The results will be to assist rural households to improve sanitation facilities from basic conditions to those that meet JMP standards of an improved latrine.

Anthony, his wife and their five children have also benefitted from the masonry skills passed on by Water For People because Anthony recently built the family a new latrine.



PHOTO 19: Anthony stands in his new latrine

***“I built us a new latrine with a strong cement slab, smeared walls and a satopan that prevents flies and bad smells. Our old latrine used to be very dirty.”***

For their home latrine, Anthony needed to buy different building materials such as ring liners, concrete slabs and Sato pans, all to be obtained from the community stockist SANQUA Engineering.

It would not be the cheapest venture, especially for a rural household however, there was a solution.

***“Water For People staff came with a loan officer to sensitize our savings group about taking out a WASH loan from Post Bank. We learnt of the loan’s low interest rates which were even lower than those of our group.”***

Anthony, with a recommendation from his savings group managed to take out a WASH loan of UGX500,000 (\$136) with the condition that all the money goes towards building his new latrine. He received the money in instalments, and now has a latrine that is safe, clean and odourless.

***“My family’s health has improved.”***

Anthony is now working towards paying back the loan and hopes that more people can follow his example. He is aware however, of the reasons for people’s hesitation in taking out loans.

***“The rains have not been very good this year and so people have not harvested. People are using the little money they have on food, not latrines.”***

He knows however, that people have the interest.

“People come up to me all the time asking how they can also get a new latrine. I have to explain that there is a process and it is not free. It is doable however.”

He believes that next year when the rains return, and people can sell their produce, his phone will be ringing off the hook.

“The interest is there,” he insists. “People want clean and smell-free latrines.”

Water For People knows this as well, which is why they will continue to implement the SAAB approach here in Soroti, and beyond.



## ◀ GRANDMOTHER KNOWS BEST

**F**rancis Edilu is a farmer with an impressive business card. The words 'agric-consultancy' are emphasized on it, because he is ready to give advice to farmers who want to enter the same chili business, he is a part of.

Currently, he grows chili in Okidoi village then sells it to a middleman who finds market for it throughout Soroti district.

The fruits of his labor are evident in the concrete house he has built for his wife of one year, and their young son. Inside, a small color television shows the latest Nigerian film.

Clearly, Francis is someone that other farmers would like to seek business advice from.

There is one unlikely person, however, who might have given him the best advice ever- his grandmother Alleluya, who lives a short walk away from the young couple.

One month ago, Alleluya told her grandson that his home needed a satopan-fitted latrine. At the time, Francis had no latrine in the new home he had built for his young family.

Says Francis, "Grandmother told me that an organization called Water For People had come here to Okidoi while I was away on business, and had sensitized everyone about good sanitation. Even the local leaders were there."

According to Martin Eyura, the District Health Inspector (DHI), "We went around and created awareness about the sanitation structures using songs, dances and skits. We travelled with the Eastern Choice Drama Actors who were facilitated by Water For People. The plays were all sanitation and hygiene related."

Under Water For People's Sanitation As A Business approach (SAAB), the organization engages local leaders to not only sensitize people about good sanitation, but also create the demand for sanitation goods and services.

The service providers such as local masons and sanitation retailers, are also facilitated and trained.

"Grandmother told me that I could have a mason come over and build a satopan fitted latrine. This latrine would be unlike any other, as it would have no smells and no flies," recalls Francis.

Intrigued by the prospect of such a latrine, Francis contacted the leader of his savings group to express his interest.

The savings group immediately put Francis in touch with a local mason. When the mason presented the different options, Francis decided to pay for a latrine fitted with a ceramic squat pan, the more high-end alternative to the satopan.

Up to today, Alleluya credits herself with having introduced her grandson to good sanitation, "I was the first to tell him about it."

Francis' next goal is to get his grandmother an appropriate latrine as well, that she can use with ease.

Francis can find the raised satopan for his grandmother at SANQUA Engineering, the local depot facilitated by Water For People to sell sanitation products.

This time however, he won't need to call a mason as the last one trained him to fix satopans as well.

Under the SAAB approach, Water For People wishes to improve sanitation but also boost the local economy.

Thanks to wise grandmothers like Alleluya, and obedient grandsons like Francis, Water For People's goal is being realized one household at a time.



PHOTO 20: L-R: Faith Edilu, Alleluya and Francis Edilu, Elias Edilu



PHOTO 21: Francis and Elias Edilu stand at their squat pan fitted latrine



## ◀ ANNE'S CLEAN FAMILY BUSINESS

For about a month now, Eric has come home from school every day to find his mother Anna talking to a different neighbor from their village of Okidoi in Soroti District. Today he has just completed his Primary Leaving Examinations and should perhaps be celebrating with the other children, but he has rushed home, set his schoolbag down and slipped easily into his mother's negotiations. This is his favorite part of the day.

"The satopans are fifteen thousand shillings," he tells the neighbor, with a big smile.

His mother nods at him to continue engaging this prospective customer, while she goes and talks to another one who has just arrived on his bicycle. Eric continues to make the sale enthusiastically, "Once the satopan is in your latrine, you will no longer have flies. There will be no bad smell!"

The customers usually need a little more convincing than that. They need to see all of this firsthand.

So Eric and his mother decide to take the customers around to the back of their house, to see the Elasu family's own satopan-fitted twin latrines.

Indeed, the customers realize, there are no flies and there is no odor, something they have never come across in a pit latrine. One customer pays right away. The customer who arrived on the bicycle tells Anna that he can give her UGX 10,000 (\$2.7) now and bring the remaining UGX 5000 (\$1.35) later, if she will keep a satopan for him until he comes back. Anna accepts the deposit, handing the bank notes over to Eric to count.

Ever since her husband retired from his government job, Anna has become the breadwinner of the tightknit Elasu family, selling satopans from her home in order to keep the family afloat. It is a lucrative business.

Water For People, under their 'Sanitation As A Business' approach (SAAB) and with the help of local government, has identified business-oriented people such as Anna, to sell goods and services that will improve their community's sanitation.

Anna was advised to take out a WASH loan from Water For People's partner financial institution Post Bank, and purchase satopans from the community depot, SANQUA Engineering, in order to sell them in her village and beyond. One condition- the loan is not to be used for anything else other than her satopans business. She is far from the only one doing this.

According to Martin Eyura, the District Health Inspector, "The district and Water For People have engaged members of the business community to sell sanitation products alongside their other goods. Recently, an airtime vendor from a nearby parish bought 50 satopans from SANQUA Engineering to sell in his shop."

SANQUA Engineering has seen a huge jump in demand for their other sanitation goods as well, including latrines of all types.

All of the above stakeholders- SANQUA Engineering, Water For People, local government, Post Bank, and Anna herself- are working together under the SAAB approach to demonstrate the ability to cost effectively move people up the sanitation ladder, while also strengthening the business community in Soroti district.

Judging by Anna's profits, sanitation truly can work as a business.

Eric finishes counting the money from the latest customer, puts it away into the family bag, and takes away his share for 'closing the deal', excited that he will have more than enough pocket money when he begins high school next year.



PHOTO 22: Anna Elasu and her children hold satopans. Eric is in the middle.



PHOTO 23: Anna Elasu receives money from a customer and hands over a satopan.





## BRINGING BACK THE RAIN

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Charles Kyamanywa's Story



PHOTO 24: Charles Kyamanywa holds one of his 'honeycomb' fecal sludge briquettes



One morning in 2008 while Charles Kyamanywa was getting ready for work, he had a sudden realization. It had not been raining in his town of Kiteezi for the past several days. Yet it was the rainy season.

"I saw the weather patterns changing, and the rainfall was uneven. People's crops were drying up, and we were going hungry."

Charles, a fifty-eight year old father of seven, turned to the internet to find out why this was happening. He learned that the problem was climate change, made worse by the deforestation occurring in the area.

At the time, Charles, was creating briquettes made out of silt, water and charcoal dust obtained from the cutting down of trees and burning of firewood. He soon realized that his charcoal briquette business was contributing to the rainfall problem in Kiteezi.

At the same time, customers were starting to consider charcoal briquettes old fashioned. "Customers would look at my charcoal briquettes and ask, 'Why do you want to take us back to the village? Those are our grandmothers' ways. We have moved on!'"

The environmental hazards and dwindling charcoal market spurred Charles to start producing a different type of briquette.

"I started making fecal sludge briquettes, so that we stop using firewood."

In 2018, GIZ in partnership with Water For People began providing support to increase the business and technical capacity of Charles' fecal sludge briquette company SEACO, and similar businesses including LUCHACOS and Best of Waste.

GIZ funded an internationally-recognized business course for the businesses.

"They took us all the way from day one of starting a business, up to marketing our products and services."

Water For People trained the entrepreneurs how to use carbonized fecal sludge as a 40% substitute to charcoal in briquette-making. The NGO also supplements Charles with carbonized fecal sludge to boost his production. In addition, Charles has been given machinery to boost his technical capacity.

He is also being supported to find new markets.

"GIZ and Water For People frequently arrange for us to showcase our fecal sludge briquettes at trade exhibitions around the capital city Kampala. Water For People sometimes sell my products for me, such as my brooding kits."

Many of Charles' customers are poultry-breeders who are moving away from using electricity to warm their chicks during the brooding stage.

Before the trainings, Charles was creating around 300 fecal sludge briquettes a month, using his own hands, while desperately searching for a market.

Currently, Charles' company manufactures 1000 briquettes every fortnight using the machinery he was given. Due to the training he received in marketing, finding customers has become much easier.

He sells his fecal sludge 'honeycomb' briquettes at UGX1500 a piece, and resells briquette stoves that he buys from another manufacturer, at the same price.



PHOTO 25: Charles Kyamanywa received machinery





PHOTO 26: Charles Kyamanywa sells his briquettes at UGX1500 a piece

Charles believes that selling briquettes has boosted his economic status.

"The fecal sludge briquette business has given me a constant cash flow in my retirement years."

He also believes that the opportunities are endless.

"The market for fecal sludge briquettes is growing, and we have not even scratched the surface yet."

Charles attributes the rising demand for fecal sludge briquettes not only to increased environmental awareness among the general populace, but also the sheer practicality of the briquettes.

"Each briquette can burn for eight hours on average, compared to charcoal which burns for an hour. You can have a good night's sleep while brooding your chicks with the fecal sludge briquettes, and wake up when it the briquettes are still burning."

As with all business ventures, Charles faces some challenges. There are some customers who are not yet convinced

about the advantages of using fecal sludge briquettes over charcoal. Also, higher-income households largely use electricity and gas.

"These upper-class customers would be acting as role models encouraging others to use briquettes, but they are still using electricity and gas."

The customers who do buy his briquettes are usually hoping to replace charcoal usage with an equally cheap alternative. Their positive feedback only motivates Charles further.

"They love my briquettes. They say they burn for a long time compared to charcoal."

Charles plans to move his business nearer to open farmland, where he can get a constant supply of biomass and other components for the briquettes. The move will also allow him to expand his business.

"A larger space will allow me to carbonize more fecal sludge briquettes."

It will also allow him to continue fulfilling his original goal of taking action against climate change, and bringing back the rain.





# THE HOUSE WITH THE BIG GATE

## Olivia Nakanjako's Story

Olivia Nakanjako stood outside the big gate, admiring its designs. As soon as she knocked on it, she wanted to turn away. There was no way she would be able to sell to this customer, she thought. As Olivia was about to make a dash for it, the gate swung open. There stood the woman of the house, adorned in expensive jewelry, looking straight at her.

"Yes? How can I help you?"

Olivia froze and momentarily forgot why she was standing at the woman's gate. It was only when the lady asked what she was holding, that Olivia remembered. She had come holding a satopan, a blue plastic device that looked like a toddler's potty to some.

Olivia summoned up some courage and politely asked the lady, "Madame, may I please take a look at your pit-latrine?"

When she saw the confused expression on the lady's face, Olivia took in a deep breath and waited to either be let in to the premises, or be chased away...

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As recently as 2018, Olivia was barely making a living selling second-hand clothes. Her children were often told to go back home from school, due to a lack of fees.

"I was really stressed and under pressure during those days," the single mother of four recalls. Today, Olivia makes her living from selling at least one box of satopans everyday.

"Ever since I started selling satopans, my family now has three proper meals every day. None of my children, including my daughter Christine who just sat her final exams, have been chased from school for not paying fees."

In April 2019, Olivia and other entrepreneurs were selected to attend a three-day training programme with Water For People, where they were taught how to sensitize communities about pit-latrine sanitation, and successfully sell different sanitation products such as satopans.

"Water For People came to my community and asked people to identify those who could help in sanitation marketing including keeping toilets clean, having proper dustbins and just being clean. I was one of the people chosen and we were trained."

Olivia learned how to talk to people in her community about using satopans. These are plastic devices that cover the holes in pit-latrines to keep out flies, reduce the smell and improve overall sanitation.

"I only sell satopans after sensitizing the households about the importance of toilet sanitation. I tell people, especially women and girls, that the sicknesses they suffer from are caused by their dirty pit-latrines. Some of the girls get infected in dirty pit latrines and have problems with giving birth later in their lives. I sensitize my community about these issues."

"Initially Water For People gave me free satopans and cleaning brushes to give out to the first people I talked to, so that the idea of satopans could be introduced. People saw satopans in their neighbors' pit latrines and began requesting for them."



PHOTO 27: Olivia holds a satopan at her home



Olivia now buys satopans from Water For People at UGX13,000 each, and resells them at UGX15,000, making a UGX2000 profit on each satopan sold.

"I wake up early in the morning and start walking with my satopans. I make sure I visit every house in our community. For those who cannot buy it that day, at least they get sensitized. If they see the satopan somewhere else and they have money, perhaps they will buy it."

One of the first households that the recently trained Olivia visited was a large gated house which stood in stark contrast to the informal settlements surrounding it. Although the house looked intimidating, Olivia wanted to stick to her mission.

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"Madame, may I please take a look at your pit-latrine?" Olivia asked. "I work in partnership with KCCA and Water for People on the Weyonge sanitation as a Business program. The woman saw that Olivia's shirt reflected that fact and slowly let her into her premises.

Olivia was greeted by the sound of guard dogs barking in the background. She was led to the back of the house where she saw the pit-latrine and the state it was in. She began her sensitization.

"Madame, you need to fit satopans into your pit latrine to keep it clean and hygienic. KCCA no longer wants dirty pit-latrine like this."

The woman would have been more offended had Olivia not spoken in a polite tone. She replied that she could not make purchasing decisions without her husband's approval. She gave her mobile phone to Olivia to call the husband, a businessman in town.

Olivia spoke to the woman's husband in a long phone conversation where the man demanded to know what Olivia was doing there. He asked many questions about the satopans, which he had never heard of.

By the end of the phone call, the husband had been convinced to buy three satopans for the household. The next day, the same couple bought six more satopans from Olivia, to give to their relatives in the countryside. They encouraged Olivia to keep selling her satopans.

That experience gave Olivia the motivation to sensitize even more households. "I visit every house because I want to make a living, and also continue to see sanitation improving in my community."

She is no longer intimidated by houses with 'big gates' in her community, because she knows that they too will buy her satopans



PHOTO 28: Olivia in her community, St Benedicto Zone



PHOTO 29: Olivia and her daughter Christine display a satopan



# SINGING THE PRAISES OF CLEANLINESS

## Edith Nassanga's Volunteer Story



PHOTO 30: Edith Nassanga, a Community Activation Leader under the Weyonje campaign

Edith Nassanga is the best teacher that students Joan Nasirumbi and Grace Nabwire could have asked for in their sixth year at Precious Princess Kindercare and Junior School in Lukuli Parish, Kampala. Not only does she teach them adjectives and verbs, but she also allows them to sing their hearts out.

“One of our favorite songs to sing is Weyonje, which tells us to clean our environment,” says Grace.

“Whenever we sing that song to adults, they give us pocket money,” says Joan. Grace bought a new exercise book with her earnings, while Joan bought a new pen.

Schoolteacher Edith Nassanga, a 42 year old mother to six girls, composed the song when she was chosen by

her fellow community members to join the Community Activation Team (CAT), under the citywide campaign with the same name, Weyonje.

The behavioral campaign was launched in 2018 by the Kampala City Council Authority (KCCA), in response to the improper disposal of fecal sludge waste in Kampala's informal settlements. The campaign aims to influence Kampala residents' behavior for a cleaner environment 'at the household, community and city level'.

“A consultant from KCCA came to our community in 2016 to engage us about the Weyonje campaign. They told the community to choose who they thought could work properly in the team. I and several others were selected to be trained.”



Due to her confidence and attitude, Edith was appointed as the team leader.

"After being trained, we came back to the communities and started sensitizing people. During sensitization, we talk about the three key principles of pit-latrines sanitation: Build it. Use it. Empty it."

### "Use it."

To teach the principle of using pit-latrines properly, the CATs engage the community on how to fit satopans into their pit latrines. "Many people now buy the satopan to cover their toilets. They tell me that they love it because it removes the smell, flies and insects. At our most recent community meeting, people said they were using satopans because of 'Edith Weyonje'. I love that."

One of the Weyonje campaign's implementers is Water For People, which supplies Edith with satopans at UGX13,000 a piece. She resells them at UGX15,000 each, with a UGX5000 fee for installation.

"The satopans' price was recently reduced in order for more people to afford them," she explains.

At the beginning of the campaign, Water For People supplied the CATs with cleaning brushes to distribute to households for free. This gesture made the community more open to listening to the CATs. In addition, Water For People supplied dustbins and hand-washing facilities to landlords throughout the community.

### "Empty it."

Edith and the CATs also sensitize communities about pit-emptying.

"Since our community has many informal settlements where there are no roads, we encourage people to use gulpers to empty their pits, instead of cesspools. Gulpers are more affordable and they reach deep down. We also advise people not to dump solid waste such as garbage into the pit-latrines toilets, so that they are easily emptied. We encourage them to sort their waste and put it in different containers."

According to Edith, the community appreciates the sensitization they receive and have put it to use. "Those who live in informal settlements regularly use the gulper services, especially now that the price has gone down UGX30,000 to UGX20,000."

The cost of gulping was lowered when fecal sludge transfer tanks were introduced by GIZ, KCCA and Water For People, relieving gulper operators of having to transport the waste from the households to the dumping site.

## Leaving a footprint

Edith has learnt a lot over the past two years as a CAT. ***"While in the communities, we get exposed to different kinds of people and I have learned how to engage different personalities. I have also made very many professional connections. My work as a CAT has been a great way for me to network with others."***

For her, being a CAT is not about the profits, but about the legacy she is leaving behind for the Lukuli community, as well as her students.

Edith regularly takes Grace, Joan and several other students to her community engagements, to sing her original composition Weyonje and influence behavior through music. The students themselves learn about sanitation while singing the song.

Edith often reflects on her journey as a CAT.

***"When we started out as CATs, we ourselves did not know much about satopans and pit-emptying. I saw a satopan for the first time while being trained. Yet we learnt quickly and have made such a big difference in the community."***

***"In future when Lukuli is completely clean, I want people to remember the part I played. I want to leave a footprint. That's why I keep working."***



PHOTO 31: Edith Nassanga with two of her singing students Joan Nasirumbi and Grace Nabwire





# THE MUSICAL TOILET

A Conversation with my Teacher



**PHOTO 32:** Akello WinIE, Primary Six Abilonino Primary School Kole District demonstrating the game knock down the germ to other pupils

I am called Akello Winny a pupil in Primary Six in Abilonino primary school. I am 13 years old and the chairperson of the games committee. I have been in this school for 3 years. I chose to come to this school because it is the best in the district, the teachers are good time managers and the performance is good. My favorite subject is English and when I grow up, I aspire to be a lawyer because lawyers earn a lot of money so that I can help others too and I also want to do what lawyers do settle disputes. At my home I have a younger sister, my mother who stays at home and my father who is a driver at the Polytechnic College.

My role as a chairperson of the games committee in this school is to ensure that game participants are smart and know the instructions of the games. I give games to different classes and I follow a games timetable. Today, I am giving knock out the germ to Primary Five, Primary Six, shall play I wash hands like you, the name of the game for Primary four is water defenders, the name of the game for Primary three is musical toilet. The games committee has members in each of the class who pick and play the games with others in the class. We have 30 members in Primary six; 25 in Primary five 35 in Primary four and over 40 in Primary three.





**PHOTO 33:** Senior Inspector of Schools Kole District playing Knock Down the Germs Game in Abilonino Primary School

These games have been useful as they have enabled us the children to know how to use the toilet and how wash hands after visiting the toilet. The games have enabled me to know that there are certain ways that I can use to defend against the germs and use the toilet appropriately. I have not only played the games at school I have also played them at home. I told my parents about the role that I play at school and made my mother play knock down the germs game at home using empty tins for sweets. I explained to my mother the importance of the game because I wanted her to know the importance of washing hands after visiting the toilet. At the time we played the game, my father was at home to play with us and my sister is still very young.

I did not stop with my home, I have continued to apply the same principle at school by creating awareness about washing hands after visiting the toilet with the pupils and teachers at the school assembly. I have talked to teacher Hannah who teaches English in Primary Five. I specifically talked to her about the musical toilet. Initially she knew some aspects but not all the information about this game. This came about when us the games committee we were demonstrating the musical toilet game in her class she observed the children playing the game. After the demonstration we held a question and answer session a number of questions about the game were asked by teacher Hannah which I responded to and this made her aware about proper use of the toilet based on the game.



## ◀ A JOURNEY TO **HAND WASHING**

*“My favorite game is washing hands and knocking down the germs. I use boxes to play knock down the germs at home, says Nuwamanya Meshach of Malere primary school, Kamwenge”*



PHOTO 34: Meshach leading playing the musical toilet

**M**y name is Nuwamanya Meseach in Primary Five, I'm 11 years old. I stay near the school; I take 30 minutes to walk from home to school every day. I have 8 brothers and a sister. I have been in this school for 5 years. Science is my favorite subject because it tells us how we should clean ourselves. This subject fit well into my dream career. I want to be a doctor when I grow up because I want to chase away sickness in our village since some people get sick because they don't wash their hands.

Previously, I didn't like the school because it was dirty. To change this, I participated in the WASH games like washing hands. My favorite game is washing hands and knocking down the germs. I now knock down the germs. I didn't know how to wash my hands but now I know how to wash my hands. This has brought about changes in my school to include; the sanitation in the school has improved prompting me to participate in more sanitation activities. We now clean our compound, classrooms and flush our toilets regularly.

The games improved on my personal hygiene. My personal hygiene was not good, I was not washing my hands regularly especially after visiting the latrines, before and after eating food but the games have helped me to change all this. I now wash my hands after every activity. I now bathe regularly which was not the case previously.

What I have learnt from school, I have taken it home, that is, I now clean the compound and wash clothes. My brothers learnt from this school how to wash their hands before they went to other schools. I don't know if my parents do know how wash their hands. However, I have taught my parents how to wash their wrists, and the parts in between their fingers and the nails. I demonstrated to them on how to carry out this activity before we ate food. Also, many people do not know how to play the musical toilet game at home. I taught Ronald, my elder brother and my younger sister how to play the game hence their sanitation has improved greatly, they no longer soil the toilet. I improvised and am using boxes to play knock down the germs at home.





## DRIVING AWAY DISEASE

### Francis Saabwe's Entrepreneurship Story

“  
*I saw a man driving one and I befriended him.  
He told me how he got the job, and connected  
me to the people that had helped him.*  
”



PHOTO 35: Francis Saabwe sits proudly in his transfer tank



If Francis Saabwe did not wake up to drive his truck every morning, Kampala would be a much less hygienic city. This is because Francis drives what is known as a fecal sludge transfer truck.

“Every day I transport large barrels of waste that have been extracted from homes via gulping. I carefully drive all the waste to the treatment plant.”

Francis started driving his transfer tanks in 2018, when he was a 26-year old looking for a way to make a living.

“I saw a man driving one and I befriended him. He told me how he got the job, and connected me to the people that had helped him.”

Francis’s newfound mentor connected him to Water For People which in partnership with GIZ has been implementing a sanitation program since 2015, to improve the collection and transport of fecal sludge in five parishes using large transfer trucks in Kampala namely Kanyanya, Kibuye I, Bwaise II, Mutungo and Nateete.

The fecal sludge transfer tanks were formed when the city realized that gulper operators faced high transportation costs when hiring pickup trucks to make multiple trips to and from the dumping site and households, in order to transport large amounts of waste being extracted from crowded urban areas.

This extra transportation cost factored into the price that households had to pay to have their pit latrines emptied, making sanitation an unaffordable luxury for many.

The introduction of large fecal sludge transfer tanks brought the cost down for gulper operators, and pit-emptying became affordable for many more households.

Once the previously unemployed Francis became a transfer tank operator, he began earning UGX200,000 to UGX300,000 every month. However, he was getting paid per job he did, yet he wanted to earn a full-time salary.

“Some days, I would not get called into the field. There would be no work and the truck would be dormant. Sometimes I would go two weeks without work.”

The implementing organization Water For People responded to this issue.

“Water For People told us to station our trucks in a central place where gulper operators could meet us. The trucks no longer go to the households. This has allowed for more gulper operators to use our services. I drive the truck everyday now.”

Due to this program change, Francis went from being an occasional operator making between UGX200,000 to UGX300,000 a month, to a full-time employee of the Gulpers Association of Uganda making between UGX400,000 to UGX600,000 a month.

Gulper operators were made aware of where the transfer trucks would be stationed in Namungoona, and they drive their waste barrels there.



*PHOTO 36: Francis Saabwe and Emmanuel, a gulper operator, hold up a gulper. They work collaboratively to transfer waste.*



PHOTO 37: Francis Saabwe and Emmanuel, a gulper operator, hold up a gulper. They work collaboratively to transfer waste.

Emmanuel, a gulper operator who earns UGX20,000 for every job, is happy that Francis' truck is stationed at Namungoona, ready to transfer the waste that he empties from households.

"When we don't have a place to dump the waste, we bring it here and Francis transfers it for us."

At the end of each day, both men remove their waste management uniforms and enjoy their salaries happily, knowing that the work they are doing keeps Kampala clean.







[WWW.WATERFORPEOPLE.ORG/UGANDA](http://WWW.WATERFORPEOPLE.ORG/UGANDA)

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