

Unlocking Public and Private
Finance for the Poor

INCLUCITY UGANDA

Addressing Poverty and Vulnerability in Slum Areas
Through Installation of Water Reservoirs and Solar
Lighting in Mbale City, Uganda





Girls fetching water for household needs

BACKGROUND

The Mbale city is the administrative and commercial centre of Mbale District and the largest urban centre in the Mt. Elgon region. An estimated population of 12,000 people live in informal settlements of Namakwekwe, Nabuyonga, Nkoma Namatala, Mooni/Mukhubu and the contemplated population constitutes majorly women, girls and the youth who are generally vulnerable especially when water is scarce.

Profiling reports prepared by the National Slum dwellers Federation of Uganda (NSDFU) have shown the settlements being vulnerable to poor access to water due to climate change that has affected water supply in the city. Piped water exists but with inadequate water points and irregular flow especially during the dry seasons. The seasonal variations in water flow affects the supply and push people into using contaminated water.

CHALLENGES

In terms of water service delivery, only 20 percent of households in the informal settlements have clean piped water extension in Mbale. This has put overwhelming pressure on the existing water sources to the extent that individuals have resorted to using contaminated water from the nearby wetlands, streams, and rivers within the settlements.

In times of rainy season, the waste from the lagoons reportedly drains into the rivers Nauyonga & Namatala –a major source of water for people in the area and hence exposing them to grave health risks. Besides the lagoons, overflow of sewerage in the town centers is another major challenge. There has been an increased incidence of typhoid cases which could be attributable to the quality of water sources.

The high cost of piped water ultimately results into households seeking cheaper alternatives which further expose them to water borne diseases. Ultimately, the absence of reliable water sources limits the level of development and investment in the area.



OUR HOLISTIC SOLUTION TO BRING SYSTEMIC CHANGE



OUTCOME 1: IMPROVED SAFETY AND SECURITY OF WOMEN AND GIRLS



OUTCOME 2: EASY AND SAFE ACCESS TO CLEAN WATER



OUTCOME 2: BETTER ECONOMIC CONDITIONS OF TARGETED WOMEN AND GIRLS IN THE SLUM AREAS

KEY ACTIONS



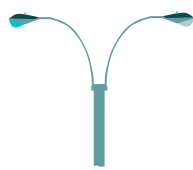
Easy and Safe Access to Clean Water



Reduced Cost of Water



Reduced water-borne diseases



Improved safety with solar lighting



Jobs and Increased Incomes



Improved agency of women and girls

Climate change and its impact on the regular flow of water primarily affects marginalized women, girls and youth. The water reservoirs and solar lights installation has a strong link to reducing gender inequality through a positive impact on reducing sexual based violence. Often longer routes and time taken while collecting water from distant places, the local girls in Mable are exposed to rape, sexual harassment and physical violence that undermine their economic and social well-being.

The project will target the urban poor, specifically those living in informal settlements by improving water access, curbing the irregularities in water supply through installation of water reservoirs for improved water storage facilities. The installation of solar lights will mitigate illicit sexual behavior that usually thrives in darkness at the water points. The project is designed in such a way that the water reservoirs and solar lights will be entirely owned by the community and managed by water user committees comprising of women, youth, and people with disabilities (PWDs). Sale of water will allow the committees to pay water bills, conduct project operation and maintenance activities as well save some funds to continue supporting income generating activities in the future.

ROLE OF MBALE CITY

The community with support of Mbale City has provided land required to build the water reservoirs and related infrastructure for the project. The Mbale City (Technical & Political) will continue to play a major role in project design, implementation as well as proper monitoring of the project outcomes.



A child collecting water from a broken water supply pipe

The UN Capital Development Fund makes public and private finance work for the poor in the world's 46 least developed countries (LDCs).

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