Celebrating Cross-Border Collaboration for Sustainable WASH Solutions: UWASNET Hosts Delegation from WESNET Malawi

Strengthening Partnerships and Knowledge Exchange to Improve WASH

In a powerful depiction of international solidarity and shared commitment to sustainable water solutions, the Uganda Water and Sanitation Network (UWASNET) recently welcomed a vibrant delegation from the Water and Environmental Sanitation Network (WESNET) of Malawi. The visit, aimed at benchmarking and learning from Uganda’s exemplary WASH coordination systems, opened up new avenues for collaboration and knowledge exchange between the two institutions.

The visiting team, led by Mr. Wellies Chanozga, the WESNET Executive Director, expressed their eagerness to witness Uganda’s incredible achievements in the field of Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene (WASH). The visit was a testament to the international recognition and value placed on UWASNET’s efforts to foster sustainable water solutions and improve lives in Uganda.

The engagement lasted for 2 days that saw cross learning from WESNET & UWASNET as they traversed different offices of the key stakeholders including Ministry of Water and Environment, Ministry of Health, Parliament of Republic of Uganda and WaterAid.

www.uwasnet.org
Glimpse of Hope!

Water Compass to Bring Solar-Powered Water System to Seeta Mugogo, Uganda!

Water Compass, a non-profit organization specializing in sustainable water solutions, has announced the next location for their life-changing project - the community of Seeta Mugogo in Sembabule District, Uganda. Following a successful meeting with residents, the project has received overwhelming support and is set to begin construction within the coming weeks.

The system harnesses solar energy to pump and purify water, providing a reliable and eco-friendly source of clean water for the entire community. With this transformative solution, the burden of fetching water from distant sources will be alleviated.

For details click here
Turning Point; JESF redefines the Sanitation question at Bunoga Primary School in Busiriba Sub County, Kamwenge District:

In a momentous event, Joint Effort to Save the Environment (JESF) with support from Join For Water, marked a significant step towards improving sanitation and hygiene conditions at Bunoga Primary School. On the 24th of July, 2023, the school received a game-changing upgrade with the official handover of two 4-stance Ecological Sanitation (Ecosan) facilities and a rainwater harvesting tank.

Prior to this project, Bunoga Primary School faced critical challenges in sanitation, with a shocking pupil-stance ratio of 112:1 for girls and 238:1 for boys. Such alarming figures highlighted the urgent need for better facilities and resources to ensure the health and well-being of the students.

For details click here
Amref Uganda's WASH Program Manager, Comfort Hajra Mukasa, Pioneers First Sanitation Artisanal Curriculum Validation

Amref Uganda’s Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene (WASH) Program Manager, Comfort Hajra Mukasa, has played a pivotal role in advancing sanitation education by coordinating and pushing for validation of the first-ever Sanitation Artisanal Curriculum. This groundbreaking achievement marks a significant milestone in promoting sustainable sanitation practices and access to clean water in the region.

Under the auspices of Amref Uganda’s WASH Program, Comfort Hajra Mukasa spearheaded the collaborative effort to design and validate the innovative curriculum. Through careful planning and meticulous dedication, the curriculum was expertly crafted to equip aspiring Sanitation Artisans with essential skills and knowledge to tackle sanitation challenges in their communities effectively.

Today, this momentous achievement has materialized into a tangible reality as the Sanitation Artisanal Curriculum undergoes on-ground testing. This crucial phase is being carried out in partnership with the FINISH Mondial program, to which Amref Uganda actively contributes. By involving communities and key stakeholders, the curriculum’s effectiveness will be rigorously assessed, ensuring it meets the practical needs of those it aims to empower.

The Sanitation Artisanal Curriculum is expected to serve as a beacon of hope, fostering self-sufficiency and promoting sustainable sanitation practices at the grassroots level. With Comfort Hajra Mukasa’s dynamic leadership, Amref Uganda’s WASH Program has once again demonstrated its commitment to addressing pressing environmental and health challenges head-on.

Speaking about this remarkable accomplishment, Comfort Hajra Mukasa expressed her gratitude to the team of dedicated professionals and community members whose collective efforts brought the curriculum to life. She emphasized the potential of this curriculum to revolutionize sanitation practices, leading to healthier and more prosperous communities across Uganda.

As the testing phase progresses, the WASH community eagerly awaits the transformative impact of the Sanitation Artisanal Curriculum. With Amref Uganda’s visionary approach and Comfort Hajra Mukasa’s unwavering dedication, this initiative stands as a shining example of what can be achieved through collaborative action and a passion for sustainable development.

In the coming months, as the results of the on-ground testing are analyzed and fine-tuned, Amref Uganda plans to expand the implementation of the curriculum, bringing quality sanitation education to even more regions in dire need of improved WASH practices. Together, we can build a cleaner, healthier, and more prosperous future for Uganda.
In a remarkable stride towards improved sanitation and dignified working conditions, a team of Gulper emptiers was introduced to the cutting-edge Pitvaq technology. The innovative system, aims at enhancing pit emptying in informal settlements, focuses on prioritizing the health and dignity of the emptiers.

The comprehensive training provided our Gulper emptiers with hands-on experience in assembling, operating, and demonstrating the Pitvaq technology. This immersive learning opportunity not only equipped them with in-depth knowledge but also instilled confidence in utilizing the system effectively.

For details click here
Balancing Cost Recovery and Affordability of Rural Water Systems

It is not every day that the 7 O'clock morning news on the radio reports on something that’s directly related to my work. And so, this morning, when the CBS FM newscaster read a news item concerning water, I subconsciously leaned forward with heightened interest.

A news reporter narrated that a certain community in Mubende district is disgruntled over the introduction of a prepaid (card) water system in their area. In a pre-recorded report, a community member is heard saying that the system is restricting their access to water as most of the households cannot afford to pay more once the amounts on their prepaid cards are depleted. Thus, the community is appealing to authorities to intervene and save the situation before it gets worse.

This news item made me reflect on a study by one of the WASH SDG programme partners (PRACTICA Foundation) on the value of asset management planning and the significance of design, tariff setting, and management arrangements on the post-construction financial sustainability of rural water systems. According to the study, although it’s the government’s ambition to supply all households with piped water by 2040, acceleration of this ambition can only happen if recurrent costs are recovered. However, cost recovery through pricing remains a controversial and politically challenging topic.

Based on the WASH SDG programme experience in Agago district, without additional funding or a sizeable amount of paying users, the pro-poor tariff, set by the government and used by the NWSC, does not result in cost recovery of piped water schemes in rural areas. The study advocates for enhanced transparency about the true costs of post-construction piped water systems and the need for asset management planning. As it has been demonstrated elsewhere, when implementers and users are aware of the real costs of water infrastructure, they can jointly decide upfront what service level and user fee is feasible. The study also concludes that widespread flat-rate payment for water from handpumps impedes the transition to piped water in rural areas.

You can find the study brief here: Click here
EXCITING NEWS
THE UWASNET MENU:

Dear reader, we are excited to present to you our forthcoming annual events- Can’t wait to meet you All!

THE WASH CSO FORUM:
Annually, UWASNET convenes its members under one platform dubbed the WASH CSO forum under a multisectoral framework. This convention is held to demystify WASH challenges. This platform enables the CSOs to directly table such challenges before the direct bearers.

THE WASH AWARDS:
We are delighted to present to you our intentions of appreciating the different players who have worked selflessly to improve Uganda’s WASH status. Such positive impacts have been realized through a joint effort from a multiplicity of players including CSOs, Academia, the Private sector, and media... who have designed and implemented different programs to change the status quo subsequently contributing to National development, WASH systems, and towards the road to 2030. See you All come October 2023!!!