

WATER, SANITATION, AND HYGIENE: UGANDA



About World Vision

World Vision is a Christian humanitarian organization dedicated to working with children, families, and their communities worldwide to reach their full potential by tackling the causes of poverty and injustice. World Vision serves all people, regardless of religion, race, ethnicity, or gender. Established in 1950, World Vision's global partnership operates in nearly 100 countries, including implementation countries, along with country offices focused on fundraising and technical support, as well as regional and global teams providing quality assurance. Nearly 40,000 staff members—95% of whom work in their own countries—work in health; education; livelihoods; food security; child protection; economic empowerment; and water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH) programming.

THE FACTS

- » 58% of people in areas where World Vision operates in Uganda have access to an improved water source within a 30-minute roundtrip walk.
- » 25% of people in areas where World Vision operates in Uganda have access to basic sanitation, and only 5% to handwashing stations with soap and water.
- » Progress needs to accelerate to reach SDG 6 and the government's goal of universal water coverage for households, health facilities, schools, and prisons by 2030.

— University of
North Carolina World Vision
14-Country Evaluation Final
Report (2020)

Global WASH Program

Over the past 35 years, World Vision's work in the WASH sector has grown exponentially. With more than 1,200 technical WASH staff members guiding our work in 55 countries, World Vision has emerged a leader in its global commitment to accelerate universal and equitable access to WASH services under Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 6. Over the last five years alone, we have reached an estimated 20 million people with clean water and hygiene promotion, as well as 12.5 million people with improved sanitation.

Driven by the vision of transformative WASH for child well-being, World Vision's strategic direction is laid out in our global WASH business plan (2021 to 2025), which outlines World Vision's intent to increase impact in priority countries, including Uganda, with an emphasis on reaching the world's most vulnerable. The business plan uses a diversified funding approach, pooling multiple financial streams to accomplish activities and leveraging a flexible revenue base of private funding to raise additional funds.

World Vision's four global WASH business plan goals are:

- Accelerating universal and equitable access to WASH services under SDG 6
- Deepening our focus on the most vulnerable, especially in fragile contexts
- Demonstrating sustainable impact
- Leveraging a \$1 billion business plan to mobilize financing for WASH services

WASH in Uganda

World Vision's work in Uganda started in 1986, offering relief and resettlement packages to families ravaged by a five-year civil war. Since then, World Vision Uganda (WVU) has continued to provide WASH services in a variety of settings—households, communities, schools, healthcare facilities, remote rural settings, urban areas, during emergencies, and in fragile contexts.

Today, WVU operates in 42 districts of the country, in partnership with district/municipal assemblies, decentralized government agencies, nongovernmental organizations (NGOs), faith-based organizations, and communities. WVU's multisectoral strategy focuses on catalytic interventions in the sectors of WASH, primary healthcare and nutrition, food security and economic resilience, and primary education. This strategy is realized through WVU's annual national budget of \$50 million from local revenue, public and private grants, and child sponsorship.

World Vision's community-based approach and 35-year presence in the country gives us the longevity and experience to take quality, sustainable WASH interventions to scale.

WATER, SANITATION, AND HYGIENE: UGANDA

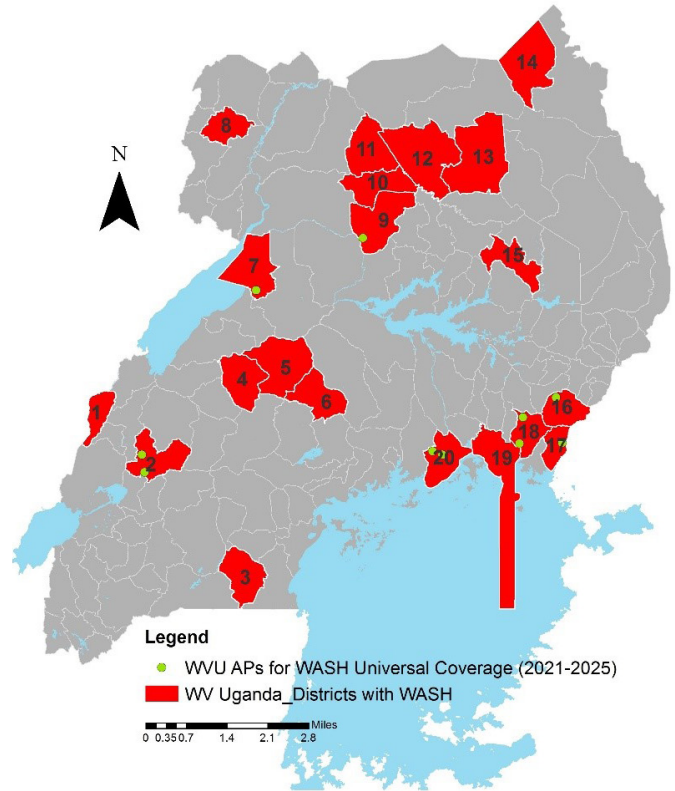
World Vision's Uganda WASH Program covers 20 districts, with 10 program areas in 10 districts targeted for universal WASH coverage by 2025. The program has a total annual budget of \$6.5 million and is supported by 28 technical WASH staff, of which 31% are female. The map at right provides an overview of World Vision's geographic footprint for WASH in Uganda.

in the global guidance of World Vision's WASH Core Project Model. WVU prides itself in its integrated, innovative, and inclusive WASH programming, with low-cost household water supply and BabyWASH,¹ all within a backdrop of long-term (10 to 15 years) multisectoral programming in target communities.

KEY PROGRAM RESULTS

Based on World Vision Uganda's program strategy evaluation, over four years (2016 to 2019) the Uganda WASH Program contributed to the following improvements in World Vision operational areas:

- » An increase in households with year-round access to sufficient clean water from 42.3% to 64.1%
- » An increase in households with access to sanitation (any type) facilities from 89.3% to 97.3%
- » An increase in households with appropriate handwashing behaviors from 43.8% to 66.7%
- » A decrease in the prevalence of children younger than 5 with diarrhea from 21.2% to 10.5%



- | | |
|-------------------------|----------------------|
| 1. Bundibugyo District | 11. Gulu District |
| 2. Kamwenge District | 12. Pader District |
| 3. Rakai District | 13. Agago District |
| 4. Kakumiro District | 14. Karenga District |
| 5. Kyankwanzi District | 15. Amuria District |
| 6. Kiboga District | 16. Tororo District |
| 7. Bulisa District | 17. Busia District |
| 8. Terego/Arua District | 18. Bugiri District |
| 9. Oyam District | 19. Mayuge District |
| 10. Omoro District | 20. Buikwe District |

Program Approaches

The following sections describe our core WASH technical approaches in communities, schools, and healthcare facilities; summarize capacities and achievements over the past five years; and present highlights of our upcoming plans in Uganda.

Our four prioritized intervention areas consist of:

- Water supply and quality
- Sanitation and hygiene
- Governance and finance
- Water security and resilience

Behavior-change practices and the themes of disability inclusion and gender equality are integrated across all intervention areas as outlined

Water Supply and Quality

Since inception of World Vision's WASH programming in Uganda, bringing life-changing clean water to the marginalized and the vulnerable has been central to our mission and organizational identity. This distinctive, unwavering focus guided WVU to reach approximately 563,224 people, 188 schools, and 65 healthcare facilities over the last five years with access to clean water. Importantly, World Vision

¹ BabyWASH is a World Vision initiative that integrates WASH in healthcare facilities with maternal, newborn, and child health; nutrition; and early childhood development interventions to achieve greater impact for mothers and children to improve health outcomes and avert death in the first 1,000 days of life.

WATER, SANITATION, AND HYGIENE: UGANDA



Children wash their hands with clean water from a tap supplied by a rainwater-harvesting tank in Lukerere, a village in the Rakai District.

embraces a holistic approach to helping communities advance up the SDG drinking water ladder, supporting targeted investments in new infrastructure while strengthening the systems that sustain water supply and ensure quality.

Facilitate universal coverage

With the introduction of the SDGs, WVU has taken collaborative steps to support the government of Uganda achieving its ambitious SDG 6 targets of providing universal and equitable access to WASH services for all by 2030. In line with this, WVU is targeting 10 program areas in seven districts to attain universal WASH service coverage by 2025. The plan provides a roadmap to reach an estimated 783,479 people in 20 districts with basic drinking water services and 567,333 people with basic sanitation, as well as helping 1,020,252 people to adopt and practice safe hygiene behaviors by 2025.

Prioritize piped-water systems

To improve access to water for communities and institutions, WVU develops varied water technologies, including protected springs, wells with hand pumps, rainwater harvesting, and mechanized solar-powered piped-water systems.

Over the past five years, WVU's water technology strategy has gradually shifted from a focus on wells with hand pumps to mechanized piped-water systems. An important element of this shift is the mechanization of high-yield water sources using solar-powered pumps and provision of small-town water systems in partnership with communities, local governments, and other stakeholders.

For example, from 2015 to 2020, WVU developed 280 wells with hand pumps and 34 mechanized water systems with 1,441 taps. Meanwhile, over the next five years (2021 to 2025), 113 wells with hand pumps are planned (a 60% decrease), while 41 mechanized systems are planned with 4,835 taps, an increase of 230%. This shift allows construction of distribution networks that deliver water closer to households

and social institutions. The availability of water close to households relieves women and girls of the time and burden of collecting water—time they can use for education, childcare, and farming. Additionally, these systems supply larger quantities of water that enable water use for hygiene and cleaning as well as gardening and other productive purposes.

Improve water quality outcomes

WVU is committed to providing drinking water that meets World Health Organization (WHO) and the Uganda government's water quality standards. Water at every new water source is tested and analyzed by an approved national water quality testing laboratory before it is made available for public consumption. World Vision's WASH evaluation, conducted in 14 countries, showed water quality in Uganda was poor at the point of use. Therefore, the program is focusing on ensuring water quality safety at point of use through routine water quality monitoring and testing in partnership with respective district water offices and national water utilities. Further, WVU supports the WHO best practice of water safety planning to manage risks and consistently ensure the safety of drinking-water supply.

Build sustainable management practices

Given sector-wide challenges with the long-term functionality of rural and small-town water supply services, WVU has doubled-down on strengthening management systems. To help ensure sustainability, the WVU WASH Program has established strong collaborative partnerships with the Ministry of Water and Environment, National Water and Sewerage Cooperation, faith-based organizations, community-based organizations (CBOs), microfinance institutions, and the private sector in WASH infrastructure financing and governance.

The program's experience with community-based maintenance structures contributed to the alignment and professionalization of community-based maintenance for improved service delivery in rural

WASH SOCIAL INCLUSION IN INSTITUTIONS

WASH services in schools and healthcare facilities provided through WVU are designed to enable equitable access for people with disabilities. Inclusive latrines in schools are constructed with disability-accessible ramps that have guard rails on both sides and a special latrine hole equipped with a toilet seat and a handwashing tap using harvested rainwater. Socially inclusive wells with hand pumps are designed with a wide apron and guiding lines to allow access to the facility by individuals using a wheelchair. The wells also are equipped with a seat that can be used to ease the burden of pumping.

WATER, SANITATION, AND HYGIENE: UGANDA

settings.² The program establishes and trains WASH committees to oversee the operation and maintenance of every water system. At the sub-county level, WVU supports the formation of sub-county water boards to provide supervisory support to WASH committees under the direction of the district water board. World Vision also partners with the National Water and Sewerage Corporation to extend, and undertake the overall management, operation, and maintenance of piped-water systems.

Sanitation and Hygiene

World Vision embraces a multipronged approach to improving sanitation and hygiene services in communities, schools, and healthcare facilities. The program works simultaneously to bolster demand for sanitation products through tested and emerging methodologies, identify and fill supply gaps and inequalities, and engender behavior-change through people-centered approaches.

The sanitation program is implemented through various approaches including: Community-Led Total Sanitation (CLTS), Sanitation Marketing, Participatory Hygiene and Sanitation Transformation, Household Cluster Engagement Accountability Approach (HEAA), and Designing for Behavior Change with barrier analysis at the community level.

The program applies the Children's Hygiene and Sanitation Training approach to promote sanitation and hygiene in schools. Meanwhile, BabyWASH programming is used in healthcare facilities, where we provide water to all critical points of care as well as hygiene education to health care staff to reduce infection transmission in the facilities.

Over the past five years, WVU helped 405,500 people, 244 schools, and 64 healthcare facilities gain access to sanitation services while also reaching more than 1 million people with contextualized promotion of safe hygiene practices on critical topics such as handwashing, food hygiene, and safe water storage and handling practices.

Emphasizing a market-based approach

Over the past five years, WVU's demand-creation efforts employing CLTS resulted in the certification of more than 220 Open Defecation Free communities. Notwithstanding the significant progress made by implementing the CLTS approach, World Vision has prioritized Sanitation Marketing to strengthen actors (including the private sector, service providers, and government agencies) across the sanitation value chain for sustained sanitation and hygiene services to households.

The program also has established an innovative financing solution for families through micro and medium financial institutions, and empowerment of households through savings groups. WVU is partnering with VisionFund (World Vision's global network of microfinance institutions) to provide small loans for latrine construction to selected families, along with training families in safe hygiene and sanitation practices, emphasizing latrine construction and proper handwashing. During fiscal year 2020, VisionFund disbursed 41 loans

GENDER INTEGRATION IN WASH

To address gender inequalities, World Vision's WASH program ensures the engagement of women, girls, men, and boys in the design, location, and management of facilities so no person or group of people are excluded from enjoying their rights. One important example is the prioritization of menstrual hygiene management interventions across the Uganda WASH portfolio.

Over the past five years, WVU has helped design and construct latrines in 244 schools across its operational areas. Schools also were supported with access to clean water to facilitate improved hygiene. These facilities include changing rooms for girls to manage menstrual hygiene while in school, coupled with menstrual hygiene education. Trainings encourage an open discussion to create a supportive environment for women and girls to manage menstruation with dignity. Such discussions involve the active participation of boys and men in communities as part of gender mainstreaming efforts.

The WVU WASH Program also trains tailors (students, out-of-school youth, and mothers) to create reusable sanitary pads and soap for menstrual hygiene management in schools and homes. In addition, menstrual hygiene management interventions are integrated into village savings and loan associations, which enable mothers to easily acquire funding to purchase materials to make pads at home.



A microcredit loan enabled this woman to construct her own household latrine.

² <https://www.mwe.go.ug/library/national-framework-operation-and-maintenance-rural-water-infrastructure-uganda>

WATER, SANITATION, AND HYGIENE: UGANDA

worth a total of \$26,823 for sanitation improvements, with a repayment rate of 81% so far.

Pioneering new models for behavior change

In addition to using traditional CLTS and Sanitation Marketing approaches, the WVU WASH Program applies an innovative cluster approach (HEAA) to ensure that everyone has access to adequate and equitable sanitation and hygiene.

The cluster approach brings together 10 to 20 households in densely populated areas or five to 10 in sparsely populated areas to promote various aspects of child well-being, including health, education, livelihoods, child protection, and WASH services. The approach encourages community mobilization, engagement, and accountability using participatory principles, and equips and strengthens families and caregivers to be the first line of child protection and care. HEAA, launched in Lwabanda village in south-western Uganda in June 2017, has been scaled up to 32 districts where WVU implements WASH projects, and it has been applauded by the government of Uganda as a self-sustaining and empowering approach.

In addition, the WASH program builds the capacity of faith-based leaders and institutions to integrate key WASH messages and safe hygiene and sanitation behavior practices into their faith-based instructional materials. World Vision grounds all behavior-change messages and focus areas in the evidence-based Designing for Behavior Change methodology, which uses a barrier analysis to identify context-specific barriers—and enablers—of hygiene and sanitation adoption in local communities.

Focusing on students

School communities represent powerful agents for community-wide awareness and behavior change. Toward this end, WVU works with the Ministry of Education and schools to implement School-Led Total Sanitation and Child Hygiene and Sanitation Training to promote safe sanitation and hygiene practices in schools. This includes school WASH clubs that teach students good sanitation and hygiene practices. Latrines and handwashing stations are built according to Ministry of Education and World Vision standards, including the students-to-latrines ratio and segregating genders to support menstrual hygiene management.

Governance and Financing

Improved WASH governance and financing—from re-engineered community-based management approaches to strengthened regulatory oversight to innovative financing approaches—are critical enablers for achieving progress under SDG 6 and ensuring long-term sustainability of our work. Embracing a systems-based approach to build sustainable and resilient WASH solutions is linked to the capacities of local stakeholders and national governments as critical components of that system. Government must provide or allow for an enabling environment for WASH services to remain viable enterprises and expand to meet the needs of the unserved and under-served.



Members of a household cluster learn how to make liquid soap for handwashing.

Recognizing that no single actor in the sector independently has enough resources to achieve the SDGs, government, the private sector, nonprofits, and civil society all need to leverage additional financing for WASH. WVU assists in this effort by raising additional resources to bridge the funding gap in government-provided WASH services. For example, WVU partnered with Rotary Uganda, Coca-Cola, and the Acholi Parliamentary working group to raise \$325,000 for WASH in northern Uganda.

Engaging at the national level for systemic change

World Vision has prioritized engagement and advocacy with the national government as a critical component of our broader WASH strategy. World Vision currently serves as the chair of the Uganda Water and Sanitation Network. The network coordinates the work of all WASH actors in the country (international and local NGOs, the private sector, and CBOs) and creates a forum for World Vision to disseminate key successes, innovations, and lessons learned.

Mobilizing communities to advocate for change

The Uganda WASH Program uses World Vision's hallmark Citizen Voice and Action local advocacy model to complement WASH interventions in all operating areas, empowering communities to advocate for improved WASH services at all levels (village, district, and national). At the national level, this is done through parliament, where there is a well-structured WASH committee with the responsibility of raising national WASH issues and allocating budgetary resources to the sector. This enables citizens to demand the right to safe water and hold governments accountable.

Forging agreements with district governments

WVU works alongside district governments and community institutions during the community engagement process to support sustainability and create connections between communities and the responsible government entities. World Vision has a memorandum of understanding (MOU) with every district government where it operates, and it has an MOU with the National Water and Sewerage Corporation, a public utility company 100% owned by the government of Uganda.

WATER, SANITATION, AND HYGIENE: UGANDA

Water Security and Resilience

World Vision's approach to water security requires looking at the broader integrity of ecosystems and water catchment areas, with upstream interventions to improve watershed management as a critical aspect of safeguarding the downstream drinking water supply. Closely related to water security, World Vision also seeks to build the resilience of households and communities by helping them prepare for, endure, and recover from recurrent crises.

Planning for resilient WASH services takes many forms. WVU works closely with the Ministry of Water and Environment, CBOs, and NGOs to protect, preserve, and restore water catchment areas through various activities. These include training water-user committees on issues of climate change and water catchment conservation techniques, promoting tree planting around water catchment areas, and harvesting rainwater to reduce surface run-off while storing water for general consumption.

Other proven approaches and conservation measures WVU uses to improve water security and resilience include:

- Enhancing water conservation by improving the operation and maintenance capacity of water utilities. This helps reduce leakages, increase efficient energy use, and improve the workforce's capacity to understand and operate the system.
- Extending piped-water systems to under-served communities with larger populations, thereby reducing the over-drilling of boreholes fitted with hand pumps.
- Selecting high-yield wells and choosing water supply sources that are less vulnerable to variations in water levels, whether caused by climate change, increasing competition for water, or other factors.
- Designing water supply systems with a water treatment component considering the possibility of any future changes in water quality. For example, water in some World Vision operational areas in Uganda is affected by hardness and/or high contents of iron or fluoride.
- Using renewable energy sources (such as solar power) as the main source of energy to pump water.
- Designing and constructing latrines and other on-site sanitation technologies to be less flood-prone, or to be easily replaced if flooding is unavoidable.
- Planning for multiple uses of water in the WASH program. For example, WVU has established irrigation systems that include motorized sprinklers and valley dams, which enable water to be used by animals and for agriculture.

Partnerships for Effective WASH

Over the years, WVU has built strong partnerships at the local, national, and global levels to develop joint efforts that address the WASH challenges in Uganda and foster sustainability for WASH investments. At the local level, WVU partners with CBOs in the WASH sector in our program areas to ensure improved WASH in communities. World Vision helps build capacity of government organizations and CBOs to improve their ability to implement, monitor, and sustain WASH interventions within their jurisdictions.

In addition, World Vision has strong collaborative relationships with international NGOs operating in Uganda, such as UNICEF, Rotary International, and USAID. WVU also partners with for-profit entities such as banking and insurance institutions and Coca-Cola. Banks and VisionFund have provided WASH loans to program participants to construct basic sanitation facilities at the household level. And Barclays Bank, Britam Insurance, and Coca-Cola have provided funding to construct community wells in northern Uganda.

Additionally, WVU collaborates with international academic institutions such as Emory University and UNC in the U.S. These partnerships have led to innovations and continued research in various programming areas within the WASH sector. For example, WVU partnered with Emory University to assess WASH services in 52 healthcare facilities in the Hoima District using the WASH Conditions Assessment Tool. Similarly, WVU works with UNC to periodically evaluate and assess WASH services in Uganda for decision-making and program improvements.



Jessica washes her hands before attending to patients at Kanawati healthcare facility in Kotido District.

