

Sanitation activities in Uganda

The challenge

Since 2000, annual sector reviews in Uganda have generally shown an improvement in coverage of water supply and sanitation in the urban areas. The Water and Environment Sector Performance Report of 2011 issued by the Ministry of Water and Environment (MWE) estimates that 81% of the urban population in Uganda has access to sanitation facilities. While the coverage situation with regard to sanitation gives a positive impression, access for the urban poor is still far from the government's target of reaching 100% access to improved sanitation by 2015. Also, only 14 out of the 23 large towns managed by the National Water and Sewerage Corporation (NWSC) have centralised sewerage collection systems. Onsite sanitation technologies on the other hand are used widely.

Uganda is experiencing rapid population growth and urbanisation, and a large share of the urban population resides in densely populated informal settlements. This has resulted in low levels of sanitation coverage and an insufficient degree of service delivery. Diarrheal diseases are reported frequently in peri-urban and in urban settlements.

Our approach

The GIZ water programme's target group is the urban population which does not have access to adequate and sustainable sanitation. Special consideration is given to the disadvantaged population in informal settlements in Kampala and urban post-conflict regions in Northern Uganda.

The programme seeks to strengthen the institutional, regulatory and managerial competences as well as the efficiency of the partner institutions. It supports the implementation of the Ugandan government's reform of the urban water and sanitation sector, thereby promoting a higher degree of sustainability and a more equitable access to water supply and sanitation. This entails providing partner organisations with sector policy and strategy

advisory services, organisational development and the building of institutional and operational capacities. The political and institutional framework conditions in the water sector are being improved, and particularly urban drinking water supply and basic sanitation are addressed. Key partner organisations for sanitation are the Department of Urban Water Supply in the MWE, the ministry's investment facilities Water and Sanitation Development Facility North (WSDF-N) and in future also the WSDF-East, as well as NWSC and the Association of Private Water Operators. Further partners are several Town Councils and municipal water authorities, many of which are located in Northern Uganda.

Project name	Development of the Water Sector, Uganda
Project region	Sub-Saharan Africa
Partners	Ministry of Water and Environment (MWE), further partners: National Water and Sewerage Corporation (NWSC), Kampala City Council Authority (KCCA) and several Town Councils
Duration	Oct. 2010 to May 2014 (current phase)
Budget for sanitation	1,920,000 Euro
Scale	GIZ only: 30,000 (Kampala), 21,000 (small towns) GIZ and KfW jointly: 250,000 people

Programme activities

The programme addresses in particular the challenges faced by the urban poor with accessing basic sanitation.

The objective is to test various approaches and to integrate effective methods for the scaling-up of sustainable and affordable basic sanitation for urban low-income areas. These approaches and methods are integrated into the operational plans of the ministry's WSDFs. More specifically, the programme supports the WSDF-N through policy and technical advice provided by long-term Technical Advisors with regard to the development of more sustainable approaches to sanitation. In addition to that, institutional support is provided to Town Councils in small towns in Northern Uganda.



Left: Education and sensitisation on the usage of school toilets in a dormitory, Bwaise / Kampala (© GIZ / S. Rosow, 2011)

Right: Sanitation marketing to create household demand, Bwaise / Kampala (© GIZ / S. Rosow, 2011)

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Partner country: Uganda

The programme is in the process of developing a new comprehensive concept on basic sanitation services jointly with the WSDF-N. Aspects of critical importance are the identification of appropriate technologies and financing modalities, health promotion, continuous sensitisation, law enforcement, user participation and monitoring.

With respect to hygiene education and promotion, the programme supports the WSDF-N in carrying out community sensitisation and hygiene awareness campaigns. Later in 2012 an innovative approach of using mobile phone technologies for hygiene and sanitation promotion activities will be introduced.

The programme also supports the MWE in the promotion of the private sector. For instance, in order to tackle the appalling sanitation situation in public places in small towns and to improve the management of non-functional sanitation facilities, the idea of "Sanitation as a Business" is being promoted. GIZ explores the business potential of public facilities and then supports the development of synergies among stakeholders. In addition to providing water supply, Private Water Operators have been mobilised in several towns to manage recently refurbished public sanitation facilities cost-effectively. This combines water supply operations and sanitation facility management for public toilets. The coordination of emptying services for private septic tanks and pit latrines through cooperation with private cesspool emptiers bears further business potential.

The creation of individual household demand for improved sanitation in informal settlements in Kampala is also one of the programme's activities. This entails sanitation marketing, by-law enforcement and the engagement of the private sector. In the framework of Public-Private-Partnerships (PPP), sanitation marketing makes sanitation solutions affordable to low-income households, including access to microcredits and acquisition through instalment purchase.

Outcomes

- GIZ has contributed significantly to raising the sanitation profile in Uganda, putting the focus on improved sanitation for the urban poor high up on the agenda. In addition to that, GIZ has supported the development of the newly-established Kampala Water and Sanitation Forum under the lead of KCCA (Kampala Capital City Authority) and promotes a higher degree of harmonisation of activities in the sector. These efforts are complementary to KfW's support to NWSC in Kampala in the field of faecal sludge management, extensions in the sewerage system and waste-water treatment, on-site sanitation services and public toilets (KfW is the German Development Bank).
- The sanitation marketing PPP with a local manufacturer of plastic toilet units which was implemented during 2009 and 2010 resulted in a strengthened interest in sanitation products and services. This involved an under-appreciated large market segment – the urban poor.
- Through improved public sanitation facilities in small towns and enhanced stakeholder coordination, the programme will achieve better service delivery as well as long-term public health benefits.
- In the long run WSDF-N is expected to apply effective procedures for promoting basic sanitation in order to increase sanitation coverage and the sustainability of sanitation facilities in Northern Uganda.

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