



Improving Water Supply Sustainability in Northern Uganda (IWAS) Phase II



Enhancing the functionality and sustainability of rural water supplies

SNV Uganda is implementing a three year project - Improving Water Supply Sustainability (IWAS) Phase II in Northern Uganda, with funding from Austrian Development Agency (ADA). Phase II started in January 2019 after the successful completion of Phase I (December 2014–December 2017) and covers four districts within the Lango sub-region (Lira, Alebtong, Dokolo and Kole). IWAS II aims to contribute to improved functionality of 850 rural water sources thereby giving 212,500 rural people uninterrupted access to sustainable safe water supply.

The Challenge

An improved water source should provide water in sufficient quantity and drinking water quality throughout the year. While this is the ideal situation, the reality in many rural areas is different. Many water sources are either non-functional or working below their level of efficiency.

According to the Water and Environment Sector Performance Report 2019 rural water functionality has stagnated at 85%. Poor functionality is attributed to a number of factors including; weak capacity of communities to manage their water sources, in-

sufficient institutional support mechanisms, lack of readily available funds, quality repair services and spare parts.

The common “use until it breaks down” attitude isn’t easy to replace but preventive maintenance ensures reliable water supply and saves money! In the midst of a global health crisis this is more relevant than ever.

1

Consolidate the IWAS model by incorporating lessons from IWAS phase I.

IWAS Design

3 pillars towards sustainable (O&M)

The project interventions cover the following three components:

2

Upscale the IWAS model in additional sub-counties in Lira, Alebtong and Dokolo districts as well as sub-counties in the neighboring district Kole.

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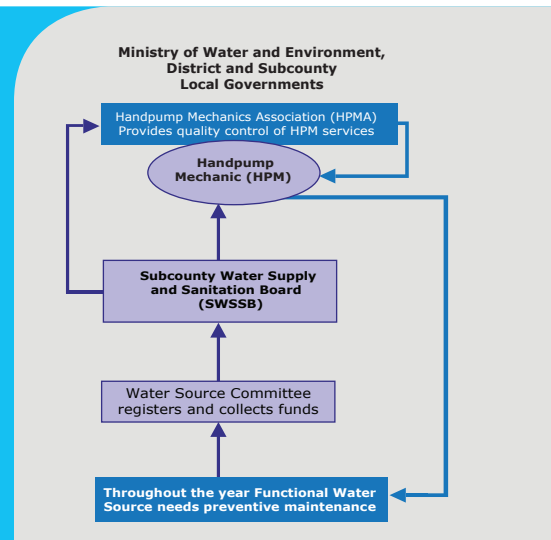
Develop the systems and policy environment around the IWAS model implementation, strengthen good governance and advocate for its wider adoption in the sector.

IWAS Model

The IWAS Model puts the Sub-county Water Supply and Sanitation Boards (SWSSB) at the center of the O&M system. The Water User Committee (WUC) manages the source on behalf of the users and ensures registration with the SWSSB. The WUC collects the monthly contributions by every household using the water source and remits 80% of the collection to the SWSSB. In return, the SWSSB contracts the Hand Pump Mechanic Association (HPMA) which designates one Hand Pump Mechanic (HPM) to carry out preventive maintenance. The private dealers ensure that spare parts are available at all times. The Ministry of Water and Environment, District and sub-county

Local Governments are responsible for monitoring and supervision, audits, technical support, quality control, extension services, provision of spare parts and providing start up (seed) funds where available.

This approach addresses several weaknesses of conventional Community Based Management Systems (CBMS) while ensuring that plans for preventive maintenance are in place and are monitored; O&M funds collected are safeguarded and available when needed; business opportunities for members of the HPMA are secure and in return their services are reliable and of good quality.



Improved management of rural water sources keeps us healthy - everybody has a role to play!



The relationship between SNV and the district is very good and strong. On behalf of the district, I promise continued support to ensure success of the project. All the district political wing and technocrats shall work tirelessly to support the attainment of the overall project goal."

Marley Ben Law,
Deputy Chief Administrative Officer, Kole district

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Good Governance

The IWAS project is being implemented in partnership with local governments and district based partners as part of SNV's approach to build capacities locally. Specifically, the projects efforts focus on strengthening the WUCs, HPMA and their members, the SWSSBs and enhancing capacity of sub-county and district extension workers to operationalize and monitor the new O&M system and coordinate with other actors. This is being undertaken using tailored measures such as training and mentoring.

The establishment of long-lasting and trusted working relationships is critical for governance strengthening efforts to succeed. A key aspect to ensure a professionally managed rural water supply system is to make the relationships more formal and accountable. Monitoring and supervision should be done by all stakeholders - the users, committee, sub-county and district leadership; while the District through the District Water Office provides technical support to the HPMA. Funds received by the SWSSB through the WUC are banked and payments to the HPMA effected through the bank.

2019 Results

- Functionality of the water supply facilities increased by 3.1% (from 84.6% in January 2019 to 87.7% in December 2019)
- Minor repairs were carried out on 27 boreholes through the sub-county based HPM, giving 6,750 people access to sustainable clean water
- 783 Water User Committees were re-established and trained, with focus on their roles, gender, environment and water safety
- 243 water sources were fenced and soak pits constructed to enhance water safety protection.
- Enhanced participation of leaders at all levels through participation in joint monitoring and community mobilization.
- 65 district and sub-county technical staff were trained on O&M processes, gender, environment, water safety.

- 21 sub-county Water Boards were established and trained on roles and responsibilities in O&M with a focus on governance and accountability.
- Enhanced capacity of the local partners' staff (Children's Chance International and GLOFORD) through their partnership with SNV in project implementation.
- 4 HPMA supported to update their business plans and capacity of the executive committee members strengthened through training on team building, and conflict management and contracting.

2020 priorities

With the outbreak of COVID 19 pandemic, project implementation has been adjusted to ensure compliance with the Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) issued by government. The adjustments are also aimed at supporting district endeavors to increase functionality to ensure that water for drinking and hand washing is available in the communities.

The project has embarked on implementation of the preventive maintenance contracts signed between the HPMA and the SWSSBs of the four project districts. Professionalising of private sector services for O&M and functionality provided by the HPMA will thus be prioritised in 2020.

The strengthening and professionalization of revamped O&M institutional structures at community (WUC) and sub-county (SWSSB) level continues at high gear. Enhancing water safety and protection through; fencing, soakpit construction and promotion of hygienic practices such as hand washing with soap and use of clean water collection and storage containers will remain high among the project's priorities.



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