



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



### We enhance 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 Corporation (ADC). Phase II covers four districts within the Lango sub-region: Lira, Alebtong, Dokolo and Kole and started in January 2019 after the successful completion of Phase I (December 2014-December 2017). 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.

### Problem Statement

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.

The Water and Environment Sector Performance Report 2018 ranked functionality of rural water sources at 85% while basic water coverage in rural areas stands at 70% - both have stagnated over the last years.

Poor functionality is attributed to a number of factors including; weak capacity of communities to manage their water sources, weak institutional support mechanism, 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!

### This is where the IWAS project comes in!

### IWAS Design

3 pillars towards sustainable O&M

The project interventions are spread over the following three components:

Deepening and strengthening the IWAS model by incorporating learning from IWAS phase I.

1

Expanding and replicating the IWAS model in additional sub-counties in Lira, Alebtong and Dokolo Districts as well as sub-counties in the neighbouring district of Kole.

2

Aligning and embedding the IWAS model by strengthening the systems and policy environment around its implementation, including institutionalising the model within government performance assessment frameworks and advocating for its recognition and adoption.

3

## IWAS Model - a success story in its second phase

The IWAS Model puts the Sub-county Water Supply and Sanitation Boards (SWSSB) at the center of the operation and maintenance (O&M) system.

The water user committee (WUC) manages the source on behalf of the users and ensures the water source is registered with the SWSSB and that every household using the water source makes monthly contributions, 80% of which is remitted to the SWSSB.

In return, the SWSSB contracts the Hand Pump Mechanic Association (HPMA) who designates one hand pump mechanic from the sub-county to carry out preventive maintenance.

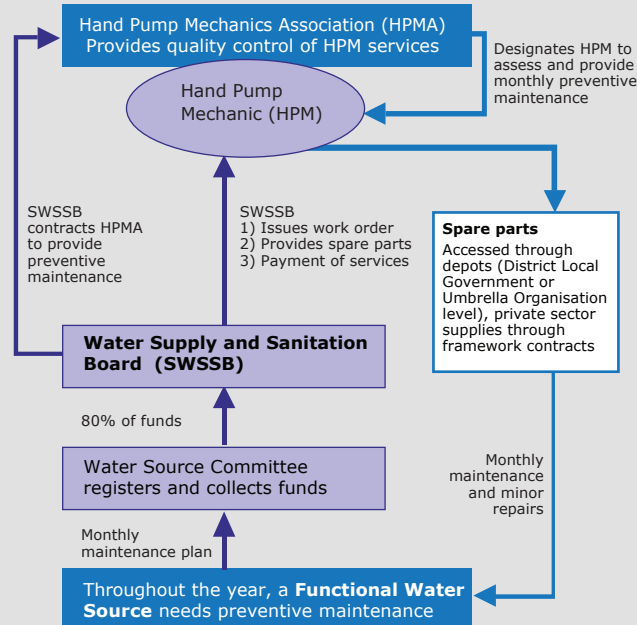
The private spare parts dealers ensure that spares are available at all times.

The Ministry of Water and Environment, District and Sub-county Local Governments are responsible for monitoring and supervision, technical support, quality control, extension services, provision of spare parts, seed funds where available and audit.

This approach addresses several weaknesses of conventional Community Based Management Systems (CBMS) at the same time; first and foremost: a plan for preventive maintenance is put in place and monitored; O&M funds collected are safeguarded and available when needed; business opportunities for members of the Hand Pump Mechanics Association are more secure and in return their services are reliable and of good quality.

### Ministry of Water and Environment, District and Sub-county Local Governments

Monitoring and supervision, technical support, quality control, extension services, spare parts seed fund and audit



Improved community based management of rural water facilities requires a collective effort - 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.*

**Mr. Marley Ben Law**

Deputy Chief Administrative Officer, Kole district.

### For more information contact

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### IWAS - Areas of support and target

Under Phase II, no new infrastructure will be constructed. The project is being implemented in partnership with local governments and district based partners as part of SNV's localisation approach to build capacities of local actors and district /sub-county staff. A key aspect of the project will be to ensure a more professionally managed rural water supply system by making the relationships more formal and accountable. Specifically, the project will strengthen the water user committees, hand pump mechanic association members, sub-county and district extension workers and the Sub-county water supply and sanitation boards. This will be undertaken through capacity building at district, Sub-county, community and private sector level using tailored measures such as training, coaching or mentoring.

This support will lead to the following results at the end of the three years of project implementation:

- Improved capacity of district and sub-county technical staff to operationalise, strengthen and monitor O&M system structures.
- Strengthened and professionalised O&M institutional structures at community and sub-county level (water and sanitation water source committees and sub-county water supply & sanitation boards).
- Enhanced private sector support for O&M and functionality (Hand Pump Mechanics Associations).
- Improved learning and coordination on the O&M system at both district and national levels and.
- Institutionalisation of the IWAS model within government performance assessment frameworks.

### IWAS - Status and progress

IWAS is on track so far:

- Stakeholder inception workshops were conducted in 22 sub-counties within the four districts. This has enhanced project stakeholders understanding and participation in the project.
- Baseline data on water source existence and functionality, Sub-county water board functionality and hand pump mechanics in each Sub-county was collected. The findings are being used to guide project interventions and implementation.
- 65 district and Sub-county extension workers (34 male, 31 female) acquired skills in software aspects of WASH, gender, environment, water safety, etc. through the refresher trainings that were held.

### Baseline - result highlights

Out of the 806 water sources analysed;

- 86%** are functional and **14%** are not.
- 66%** have WUCs in place that require strengthening and **34%** do not have any WUCs.
- 56%** of water users are collecting O&M funds.
- 43%** of members of SWSSBs are new
- 37%** out of the 111 hand pump mechanics in the three districts are not registered with the HPMA.

The project is now embarking on its activities in line with the project targets while taking into account the baseline results.



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