



## Sanitation for Millions - Uganda

### SAFELY MANAGED SANITATION FOR INSTITUTIONS AND COMMUNITIES

#### Background

*Sanitation for Millions* is a global programme improving access to safe sanitation and hygiene with a focus on vulnerable and disadvantaged groups. More than two million people have already benefitted directly from the project's measures. *Sanitation for Millions* builds female-friendly and inclusive sanitary facilities at schools, healthcare facilities, and faith-based institutions, trains local professionals to operate and maintain them, and promotes safe hygiene practices through targeted campaigns and knowledge transfer.

*Sanitation for Millions* was commissioned by the German Federal Ministry of Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ) in 2016. With the BMZ as the lead donor, *Sanitation for Millions* has received additional funding from the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, Water Unite, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade of Hungary, the Inter-American Development Bank, and share GmbH. The Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH executes the global programme in close cooperation with local partners in Colombia, Jordan, Pakistan, and Uganda.

#### Sanitation Challenges in Uganda

In FY 2020/21 access to safely managed sanitation stood at 40.7% in the urban and 9% in the rural context. Access to hand-washing with soap was at 53.4% and 35.8% respectively (Natural Resources, Environment, Climate Change, Land and Water Management - Programme Performance Report 2022). The sanitation and hygiene situation is precarious, due to insufficient WASH infrastructure and inadequate behaviors. The continued influx of persons in flight situations and other vulnerable groups in urban informal settlements amplifies the deficient conditions. Services along the sanitation chain usually are inadequate, insufficient and neither fully regulated nor controlled.

#### Sanitation for Millions Interventions in Uganda

*Sanitation for Millions* implements globally proven practices and follows a multi-level approach of close cooperation with structures on local, district, regional and national level. Interventions are fully aligned with the political framework set by the Government of Uganda through the Ministry of Water and Environment (MWE), the Ministry of Health (MoH), and the Ministry of Education and Sports (MoES). In the actual implementation



A Hausmeister fixing a broken WASHaLOT



Routine cleaning of sanitation facilities at a health care facility



phase (10/2022–09/2025) *Sanitation for Millions* transfers learnings from Kampala and Apac to the small towns of Anaka cluster in Northern Uganda: Pungo, Olwiyo, Amuru, Anaka, and Kochi Goma.

#### WASH in Public Institutions

The programme widened its focus to selected Health Care Facilities (HCFs), with the objective to establish model institutions and to incentivize peer-to-peer learning

- Construction of inclusive WASH facilities
- Trainings on contextualized tools like WHO's Water and Sanitation for Health Facility improvement Tool (WASHFIT) and the Infection Prevention and Control Assessment Framework (IPCAF)
- Establishment of sustainable O&M mechanisms through Training of Trainers
- Promotion of adequate hygiene and infection prevention and control (IPC) practices
- Running of the 'Toilets Making the Grade® (TMG)' school competitions

#### Faecal Sludge Management (FSM)

The programme supports the MWE to incubate the sanitation service chain:

- In partnership with the Northern Umbrella of Water and Sanitation (NUWS) support of local pit emptiers by transforming their approach from manual into semi-mechanised pit emptying
- Roll-out of a business model for the private sector to operate ministry-owned emptying trucks under lease agreements
- 'Demand creation' and increased construction of emptyable toilets at institutional and household level



Pupils celebrating during Toilets Making the Grade award ceremony



Worshippers at a mosque using the new ablution station



Handing over of a new cesspool truck to the Ministry of Water and Environment

## Innovative Financing

Cooperation with local partners in “innovative financing” for investments in non-sewered sanitation infrastructure:

- In cooperation with the MWE, a piloted results-based financing model for ‘incentive payments’ on delivery of pre-agreed outputs that stipulated in their performance-based contracts
- Investigating options for “sanitation subsidies”, and encouraging the political dialogue on local, national, and international level

## Policy and governance support

- Support of MWE and MoH to develop the national sanitation policy for urban sanitation
- Development of Town Sanitation Plans (TSPs) and Shit Flow Diagrams (SFDs) for Anaka cluster towns
- Support the development of sanitation byelaws and minimum standards for sanitation facilities by the local governments of Anaka cluster

## Outlook

*Sanitation for Millions* will continue to support creation of access to safely managed sanitation as well as improved environmental and human health conditions through a combination of policy advice, development of robust and up-scalable infrastructure, awareness raising, measures for behavioral change, governance best-practices, and innovative financing mechanisms. With credible lessons learnt, the programme will utilize its role as a highly appreciated partner on meso, policy, and grassroot level, especially regarding its niche position and previous successes in cooperation with the local

administrative units on urban sanitation. Through standardization of reliable technical and implementation approaches, *Sanitation for Millions* will build on the added value of a global programme: global experiences will furthermore be incorporated into Uganda-specific interventions, and lessons from Uganda are carried to other countries. Developed standard approaches benefit partners for upscale and sustainability and will be available in the future for other programmes concerning health, education, refugees, integrated urban development, rural development, and governance.

## Highlights 2017-2023

- 785.000 persons served with access to safe sanitation through construction (incl. 670 toilet stances) and software measures in 29 schools, 17 health centres, 9 faith-based institutions, 4 markets and 153 households
- Around 1,3 million additional persons served with access to 780 handwashing stations
- 1.800 experts trained on WASH related topics
- 225.000 pupils reached through the Toilets Making the Grade® school competitions at 220 participating schools
- Continuous involvement of political icons
- Cesspool truck leasing model upscaled to Yumbe cluster
- Weyonje-North app introduced in northern Uganda towns allowing real time monitoring of faecal sludge service provision
- Standardized information, education & communication (IEC) materials and several publications (see [www.sanitationformillions.org](http://www.sanitationformillions.org))
- Coordination of the stakeholders’ discussion on harmonized sanitation regulations



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