

## WHO WE ARE

DROP IN THE BUCKET IS A 501(c)(3) CHARITY THAT WAS FORMED BY A GROUP OF ENTERTAINMENT INDUSTRY PROFESSIONALS WHO, AFTER LEARNING ABOUT THE DEADLY WATER CRISIS IN SUB-SAHARAN AFRICA, SET OUT TO DO SOMETHING TO CHANGE IT.

IN THE LAST FOUR YEARS WE HAVE WORKED WITH THE BEST AND BRIGHTEST ENGINEERS, INNOVATORS, ECONOMISTS AND EXPERTS ON AFRICAN CULTURE TO BETTER UNDERSTAND THE UNIQUE CHALLENGES ASSOCIATED WITH THE WORLD'S DEVELOPING WATER CRISIS.

## OUR PROGRAM

DROP IN THE BUCKET PROVIDES EVERYTHING FROM SHALLOW WELLS AND RAIN WATER HARVESTING TANKS TO DRILLED BOREHOLES. ADDITIONALLY, DROP IN THE BUCKET HAS COLLABORATED WITH ENGINEERS TO FIRST DEVELOP, THEN FACILITATE THE INSTALLATION OF THE MOST ADVANCED, ENVIRONMENTALLY-SUSTAINABLE, PERMANENT SEPTIC SYSTEM AVAILABLE IN RURAL SUB-SAHARAN AFRICA.

DROP IN THE BUCKET IS INVOLVED IN EVERY STEP OF THE PROCESS: WE TARGET LOCATIONS, MOBILIZE COMMUNITIES, APPROVE BUDGETS, MONITOR SCHEDULES AND TRACK SUCCESS RATES FOR A MINIMUM OF ONE YEAR.

WE HAVE CURRENTLY CONSTRUCTED OVER 90 WATER WELLS AS WELL AS A NUMBER OF SANITATION SYSTEMS AT LOCATIONS IN TANZANIA, MOZAMBIQUE, SOUTH SUDAN, CHAD, KENYA AND UGANDA.

## WHY WE ARE DIFFERENT

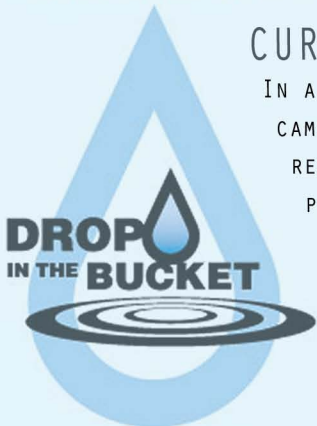
WE BELIEVE THAT IT IS OUR RESPONSIBILITY NOT ONLY TO PROVIDE HUMANITARIAN AID BUT TO HELP STIMULATE THE LOCAL ECONOMY. WE ARE INVOLVED WITH EVERY STEP OF TARGETING LOCATIONS FOR THE WELLS, APPROVING BUDGETS, MONITORING SCHEDULES, MOBILIZING COMMUNITIES AND TRACKING INDIVIDUAL SUCCESS RATES.

CHILDREN ARE A PRIMARY FOCUS OF OUR PROGRAM. THE MAJORITY OF OUR WATER AND SANITATION PROJECTS ARE CENTERED AROUND SCHOOLS AND ORPHANAGES.

A CORNERSTONE OF OUR APPROACH IS A COMMITMENT TO LOW OVERHEAD AND MINIMAL OPERATING COSTS. WE ARE DEDICATED TO GUARANTEEING OUR DONORS THAT AS MUCH OF THEIR HARD-EARNED MONEY GOES DIRECTLY INTO THE PROJECTS AS POSSIBLE. MUCH OF OUR FUNDING COMES FROM SCHOOLS, FAMILIES AND INDIVIDUALS JUST LIKE YOU. IF A PERSON OR GROUP SPONSORS A WATER WELL OR FUNDS A COMPLETE WATER AND SANITATION SYSTEM, WE WILL PLACE A TILE WITH THE INSCRIPTION OF THE DONORS CHOICE ON THE PROJECT PROVIDING TANGIBLE PROOF OF THE HUMANITARIAN IMPACT.

## CURRENT FOCUS

IN A CONTINUING EFFORT TO LOCATE THE MOST NEEDY AREAS, WE HAVE RECENTLY ADDED A LARGE CAMPAIGN FOCUSING ON THE WAR-TORN REGIONS OF NORTHERN UGANDA AND SOUTHERN SUDAN. BOTH REGIONS HAVE BEEN GREATLY AFFECTED BY MORE THAN TWO DECADES OF WAR. SOUTHERN SUDAN, IN PARTICULAR, IS WIDELY-RECOGNIZED AS ONE OF THE MOST UNDERDEVELOPED REGIONS OF THE WORLD, WITH FEW ROADS, SCHOOLS AND HOSPITALS; FEW PEOPLE IN THE COUNTRY HAVE RECEIVED EVEN BASIC EDUCATION. IN THE PAST TWO YEARS, WE HAVE BEEN VERY ACTIVE IN NORTHERN UGANDA, AND EXPANDED INTO SOUTHERN SUDAN IN SPRING 2010. WE ARE EXCITED TO PARTICIPATE IN THIS REBUILDING AS IT RELATES TO WATER AND SANITATION.



THE GIFT OF WATER IS THE GIFT OF LIFE

## Water project lures girls back to school

Publication date: Tuesday, 4th January, 2011



**Pupils of Pece Pawel Primary School clean their toilets**

**By Chris Ocowun**

WITH a polythene bag slung across the shoulders, her eyes pry around the school compound like a stranger. Before entering the classroom, she walks to the far end where the school toilets are located. Later, she emerges with a grin and dashes to class.

### **What is the motivation?**

Winnie Akol, the 12-year-old girl, is back to school after getting the news that her former school has a modern flushing toilet synonymous with modern urban establishments.

She had dropped out of school the year before because she could not have any privacy, especially during her menstrual cycle. Akol represents a wave of excitement at Pece Pawel Primary School in Pece division, Gulu town. Since March last year when the school started using the flush toilets, many pupils, especially girls returned.

"About 10 girls who had dropped out because of poor sanitation and lack of washrooms re-joined P.4, P.5 and P.6 classes at the start of last term," the deputy head teacher of the school, Grace Evelyn, Akeni reveals.

From using unhygienic pit latrines with floors flooded with filth, pupils and teachers now use flushing toilets, courtesy of Drop in the Bucket, a US-based NGO. Prior to the construction of the three-step water sanitation system, the school was using 16 old dilapidated pit latrines.

### **Flush toilets a better option**

Unlike schools that still use dirty pit latrines with unbearable hygiene conditions, Pece Pawel Primary School does not experience any stench from the flush toilets since pupils started using them eight months ago. Sanitation experts and engineers say these flush toilets can serve the school for about 20 years.

"This eco-sanitation system is good for schools in urban areas with limited land for expansion. There is no air pollution," Pece division health inspector Betty Atim remarks.

### **How it is built**

The director of Drop in the Bucket, Stacey Travis, explains the processes involved in building the eco-sanitation flush toilet system.

First, we installed a water well with a modified hand pump that sends some of the well water into a designated container to be used for general water needs, while the rest of the water goes into a separate reservoir tank of about 1,500 litres.

Next, we attached to this tank another pump, but this one is operated by a piece of playground equipment called a roundabout. Each time the children play on the roundabout, water is pumped from the reservoir tank to a hand-washing station and two sets of flushing toilets.

In the final step, we connected the toilets to a delayed septic system with seven different compartments through which the waste from the toilets flows.

### **Advantage of the system**

Travis says a delayed septic system is designed to break down sewage into, 100% pathogen-free, and 85% pure water in 28 days. This prevents the problem of toxicity from accumulated sewage, and the risk of groundwater contamination during the rainy season.

"This pathogen-free water from the toilets can be used for irrigation by the communities around," Travis notes.

She adds that the eco-sanitation system is simple and environmental friendly as opposed to pit latrines.

"Unlike the pit latrines which are smelly and dirty, these flush toilets are always clean. The pupils clean the toilets daily and each child brings two rolls of toilet paper every term," Akeni says.

### **Pupils, parents excited**

Walter Ochora, 11, a P.4 pupil, says using the flush toilets is more enjoyable than the pit-latrines.

"The flush toilets do not have maggots and a bad smell like the pit latrines," Ochora says.

He says Drop in the Bucket should expand the eco-sanitation system to other schools in the region to save the children from the risk of contracting diseases like cholera and dysentery.

Vincent Opio, a parent, acknowledges the usefulness of the eco-sanitation system of flush toilets because the toilets ensure good health of their children.

The health inspectors from Pece division now want the authority of Pece Pawel Primary School to demolish the dilapidated filled up pit latrines which have been abandoned.

### **Other beneficiaries**

Other schools where Drop in the Bucket has built eco-sanitation flush toilets include Onywako Primary School in Barr sub-county in Lira district, Alela Modern Primary School in Alebtong district and St. Ponsiano Primary School in Mwanda, central Uganda.

Drop in the Bucket is also carrying out similar charity work in schools in Southern Sudan, according to Travis.

### **Cost of the project**

According to Travis, drilling a borehole and building 10 stances of flush toilets in the school cost about sh30m. She says the project was cheaper because the community also contributed bricks and

other building materials.

She adds that in places where there is no community contribution, it can cost between sh40 and sh45m to build such a system and borehole.

### **Challenges**

According to Travis, one of the challenges Drop in the Bucket faces in establishing ecosan flush toilets is getting support from the community.

"We tried so hard to fight those negative attitudes by involving them in the project through provision of building materials like sand, bricks and stone aggregates for the sustainability of the project," Travis says.

She says they also try to unite the communities around the selected schools by organising them in a water users' committee for proper maintenance of the boreholes.

This article can be found on-line at: <a href="http://www.newvision.co.ug/D/9/35/742793">http://www.newvision.co.ug/D/9/35/742793</a>
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