

Project title

Restore 10 water springs for 7500 Kasese villagers

Project background description

The project is to be implemented in one Sub County of Kitholhu in Kasese District, which is one of the districts in Western Uganda located at the border of Uganda with the Democratic Republic of Congo, about 450 kilometers from the capital Kampala. It is at the footsteps of the Rwenzori Mountain, *the snow mountain*, with an undulating mountainous landscape to the west and semi-arid to the west, and it hosts the Queen Elizabeth and Rwenzori national parks. The district has a total population of about 600,000 people of whom 80% are the Bukonzo tribe. It has one of the highest growth rates of 3.7% compared to the national rate of 3.4%. The main economic activity is subsistence agriculture but with booming trade at the cross-country border points. All its rivers are glaciers from the snow mountain; and have plenty of fresh vegetables and fruits produced from the hills. Some of the main challenges faced by the district as revealed by the district development plan (2005-2008) have remained High levels of poverty with over 60% of the population said to be living below the poverty line (earns < 1 US dollar per day); low literacy levels (50%) and high level of food insecurity (60% of families eat one meal a day). Thus an acute lack of basic needs of an ordinary person, Low awareness on how to harness the available resources so as to improve on the quality of life, High HIV prevalence rates (about 11.2%) and high levels of teenage pregnancies characterize this population. This has been largely attributed to the ADF war that ravaged the area in 1996, leading to major socio-economic reversals in the area.

Description of the community (village or organization) and of the beneficiaries: total population, by gender (the ratio men/women), age, social sector.

The Sub county is highly dominated by the population of young people (the Youth) aged from 10 to 29 years who are on the other hand have not accessed formal education and therefore a big percentage of the population in these areas lack access to quality information related to quality services because they are socially illiterate with no starting point to even demand for feedback from their elected leaders. Kitholhu sub county has a total population of 37,493 (24,781 women and 12,712 men) among which 19,896 are young people aged 10 to 29 years (11,210 female and 8,686 males), meaning that the remaining total population of 17,597 people are from 30 years and above. (Source: The Uganda National Household Survey (UNHS) Report 2005/06).

(5) Project description:

a. Previous history and project rationale - Problem(s) which the project aims to solve or need(s) it aims to meet.

The link between access to safe water and the overall health of the people of Kitholhu Sub County in Western Uganda, Kasese District is still very low due to their location to clean water sources that may allow taped and clean water. Access to water, let alone safe water, is greatly lacking in many villages of this sub county; the water sources that exist are often severely contaminated, making cyclical bouts of severe illnesses and premature deaths a part of everyday life. In Kitholhu Sub County, 10% of deaths in children under the age of 5 are simply due to diarrhea and Cholera from contaminated water used. For these reasons, safe water is often our

top priority for the people of Kasese District mainly focusing on such areas that entirely travel more than 3 Kilometers to access a 5 liter bottle of clean water and because of these long distances, most people cannot manage to travel everyday but rather use these contaminated water wells which needs to be constructed well to allow safe water supply to the people.

In the search for solutions to this problem, Africa Community Connect (ACCON) has adopted a three phase approach to safe water provision:

- Safe water sources: Community Constructed water Wells -- built by communities working together will be rehabilitated and ensure community involvement in sustaining them.
- Safe water storage: Sensitization on the safe water chain.
- Point-of-use safe water interventions: Water Guard chlorination through household use and or water boiling before drinking as the cheapest means used locally.

This integrated approach will work to ensure that families are drawing from safe sources through the promotion of Community Constructed water Wells, and follows global guidelines on best practices to ensure water safety. According to the World Health Organization, the objectives of a water safety plan are to ensure safe drinking water through a chain of safe water strategies, which include:

- Preventing contamination of source waters;
- Treating/boiling the water to reduce or remove contamination that could be present to the extent necessary to meet the water quality targets; and
- Preventing re-contamination during storage, distribution, and handling of drinking water.

Even if citizens have access to water, if it is contaminated or poorly sanitized, it can have an adverse effect on the health of Uganda's population. The lack of clean and safe drinking water directly and negatively influences quality of life, food security, social and economic development, and efforts to eliminate poverty

Overall objective of the project.

Improved sustainable access to clean water for target communities of Kitholhu Sub County by 25.4% by the end of 2015

Specific purpose

7500 women, children and youth to access clean water sources, hygiene and sanitation information by the end of 2015

Beneficiaries

Target beneficiaries of this project are the Women, youth and children. Basically these are people who toil so hard travelling long distances looking for clean water and are predominantly affected by a lack of access to clean water and water sources with quality information to maintain safe water chain, from the time of collection, storage to the time of use. Direct beneficiaries targeted are 7500 (5300 females and 2200 males) all these include the youth, women and children.

Actions undertaken and, for each of the activities, needed technical and human means, planned activities/procedures and expected results

The actions planned will involve the community people/beneficiaries who will directly be involved in mobilization of other members of the community to access information related to the procedures that will be undertaken in implementing the project, this process will undertake the

provision of responsibilities to members of the community in ensuring sustainability measures are adopted, this level of engagement expects an outcome where people take actions to solve their problems through concerted efforts supplemented by other development partners, this will be followed by reworking the water sources together with the community involvement sensitizing the beneficiaries on how best sanitation can be maintained at the water sources will then follow, restoration of water sources will provide clean and safe water to more than 7500 community members. An evaluation exercise will be conducted by conducting post implementation community surveys in the areas targeted by the project to have quality and evidence based information on the levels and extend to which people are accessing and sustaining clean water sources and looking at the reduced rate of water borne diseases among the youth, women, children and the entire community. This will be done in a participatory way together with communities for ownership of the whole project.

Expected results:

- 7500 people will be able to access clean water and improved sanitation which will enhance their health conditions at both household and community levels.
- Improved and sustainable clean water sources for the people to access clean water
- Improved knowledge and skills in maintaining the safe water chain
- A healthy population will be enhanced which will later contribute to the improvement of a productive society for sustainable economic livelihoods.

Availability and property of necessary infrastructures

The availability and property of necessary infrastructures will be the existing water sources that shall be rehabilitated to best standards that will provide Water Safety Plan (WSP), on the other hand, water sources exists within the lands of the direct beneficiaries who are willing to have these sources rehabilitated for the public good and will be owned by everyone regardless of their location as agreed by the local people.

Availability of preliminary studies (feasibility and market studies)

For purposes of this project, a feasibility study was carried out by Africa Community Connect (ACON) together with the community leaders in June 2014 and the findings were that; water sources are existing though in bad state, most of them are contaminated and others not cared for yet people continue to fetch water from these sources, the fact that the geographical location of the areas cannot allow having tapped water into households from far distant streams, the best solution to this is that the existing water sources can be rehabilitated and a reserve tank be designed to store and provide clean water for the people with no cost at all given that a lot of diarrhea and cholera cases are reported in Kitholhu sub county due to lack of clean water sources and the process of handling during use. It is therefore in no hesitation that the current need for clean water if it continues there will also be continued poor performance of women and youths participating in development programs since most of their time is spent in looking for clean water far distant from their households.

Project financial aspects: expected global cost, components and contributions

The general expected global cost and contributions of this project will not directly be financial but it is strongly linked to the contribution of the achievement of Sustainable Development Goals

(SDG) number 1 (**Eradicate extreme poverty and hunger**) whereby as people access clean water in their area, it will reduce the burden of water borne diseases and create more room for a health society able to contribute to the economy of their area and save more resources that would have been spend on health care treatment(*Proportion of population below \$1.25 per day (PPP values)*); and SDG 7 (**Ensure environmental sustainability**), as water sources are sustainably preserved for effective use at domestic level without destroying its natural setup, it contributes to the Proportion of population with sustainable access to an improved water source, urban and rural.

Method of management, functioning or equipment maintenance

The management process of the restored water sources will be solely under the direct supervision of the local people/beneficiaries taking full responsibility in ensuring that sanitation around the wells including sites technical management are maintained, this in linkage with the Community Based Water Monitoring teams will ensure clean water sources are sustainably used for a public good even for future generation. This is one best sustainability strategy laid by this project, because it is a community driven demand kind of project.

Scheduling and mailing of execution reports: amount, periodicity

Africa Community Connect is mandated to share all reports of all executed work done on a quarterly basis to Global Giving and other community stakeholders for timely updates and progress for effective transparency and accountability. However, the communication mechanism will depend on the Global Giving guidelines in as far as reporting is concerned, however, Africa Community (ACCON) uses online reporting (using an email ID provided by the donor for quick feedback)