



BridgIT

Water Foundation

Completion Report & Acquittal

**Rural Village Well Refurbishment
Mukono Region, Uganda**

**Sponsored by: BridgIT Water Foundation USA
Refurbished Wells for Rural Communities**

Duration 8th January 2021 to 25th March 2021

Managing Partner: **BridgIT Water Foundation, Australia**

Implementing Regional Partner: **Suubi Community Projects, Uganda**

Introduction

Organisation (Partner) Name:		Suubi Community Projects Uganda (SCPU)	
Partner Contact:	Steven Beingana	Report Date:	29 th March 2021
Partner Contact Title:	Director		
Country:	Uganda		
Project / Program Name:	Rural Community Well Refurbishment Program		
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Donor:	BWF USA TW/GG Campaign	Project Status:	Completed

Brief Implementing Partner Introduction & Approach:



Suubi Community Projects Uganda (SCPU) is a registered non-government organisation in Uganda.

SCPU's mission is **"to help improve access to clean and safe**

water and the quality of health and education service delivery for the neediest communities in rural Uganda".

For the past 6 years, SCPU has been working in the rural areas of Uganda on programs that are focused on: increasing access to safe water and sanitation, improving health service delivery, improving education service delivery and economic empowerment for rural community members.

SCPU's approach is based on the **self-help model** and community ownership of all their projects believing this is a more sustainable approach to foster the development of rural communities.

SCPU has broad experience working with both local and international donors and volunteers in managing and implementing WASH projects. For the past 6 years the organization has implemented the construction and/or repair of 215 boreholes.

This project is now successfully completed.

This report shows how project funds were spent and the impact project funds have made to the beneficiary communities.

Background to Project

In January and February 2021, SCPU received a grant from BridgIT Water Foundation Australia (BWF) under the sponsorship of **BWF USA Tom Webber GG Campaign** for the refurbishment of **9 community water wells in Mukono District**.

Project Rationale & Context

In sub-Saharan Africa, one in every three wells are in non-working order, most commonly because in the past, many government and non-government organisation's have equipped a drilled well and left. There was rarely any training provided on well maintenance, the establishment of a water user committee, or routine follow-ups.

When the hand pump eventually needs repair, the communities are unable to do so because of lack of resources, proper management or any sense of ownership.

In most cases, the repair simply requires an overhaul of the hand pump system, but this cost is way too high for the communities to fund if they have not been pooling together a maintenance fund for the past couple of years.

COVID-19 Impact

To date the cumulative confirmed cases of COVID-19 in Uganda are 40,882 and 335 deaths. Unfortunately, we experienced the highest rate of new infections in the community over the past 4 months. The practice of frequently washing hands with safe water and soap is key to controlling the spread. However, when communities can't easily access water, it is difficult to wash hands.

As the Ugandan government attempts to slowly lift COVID restrictions, schools need to have a running water source on the compound in order to reopen. This requirement has left many rural schools closed.

Refurbishing existing broken wells, has been prioritized during the COVID-19 pandemic, because it is a quick and cheap way to restore access to safe water for communities so that proper hygiene can be practiced as a means of controlling the spread of the virus.

Beneficiaries & Stakeholders

This project beneficiaries and stakeholders are 1,616 households in 9 rural communities and 3 schools in the Mukono District. The program allowed a total of **9,692 people**, including approximately 1,200 school children to benefit with a safe drinking water Well.

- ❖ All refurbished boreholes are located centrally in the village so that most households can access it within 500mtrs allowing people to have water in their homes to wash their hands regularly as needed.

No.	Community Name	Description	H/Holds	People Impacted
1.	Namuganga West	This borehole was installed by the Ugandan government more than 15 years ago and hadn't been functioning for the last 3 years. Community members were collecting dirty water from streams approx. 2km away.	220	1,322
2.	Lukyamu	This borehole was installed by the Ugandan government more than 20 years ago and has been broken down for 4 years. Community members were collecting dirty water from streams approx. 2km away.	95	570
3.	Kiteredde	This borehole was installed by the Ugandan government more than 15 years ago and has not been working for 3 years. Community members were collecting dirty water from streams approx. 2km away.	167	1,000

4.	Kiwafu	This community borehole was installed by the local government 20 years ago. It broke down 6 years ago, and villagers resorted to collecting water from swamps. The refurbished Well will also provide safe water to a nearby school.	200	1,200
5.	Bukasa 1	This community borehole serves a semi urban village with many employees from a nearby sugar factory. It also serves a primary school. The borehole was installed 25 years ago by the Ugandan government which has been broken down for about 8 years. The school and community were struggling walking long distances to collect water from neighboring villages.	200	1,200
6.	Kisoga	The residents of this semi-urban village urgently needed safe water to control the Covid pandemic. They were living in fear since households were not getting water to practice hand washing as needed. The borehole was installed by a well-wisher 11 years ago and broke down 2 years ago in need of a complete hand pump overhaul. Although the residents were motivated enough and willing to take charge of their well, they were never trained and mobilized for that when the borehole was put in. After completing the needed repairs and training the villagers on a sustainability plan, they will manage to maintain their water source into the future.	150	900
7.	Kabiribiri	This community borehole was put in by a charitable organization about 20 years ago and has been out of use for 4 years, forcing residents to walk long distances to collect dirty water from swamps. The repaired borehole is located in the center of the village, close to households and very accessible.	167	1,000
8.	Bukasa 2	This community borehole serves a semi-urban village with many employees at a nearby sugar factory. It also serves a nearby primary school. The borehole was installed 15 years ago by the government and has been broken down for about 5 years. The school and community were struggling by walking long distances to collect water from neighboring villages.	217	1,300
9.	Kasana	The people were very glad and excited to once again be able to access safe water, after 4 years of struggling. They committed to work together with their WUC to maintain the well into the future.	200	1,200
Totals			1,616	9,692

* Populations figures are based on the number of households per community, allowing for 6 people per household.

Description of Funded Activities - Action & Methodology

The scope of work involved the refurbishment of existing hand pumps including replacement of all the pump parts and the implementation of water sustainability strategies by training Water User Committees.

The Wells have been successfully repaired by installing new hand pump parts including; 10 pipes, 10 rods, cylinder pumps, water tanks, and complete head assembly (Indian MarkII) and any necessary masonry work on the platform.

The project activities included:

- Carry out preliminary site clearing and mobilization
- Assess platform and drainage channel and provide materials for masonry work as required
- Pull pump and assess repairs
- Replace MKII pump cylinder, rods, pipes and pump head
- Establish and train village water committee on the use of / repair and sustainability of the equipment
- Install signage name plaques on each wellhead

- Replace MKII pump cylinder, rods, pipes and pump head

1. Namuganga West



2. Lukyama



3. Kiteredde



4. Kiwafu



5. Bukasa 1



6. Kisoga



7. Kabiriri



8. Bukasa 2



9. Kasana



- Signage Installation on each well head & completed wells in use

1. *Namuganga West*



2. *Lukyama*



3. *Kiteredde*



4. Kiwafu



5. Bukasa 1



6. Kisoga



7. Kabiribiri



8. Bukasa 2



9. Kasana



- **Establish and train village water committee on the use of / repair and sustainability of the equipment**

Water User Committees (WUC's) are essential to ensure the sustainability of any community water system. BridgIT and its implementing partners have observed that it is important that the community feels responsible for, and develops the capacity to manage the maintenance and operation of its own water access points. The establishment and training of WUC's is an integral part of every water project we implement; in every community we work with.

Lukyama Village Training



Kasana Village Training



A Water User Committee of 8 people were selected and trained for each of the 9 wells. The committee is made up of a Chairperson, Vice Chairperson, Secretary, Treasurer, 2 Caretakers and 2 members. At least 3 members must be women, and the post of Treasurer is specifically reserved for a woman. 2 young people must also be on the committee and at least 1 person with disability (PWD).

Project Impacts

Impact is expected in four areas:

(i) Access (ii) Health (iii) Education (iv) Labour force participation and hours worked

- Access to clean and safe water has been restored to 9,692 people including approx. 1,200 school children.
- School children, teachers and the villagers can wash their hands as a way to prevent the spread of COVID-19.
- On average, people will walk 500mtrs to access the water, as opposed to the 2km before the well was repaired.
- Incidence of diarrhoea and typhoid, especially among children less than 12 years are expected to reduce.
- Incidences of back pain especially among women and older girls is expected to reduce. This is because they no longer travel long distances while carrying the heavy containers filled with water.
- There is an average 2hours saved everyday especially by women who have the responsibility of fetching water. This time is now used for productive work on family farms or businesses.
- In families, women whose responsibility it is for water collection, can now save time to engage in economic activities.

Cross Cutting Themes - Gender Equality, People With Disabilities (PWD's) Inclusion & Environmental Management on BWF Programs

BridgIT Water Foundation and its partners are committed to avoiding, minimizing, and mitigating adverse environmental impacts as well as adopting a gender-sensitive and gender-equitable approach for all its projects.

Gender equality approaches were employed: We are aware that the success and effective use of water facilities depends on the involvement of women and men, boys and girls in selecting the location and technology of such facilities, and taking responsibility for management, operation and maintenance. The role of women, men, boys and girls in maintaining the borehole was not underestimated; it varies from preventive maintenance and repairs, to paying of user fees. Women, men and youth all hold equal representation on the Water User Committee, with the post of the Treasurer being reserved for a woman.

PWD Inclusion approaches were employed including: The composition of the Water User Committee reserves a special slot for the representation of a PWD. PWD's were equally consulted during site location, and they are empowered to equally participate in the maintenance and operation of the water source. Where they are heads of families and have active income, they as well contribute by paying user fees.

The refurbishment project did not have any adverse environmental impacts for the communities. The beneficiaries were trained to observe environmentally friendly approaches while they access and use the Wells.

Testimonials & Stakeholder Feedback



Loyce , 12 years old and a resident of Kasana village said:

"I have been waking up at 6am to walk the long distance to the swamp. Sometimes it would be dark and rainy and I would feel very sad and avoid going to school."

"With the refurbished well only 300mtrs away from our house, I can collect water very fast and get ready for school"



Dan Lwanga, a resident of Kiteredde Village said:

"Walking 3km through a thick sugarcane plantation was very frightening. Unfortunately it's the only path we had use to reach the water stream in the swamp."

"This repaired well is much closer to home and the water is clean. I am very happy for this help."



Maria Goretti, 78 years old and a resident at Namuganga West Village said:

“I live with my 4 grandchildren who all go to school at 7am in the morning. Many times they would manage to bring water at home as they would be in a hurry. It was a very long journey for me to the swamp to collect water.

The refurbished well is only 200mtrs away from my home and now I can collect water without a big burden.”

Training

The first training was offered to all members of the beneficiary communities at the pre-construction meetings. During this first encounter with the beneficiaries, we educate them about their responsibility during the project implementation and as well as the long-term commitment to acquiring the water source.

This meeting also entails good water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) practice guidance. WUC's were trained in basic maintenance and management of each of the water sources, and how they can help to maximise impact by enforcing other good sanitation practices like use of clean containers, boiling all drinking water, latrines for homes, and use of tippy taps.

Sustainability & Community Ownership

It is crucial that community ownership is established for the sustainability of the refurbished wells.

The sustainability of the wells largely depends on the beneficiary community. All 9 communities have been trained and empowered to take complete ownership of the Wells and plan for their future maintenance and repairs.

To ensure sustainability of project benefits, it is important that, after construction, physical conditions of infrastructure, water yield, and the status of operation, water quality, sanitary hazards, and financial viability are regularly monitored; initially by the implementing agency jointly with concerned Water User Committees, so that timely corrective measures can be taken without disruptions to the Well's function ability.

All this has been considered and put in place for the sustainability of these repaired wells.

Financial Acquittal

		UGX	US\$
Was the grant fully expended		Yes	Yes
BWF Grant Remaining		Nil	Nil
Budgeted Income			
Other Income		0	0
BWF Grant		39,420,000	\$10,800
Budgeted Expenditures			
<i>Description</i>	<i>Contractor Name</i>	<i>UGX</i>	<i>US\$</i>
<i>Construction Costs</i>	<i>Suubi Community Projects</i>		
Hand pump replacement, Indian Mark II x 9	"	27,922,500	\$7,650
Installation labor x 9	"	3,285,000	\$900
Masonry work x 9		1,642,500	\$450
Signage x 9		1,642,500	\$450
Travel costs x 9		1,149,750	\$315
Training costs x 9		1,642,500	\$450
Project management (Implementing Partner)		1,642,500	\$450
Other Costs (Bank charges and mobile money transfers)		492,750	\$135
Total Partner Expenditures		39,420,000	\$10,800
BridgIT Project Management & M&E Cost			\$1,350
Balance Remaining			Nil

Project Challenges

COVID-19. The project has been implemented at a time when COVID 19 cases are at rise in Uganda. The associated operating procedures affect travel and movement, training and interaction with the community. The number of people invited for training was limited, and our workers had to be cautious against any contact with the locals during the execution of their work. However, these were very important precautions for the safety of our team and the people we serve and we are glad that they are regularly observed.

National Elections. The months of January and February were filled with political campaigns and voting at different levels of the government. This caused delays for our work, and the associated political anxiety.

Lessons Learned

A healthy engagement with partners, the local government and the project beneficiaries has been helpful in finding the solutions for some of the challenges encountered. Our team was given clearance to move and continue work as essential workers during the lockdown. The lesson learned is to always keep the local government informed about our work and services.

Acknowledgements

Our gratitude goes to Mr. Tom Webber for his commitment and generosity towards this program. We thank all who donated on the Global Giving campaign.

We thank our funding partner, BridgIT Water Foundation and our implementing partner Suubi Community Projects staff for managing and coordinating the project.

Locally, we appreciate the members of the WUC's, program implementation teams, local leadership and the beneficiary population for their cooperation during the implementation of the project. The project succeeded with the efforts of all of you, thank you so much.

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