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# Completion Report

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

**Sponsored by: Mr. Peter Homstad (BWF USA)  
Safe Water for Rural Communities**

**Completed: 19<sup>th</sup> July 2021**

Managing Partner: **BridgIT Water Foundation, Australia**  
Implementing Regional Partner: **Suubi Community Projects, Uganda**

## Introduction

<b>Organisation (Partner) Name:</b>		<b>Suubi Community Projects Uganda (SCPU)</b>	
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<b>Project / Program Name:</b>	Rural Community Well Refurbishment Program		
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<b>Donor:</b>	Mr. Peter Homstad BWF USA Global Giving Campaign	<b>Project Status:</b>	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 7 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 7 years the organization has implemented the construction and/or repair of 230 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 June 2021, SCPU received a grant from BridgIT Water Foundation Australia (BWF) under the sponsorship of Mr. Peter Homstad through **BWF USA Global Giving Campaign** for the refurbishment of **1 community water well in Bukasa Village, 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 91,710 and 2,496 deaths. Unfortunately, we are experiencing 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.

Refurbishing 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 spreading of the virus.

## Beneficiaries & Stakeholders

The project beneficiaries are **167 households** in Bukasa Village in the Mukono District. The program allowed a total of **1,002 people** to once again access safe water from the borehole.

No.	Community Name	Description	Households	People Impacted
1.	Bukasa Village	<p>This borehole was installed by the Ugandan government more than 20 years ago and hadn't been functioning for the last 5 years. Community members were collecting dirty water from streams approx. 2km away.</p> <p>The refurbished borehole is located centrally in the village so that most households can access it less than 500mtrs away allowing people to have water in their homes to wash their hands regularly as needed.</p>	167	1,002

\* 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 an existing borehole by replacement of all the hand pump parts and the implementation of water sustainability strategies by training Water User Committees.

The Well was successfully repaired by installing new hand pump parts including; 10 pipes, 10 rods, cylinder pump, water tank, and a complete head assembly (Indian MarkII) and any necessary masonry work on the platform.





## Train and Establish a Water User Committee (WUC)



A WUC is 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 WUCs is an integral part of every water project we implement; in every community we work with.

A Water User Committee of 8 people was selected and trained for this refurbished well. 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 1,002 people including some 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.
- Incidences 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 move 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.



## 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 community. The beneficiaries were trained to observe environmentally friendly approaches while they access and use the Well.

## Testimonials & Stakeholder Feedback



**Mr. Joseph Kakande, 62 years old and a local leader of Bukasa village said:**

*“Our village borehole broke down and we did not have anything to do about it since the repair had a big financial cost. People resorted to walking into swamps to collect dirty water. It has been hard to enforce COVID related restrictions in this village since women and kids would sometimes have to go the swamps outside curfew time. Social distancing at those water holes is also difficult. This repaired well is going to help us so much. We will organize ourselves to prepare for its future maintenance and repair”*

## Training

The first training was offered to all members of the beneficiary community 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.

Below has been considered and put in place for the sustainability of this repaired well.

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

**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. The beneficiary community has been trained and empowered to take complete ownership of the Well and plan for 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.

## Project Challenges

**COVID-19.** The project has been implemented at a time when COVID 19 cases are rising, and the country is under lockdown. The associated operating procedures affect travel and movement, training and interaction with the community. The number of people invited for training was very 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.

**Bad weather:** It rained heavily on the day the team were out to execute the repair. This affected the quality of photos captured and quality of cleanliness around the well as the repairs were being done.

## 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 campaign. We thank all who donated on the Global Giving campaign. Our outmost appreciations go to Mr. Peter Homstad for sponsoring this particular well.

We thank BridgIT Water Foundation Australia for managing and coordinating the project so well.

Locally, we appreciate the members of the WUC, 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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