

Concept Note for improving girls' dignity through construction of 5 gender-sensitive latrines in 5 school in Wakiso District, Uganda

Project Title: Restore Dignity for 1000 girls through construction of school gender sensitive latrines

Background

The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development underscores the importance of balancing social, economic, and environmental dimensions, with a strong emphasis on Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene (WASH) in schools. Goal 6 aims to "ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all," with specific targets for universal access to safe drinking water (6.1) and adequate sanitation and hygiene (6.2). This includes eradicating open defecation and addressing the unique needs of women, girls, and vulnerable populations.

While Uganda has made progress toward achieving SDG Indicator 6.2, challenges persist. Urban access to sanitation stands at just 41%, with rural access as low as 61%, highlighting significant disparities. Schools in rural areas often mirror these challenges, lacking adequate sanitation facilities, clean toilets, and handwashing stations, which severely impact student health and attendance.

Despite its urban classification, School in Wakiso District face poor sanitation and hygiene access due to rapid population growth and urbanisation, which have strained school sanitation infrastructure. Many schools lack sufficient latrines, resulting in poor hygiene practices that disproportionately affect students' health, especially for girls.

This project aims to construct gender-sensitive latrines in selected Wakiso District schools, improving sanitation, promoting hygiene, and addressing critical challenges affecting student health, attendance, and academic performance. The initiative aligns with global and national commitments to sustainable development and inclusive education.

Problem Statement

In Wakiso District, inadequate sanitation and hygiene practices in primary schools pose serious health risks and hinder students' educational outcomes. Many schools lack sufficient and functional facilities, such as clean toilets and handwashing stations, leading to poor hygiene behaviours and heightened vulnerability to disease. The absence of effective hygiene education further compounds the problem, leaving many children unaware of basic practices critical for preventing illness.

This has resulted in high rates of waterborne and hygiene-related illnesses, contributing to increased absenteeism and reduced academic performance. The challenges are particularly severe for girls, who face additional barriers related to menstrual hygiene management, further affecting their school attendance and engagement.

Despite government policies aimed at improving school sanitation, inconsistent and insufficient implementation has left many schools struggling to meet basic standards. A targeted intervention is urgently needed to address these critical issues, ensuring all primary school students have access to a safe, hygienic learning environment that supports their health, dignity, and educational success.

Project Objective

- i. To improve access to functional sanitation facilities in five primary schools in Wakiso District by constructing clean, gender-sensitive latrines and handwashing stations.
- ii. To enhance hygiene practices among five primary school students by integrating effective hygiene education and awareness programmes.
- iii. To reduce absenteeism and health-related barriers to education, particularly for girls, by addressing menstrual hygiene management challenges and promoting a safe, inclusive learning environment

Project Activities

- i. To conduct assessments of selected schools to determine specific needs and optimal locations for latrine construction.
- ii. To construct latrines with adequate stance ratio of 40:1
- iii. To construct private changing rooms to provide privacy for girls during menstruation periods
- iv. To undertake hygiene education programs in schools to promote proper sanitation practices.

Target Beneficiaries

- **Direct Beneficiaries:** 1000 students (particularly girls) attending schools in Wakiso District.
- **Indirect Beneficiaries:** Teachers, families, and the broader community through improved health and sanitation practices.

Expected Outcomes

- Improved access to clean and safe latrine facilities in targeted schools.
- Increased awareness of hygiene practices among students and staff.
- Higher school attendance rates, particularly among girls.

Budget Estimate

A budget totalling to \$34,722 has been estimated to ensure that the planned interventions attained the desired goals.

Monitoring and Evaluation

PaCT will incorporate a robust monitoring and evaluation framework to assess progress against objectives, ensuring transparency and accountability. Key performance indicators will include the number of latrines constructed, student attendance rates, and feedback from students and staff.

Conclusion

Investing in proper sanitation facilities in schools is vital for enhancing health, educational performance, and gender equity in schools. This project aims to deliver immediate improvements in hygiene and safety while fostering long-term sanitation awareness, creating a foundation for healthier, more inclusive communities for future generations.