

EASTLANDER CHILDCARE ORGANIZATION UGANDA (ECCOU)

WASH PROJECT REPORT

Water Is Life: Bringing Safe Water, Sanitation and Hygiene to Vulnerable Communities in Bukedi Region, Uganda

Project Implementer: Eastlander Childcare Organization Uganda (ECCOU)

Project Location: Kibuku District (Bukedi Region), Eastern Uganda, with an initial focus on vulnerable communities in Kibuku District

Project Theme: Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH)

Target Groups: Orphans, vulnerable children, school-going children, young people, families and underserved communities

Project Status: Urgent fundraising required

GlobalGiving Project: WASH / Safe Water Initiative

1. Executive Summary

Water is life.

- Every child needs clean water to drink. Every family needs water to cook, wash, clean their homes and maintain dignity. Schools need water to protect children from disease and create a safe environment for learning. Health facilities need water to provide basic healthcare. Communities need water for sanitation, hygiene and everyday life.
- Yet for many vulnerable communities in Uganda's Bukedi Region, access to safe and reliable water remains a serious challenge.
- Eastlander Childcare Organization Uganda (ECCOU) is seeking support through its WASH Project to help communities overcome this challenge by improving access to safe water, sanitation and hygiene facilities and practices.
- Despite the urgent need, ECCOU has not yet received donations toward this WASH project through GlobalGiving. This means that the need remains largely unmet, while children and families continue to face the daily consequences of inadequate access to safe water.

We believe this can change.

With the support of compassionate donors, ECCOU can work together with communities to bring practical, sustainable and life-changing WASH solutions to some of the people who need them most.

A donation to this project is not simply a donation toward water. It is an investment in health, education, dignity, protection and the future of children.

2. The Problem: When Water Is Not Safe or Available

- In many underserved communities in Bukedi Region, poverty makes it difficult for families to access safe and reliable sources of water.
- Some communities depend on distant, inadequate or unsafe water sources. During difficult periods, families may have to make difficult choices simply to obtain enough water for their basic needs.

The consequences are particularly serious for children.

When safe water is unavailable, children can become exposed to waterborne and sanitation-related diseases such as diarrheal diseases, cholera, typhoid and intestinal infections, among other illnesses associated with unsafe water, poor sanitation and inadequate hygiene.

For a vulnerable family, a preventable illness can become a major burden.

- ❖ A sick child may miss school.
- ❖ A parent may lose income while caring for a sick child.
- ❖ A family may have to spend scarce money on treatment instead of food, school requirements or other necessities.
- ❖ The cycle of poverty becomes harder to break.

3. Water Is Needed for Almost Everything

Water is not a luxury.

It is part of almost every aspect of human life.

We need water for:

- a) Drinking
- b) Cooking and food preparation
- c) Washing our bodies
- d) Washing clothes
- e) Cleaning homes
- f) Cleaning schools
- g) Handwashing
- h) Sanitation and hygiene
- i) Healthcare
- j) Construction and building
- k) Supporting children at school
- l) Maintaining healthy communities

When a community lacks safe water, the impact goes far beyond thirst.

- ❖ It affects health, education, household income, dignity and the ability of children to build a better future.
- ❖ That is why ECCOU considers WASH one of the urgent priorities for vulnerable communities.

4. Why Children Are at the Heart of This Project

ECCOU exists to empower and uplift orphans, vulnerable children and young people through holistic care, quality education and strong community support.

Water is fundamental to that mission.

We cannot tell a child that education matters while that child is regularly absent from school because of illness caused by unsafe water.

We cannot talk about child wellbeing while families lack basic facilities for hygiene and sanitation.

We cannot build a healthy future for children without addressing the conditions in which they live.

Clean water helps children stay healthy. Healthy children have a better opportunity to attend school, learn, grow and reach their potential.

For ECCOU, WASH is therefore not a separate issue from education and child protection.

WASH is part of protecting the whole child.

5. Our Proposed Solution

ECCOU believes that communities should not simply receive temporary assistance; they should be supported to develop sustainable solutions that they can protect, manage and maintain together.

Through this project, ECCOU seeks to mobilize resources to:

A. Improve Access to Safe Water

Support the development and improvement of appropriate community water sources, depending on local conditions and technical assessments.

Potential interventions may include:

- Boreholes and improved water points
- Rehabilitation of existing water sources
- Community water facilities
- Water storage systems
- Rainwater harvesting where appropriate
- Safe water collection and storage practices

B. Improve Sanitation

ECCOU will work with communities to promote improved sanitation practices and facilities, including:

- Household sanitation awareness
- School sanitation
- Improved latrine practices
- Safe disposal of waste
- Community hygiene education
- Protection of water sources from contamination

C. Promote Hygiene

We will educate children, families, schools and community members about practical hygiene practices, including:

- Proper handwashing
- Safe drinking-water handling
- Food hygiene
- Personal hygiene
- Menstrual hygiene education
- Environmental cleanliness
- Disease prevention

D. Community Ownership

The long-term success of WASH interventions depends on communities being involved.

ECCOU will work with community leaders, schools, caregivers, children, local structures and other stakeholders to promote ownership, accountability and sustainability.

6. The Change We Want to Create

ECCOU's goal is simple:

- A community where children and families no longer have to suffer preventable hardship because they lack access to safe water, sanitation and hygiene.

Through this project, we want to contribute to:

- ✓ Reduced exposure to unsafe water
- ✓ Better hygiene practices
- ✓ Improved sanitation
- ✓ Fewer preventable water-related illnesses
- ✓ Improved school attendance
- ✓ Healthier children
- ✓ Greater dignity for vulnerable families
- ✓ Stronger community participation
- ✓ Sustainable community water solutions

- ✓ **Every water point supported can potentially serve many people.**
- ✓ **Every child taught proper hygiene can carry that knowledge home.**
- ✓ **Every family that gains access to safer water has an opportunity to protect its children.**

7. Why Your Support Matters Now

This project currently has an urgent funding gap.

- ECCOU has established its WASH project on Global Giving, but we have not yet received donations toward this project.
- We are therefore appealing to individuals, foundations, churches, companies, community groups and friends of ECCOU around the world to stand with vulnerable communities in Bukedi.
- The absence of donations does not mean the need has disappeared.
- The children still need water.
- Families still need safe sanitation.
- Communities still need hygiene support.
- The need is waiting for someone to respond.
- Your contribution can help turn this project from a plan into action.

8. Your Donation Can Become Something Real

- We want donors to know that their support can have a tangible purpose.
- Depending on the amount raised and the technical requirements of each community, donations can help ECCOU contribute toward:
 - Safe water infrastructure → healthier families
 - Water storage → greater reliability
 - Sanitation facilities → dignity and disease prevention
 - Hygiene education → knowledge that lasts
 - School WASH → healthier learning environments
 - Community involvement → sustainable solutions
- Rather than simply providing short-term relief, ECCOU seeks to invest in solutions that can continue benefiting communities beyond the initial donation.

9. Our Community Approach

ECCOU believes that sustainable development works best when communities are part of the solution.

We will therefore seek to:

- Identify communities with significant WASH needs.
- Engage local leaders and community members.
- Assess existing water and sanitation conditions.
- Prioritize vulnerable children and underserved households.
- Develop practical interventions according to local needs.
- Provide hygiene and sanitation education.
- Encourage community participation and ownership.
- Monitor the use and condition of supported facilities.
- Document progress and challenges.
- Report transparently to donors and partners.

10. Accountability and Transparency

- ECCOU understands that every donor contribution represents trust.
- We are committed to using funds responsibly and documenting project activities.
- Where funding is secured, ECCOU will work to provide donors and supporters with appropriate updates, including:
 - Project activities completed
 - Communities reached
 - Number of beneficiaries
 - Photographic evidence where appropriate and ethically permissible
 - Challenges encountered
 - Progress toward project goals
 - Financial accountability in accordance with applicable requirements
- Our values include Accountability and Transparency, and we believe these principles are essential for building long-term relationships with donors and partners.

11. The Bigger Picture

- A water project is not only about infrastructure.
- It is about what happens after the water arrives.
- A child who can wash their hands may be better protected from preventable illness.
- A school with appropriate WASH facilities can provide children with a healthier environment.
- A family with access to safer water can spend less time struggling to find water and more time focusing on livelihoods, education and family wellbeing.
- A community that understands hygiene can pass that knowledge from one generation to another.

- This is why ECCOU sees WASH as an investment in the future.
- Water can become the beginning of a healthier and more hopeful future.

12. Our Vision for the Project

ECCOU envisions communities in Bukedi where:

- Every child can drink safe water.
- Every family can practice proper hygiene.
- Every school can provide a healthy environment for children.
- Every community can access dignified sanitation.
- And no child should have to suffer a preventable illness simply because their family was born into poverty.
- This is the future we want to help build.

13. A Call to Global Giving Donors

We are asking you to stand with ECCOU.

You do not need to solve the entire water crisis alone.

- a. One person can help.
- b. One family can help.
- c. One church can help.
- d. One school can help.
- e. One company can help.
- f. One community can help.

Together, these contributions can become something much bigger.

- A water source.
- A hand washing station.
- A sanitation facility.
- A hygiene education session.
- A healthier child.
- A child who stays in school.
- A family protected from preventable illness.
- A community with hope.

Your generosity can help turn water from a daily struggle into a foundation for a better future.

14. Final Appeal

Water is life.

- For many of us, turning on a tap is something we hardly think about.
- For vulnerable families in underserved communities, however, safe water can be a daily challenge.
- ECCOU is ready to work with communities to address this problem, but we cannot do it alone.
- Our WASH project is currently seeking its first major support through GlobalGiving.

We invite you to become part of this beginning.

Give what you can. Share the project. Tell someone about it. Introduce ECCOU to a potential partner. Help us reach the people who can help bring safe water to communities that desperately need it.

Because when we bring safe water to a community, we are not only providing water.

- We are protecting children.
- We are promoting health.
- We are supporting education.
- We are restoring dignity.
- We are strengthening communities.
- We are saving lives for the future.

ECCOU — Saving Lives for the Future.

Together, let us make water a reality for vulnerable communities in Bukedi.

ECCOU WASH Project — Key Message

WATER IS LIFE. LET'S BRING LIFE TO COMMUNITIES THAT NEED IT MOST.

Eastlander Childcare Organization Uganda (ECCOU)

Kirika Sub-county, Kibuku District, Eastern Uganda

Email: eastlanderchildcareorg@gmail.com

Website: <https://eastlanderchildcareuganda.org/>