

1. Details of the Applicant

Title of the Project	<u>AFCOD-UGANDA PROJECT</u> (Gender Equality through Safe and Inclusive WASH & Livelihoods in Bulange and Magada Sub-Counties-Namutumba District)
Implementation Period/ Duration of the Project	24 MONTHS <u>SEPTEBER 2025 – SEPTEMBER 2027</u>
Location	BULANGE AND MAGADA IN NAMUTUMBA DISTRICT
Primary Sector	WASH
Secondary Sector(s)	GENDER EQUALITY & LIVELIHOOD
Total amount in \$ USD (and our National Currency) UGX	79,000 (300,200,000)
Details of the Organisation	<i>AFCOD-UGANDA, P.O.Box 147281. Kampala - Uganda, East Africa Tank Hill Muyenga, Kampala. +256393241207 / +256200945676 Email:info@afcodug.org / afcoduganda@gmail.com</i>
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Authorized Person The Applicant hereby confirms that the relevant authority named here, has the power to approve this application within the organisation, has been consulted and given approval.	<i>Samuel Blair Musasizi, Chief Executive Officer, P.O.Box 147281. Kampala - Uganda, East Africa Tank Hill Muyenga, Kampala. +256772789171 / +256752889171 Email:info@afcodug.org / afcoduganda@gmail.com</i>

2. Description of planned intervention

a) Problem analysis/ Needs assessment

Despite global advancements in water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH), millions of people particularly in rural and marginalized communities still lack access to safe water, adequate sanitation, and proper hygiene services. This persistent gap remains a major public health concern, disproportionately affecting low-income households that face limited involvement in decision-making and poor accessibility to essential WASH services. In such communities, systemic barriers continue to restrict equitable participation, especially among women and vulnerable groups.

Recent findings from the AFCOD-Uganda project baseline surveys, market assessments, and gender gap analyses, highlight significant gender disparities in WASH-related governance. While 78.67% of community members believe women can influence WASH decisions at the district level, 15.08% remain unsure. Likewise, 78.41% affirm that women participate in health-related decision-making, yet 16.38% express scepticism. Although a notable 82.97% recognize women's leadership potential in WASH, only 30.94% of women currently occupy leadership roles, signalling substantial structural and cultural barriers to full participation.

The situation in Namutumba District further underscores these challenges. According to the 2024 Water and Sanitation Report for Namutumba district local Government, water access coverage is uneven and often alarmingly low. For example, Bugobi (formerly part of Bulange Sub-county) has a coverage rate of only 25%, while Nangonde Sub-county reaches 95%. Magada records just 27%, and Bulange stands at 56%, both significantly below the national rural average of 68%. Alarmingly, 174 villages across Namutumba lack any safe water source, including 32 villages in Bulange and 15 in Magada. The district's overall rural safe water access rate is a mere 28%, falling far short of national standards.

Sanitation infrastructure is equally deficient. The 2024 Namutumba District Local Government sanitation report reveals that latrine coverage in Namutumba stands at 52%, but only 31% meet basic standards, such as having a squat hole cover and hand washing facilities. Bulange Sub-county reports just 31.9% coverage, with no functional hand washing infrastructure in place. These shortfalls contribute to a high

incidence of waterborne diseases—such as diarrhoea, and dysentery—which particularly affect children under five years of age. According to the Namutumba District Health Information System report 2025 the incident rates for diarrhoea in Magada sub-county has increased from 0 cases per 1000 in the FY 2023/2024 to 0.32 per 1000 in the FY 2024/2025 while in Bulange the incident rates also increased from 0.14 cases per 1000 to 0.17 cases per 1000 in the same period. For dysentery also there has been an increases in cases from 0.31 to 0.68 in Magada while in Bulange cases have also increased from 0.18 to 0.29 per 1000 in the same period which has put the lives of the children at risk.

Beyond health concerns, inadequate WASH services negatively impact education, economic productivity, and gender equality. According to the Namutumba District Local Government education report 2025, the total enrolment for the primary level learners was 31,657 in 2018 while by 2025, the total enrolment is 20742 with a retention rate standing at 65% and dropout rate standing at 35%. At secondary level, the total enrolment in 2022 was 963 students and as of 2025, the enrolment stands at 871 students with a retention rate standing at 90% with a dropout rate standing at 10%. Women, girls and men are disproportionately burdened, often traveling long distances to collect water and facing increased risks of gender-based violence, rape, early pregnancies, and loss of dignity due to the lack of privacy and security in WASH facilities. In terms of livelihoods and economic sustainability, most women are engaged in small trades like selling of pan cakes, mangoes, tomatoes, and artisan (art and craft products) sold by the roadside with the main source of income being Agriculture as per the URCS Market Assessment Report¹. The assessment also revealed that 10.65% of the respondents cited lack of training as a barrier to accessing income-generating opportunities, while 11.28% had limited access to financial services, resulting in poor livelihoods at the household level.

In response to these urgent needs, the Uganda Red Cross Society – Iganga Branch proposes to enhance Gender Equality through safe and inclusive WASH & Livelihoods in Bulange and Magada Sub-counties, Namutumba District. This intervention aims to

¹ 2025

improve access to clean water, sanitation, hygiene and livelihood while actively promoting gender equity, participation, and protection for vulnerable populations.

Aligned with the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)—particularly SDG 6: Clean Water and Sanitation—the project seeks to enhance WASH infrastructure, strengthen inclusive governance, and promote sustainable livelihoods. Ultimately, this initiative will contribute to improved public health, increased community resilience, and the advancement of social and gender equity across Namutumba District.

b) Proposed intervention

The AFCOD-Uganda proposes a targeted intervention to improve access to **safe** water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH) in Bulange and Magada sub-counties in Namutumba District.

This intervention responds to critical gaps in WASH infrastructure and gender equality and aligns with the AFCOD-Uganda Project goal which aims to enhance gender equality through safe inclusive WASH and Livelihood in Uganda- using gender-transformative and women empowerment approaches at community and institutional levels.

The successful implementation of this project will lead to significantly improved Gender equity, access to safe water, sanitation, and hygiene services in Bulange and Magada. The intervention intends to bring in an innovation of Financial Inclusion using the I-SAVE model where women will be empowered with financial management skills while saving for investment through established community based SACCOs. Moreover, it will foster greater community ownership, promote women’s economic empowerment, and contribute to sustainable development outcomes in line with AFCOD-Uganda’s goal of increased gender equality in the WASH sector, which is in tandem with the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) particularly SDG 6: Clean Water and Sanitation and SDG 5: Gender Equality.

Project Goal:

To promote gender equality by ensuring safe, inclusive, and accessible Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene (WASH) services, while strengthening equitable livelihood opportunities for women, and girls in Namutumba District.

Specific objective

To increase equitable access to safe, gender-responsive WASH services and strengthen sustainable livelihood opportunities for women, girls, youth, and other vulnerable groups in Bulange and Magada Sub-Counties, Namutumba District by 2027.

Expected Results/Outcomes and Activities

Outcome1: Strengthened inclusive, and gender-transformative community systems that prevent and respond to SGBV and promote women’s leadership and participation.

1.1. Identification and Capacity Building of Inclusive Community-Based Protection Committees

URCS adopts a community-based protection approach envisaged in the National Child Policy² by activating Sub-County Child Wellbeing Committees, which by extension will also be responsible for prevention and response to sexual and gender-based violence. 3 Community-Based Protection Committees each comprising of 19 members (01 at the District, 02 at Sub-Counties) will be activated and trained on SGBV prevention, disability inclusion, basic case management, and referral pathways. The Composition at the district is by Heads of Department and Chaired by the Chief Administrative Officer, with the District Probation and Social Welfare Officer as the Secretary, while at the Sub-County, the Committee is chaired by the Sub-County Chief with the Community Development Officer as Secretary. The Committees shall be gender-sensitive and have representatives of special interest groups including PWDs. Each committee will ensure inclusive representation comprising of women, men, youth, older persons, and persons with disabilities. The committees will act as frontline advocates and first responders on SGBV and VAC issues within their communities, coordinating closely with URCS and local authorities. At least 50% of committee members will be women to promote equitable leadership and meaningful participation in community protection and decision-making processes.

² 2020

1.2. Strengthen collaboration and partnerships with the existing SGBV & child protection service providers.

The Uganda Police Force report³ indicates that a total of 27,767 child-related incidences were reported to the Child and Family Protection Department (CFPD) in 2024. Out of the total cases, 26,152 were managed by CFPD, 1,542 cases were referred for other necessary remedies while 73 cases were diverted for psycho-social support among others. Namutumba registered a total of 795 cases accounting for 2.9% of the crimes in the country. Out of 462 sexual related cases in Busoga East region, Namutumba reported 86 accounting 18.61%, while the district also registered 66 child related cases of 271 in the region accounting for 25.4%. To reverse this trajectory, URCS will strengthen coordination and partnerships with relevant stakeholders, including government departments, law enforcement, SGBV and child protection committees, and health and legal service providers to reduce SGBV and Violence against Children (VAC) related incidents in the district by at least 40%. Such partners include: the Child & Family Protection Unit of the Uganda Police Force, Office of the State Attorney, Justice Centres Uganda, Action Aid, Uganda Women’s Network (UWONET), and UN Women. Co-ordination meetings and joint mapping and update of referral pathway will ensure inclusive, survivor-centred, and timely responses to protection cases and SGBV response. Community leaders, WROs and OPDs representing women, youth, and persons with disabilities will participate in these coordination forums to ensure diverse community perspectives are reflected in decision-making.

1.3. Develop, translate into local languages and disseminate inclusive information, communication & education (IEC) materials on Gender Equality, SGBV & child protection.

IEC materials to create awareness on SGBV prevention, gender equality, and child protection will be developed, translated into selected local languages, and disseminated widely through community awareness sessions, women-led forums, youth groups, and VSLA networks. A total of 2000 IEC Material are expected to be distributed to enhance awareness, challenge harmful social norms, and promote inclusive access to information and services. Materials will be accessible

³ ANNUAL CRIME REPORT 2024: P.123

and inclusive, incorporating pictorial, and easy-to-read formats where possible, to reach persons with disabilities and those with limited literacy. This intervention is expected to reach a total of 30,000 people in both Bulange and Magada communities and beyond. The target is informed by the National Housing and Population Census 2024⁴, which indicates that both Bulange and Magada have an estimated population of about 100,000 people. URCS intends to reach at least 50% of the beneficiary community members including women, girls, boys, men and PWDs.

1.4. Community Awareness and Social Mobilization on SGBV Prevention, Women's Empowerment, and Inclusive Participation

Community awareness sessions will be organised through dialogues, local community radio, mainstream media and community outreaches/barazas integrating key messages on SGBV prevention, gender equality, disability inclusion, and child protection. At least 20 PWDs will be reached, 1,000 women and girls, 1,000 men and boys in both Bulange and Magada sub-counties.

Sessions will also focus on promoting women's participation and leadership in community structures such as WASH committees, Livelihood and VSLA groups, while addressing barriers that limit participation, such as social norms, stereotypes, and discrimination.

Male engagement forums will complement these efforts by fostering positive masculinity, joint decision-making, and shared responsibility in preventing violence and promoting inclusion across all sectors. During the implementation, the existing URCS children safeguarding and protection policy will be adhered to and all stakeholders involved will be called upon and encouraged to adhere to the provisions therein.

1.5. Conduct Training for Branch Governing Board (BGB) and Volunteers in SGBVs prevention.

A two-day training for the 11 BGB members (5f, 7male) and 10 volunteers (5m:5f) to strengthen institutional accountability and ensure adherence to the URCS PSEA Policy. The training will cover recognition, prevention, and reporting

⁴ <https://statistics.ubos.org/nphc>

of sexual exploitation and abuse across all program areas, including Health, WASH, and Livelihood interventions. It will emphasize the principles of inclusion, dignity, and survivor-centered response, ensuring that all individuals, regardless of gender, age, or ability, are protected from harm. Participants will also be guided on ethical leadership and safe reporting mechanisms for all forms of abuse or misconduct.

1.6. Training and Mentorship on Inclusive Women’s Leadership

To strengthen women’s participation and leadership across all community sectors, the project will rollout Women’s Leadership and Mentorship Initiatives targeting 75 women involved in Protection, WASH, Livelihood. Through a series of training sessions, mentorship programs, and peer learning circles, women leaders will enhance their capacity in leadership, communication, negotiation, and advocacy for gender equality and inclusion. Mentorship relationships between experienced and emerging leaders will foster continuous learning, solidarity, and accountability. The peer learning circles will serve as safe and supportive spaces for women to share experiences, discuss challenges, and co-create strategies to address barriers such as harmful gender norms, limited representation, and unequal access to resources.

1.7. Engaging Men and Boys as Allies for Gender Equality, Inclusion, and SGBV Prevention

Recognizing the role of men and boys in advancing equality and inclusion, the project will identify and train 50 male champions and community influencers (25 in each sub county) to promote positive masculinity, respect, and shared responsibility in family and community life.

These male champions will work alongside women leaders and youth groups to co-lead campaigns and dialogues promoting gender equality, inclusion of persons with disabilities, and the prevention of SGBV and VAC. The approach will strengthen community cohesion and transform harmful gender and social norms.

Outcome 2: Increased Access to Safe and Clean Drinking Water, Especially for Women and Children.

2.1. Upgrade of hand pump borehole to a mini solar-powered, motorized tapped water system for mini water distribution.

This will involve transforming an existing hand pump borehole into an inclusive solar-powered, motorized water system equipped with taps to enable small-scale water distribution. URCS will facilitate the District Water Department to assess borehole yield, water quality and generate an inclusive system design that will include a DC submersible solar pump based on borehole depth and daily water demand and after consultations with the beneficiary communities. An elevated 10,000 liters tank with 15 taps will be installed at the water collection point to ensure gravity-fed distribution, lay PVC piping to key water points, install tap stands with concrete aprons and drainage. In addition, tap stand designs will ensure low-height taps (≤ 90 cm) for children and wheelchair access, include lever-style taps for easier grip.

To ensure pathways & access for all, we shall build smooth, wide paths with ramps and handrails, and provide seating or shade near water points.

A 2KM piped water system will be installed and extended to the nearby Magada HC III and 1 school with the aim of improving water access. This will increase efficiency, reducing long distances, and ensuring a more reliable and hygienic water supply for the community. A total of 3120 (1730 female and 1370 male with 20 PWDs) will be directly accessing the clean water from the improved water system. In addition, 28 teachers 8 of whom are female and 20 males with a total enrolment of 870 school going children (530 male and 340 female and 2 PWDs) of St Mathias Magada SS will also directly have access to the safe and clean drinking water for use during school in the WASH facilities. Before commissioning the borehole, URCS will engage the District Water Engineer to assess solar panel mounting, pump installation, adequate solar lighting to enhance safety at the water collection points, tank and pipe setup and also test system for flow rate, pressure, and accessibility components to ensure value for money.

2.2. Facilitate the District Water Engineer to conduct routine water quality monitoring/testing to ensure compliance to recommended standards.

This will be done twice a year to ensure that the water meets recommended safety and quality standards set by regulatory bodies. It will also constantly help in identifying potential contaminants, maintain public health, and ensure the water remains safe for consumption and use.

2.3. Formation and training of Gender Transformative and Inclusive WASH Committee for better Operation & Maintenance of the solarised water system.

A committee of 5 members comprised of 2 females, 01 PWD, and two males and the LCI Chairpersons as ex-officials will be constituted or re-activated, if it already exists and equipped with knowledge and skills in operation and maintenance of the water system. They will be responsible for doing health sensitization, coordinating the maintenance and cleanliness of the solar-powered, motorized water system. For the school and Health facility, their management committees will be responsible in accordance with Government Standard Operating Procedures and Guidelines respectively.

Outcome 3: Improved Access to Gender-Sensitive Sanitation Facilities.

3.1. Construction of 1 inclusive block of 6 stances drainable public toilet.

This will involve building one inclusive block of a drainable public toilet with six separate stances for male and female in Bulange Trading Centre. The facility will be designed with one stance bearing handrails with accommodation for PWDs' wheelchair access, a ramp with a view to provide safe, dignified, hygienic, and accessible sanitation for the community including women, girls, men and boys, older and persons with disabilities as well. The facility will incorporate a drainage system, a changing room to promote MHM, and an incinerator for sanitary waste management. A total of 2458(1383f/1045m, incl.30PWDs) individuals in Bulange Trading Centre will be accessing the facility.

3.2. Formation and training of Sanitation Committee on general waste management but also O&M of incinerator and the public toilet.

This will involve establishing a Sanitation Committee and training them on general waste management practices, incinerator operating, as well as the operation and maintenance (O&M) of the public toilet and hand washing. The training will also ensure local members are adequately equipped with the skills and knowledge to manage waste effectively, maintain the WASH facilities, and promote community cleanliness and responsibility. They will also be trained on Personal Hygiene and Sanitation Education (PHASE), Community engagement and accountability, Protection Gender and Inclusion, women in leadership, advocacy and participation. The 2 days training will target a total of 7 committee members (3f: 3m and 1 PWDs).

3.3. Conduct community sensitization meetings on waste management targeting residents around the public toilet.

This will involve holding community sensitization meetings with residents living near the public toilet to raise awareness about proper waste management practices. URCS will facilitate the District Health Educator to conduct health sensitisation barazas with the support of PHAST Groups aimed at educating the community on the importance of hygiene, responsible waste disposal, and their role in maintaining a clean environment. This approach will enable the project team to reach (300; 225f/70m and 5 PWDs) including women, girls, men, boys and other vulnerable individuals.

These community sensitisation meetings will provide an avenue for the project team to disseminate feedback and reporting mechanisms to the wider community. In addition, URCS will participate in the commemoration of international days like the Water and Sanitation Week (World water day, sanitation week, Toilet Day, MHM and etc.), International Women's Day, Day of the African Child, will be crucial for policy advocacy and socio-behavioural change.

3.4. Formation and training of PHAST Groups in Bulange

The project will facilitate formation of 4 PHAST Groups each constituting 30 people with 75% being women. The multiplier effect of these groups is that

each member will reach 5 households, which will translate into reaching 600 households. Awareness will be created among the beneficiary communities through the Participatory Hygiene and Sanitation Transformation (PHAST) methodology which will ensure new transformation at household levels including construction of new household latrines by community members, rehabilitation of existing household latrines and installation of hand washing facilities (Tippy Taps) and promotion of behavioural change in good hygiene practices. The PHAST methodology works through replication where one members trained is encouraged to train other 5 households in the neighbourhood. This will therefore help increase on the hygiene and sanitation in the community in the long run.

3.5. Handover ceremony for the public toilet and the solarised water system to the local authority.

URCS will organise a handover ceremony to officially transfer ownership and responsibility of the newly constructed public toilet and solarised water system to the local authority. The event will mark the completion of the project and ensure that the local government takes over the operation, maintenance, and management of the facility to ensure sustainability and accountability.

Outcome 4: Enhanced Financial Inclusion for Women and Vulnerable Groups.

4.1. Conduct training for women, men and PWDs in WASH-related entrepreneurship and business development.

We intend to organise and conduct a 3-day training for 75 people (with women constituting 75%, men and PWDs) on entrepreneurship and business development in the Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene (WASH) sector. The training will equip participants with skills to start and manage WASH-related businesses such as soap making, sanitary product sales, or toilet maintenance services, like usage of SATO Pans to promote economic empowerment, improve livelihoods, and support sustainable WASH solutions in the community. The training will be conducted by the District Commercial Officer and other experts sourced both internally and from other specialized partners.

4.2. **Strengthening of 4 existing women-led WASH VSLA groups into SACCOs focused on saving, production and sale of hygiene and sanitation products.**

The focus will be on supporting and strengthening the 4 existing women-led WASH Village Savings and Loan Associations (VSLAs) and transforming them into community led SACCOs one per sub-county comprising of 35 members each making a total of 140. These groups will continuously be engaged in saving, as well as the production and sale of hygiene and sanitation products. The goal is to enhance their financial capacity, improve business skills, and increase access to capital, enabling them to grow their WASH-related enterprises, support community hygiene, and promote women's and PWDs' economic empowerment.

4.3. **Conduct training in SACCO/VSLA Management, leadership, and group dynamics.**

The training will focus on strengthening the capacity of SACCO leaders by equipping members with essential skills in financial management, effective leadership, and positive group dynamics. This will involve how to manage savings and loan activities while promoting transparency and accountability, build strong leadership structures, and encourage teamwork and conflict resolution. This will ensure the sustainability and success of SACCO, empowering communities to manage their own resources effectively. The training will target 20 leaders of the VSLAs with women constituting 75% (15 participants), but also at least 02 PWDs.

4.4. **Offer mentorship and coaching to women entrepreneurs through partnerships with local business leaders.**

As URCS we intend to offer mentorship and coaching to women entrepreneurs. This will involve connecting them with experienced local business leaders with the guidance of the Private Sector Foundation and through these partnerships, women will receive guidance, practical business advice, and support to strengthen their skills, grow their enterprises, and overcome challenges. This is aimed at empowering women, promote entrepreneurship, and enhance their contribution to the local economy, particularly in the WASH sector. A total of 75 women will be mentored and coached in entrepreneurship.

4.5. **Facilitate access to microfinance and credit services by provision of seed money to registered community gender groups offering WASH related enterprises through the I-SAVE Model.** Through the I-SAVE model, women and PWDs will be trained and equipped with skills in financial management and literacy, encouraged to save on a weekly or monthly basis but also borrow for investment in their WASH related business. The established SACCOs will be supported with a seed grant for the women to have access to finances at a low rate. This serves as a revolving fund where women will be encouraged to pay back the borrowed money in a timely manner for others to borrow. This intervention will target the 140 members who constitute the for 04 VLSAs.

c) Target group

The project intervention will benefit both direct and indirect beneficiaries across the targeted communities in Magada and Bulange. A total of 8740(4656f/4084m, incl.107PWDs) will be reached through enhanced access to clean water, sanitation, hygiene services, SGBV prevention and response and women leadership. These services will be delivered through an upgraded, solarized, motorized borehole piped water system with a total of 780 households directly accessing the water system services and the construction of a public toilet in Bulange Trading Centre. This infrastructure will significantly improve the health and hygiene standards of the communities involved. A total of 1028 households within Bulange Trading Centre will be accessing the facility for improved sanitation and hygiene.

Among the direct beneficiaries are students of St. Mathias Magada Secondary School with a total of 870 students, who will have access to clean water for use in latrines and hand washing stations, contributing to better hygiene and improved school attendance. Similarly, patients and health workers at Magada Health Centre III will benefit from a reliable supply of safe water, enhancing healthcare delivery and reducing the risk of infections. Residents of Magada community will also directly benefit by accessing clean and safe drinking water close to their homes.

A key focus of the intervention is on women, girls and to some extent men who will benefit from gender-sensitive WASH facilities that promote their dignity, safety, and menstrual hygiene. The project also aims to include the elderly and persons with disabilities (PWDs) as active participants and innovators. These individuals will be identified and supported by the AFCOD-Uganda's volunteer base, in collaboration with

Village Health Teams (VHTs), ensuring no one is left behind. This inclusive approach will also enable effective monitoring of project progress and outcomes.

In addition to direct beneficiaries, the project will positively impact a wider group of indirect beneficiaries. These include family members of direct beneficiaries, who will benefit from improved hygiene practices at home, leading to reduced illness and healthcare costs. Local businesses may also see increased productivity and reduced absenteeism as a result of a healthier workforce. Furthermore, community members living near the WASH infrastructure will experience reduced environmental contamination and associated health risks. Lastly, district and sub-county authorities will benefit from capacity building and system strengthening interventions, enabling them to deliver and maintain improved WASH services more effectively over time.

Through this comprehensive and inclusive approach, the project will ensure that both direct and indirect beneficiaries experience meaningful improvements in health, dignity, and resilience—contributing to long-term community development in Magada and Bulange.

Direct Beneficiaries 8740(4656f/4084m/107PWDs)	Indirect Beneficiaries (50,000)
Households of Magada (780 households) and Bulange (1028 households)	Individuals and Groups
School going children of St Mathias Magada SS (870 students)	Family members of direct beneficiaries
Patients and Staffs of Magada HCIII	Community members living around the WASH facilities
Community members of Bulange Trading Centre and Magada	The Namutumba district local government
Women and Girls accessing WASH Facilities	The Bulange and Magada sub-counties.

d. Innovational character

Community-Based Protection Committees

- Locally led structures for identifying, referring, and supporting SGBV survivors through different partners.

- Promotes community ownership in protection and gender equality through dissemination of the PGI minimum standards and the Dignity Access Participations Safety (DAPS) Approach

Upgrade of hand pump boreholes to a mini Motor solarized tapped water system for mini water distribution with 2km piped extension.

Transforming an existing hand pump borehole into a solar-powered, motorized water system equipped with taps to enable small-scale water distribution will be at the centre of this intervention. In addition, a 2KM piped water system will be installed and extended to the nearby health facilities and other centres with the aim of improving water access. This will increase efficiency, reducing long distances, and ensuring a more reliable and hygienic water supply for the community.

Financial Inclusion using the I-SAVE model

An innovative financial inclusion using the I-SAVE model where women will be empowered with financial management skills and Literacy while saving for investment through the established community based SACCOs. The women through their gender groups, will be grouped into two SACCOs one per sub-county comprising of 60 members each, encouraged to save but also borrow for investment into their WASH related income generating businesses like Liquid soap making, making of reusable sanitary pads and vending of water using the Tri-Cycle. The women will be supported with seed grant through their SACCOs for investment into their small businesses.

Integrated WASH & Livelihood Model

- Linking access to clean water with women's leadership and economic empowerment. The woman and men will strongly be encouraged to take up leadership in both Wash and Livelihood groups.
- Simultaneous improvement in health, income, and gender equity through different entrepreneurial programs during project implementation.

e. PGI Best Practices

To ensure protection, gender, and inclusion (PGI) in project, URCS will apply the Dignity, Access, Participation, and Safety (DAPS) while designing facilities that respect privacy, are accessible to all (including persons with disabilities), and involve marginalized groups in decision-making. Gender-responsive infrastructure such as separate latrines, menstrual hygiene support, and low-height taps shall be prioritized. Sex-, age-, and disability-disaggregated data will help tailor services to community realities.

The Community Women Leadership Approach will be adopted by empowering women and vulnerable groups through leadership roles, technical training, and livelihood opportunities to strengthen equity and sustainability. Safeguarding measures like SGBV prevention trainings, confidential feedback systems, and referral pathways will be critical for protection, while monitoring shall be participatory and tracking equity indicators will ensure services are truly inclusive. These practices will not only improve health outcomes but also foster dignity, resilience, and social cohesion within and beyond the beneficiary communities.

Women's participation in community leadership-especially in WASH-is not just a matter of equity, but a proven driver of better outcomes. In Namutumba District and similar rural settings in Uganda, empowering women to lead in WASH committees ensures that the unique needs of women, girls, and marginalized groups are addressed. Women leaders often prioritize safe water access, menstrual hygiene, and inclusive sanitation issues that directly impact family health and dignity.

Therefore, URCS will adopt best practices under the PGI and Women in Community Leadership Approaches ensuring at least 50% female representation in WASH committees, providing leadership and technical training tailored to women, and creating safe spaces for their voices to be heard. When women are meaningfully involved in decision-making, communities benefit from more sustainable, inclusive, and culturally sensitive solutions. Their leadership also

inspires younger generations and helps shift social norms toward greater gender equality.

To achieve inclusive impact, the project aims for a beneficiary composition of 75% women, 20% men, and 5% youth. This approach will help identify and address the specific barriers these groups face in accessing resources, participating in decision-making, and benefiting from WASH services. These insights will inform the development of tailored strategies to promote equitable access and outcomes.

To further enhance participation, capacity-building activities will be adapted to the needs of women and marginalized groups. These adaptations will include flexible training schedules, on-site childcare services, and transportation support where needed. In addition to technical training on WASH and business skills, the project will deliver soft skills development in areas such as leadership, financial literacy, and the production of reusable sanitary pads—fostering both practical competencies and long-term empowerment. The project will uphold a minimum participation target of 75% women in all training programs and decision-making processes. This will help ensure that women’s voices are central in shaping outcomes and sustaining the initiatives beyond the project period.

Finally, the project will implement robust safeguarding protocols to prevent all forms of discrimination, harassment, including sexual harassment and exclusion. Clear referral pathways will be established to support individuals affected by gender-based violence or violence against children, women and girls as well as other protection concerns, ensuring that all project environments are safe, inclusive, and respectful.

Prevention of Sexual Exploitation and Abuse

URCS has developed a PSEA policy which has not been widely disseminated. The Policy shall be widely disseminated to staff, volunteers, partners, and community members through sensitization sessions, trainings, and project meetings. Clear in-

formation on reporting mechanisms will be consistently shared to ensure that community members understand their rights, can recognize misconduct, and know how to report concerns safely and confidentially.

f. Partnerships and synergies

Partner	Key Activity	Partner Contribution
Afri-pad	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Capacity building/skilling 	
Women associations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sensitization pads makings managment of wash facilities 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Space for construction of WASH facilities Supporting women with skills and knowledge in WASH enterprises.
Institutions Church/kingdom	Sensitization in WASH.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provide forum for sensitization Engagement of local leaders on their responsibility. Moral guidance and behavioural change
District local government	Technical back stopping and community sensitization	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Skills building WASH capacity in schools and communities
Local organisations in same fields	Technical back stopping and joint implementation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Conduct training in WASH and reusable sanitary pads
Parents/ communities	Mobilisation of the girl child and local resources	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provide local building resouces Provide local labour

g. Sustainability and dissemination

The proposed intervention aims to empower community-based women, particularly those already engaged in existing savings groups, by building their capacity to run sustainable WASH-related businesses. These women will be equipped with practical entrepreneurial skills in the production of reusable sanitary pads, the operation of water kiosks, water vending, and liquid soap making at the community level. These skills will not only improve their economic opportunities but also increase access to essential hygiene products within their communities.

To support the successful establishment of these businesses, the Uganda Red Cross Society (URCS) will provide comprehensive start-up kits. These will include sewing machines and

essential materials for producing reusable sanitary pads and liquid soap. Additionally, to address the challenge of market access, URCS will offer affordable transport solutions such as tri-cycles. These will help women transport their finished products more efficiently, enabling them to reach broader markets and increase income generation.

Women’s groups participating in the project will also receive seed grants, which will be channelled through their organized SACCOs (Savings and Credit Cooperative Organizations). As part of the financial empowerment strategy, participants will be encouraged to save regularly through the I-SAVE model. Revenue generated from the sale of WASH products will be reinvested into the SACCOs to support continued production, expand business operations, and build long-term financial resilience.

To ensure the sustainability of these initiatives, the project will support women to establish reliable market linkages, especially with schools in Namutumba and neighbouring districts. These partnerships will create consistent demand for reusable pads and liquid soap at affordable prices, ensuring a steady income stream. By reinvesting profits into their enterprises and SACCOs, women will not only sustain their businesses but also contribute to improving community health and hygiene standards.

Ultimately, this intervention promotes sustainable income generation, strengthens grassroots economic resilience, and enhances access to essential WASH products. Through this holistic approach, women will be empowered as both economic actors and key contributors to community well-being.

h. Assumption, risks and mitigation measures

Assumption	Risks	Mitgattion measures
Community members will adopt use of mini solar-powered, motorized tapped water system	Vandalizing and theft of the piped system	Use CEA approaches to raise awareness and address misconceptions.
Communities will work in groups of 30 to manage the water related issues.	Doubts about the approach may hinder participation.	Use advocacy and involve locals to build trust and show value.
Community leaders and elders will promote gender equality.	Unsupportive Cultural norms and practices within the target areas of the intervention.	Maintain regular engagement and highlight their leadership role.

Women adopting the I-SAVE model and SACCO management	Economic situation remains unfavourable for the intervention	Constantly monitor market situation to inform any price fluctuations and share with women groups.
Sexual and Gender based violence will end by the end of the project.	Preventive SGBV measures will not be adopted easily.	Maintain regular sensitization through cinemas, radios and advocacy campaigns.
Public Toilet will properly managed by the leaders	Abandonment of the facility by the community due to poor management and cultural norms	Continuous sensitization of the community on waste management around the facility

i. Implementation team

TEAM	Key Contribution	Qualification
Blair Musasizi	Overall Project implementation Leader	Bachelor of Laws Degree
SSebagala Fred	Programs Manager	Degree in Social work and social Administration
Muyegwe Abas	Field Officer	Degree in Social work and social Administration
Matwale Amos	Project Volunteer	Bachelor's degree in Adult and community education
Naiga Sharifa	Project Volunteer	Diploma in Development studies
Nangobi Hamida	Project volunteer	Diploma in Public Administration and Management
Dr. Halidi Kirunda	Support supervision	Doctorate in Livestock management
Miriam Kaligidha	Support supervision	Bachelors of Law
Kongola Dauda	Support supervision	Diploma in Education

j. Monitoring and evaluation plan

The project will be guided by a structured Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) framework to ensure timely tracking of activities, progress toward objectives, and overall impact. The M&E

system will support evidence-based decision-making, accountability, and continuous learning throughout the project cycle. Monitoring will be conducted on a monthly, quarterly, semi-annual, and annual basis to track key outputs such as water points installed, public toilets constructed, hygiene sessions held, and training activities completed. This will involve regular field visits, activity reports, and stakeholder monitoring, including inputs from volunteers, branch board members, branch managers, and local partners. Continuous monitoring at the activity level will help identify and address implementation risks early.

The project will conduct two major evaluations: A Mid-Term Evaluation and a Final Evaluation. These will assess progress, outcomes, and overall effectiveness using mixed methods such as household surveys, interviews, focus group discussions, and infrastructure assessments. Findings will inform improvements and future programming.

Key performance indicators will include access to safe water and sanitation, participation in financial inclusion initiatives, reported SGBV cases and referrals, and changes in community knowledge and practices. Data quality will be ensured through standardized tools, regular training, verification visits, and triangulation.

Learning will be integrated through periodic reflection meetings, quarterly reviews, and stakeholder feedback sessions. Insights from monitoring and evaluation will guide adaptive management and promote accountability to beneficiaries and partners.

k. Contribution to the network

- Report sharing with the network and other partners
- Document success stories, photos and videos
- Procure and distribute to Volunteers reflector jackets, fliers and posters for visibility purposes.
- Experience sharing with partners

l. Coordination and complementarity with other actions

District stake holders		
District water officer	Support supervision and technical backstopping	
DCDO	Support supervision and technical backstopping	
DHO	Support supervision and technical backstopping	

3. Capacity of the Applicant

m. Staff Resources

The number of staff and Volunteers in Recent Years:

	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
Number of core staff (management, finance, procurement, HR etc.)	01	01	01	01	01
Number of staff in fields related to this tender (technical)	02	02	01	02	02
Number of volunteers	100	100	100	110	130

n. Experience

The Branch implemented a number of projects that include among other; AFCOD-Uganda project titled "Enhancing green alternatives to mitigate climate change and food security in Magada and Bulange sub-counties in Namutumba district, The AFCOD-Uganda project with a title Improving Menstrual Hygiene Management in schools in the two sub-counties of Bulange and Magada (2022) with a funding from Austrian Development Cooperation worth UGX/= 128,000,000= in 2020-2021, and UGX/= 120,000,000 respectively. Reduction of diarrhoea in eastern Uganda project with funding from Belgium Red Cross. The project received a Total of 702,087 Euro for a period of 4 years from Feb 2012- October 2015. The project aimed at increasing the use of safe drinking water of improved sanitary units and hygiene practices related to diarrhoea and associated risks like jiggers and cholera. This project directly benefited the people of Luuka and Bugiri district.

Own Resources

- 2 motorcycle that are functional.
- Land title still in process
- Adequate offices space which is equipped with furniture and equipment.
- Accessibility to Electricity and water.
- Availability of partnerships Networking.
- 1 laptop, a printer, and a desktop computer which require mechanical

4. Documents to Attach

The Applicant is obliged to submit with the proposal application a log frame, gantt chart and Budget in provided templates. The Applicant is free to additionally submit further supporting documents (such as Letters of Support, CVs etc.) with the proposal application.

5. Declaration of the Applicant

According to the standards and guidelines of the AFCD-Uganda programme, the Austrian Red Cross and the back-donors, the following has to be read and accepted by applying branches:

The Applicant **AFRICA FOUNDATION FOR COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT (AFCD-Uganda)** declares that it is not:

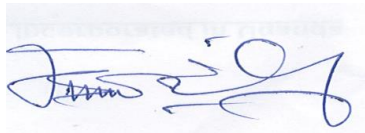
- a) Bankrupt, wound up, have its affairs administered by the courts, have entered into an arrangement with creditors, has suspended business activities, be the subject of proceedings concerning these matters or analogous situations;
- b) Convicted for an offence concerning professional conduct;
- c) Guilty of grave professional misconduct proven by any relevant means;
- d) Unfulfilling the obligations relating to the payment of social security contributions or payment of governmental taxes where these payments are due;
- e) Subject of judgement for fraud, corruption, involvement in criminal organization or any other illegal activity;
- f) Offering, giving, receiving or soliciting, directly or indirectly, anything of value to influence improperly the activities of the organisation;
- g) Undertaking any arrangements between other potential suppliers to influence the price or to gain any other benefit;
- h) Using fraudulent practices which misleads the Contracting Authority to obtain appropriate data;
- i) Using any kind of child labour and is not in breach with any national standards of basic social rights and working conditions;
- j) Declared in serious breach of contract in other grant award procedures financed by the Austrian Development Agency;
- k) Subject to a conflict of interest; Conflict of interests is a situation where the impartial and objective exercise of the assigned functions, tasks and activities is compromised for reasons involving family, emotional life, political or national affinity, economic interest or any other shared interest with another person or party;

- l) Guilty of misrepresentation in supplying the information required by the contracting authority as a condition of participation in the contract procedure or fail to supply this information;

The Applicant as Contracting Authority shall give the back-donors access to its financial transactions relating to this Project.

Samuel Blair Musasizi, Chief Executive Officer, AFCOD-Uganda, Kampala Uganda East Africa

17th June, 2026



Name, Position and Signature of Authorised person of the Applicant

Place, date and stamp