Sustainable WASH Solutions in Uganda

DLDT Uganda

Water is life and sanitation must be safe. DLDT works in Uganda to ensure vulnerable, rural communities gain access to safe, sustainable water, hygiene and sanitation facilities. Everyone deserves a chance at life.

We have helped 19,468 people gain access to clean water and 6,994 gain access to safe sanitation. Many others have benefited from safe bathing areas, irrigation and other WASH related work.
Menu of Services

Clean Water Services

- Deep boreholes and production wells
- Gravity-fed, tapped water systems
- Large scale rainwater harvesting (20,000 liters-220,000 liters)
- Irrigation

Sanitation and Hygiene

- Ventilated, Improved Pit Latrines (VIP aka drainable latrines)
- Handwashing Facilities
- Bathing facilities
- Combined bathing/latrine facilities for teachers
Deep boreholes

DLDT works to impact SDG (sustainable development goal) 6.1. Clean, safely managed drinking water sources occur through a variety of projects and approaches to planning and monitoring. No two communities or schools are the same and deserve special planning in partnership with DLDT to gain the greatest outcome. The most ideal, feasible water to bring sustainable clean water is through deep boreholes with stainless steel pipes and rods. DLDT’s surveyor determines if there is potential groundwater during the planning process.
Gravity-fed Water Systems
(deep borehole preferred or up to 220,000 liters of rainwater when able)

Building large-scale, solar powered rainwater tap systems require much funding, space and good quality buildings/roofs. Borehole water is preferred when available as a production well for the system. Otherwise, DLDT builds large capacity underground, cement, waterproofed tanks with the same solar power tap/gravity scheme and a special DLDT innovative provision to continue pumping water if solar fails at any time.
Income Generation, Improving Nutrition and Food Security

Though drinking water comes as a priority, it is likely that water in a mid-high yielding water source can also be used for drip or sprinkler irrigation. Sprinkler irrigation is only used on certain crops, like maize, and drip irrigation systems are used to irrigate a wider variety of higher nutrition, higher monetary yielding crops year-round, but especially in dry season.
Combating Climate Change: Water Filters and Tree Planting

DLDT is reducing forest burning for charcoal via the use of ceramic water filters in schools, XL SPOUTS Purrifya. After two years+, the ceramic pot that filters bacteria and solids can be replaced for only about 65,000 UGX ($18 USD). DLDT also plants five mango or fruit bearing trees with each school-based water project to combat climate change, improve food security and help retain groundwater.

To learn more about these filters, visit our partner SPOUTS.
Sanitation and Hygiene Services

Before photo- a local solution to a toilet ^^^

After^aa safe place to go!

^aa Special DLDT design: One child-friendly stance with cartoons, a half-door and smaller hole.
Drainable-VIP Latrines with Handwashing Stations

DLDT works to impact SDG (sustainable development goal) 6.2. Without a place to go, people resort to the maize fields or unsafe, outdoor areas like shallow holes. Shallow, unprotected holes fill and overflow during rains and spread diseases like cholera and hepatitis. Children, especially small ones, fear using these latrines and typically just ‘go’ anywhere. This is also not safe.

DLDT’s drainable, VIP latrines allow for long-term use. A full latrine just means emptying it with WASH Savings Account money every 3-6 years. The pits are lined to protect groundwater, the ventilation is in every stance, and a DLDT designed mural and children’s door accommodate everyone, even disabled people. Each latrine block has an educational mural reminding people to wash their hands and a urinal for boys or bathing area girls. DLDT also builds a manual 50-liter handwashing station for each latrine block.

Bathing Areas

Women and children often bare rape, beating or abuse while bathing outside in unprotected spaces (this includes while urinating as well). Private bathing blocks have a 4-5 stance design with plenty of natural sunlight, a secure door and a spacious room. This allows all people to shower with ease and no fear. These are especially helpful in large boarding schools, refugee camps, displaced people settlements and villages where people live closely to one another. Bathing blocks also keep waste water from being dumped all over a community leading to erosion and spread of disease via wasted bathing water. DLDT’s bathing blocks look similar in structure to the latrine you see above.
Incinerators

We do not build incinerators due to the dangerous nature of burning trash, much less bodily waste into the air that people breath. We propose females using reusable pads to help their health, lungs and the environment.

Teacher combination blocks- bathing and latrines for ‘live on site’ teachers

Teachers who live on site at rural schools often suffer due to a lack of facilities, even housing. How are we teaching our children if the teachers aren’t healthy and ready to teach or exhibiting good hygiene? Though often looked at as ‘extra’, DLDT is trying to help build these facilities into appropriate projects so that teachers do not have to share latrines with students and they can have a safe, private place to bathe.

Wash Yards

This simple structure allows for proper washing areas for clothes where wasted dirty water is able to drain properly and be sent to a soak pit underground. It solves the issue of kids playing in wastewater, disease spreading and erosion issues. These are extremely helpful in tight communities or small boarding school compounds.

Community Planning and Sustainability

Eighty percent of all water projects built in the world have permeant failure within two years. Not wanting to be associated with that statistic, DLDT started working in Uganda in 2011 with high sustainability and quality standards. Water projects failure because of a lack of investment in building human connections local to projects. A savior visits a village, funds a well and may never have sought technical expertise, permits, government approvals, tribal agreements, local partnerships, permission from landowners or elders or the people who will use the source. Many times, there is no plan for user fees or monitoring and poor-quality materials can lead to sickness in users or breakdown.

Since the implementation of our first water project in 2012, DLDT has: interviewed communities or schools multiple times, gone through a community ‘buy in’ process, designed and implemented projects suited for each specific school or community, monitored all projects indefinitely in order to learn and remain a partner in communities. Over the years, partnerships with local governments have blossomed in long-term sustainability programming. **DLDT has 100% of all projects and WASH Committees fully functioning!**

Gender Equity and Equality – Female Engagement

Gender equity and equality is critical to DLDT’s work. We continuously work to diversify our team tribally, but also with gender balance to set an example for everyone we engage with. In rural Uganda, women and girls are given the burden of finding water. In fact, every year on the continent of Africa women and girls spend 40 billion hours collecting water that may make their family sick- imagine world development and innovation that would occur if these hours were gained back?
At the project level, every WASH Committee and community meeting must have females present and engaged. This is a long, delicate process and DLDT is constantly working towards bringing females into leadership roles and decision-making positions.

To learn more:

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