

OUR VISION

A world where every person has access to reliable and safe water and sanitation services.

OUR MISSION

Water For People exists to promote the development of high-quality drinking water and sanitation services, accessible to all, and sustained by strong communities, businesses, and governments.

OUR VALUES



Collective Transformation



Environmental Stewardship



Integrity





PREFACE

It is with great pleasure and pride that I present to you the Water For People Uganda Annual Report for the year 2023. As we reflect on the past year's accomplishments and milestones, we are reminded of the transformative impact of our collective efforts in advancing sustainable Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene (WASH) services across Uganda.

Our strategic direction, as synopsized in Destination 2030, underscores our determination to accelerate progress towards United Nations Sustainable Development Goal 6 – clean water and sanitation for all by 2030. Through ambitious targets, strategic alliances, and innovative approaches, we are mapping a course towards exponential impact, leaving no one behind.



Central to our achievements are the strategic partnerships we have formed across various sectors. These partnerships, including government entities, development non-profit organizations, and private sector stakeholders, have played a pivotal role in amplifying our impact and extending the reach of our initiatives. By collaborating with key stakeholders in the WASH sector, we have been able to leverage diverse expertise, resources, and networks to drive transformative change, foster sustainable development, and strengthen our capacity to address complex challenges with innovative solutions all while effectively scaling our impact.

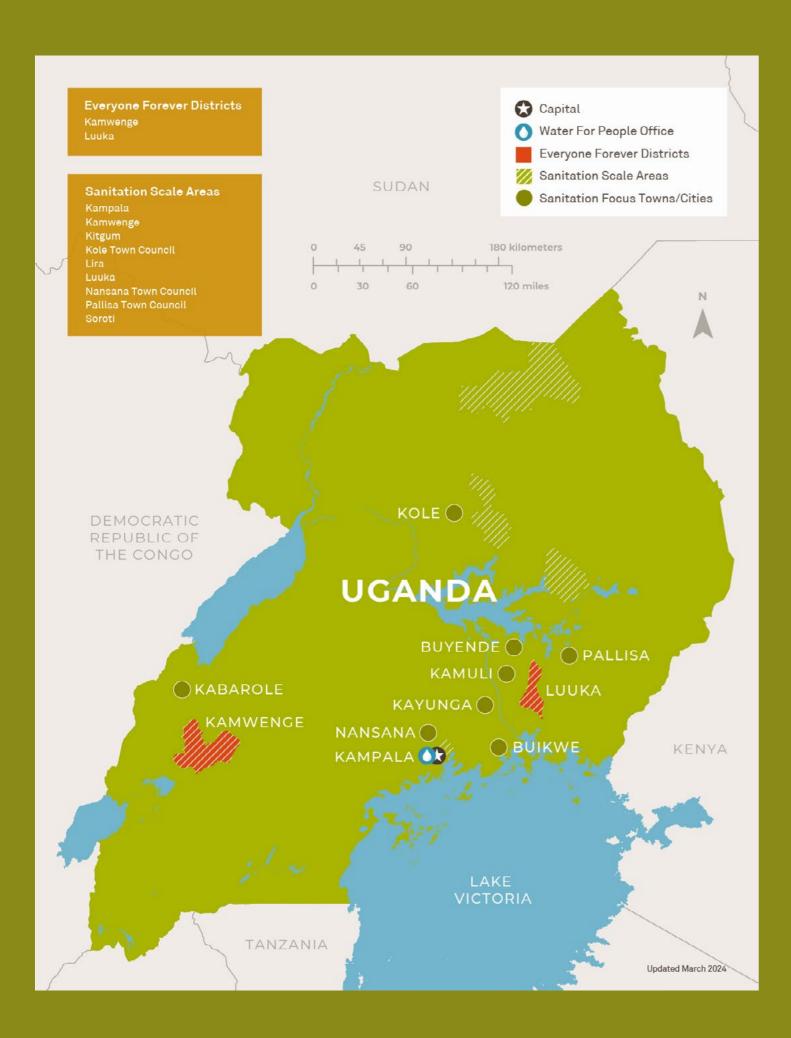
In 2023, our commitment to reaching 20 million people with sustainable WASH services continued to drive our actions in our Everyone Forever (EF) Districts of Kamwenge and Luuka and in nine scale districts. Through strategic partnerships and collaborative efforts, we expanded our reach to 11 districts across the country, thus extending our support to water and sanitation initiatives aimed at improving the lives of communities, schools, and clinics.

In this report, you will find a comprehensive overview of our programs, initiatives, and achievements in 2023. From the establishment of sustainable water and sanitation solutions to saving the planet through our integrated water resources management activities, each endeavor reflects our unwavering commitment to building resilient and inclusive communities.

As we navigate the challenges and opportunities ahead, I extend my sincere gratitude to our dedicated team, partners, and stakeholders for their unwavering support and collaboration. Together, we are making significant strides towards realizing our vision of a world where everyone has access to reliable, safe water and sanitation services.

Brenda Achiro Muthemba
Country Director, Uganda

Photo on the cover: Brenda Nabusindo, Water and Sanitation Engineer with Water For People, addresses students in a presentation about hygiene at a primary school in Luuka District.



OUR PROGRAMME

Water For People initiated its operations in Uganda in 2008, placing a strong emphasis on comprehending the water and sanitation needs of the population and fostering relationships with government entities, the private sector, and local organizations. In collaboration with dedicated local partners, Water For People currently extends its support to water and sanitation initiatives across 11 districts: Kamwenge, Luuka, Kampala, Kitgum, Pallisa, Kole, Kayunga, Kamuli, Buyende, Buikwe, and Kabarole.

Employing our Everyone Forever model, our primary focus revolves around ensuring access to safe and dependable water services for every household, community, school, and clinic in a sustainable manner. This commitment is particularly evident in our Everyone Forever (EF) Districts of Kamwenge and Luuka.

EVERYONE FOREVER MODEL

Our commitment to the Everyone Forever model focused on ensuring every household, community, school, and clinic has access to safe and reliable water services on a sustainable basis.

OUR STRATEGY

DESTINATION 2030

For over a decade, Water For People's strategy has focused on working with local governments, communities, and partners to implement lasting water and sanitation access in nine countries. We've developed and proved an effective model, Everyone Forever, but there are millions more people to reach. We must move faster, and we must work bigger.

Destination 2030 is our response to this need to increase our impact radically. It's a collective effort, guided by partnerships and local, national, and global strategies that all aim to hasten progress toward achieving the United Nations Sustainable Development Goal 6 – clean water and sanitation for all by 2030.



Our Destination 2030 strategy includes:

- Co-founding the One For All global alliance alongside our partner IRC
- · Developing a joint framework and goals to promote shared accountability
- Setting ambitious targets to strengthen water and sanitation systems that serve millions of people by working at the local, national, and global levels
- · Sharing resources, learnings, and expertise with One For All alliance members and other partners
- Scaling the Everyone Forever model to more districts, countries, and regions.

OUR IMPACT

2023 PROGRESS





9,660 people reached in schools with improved WASH services

9

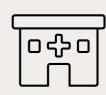
Scale Districts



35,204 people reached in communities with new or improved WASH services

2

Everyone Forever Districts



60 people reached in clinics with access to improved WASH services



35,204

people reached with new or improved water services



61,644

people reached with new or improved sanitation services



9,726

people reached with hygiene education

SUSTAINABILITY

OF SERVICES

Water For People's Sustainable Services Checklist (SSC) was developed in partnership with district governments to measure the sustainability of WASH systems as well as Equity & Inclusion considerations. The SSC is customized to the context of each individual district with eight indicators of sustainability within three categories:

- · Service Authority: structure, finance, management, and monitoring
- Service Provider: structure, finance, and operations and maintenance (0&M)
- Water Resources Management (WRM)

Water For People interventions focus on the struggling metrics that include service provider operations and maintenance to foster improvement in these metrics.

Level of Sustainability	Scoring Method
Inadequate Level	Metrics received scores less than 50% of minimum criteria requirements
Basic Level	Metrics received scores greater than 50% of minimum criteria requirements
Intermediate Level	All metrics received scores that meet minimum criteria
High Level	All metrics received full scores

An assessment of sustainability levels in Luuka and Kamwenge Districts was conducted, utilizing the Sustainable Services Checklist to measure the sustainability of WASH systems. Through ongoing monitoring, we systematically evaluate program sustainability and identify areas for improvement by collecting data on various variables. This includes assessing service levels, sustainability metrics, water and sanitation uptake, customer satisfaction, and the institutional capacity of service providers.

Current state of sustainability levels in Luuka and Kamwenge Districts:

SANITATION SERVICE LEVELS

Indicator		KAMWENGE		LUUKA	
		FY 2022	FY 2023	FY 2022	FY 2023
Service Authority	Structure & Management				
	Finance				
	Monitoring				

WATER SERVICE LEVELS

Everyone Forever Districts		KAMWENGE		LUUKA	
		FY 2022	FY 2023	FY 2022	FY 2023
Service Authority	1. Structure				
	2. Finance				
	3. Management				
	4. Monitoring				
	5. Structure				
Service Provider	6. Finance				
	7. O&M				
WRM	8. WRM				

Water For People's impactful initiatives have extended beyond the provision of WASH services, contributing significantly to the socio-economic fabric of communities. In terms of sanitation jobs, our programs have led to the creation of employment opportunities, fostering local economic growth and providing individuals with sustainable livelihoods. Capacity building is a cornerstone of our approach, ensuring that communities develop the necessary skills and knowledge to manage and sustain WASH solutions independently. Through strategic partnerships with key institutions, including collaborative efforts with the National Water and Sewerage Corporation (NWSC) and various organizations, we have amplified the reach and impact of our interventions, enriching our programs with diverse expertise and resources.

Financial sustainability is critical for the longevity of WASH services, and Water For People has successfully mobilized substantial funding, especially from donor organizations and entities. This financial support ensures the continuity of our initiatives, driving positive change in the communities we serve.

Given the scoring key above, Water For People will have key priority areas based on the least performing metrics. To ensure the services are sustained, they will need to reach intermediate/high levels of sustainability (yellow and green). As such, our priority areas will be focused on ensuring that all services fall within these colors. For example, in Luuka, our priority areas will include:

- · Service Provider Operation and Maintenance
- · Service Provider Financing

PROGRAMME

MILESTONES

In our relentless pursuit of the Everyone Forever model, Water For People has achieved significant milestones through our commitment to sustainable and transformative impact. As we steer towards universal access to safe water and sanitation services, these milestones showcase our progress in community water supply and sanitation, institutional strengthening, and integrated water resources management. Each accomplishment is a vital step closer to realizing our vision of ensuring lasting positive change in the communities we serve.

COMMUNITY WATER SUPPLY SERVICE LEVELS

In response to the escalating demand for water and sanitation solutions, Water For People proactively expanded our projects into previously unreached areas within our EF Districts in 2023. This expansion specifically encompassed unserved and underserved sub-counties, parishes, and villages, strategically aimed at meeting the pressing needs of these communities.

Throughout the year, our efforts culminated in successfully reaching 40 villages in the Kamwenge District. This impactful initiative resulted in a positive transformation, reaching and benefiting the lives of over 35,381 people through the extension of piped water systems and rehabilitation of the Nkarakara water supply system. The successful

rehabilitation of the piped system specifically catered to the needs of seven villages in Kahunge Town Council. Additionally, we extended piped water supply services to an extensive network, covering 35 villages across the Sub-counties of Nkoma and Kahunge, as well as the Town Councils of Kahunge, Kabuga, and Rukunyu.

Additionally, Water For People embarked on the first phase of construction of the Nabyoto system, a transformative project set to provide 3,722 people in four villages of Busanda A, Busanda B, Nabyoto A and Nabyoto B in Bukooma Sub county in Luuka District, with improved water services by the fiscal year 2025.



Kiyunga Health Centre IV in Luuka District



In Kamwenge

Name of Water and Sanitation Supply System	Villages Served	Metered Consumers	Domestic Population Served
Biguli - Kirinda	2	255	4,602
Malere - Nyakabungo - Butanda	3	24	4,524
Rwebishahi	1	85	2,385
Busingye - Buhumuriro	2	38	2,278
Bitojo - Byantumo- Nyabubale	3	187	5,834
Kabale - Keishunga	2	98	1,996
Kabale - Keishunga Extension to Kabuye	10	271	6,951
Kampala B Piped Water Supply System	7	295	6,704
Malere Piped Water Supply System	13	430	10,822
Kabambiro Piped Water Supply System	31	425	16,493
Kabingo Piped Water Supply System	13	348	9,163
Bihanga - Kaberebere Piped Water Supply System	10	464	8,138
FY22 Extensions in Seven Subcounties	29	960	27,243

SANITATION SERVICE LEVELS

Our commitment to enhancing sanitation infrastructure was evident through the construction of 21 blocks of 5-stance lined VIP latrines, a Menstrual Hygiene Management (MHH) incinerator, and Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene a Lot (WASHaLOT) facilities in six schools within Kahunge Sub County. This comprehensive approach not only addressed water accessibility but also significantly improved sanitation facilities in educational institutions, fostering a healthier and more conducive learning environment.

To address sanitation and hygiene challenges as well as address the high pupil-to-stance ratio in schools, Water For People undertook a significant initiative in Luuka District. The construction involved the establishment of six 5-stance VIP



5 stance VIP latrine with a urinal for boys and bathroom, incinerator for girls, constructed at Ikumbya Catholic Primary School in Luuka District

Latrine blocks at Mawembe Primary School, Buyoga Primary School, Ikumbya Catholic Primary School, and Wandago Primary School. These latrine blocks were designed with specific features, including a urinal for boys, a dedicated stance for persons with disabilities, and the inclusion of a washroom. Additionally, each block is equipped with an inbuilt incinerator to ensure proper menstrual hygiene management, specifically tailored to meet the sanitation needs of girls.

Water For People remains at the forefront of innovative approaches to enhance sanitation and hygiene in communities. Among these pioneering concepts is the Market-Based Sanitation Implementation Approach (MBSIA) which is designed to revolutionize the way sanitation and hygiene interventions are implemented, ensuring sustainability and community ownership.

The MBSIA Approach focuses on leveraging market dynamics to drive the adoption of improved sanitation practices. This model recognizes the importance of creating a demand for sanitation products and services, promoting entrepreneurship, and fostering a market ecosystem that sustains itself over time.

Water For People identified and created 10 model Village in Kamwenge District where it was able to integrate sanitation and hygiene improvements into the broader context of community development. By transforming selected villages into exemplary models, this initiative aims to inspire neighboring communities to imitate these best practices.



HANDWASHING

WITH SOAP CAMPAIGN

A Beacon of Hygiene and Community Engagement in the Kamwenge District

Communities and leaders in Kamwenge District embarked on a life-changing journey to improve the health and hygiene of its residents through an initiative called, the Handwashing with Soap Campaign. Made possible by funding from Charity Water, this initiative was set to bring about a profound shift in awareness and the practice of hand hygiene in 42 villages within the district.

At the forefront of this transformative movement were two remarkable individuals — Joseph Karungi, the Kamwenge District Chairperson and Gerald Twebaze, the District Speaker, backed up by Community leaders. These two high-ranking personalities within the district have embraced their roles as substantive handwashing ambassadors, having received training from the National Handwashing Secretariat of the Ministry of Water and Environment two years ago. Since then, their passion for promoting handwashing with soap has been unwavering.

The choice of the District Chairperson and Speaker as campaign leaders and handwashing Ambassadors was strategic because their positions commanded respect and trust among the local community, making their words and actions influential. The campaign leveraged their credibility and status to foster real change.

The Handwashing with Soap Campaign employed a holistic approach to improve sanitation and hygiene in the 42 villages. A dedicated team of grassroots structures and health inspectors also worked tirelessly to implement and monitor hygiene initiatives. The involvement of the District Chairperson served as a motivating force for these dedicated individuals who draw inspiration from his commitment.

Another remarkable aspect of this campaign was the involvement of chairpersons from soap making groups. These groups, recipients of project training, are essential for the steady supply of soap, a critical component of the handwashing campaign. These soap makers not only provided a vital resource but also used the opportunity to promote their businesses, further contributing to the local economy.

The campaign's activities encompassed a wide array of educational and practical demonstrations. The main ambassadors, the District Chairperson and Speaker, undertook various tasks such as:

- Educating the community about the critical times for handwashing.
- Highlighting the benefits of proper hand hygiene.
- Discussing the costs of non-compliance, particularly in terms of health and well-being.
- Conducting live demonstrations of proper handwashing techniques in randomly selected households and public institutions.
- Recognizing and appreciating the efforts of community-based sanitation promoters who play a pivotal role in ensuring the success of the campaign.

The Handwashing with Soap Campaign in Kamwenge District is a testament to the power of community engagement, strong leadership, and the collective will to promote essential health practices. Through the dedication of the District Chairperson and Speaker, the tireless work of grassroots structures and health inspectors, and the involvement of local soap making groups, this campaign is poised to create lasting change in hand hygiene practices, improving the health and well-being of the people of Kamwenge District. It is not only about washing hands but also about washing away health disparities and ushering in a brighter, healthier future for the community.



INSTITUTIONAL

STRENGTHENING

IN TOWNS

In our pursuit of lasting impact, institutional strengthening serves as a fundamental pillar within Water For People's program framework, ensuring sustained benefits well beyond the active phases of our initiatives. This commitment to strengthening institutions is vividly demonstrated in regions like Kole, Pallisa, and Kitgum.

For instance, our active engagement in the sanitation management review session in Pallisa Town Council exemplifies our dedication. This collaborative effort involved key stakeholders such as the District Local Government (DLG), National Water and Sewerage Corporation (NWSC), and the Ministry of Water and Environment. The session showcased remarkable progress in enhancing the enabling environment, covering standards, regulations, bylaws, and Safe Toilet Facilities (STF) activities — critical components of effective sanitation.

In light of these achievements, our continued support and focus on such towns will entail the adoption and replication of best practices, extending beyond the Town Council to the broader District Local Government. We are committed to disseminating standards and bylaws to grassroots levels, fortifying enforcement mechanisms, and strategically increasing budget allocations for waste management initiatives.

Through this holistic and comprehensive approach to institutional strengthening, our aim is to bolster the foundations of sustainable sanitation practices. By doing so, we aspire to leave a lasting, positive impact on communities and the broader ecosystem, aligning with our mission to ensure enduring benefits from our programs.

PARTNERSHIPS AND COLLABORATIONS

Water For People continues to recognize the role of partnerships and collaborations as we navigate the journey towards achieving our Everyone Forever model. These strategic alliances have been instrumental in shaping the execution of our strategic plan, elevating our impact in the Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene (WASH) sector.

Through funding from the Sanitation and Hygiene Fund on a project called, "Accelerating Access to Improved Sanitation and Hygiene Services Using Market-Based Approaches in Uganda," Water For People will collaboratively work with Ministry of Health Uganda, Ministry of Water and Environment, Ministry of Education and Sports, IRC Wash, Uganda Water and Sanitation NGO Network and Finnish Mondial (Health Through Water and Sanitation and Amref Health Africa) to improve universal access to safe sanitation and hygiene in Uganda.

Water For People continues to work with WASH sector partners like IRC International Water and Sanitation Centre and water.org through the One For All alliance with a shared vision, Destination 2030, which aims to reach 200 million people by 2030.

Water For People has established a robust partnership with the Albert Water Management Zone (AWMZ), fostering collaboration in various initiatives as well as significantly influencing the sustainable management of water resources in Kamwenge District. As such, through the partnership and support, Kamwenge saw the demarcation of 30 kilometers of the river Mpanga catchment and the installation of 400 concrete pillars for protection, further showcasing Water For People's commitment to sustainable practices.



INTEGRATED WATER RESOURCES MANAGEMENT

Integrated Water Resources Management (IWRM) stands as a fundamental element in Water For People's approach to sustainable development. IWRM underscores the importance of coordinated and comprehensive water resource management, recognizing the intricate connections between social, economic, and environmental factors. At Water For People, we prioritize IWRM to ensure a holistic perspective in addressing water challenges and promoting sustainable community development.

Water For People has provided support to the District Natural Resources Office (DNRO) in Luuka, particularly in establishing a comprehensive tree nursery adjacent to the District headquarters. This support included activities such as land clearing, construction of the nursery shade, and setting up nursery beds.

The nursery is cultivating four tree species: eucalyptus grandis, grevillea robusta, bathedavia nyasica (muvule), and maesopsis eminii (musizi) with a substantial number of seedlings potted, (maesopsis eminii: 923, grevillea robusta: 6950, eucalyptus grandis: 4802). A strategic addition was the introduction of fruit trees like guavas, mangoes, and avocados alongside other tree species.

To ensure long-term sustainability, the project has transitioned into a business model, intending to sell seedlings at a reduced price. An in-depth analysis of Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities, and Threats (SWOT) was conducted, coupled with a review of marketing principles, guiding the project toward growth and self-sufficiency beyond Water For People's direct support.

WATER SAFETY PLANNING

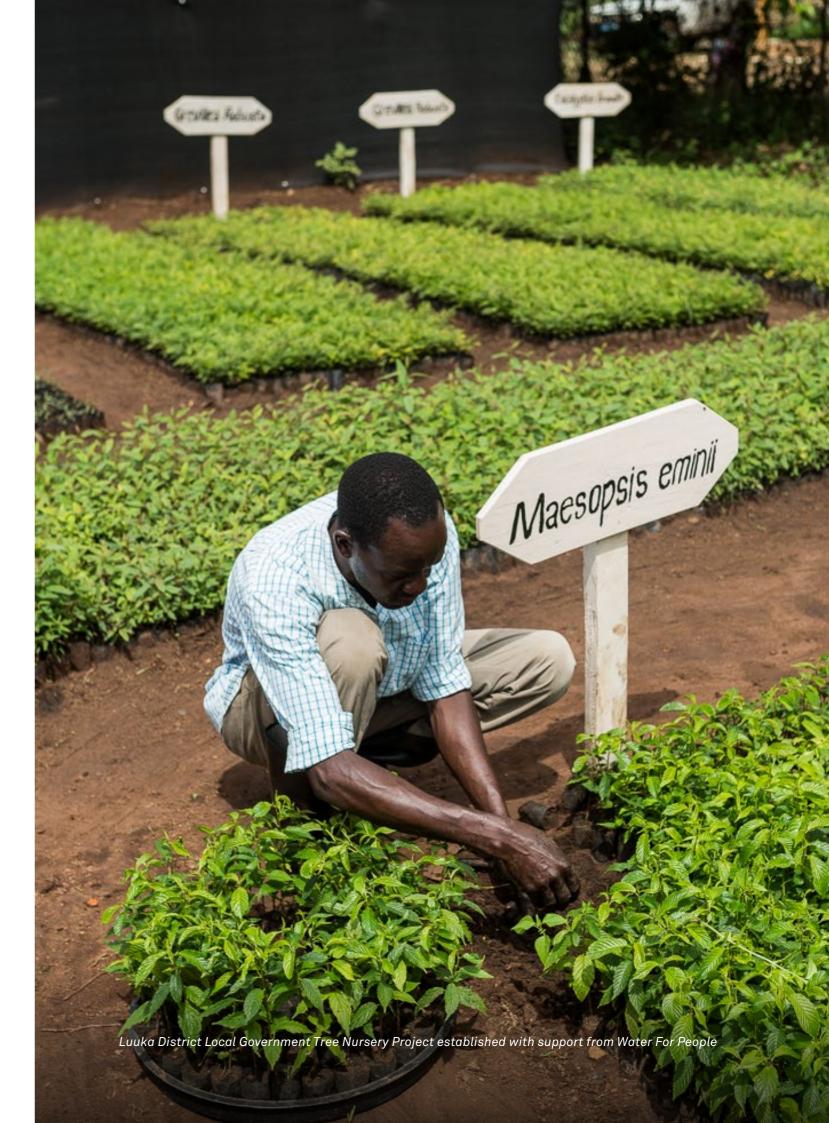
Water For People, in alignment with its commitment to ensuring access to safe and clean water, actively engages in the transformative concept of Water Safety Planning (WSP). At the heart of this approach lies a proactive strategy that goes beyond water quality monitoring, embracing a holistic and community-centered methodology. WSP serves as a cornerstone in identifying and mitigating potential risks throughout the entire water supply chain, emphasizing collaboration, community engagement, and the development of tailored action plans.

Our impactful endeavors are reflected in the extensive implementation of Water Safety Planning across 50 communities in eight sub counties in Kamwenge District: Rukunyu TC, Kahunge, Kabuga TC, Biguli TC, Kamwenge S/C, Kamwenge TC, Nkoma S/C, and Bihanga S/C. Led by dedicated subcounty extension workers, this initiative ensures the implementation of agreed-upon action plans for specific water sources with tangible outputs including the development and implementation of 50 participatory water safety points, as well as the collaborative implementation of water points, with 50 water user communities actively involved in the process.

In Luuka District, specifically in the sub-county of Bulongo, a targeted effort to address water quality challenges has been made through conducting WSP activities in 10 water sources with detectable e-coli levels. This included community meetings, sanitary surveys, and the reactivation of water and sanitation committees.

Also to ensure the effectiveness and sustainability of our efforts, we supported in the training of the extension workers for the ten committees formed as a way of empowering committee members with a clear understanding of their roles and responsibilities, emphasizing essential aspects such as record-keeping, accountability, and tariff setting. This holistic approach aimed to enhance the overall governance and management of water sources.

Through this collaborative and community-driven approach, Water For People strives to empower communities, local authorities, and stakeholders, creating a shared commitment to maintaining access to clean and safe water. In doing so, we contribute to building resilient and sustainable water supply systems that have a lasting positive impact on the communities we serve.



SPOTLIGHT: WORKING WITH THE ALBERT WATER MANAGEMENT ZONE (AWMZ)

Water For People continues its dedicated efforts to ensure access to safe and clean water through partnership with the Albert Water Management Zone (AWMZ) under the Ministry of Water and Environment, which is responsible for water resources planning, regulation, and the formulation of catchment and sub-catchment management plans which play a vital role in monitoring water resources.

Our collaboration with the Albert Water Management Zone extends to conducting joint monitoring activities for water resources thus tracking both the quality and quantity of water sources and associated interventions within the

Mpanga Catchment. This collaborative effort involves close coordination with the District Natural Resources Office team and the targeted sub-county office.

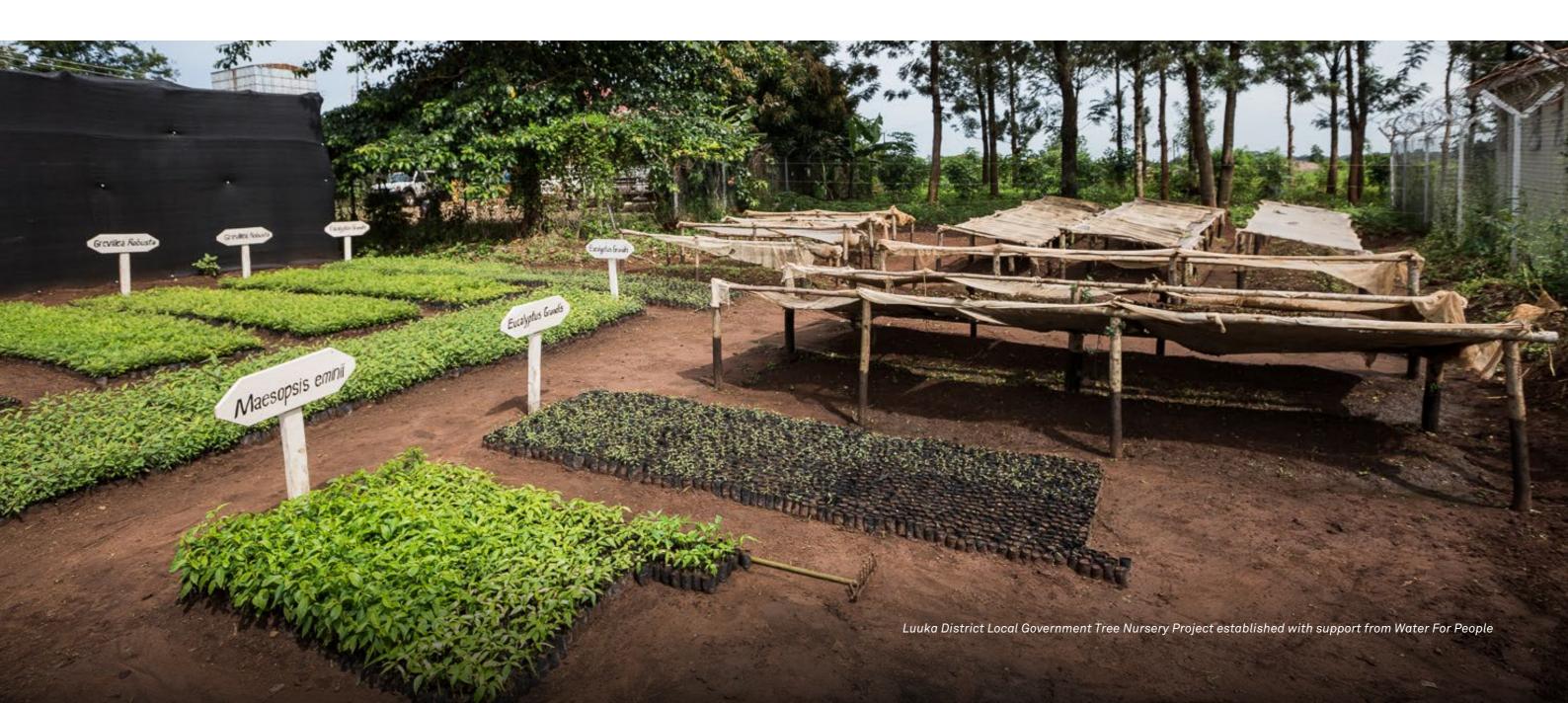
Under this partnership, impactful activities have been undertaken to contribute to the sustainable management of water resources in the Mpanga Catchment:

 Implementation of Mpanga Catchment Management Plan (CMP): The Country Program collaborated with the AWMZ to implement key aspects of the Mpanga Catchment Management Plan (CMP), ensuring the execution of strategic initiatives for water resource management.

- River Delineation and Protection: The AWMZ, in partnership with the District Natural Resources Department, delineated and protected a substantial 30 kilometers of the river Mpanga catchment. This involved the installation of 400 concrete pillars, providing a tangible safeguard for this vital water resource.
- Tree Nursery Establishment: A further initiative involved the AWMZ's support in establishing a

tree nursery within the district. This nursery successfully produced an impressive 167,000 seedlings, contributing significantly to reforestation efforts.

Catchment Management Committee
 Meeting: With assistance from Water For
 People, the AWMZ successfully organized
 the first Catchment Management Committee
 meeting of the year. This collaborative effort
 underscores the commitment to fostering
 effective governance and coordination in the
 sustainable management of water resources.



KABUGA

BEEKEEPING

PROJECT

"We have found a new beginning, a partnership with nature that goes beyond honey. We are not just beekeepers; we are caretakers, restoring balance to our lives, and environment."

- Tujahumura Amos, Chairperson – Kabuga Beekeeping Project

In the heart of Kabuga, where the demarcation of River Mpanga once altered the livelihood of the community, a determined community discovered hope and empowerment through the Kabuga Beekeeping Project.

Launched and donated in 2022 by the Ministry of Water and Environment, this initiative not only hoped to provide a better standard of living for 25 individuals affected by the changes, but also became a symbol of willingness to foster effective management of water resources and sustainable development practices within the community.

It should be noted that many community members were engaged in agriculture and cattle rearing on the land by the river banks as an economic activity and form of livelihood. However, these activities often contributed to destruction of the river banks due to encroachment as well as water pollution. Through the collaborative efforts of the Kabuga subcounty as well as the Kamwenge district officials, stakeholders especially the community members were engaged through trainings to foster a smooth transition towards more sustainable land use practices like beekeeping.

Under the leadership of Chairperson Tujahumura Amos, the project embraced 25 members, each finding purpose in their involvement in the project and the prospect of a brighter tomorrow. The impact of the river's demarcation was profound, disrupting families and their livelihoods.

Yet, beekeeping emerged as a lifeline, offering not just economic stability but also a holistic approach to addressing the challenges posed by human activities that degrade the wetland (for instance, deforestation and land conversion for agricultural expansion, which can lead to the loss of natural vegetation cover around wetlands).

The Kabuga Beekeeping Project is therefore serving as a sustainable solution to the economic challenges brought about by the demarcation of River Mpanga. As a source of investment to the project, a savings group was established where members were empowered to pool resources through monthly saving of UGX 5,000/1.35 USD. The members are encouraged to borrow with an interest which is then reinvested into the project.

Though faced with obstacles such as persistent ant invasions affecting honey production, the community united to overcome challenges. They use smokers as a way of irritating and repelling the ants, thus having them to retreat from the area.

Plans were set in motion to also relocate the hives to a more suitable location within Kabuga town, demonstrating the collective resolve of the community.

Looking ahead, the Kabuga Beekeeping Project envisions growth beyond honey production. Efforts are underway to explore markets for additional products, including soap, medicinal items, and jelly. The community is eager to share the fruits of their labor with the world, not merely as commodities but as symbols of resilience, unity, and positive change.



The Kabuga beekeeping Project (Beehives) established by the river banks of River Mpanga in Kabuga Town Council



A demarcation pillar of River Mpanga



PARTNERS IN 2023

Ministry of Water and Environment Kampala Capital City Authority National Water and Sewerage Cooperation Uganda Water and Sanitation Network (UWASNET) IRC International Water and Sanitation Centre Kamwenge District Local Government Luuka District Local Government Kole Town Council Pallisa Town Council Kitgum Municipality Ministry of Health Ministry of Education and Sports