



African Water Facility
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AFRICAN DEVELOPMENT BANK GROUP

PROJECT BRIEF

UGANDA:

KAWEMPE URBAN POOR SANITATION IMPROVEMENT PROJECT (KUPSIP)

Un-sewered Sanitation Improvements for the Urban Poor



"There was a lack of appropriate toilet facilities in the communities of Kawempe. This is one of the key things that this project was addressing in two forms: to create some mindset change for the residents to appreciate the importance of appropriate hygiene and sanitation; but also adapting to the use of appropriate sanitation facilities."

David Katende, Programme Coordinator

The KUPSIP project

Kawempe is a region within Kampala, Uganda's capital, which has developed rapidly in recent years. Despite this, it suffers from a lack of water supply and sanitation facilities to serve a population of more than 300,000 people. In addition, it is located within a predominantly low-lying swampy geography, which exacerbates the water and sanitation challenges.

In 2013, the African Water Facility (AWF) invested EUR 1,200,096 in Kawempe Urban Poor Sanitation Improvement Project (KUPSIP). The objective was to reduce water-borne diseases among residents and especially children under five years old living in the poor areas of Kawempe municipality through providing affordable and sustainable sanitation services.

The project targeted low-income households, including both tenants and landlords.

The design used a combination of approaches in order to:

- (i) highlight messages and increase improved access to toilet facilities in visible public places;
- (ii) develop opportunities for private landlords to provide tenants access to facilities;
- (iii) create standardised models and contracts to reduce costs, as well as financing options through a revolving fund;
- (iv) provide education to help ensure use and demand of facilities and socialise costs, and
- (v) provide support and the necessary infrastructure to increase the potential for faecal sludge disposal with dedicated trucks.

The project supported actions in the long-term Sanitation Development Programme for Kampala (up to 2033) and within the Kampala Sanitation Master Plan (2004). The project targeted 100,020 primary beneficiaries, but it is expected to double the beneficiary population to approximately 200,000 people through the community-based revolving-fund mechanism and hygiene education promotion.

The KUPSIP Project

Project Code: P-UG-EB0-002

Grant Number: 5600155003102

Approval Date: 4th January 2013

Closing Date: 30th September 2017

Total Budget: EUR 1,612,272

AWF Funding Amount: EUR 1,200,096

Additional funding from:

Community Integrated Development Initiatives (CIDI) and collaborating partners

Implementing partners:

- CIDI
- National Water and Sewerage Cooperation (NWSC)
- Kampala City Council Authority (KCCA)
- Network For Water and Sanitation Uganda (NETWAS U)

Beneficiaries:

- Communities around the schools and other public institutions
- Landlords and tenants



Impacts and Solutions

The project resulted in several connected elements that allow for a full-service approach. Project interventions have helped Kawempe region **reduce open defecation problems**, especially in areas where public facilities have been introduced, **minimising local water-borne diseases** (e.g., cholera, typhoid, and diarrhea).

Around 240 **public toilets with handwashing points** were built and made available to residents. In addition, five schools were provided with the same infrastructures, benefiting 2,523 pupils. KUPSIP included the construction of five four-cubicle community latrines in public places **managed by local user committees**. Each committee recruited an assistant/cleaner and set a fee for using the toilets.

Three **faecal sludge trucks** were purchased for the maintenance and emptying of existing and newly constructed **sanitation facilities**.

The project design involved various partners to ensure **political and policy support**, which helped develop strong relationships between the stakeholders. At the national level, KUPSIP's interventions directly contributed to government efforts in meeting WASH objectives.

The use of a **micro-finance revolving fund** has allowed more people to access similar facilities than a direct grant would allow. Each individual accesses a loan amount of between €300 and €1,500, which is expected to be repaid over a period of 6 to 18 months¹. The cost per stance acquired as a loan by the landlord will be passed back to the tenants, always ensuring that the rentals will still be affordable for the urban poor. The financing mechanism will entail minimal interest rates to cater for the costs of administering the Fund. The revolving fund is working, although it is being depleted over time.

As outcomes' effect, **other projects have been launched** or are in the pipeline, including the development of other Faecal Sludge Management (FSM) programmes and the planning of a sanitation loan by KCCA to support other communities similar to Kawempe.

Key Challenges

Poor sanitation condition in the slum communities of Kawempe, with lack of appropriate toilet facilities.

Low priority of sanitation among the underprivileged urban population, including landlords.

Limited enforcement of sanitation standards by urban authorities.

Extreme poverty among the unprivileged urban population despite their willingness to pay for the services.

Technologies' access to support facilities improvement.



"The project aims to help reduce open defecation within the municipality and thereby making use of the liquid waste from the community and then convert it into fertiliser and electricity. It is also serving as a means of taking care of the environment, climate change, and providing job opportunities."

Mr. Kweku Quansah, Deputy Director at the Environmental Health and Sanitation Directorate

Key Lessons

- The **FSM approach** needs to address financial access throughout the whole chain, from the development of facilities by individuals to the disposal of waste at a community level.
- **Micro-finance** is a suitable tool for **promoting sanitation facility provision**. Still, there is the need to ensure that any institution administering a scheme needs to have prior experience to avoid putting additional stress on low-income communities or having a delay in the roll-out. Anyhow the implementation of such mechanisms is important for building community's and household's resilience and financial independence.
- The project set the example of **how a mid-term project review** can lead to greater and **longer-term benefits**. Costs associated with cesspool truck procurement were initially underestimated, and changes were needed about some significant components of the projects.
- **Good relationships with multiple governmental entities** were necessary. These connections have helped facilitate collaboration between government, private sector, and local communities on effective FSM activities in the area.
- The **presence of an office and staff** in Kawempe was a key component to the overall project success. It allowed high visibility, access, and the capacity to show potential future users the possible benefits of sanitation facilities' implementation.
- KUPSIP illustrated how public facilities could provide an important hub in local communities, hosting **small enterprises** including stationary sales and laundry facilities.



"CIDI helped us here in Kawempe by bringing public toilets, which were really good. They gave us two options: one allowed us private toilets, which we could pay for an instalment and then we got five public toilets for the whole of Kawempe."

Christine Namakula, Beneficiary.

Recommended actions

From the KUPSIP project, it is possible to identify the below-recommended actions regarding structures, policies and strategic plans:

Ensure that future sanitation projects operating in informal settlements have a **local presence** in the serviced area.

CIDI needs to urgently consider **revising charging rates** for cesspool emptying services and **revolving loan services** to expand and maintain their long-term **sustainability**. Both elements were successful in market growth, but if not well managed they may limit future development and expansion.

Consider using **standardised models** and approaches in other sanitation projects funded by AWF through the African Urban Sanitation Investment Fund (AUSIF) programme.

The original Results-based Logical Framework (RLF) included a component relating to **developing a market for faecal sludge derived products**. This aspect should be included, whether as a standalone project or scale-up, if further investments are to envisage in Kampala.

Develop **knowledge products on micro-financing** in the sanitation sector to expand its use.



Other related Project Resource

Kawempe Urban Poor Sanitation Improvement Project (KUPSIP), Appraisal Report. December 2012. AWF.
Uganda: Kawempe Urban Poor Sanitation Improvement Project (KUPSIP), Project Completion Report. October 2020. AWF.
<https://projectsportal.afdb.org/dataportal/VProject/show/P-UG-EB0-002>



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