

Water Supply and Sanitation Development Facility-Central

Background

The Ministry of Water and Environment has an overall mission “To promote and ensure the rational and sustainable utilization, development and effective management of the water and environment resources for socio-economic development of the country”. Inadequate access to water and sanitation facilities and unhygienic practices are still inflicting profound effects on health as well as social and economic wellbeing of the population in the urban and peri-urban settlements in the country.

The Ministry of Water and Environment in collaboration with its development partners has established the Water and Sanitation Development Facilities (WSDFs) as a funding mechanism to focus on provision of water supply and sanitation in Small Towns. The WSDF – Central located at Wakiso District Headquarters was established in July 2010 and serves 29 districts of the Central and Mid – Western districts of Uganda following a successful piloting of a similar WSDF establishments in the South Western (Mbarara) consequently Northern (Lira) and Eastern (Mbale) regions.

As part of the continued efforts to address the challenge of limited access to safe water and sanitation and hygienic standards in communities, the Government of Uganda (GoU) secured a four year funding from African Development Bank (AfDB) for the Water Supply and Sanitation Programme (WSSP) for the FY 2012/13 to FY 2015/16 with the aim of supporting its efforts to achieve sustainable provision of safe water and hygiene promotion based on management responsibility and ownership by the users to 77% of the population in rural areas and 90% for small

towns population by 2015. Upon successful completion, the AfDB is funding WSSP II, which is to be completed in FY 2020/21.

Overall Objectives of WSDF-Central

The specific objectives include:

- Develop safe piped water supply systems including feasibility studies, water source development and construction.
- Improve general health conditions through reduction of water borne diseases and promotion of good practices of hygiene and sanitation in the targeted STs and RGCs targeting achievement of 100% toilet coverage in the water supply areas
- Empower communities in the targeted STs and RGCs through a high degree of community engagement and capacity building for O&M of the installed facilities.
- Contribute to water resource and environmental protection through the use of appropriate technologies in water and sanitation interventions and adherence to related national guidelines.
- Develop and promote appropriate technologies of sanitation facilities both at household level and public infrastructure including sludge management systems.
- Support Operations and Maintenance of existing water supply systems through major renewal and expansion of infrastructure to improve their functionality and increase coverage.

Activities of WSDF-Central

The WSDF-Central implementation follows modalities spelt out in the WSDF Operational Manual which emphasizes a demand responsive approach; where communities express their demand for water through written application for services and commit to fulfilling their obligations. Environmental enhancement measures are also promoted through protecting water source catchment areas and training communities in safe environment practices. WSDF-Central employs a private partnership approach in its daily operations through the use of consultants, contractors and other service providers.

- **Water Supply:** Construct piped water in STs and RGCs including drilling of production boreholes, water supply infrastructure, institutional and private connections.
- **Sanitation:** Public sanitation facilities including hygiene education and promotion of innovative technologies such Faecal Sludge Management Facilities.
- **Environment:** Source catchments protection including tree nursery beds and some targeted campaigns against bad environmental practices (bush burning) and advocating for good practices (afforestation, agro-forestry, soil erosion control, etc.).
- **Cross Cutting Issues:** Issues of gender, HIV/AIDS and good governance.
- The Facility has been able to successfully deliver these number of projects using a mix of consultants and in-house expertise.