



THE REPUBLIC OF UGANDA

Ministry of Water and Environment

Directorate of Water Development

Rural Water Supply and Sanitation Department

A brief on the Department Units

2018/2019

TECHNICAL SUPPORT UNITS (TSUs)

The TSU division is primarily mandated to provide specialized support to the District Local Governments in the utilization of the District Water and Sanitation Conditional Grant (DWSCG) and overall implementation of water and sanitation activities. In an effort to ensure efficiency and effectiveness, ten (10) Technical Support Units (TSUs) were established as decentralized structures regionally across the country whose vision is “effective, efficient and strategic support to sector players for improved water and sanitation service delivery.” Each TSU comprises of a team of specialists i.e. Water and Sanitation Specialist (WSS), Community Development Specialist (CDS) and Public Health Specialist (PHS) who provide support in the following areas:

- Planning, budgeting and accountability.
- Strengthening team building and coordination among all stakeholders in the local governments.
- Support procurement and Contract Management.
- Carryout trainings designed to improve Operation and Maintenance of water and sanitation facilities.
- Carry out verification of water and sanitation activities being implemented by the local governments.
- Provide post construction supervision and verification.

The establishment of the TSUs has greatly improved performance of the Rural water and sanitation Department especially in the utilization of the District Water and Sanitation Conditional Grant (DWSCG) to districts with significant outputs being registered that are aimed at improving the livelihood of the rural communities in the country. This has directly translated into improved performance of the DLGs in provision of safe water and sanitation services through the constant monitoring and supervisory roles of the TSUs.

KEY ACTIVITIES IMPLEMENTED UNDER TSUS TO DLGS

- **Conducting District Water Officers' meeting:** The Ministry organizes annual District Water Officers meeting. This meeting aims at assessing performance as well as sharing experiences in the implementation of water and sanitation programs in DLGs.
- **TSU performance evaluation review:** The TSU performance evaluation meeting was conducted in November 2018 to review the quarterly performance of TSUs during July-September 2017 period. Participants included TSU, MWE Staff and District. The meeting highlighted inadequate funds for O&M of water & sanitation facilities in the DLGs due to reduced grant allocation to district most specifically the nonwage budget, lack of transport and the delays in the procurement processes in the districts as the key factors affecting timely service delivery and absorption of funds
- **Support Districts in planning, coordination and implementation of software activities:** TSUs support DLGs in planning, budgeting and conducting the following critical software activities; District Advocacy Meeting (DAM), Sub County Advocacy Meeting (SAM), training Water Source Committee (WSC), Social Mobilisers Meetings (SMM), District Water and Sanitation Coordination Committee (DWSCC), Rural Water and Sanitation.
- **Coordination of Negotiations with ULGA on DWSCDG:** Negotiations with Uganda Local Government Association (ULGA) on grant implementation guidelines for FY 2018/19 were successfully conducted and concluded with signed minutes in September 2017. The agreed actions by parties were reviewed in April 2018.
- **Physical Verification of reported District outputs:** TSUs supplement accountability in DLGs through regular monitoring of the activities of the Districts and Sub counties. This was done through physical verification of water

SANITATION UNIT

Background

Sanitation unit is a unit within the Rural Water Supply and Sanitation Department (RWSSD), Directorate of Water Development (DWD). It is comprised of a team of Environmental Health Officers led by the Sanitation Coordinator at the center and Public Health Specialists in the regional Technical Support Units (TSUs).

Objective

- Oversee hygiene and sanitation promotion activities across Uganda.
- Promote good sanitation and hygiene practices in the centrally managed water supply and sanitation projects through promotion of appropriate approaches and technologies to ensure zero contamination of water resources and environment.
- Advocate for behavioral change towards hygienic practices in communities.

Project Brief

The unit is/has implemented a number of projects and these include;

1. CLIMATE RESILIENT PUBLIC AND INSTITUTIONAL SANITATION PROJECT (CRIPS)

- The project targeted flood prone peri-urban areas in the eastern Uganda.
- The project was divided into 2 lots; Lot 1: Bukedea, Soroti and Kumi; Lot 2: Budaka, Butaleja and Pallisa.
- The scope of work included construction of 10 climate resilient sanitation facilities in schools and 2 in public places that will withstand floods.
- Technologies promoted included Envirolloos, Cess pits and Lined Ventilated Improved Pit latrines.
- The facilities were gender segregated, have Menstrual Hygiene Management (MHM) facilities and stances for People With Disabilities (PWDs)
- School health clubs and community Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH) structures were established and trained for proper Operation and Maintenance (O&M) of the facilities and sustainability.
- O&M trainings for the beneficiaries were also concluded
- Finally, both lots have been technically commissioned, now awaiting political commissioning.

2. HIGHWAY SANITATION PROJECT

- Feasibility study and detailed design was concluded.
- Contract was signed and awarded to Build base Ltd as the contractor.
- Land was acquired and site handed over to the contractor who has commenced works.

3. WSSP II PROJECTS

- Construction of gender segregated water borne public sanitation facilities in the project areas with MHM component.
- Contracted software consultancies to implement sanitation and hygiene activities with direct supervision from the unit's staff (Icon Africa, Pan Afric Engineering Services Ltd and KI Ltd).

4. NATIONAL HANDWASHING INITIATIVE ACTIVITIES

- Developed the National Handwashing Programme concept.
- Reviewed the National Handwashing strategy.
- Holds quarterly steering committee meetings to update partners on progress.
- Disseminated Hand washing with soap (HWWS) IEC materials in TSUs 1, 2, 5 &6.

5. EMERGENCY RESPONSE IN BUNAMBUTYE SUB COUNTY IN BULAMBULI DISTRICT

- With support of the Office of the Prime Minister and the Uganda Police Force, the unit supported in designing and construction of lined VIP latrines in the resettlement area in Bunambutye in Bulambuli district were landslide victims from Bududa.
- Sanitation and hygiene promotion campaigns held in the resettlement camp.
- Sanitation and hygiene IEC materials disseminated to the settlers in the camp.

6. INTEGRATED WATER MANAGEMENT DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM (IWMDP)

- This is a World Bank funded project targeting Bitsya GFS in Buhweju, Nyamugasani in Kasese, medium and large solar WSS and refugee resettlements and host communities in West Nile region.
- Sanitation hardware (Gender segregated climate resilient public sanitation and Fecal Sludge Treatment plants) will be constructed.
- Hygiene and sanitation promotion activities will be conducted in the project areas.

GROUNDWATER DEVELOPMENT UNIT

The Groundwater water unit under the Division of Infrastructure Operation and Maintenance of the Rural Water Supply and Sanitation Department is responsible for **“Ground water development, Planning, Quality Assurance and management and champion the formulation of policies that can provide an enabling environment to the achieve the stated mandate”** with the aim of addressing existing and potential hazards as wells as to improve on the effectiveness of existing ground water governance provisions and institutional capacity in the country.

The unit’s mandate (at a national level) is to “Develop and disseminate technologies, formulate, monitor and implement national policies for the sustainable development and management of groundwater resources, including their exploration, exploitation, assessment of the occurrence and distribution, conservation and protection”.

Core functions of the unit

- Undertake and manage all borehole drilling activities on a national scale either through direct implementation, or through technical support to local governments, other development partners (NGO’s) and Donor Agencies.
- Manage major rehabilitation of the point water supply sources.
- Identify target areas (districts or sub counties with low safe water coverage) to be considered as priority for the development of large diameter well fields.

- Assessment of the quality of borehole construction works and borehole installation materials through routine monitoring and evaluations.
- Spearheading the development of standards for installation materials in ground water projects in collaboration with Uganda National Bureau of Standards
- Continually review the “user-able” ability any new groundwater supply technology options that are being introduced in the country through controlled research
- Routine monitoring of the quality of and performance levels of groundwater development at the Local Government Levels by providing back up support in sustainable Operation and maintenance options.
 - a. Zoning/grouping
 - b. Designing routine checks and reporting.
- Organizing and participating in consultative meetings with groundwater practitioners in the private sector to discuss challenges, new technologies and training needs through Water Resources Institute and Appropriate Technology Center.
 - Borehole drilling contractors and pump testing technicians
 - Groundwater consultants and consultancy firms
 - Agencies, NGO’s and Civil Society Organizations
- The unit is also equipped with water bowsers (2) and service rig (1) to respond to emergency water supply to disaster affected communities.

- Mentoring and coaching of young professionals in the fields of groundwater development. The professionals are attached to the unit as either student interns or graduate trainees.
- The unit also coordinates the refugee WASH related concerns and provides a permanent representation of the Ministry in the Refugee WASH platform.