



Water, Environment and Sanitation (WES) Uganda

Country Setting

- In Uganda 35 per cent of people live in poverty.
- ARI, diarrhoea and malaria are the most common causes of child mortality.
- Despite impressive declines, 1.1 million people are living with HIV/AIDs.
- Since 1997, the country has been committed to universal primary education. Education expenditure is 24.9 per cent and the primary school enrolment ratio is 83 per cent.
- Uganda is plagued by conflicts, especially in the southwest, north and east of the country.

WES Sector Setting

- WES is a priority area in the Uganda Poverty Eradication Action Plan that also includes education, health care, HIV/AIDs and disaster management. The WES sector is beginning formal implementation of a sector-wide approach (SWAP) and sector investment plans (SIPs).
- Half of the country's districts have sanitation coverage of less than 10 per cent and there is better WES service provision in urban areas (which house only 13 per cent of the population).
- The jump in school enrolment from 2.6 million pupils in 1997 to 6.8 million pupils has placed a heavy toll on services. In 1999 only 2 per cent of schools had adequate latrines, only 37 per cent of teachers had had sanitation training and only 25 per cent of schools had hygiene information.
- The conflict in northern Uganda, ongoing for 17 years, has led to the growth of internally displaced person camps requiring water and sanitation infrastructure akin to that of towns.

Basic Indicators

Total population (1000s)	25,827
Under-five mortality rate (per 1000)	140
Total adult literacy rate (%)	67

Water and Sanitation Coverage

	Water (%)	Sanitation (%)
Urban	87	53
Rural	52	39
Total	56	41

UNICEF WES Programme

Main Components

- Community/household water, sanitation and hygiene, including promotion of good hygiene practices and safe waste disposal.
- School sanitation, hygiene and water, including service provision, teacher training and child-to-child activities.
- Interruption of transmission of guinea worm disease.
- Capacity building, including support to institutional information systems, especially geographic information systems (GIS).

Programme Highlights and Achievements

- UNICEF support has been critical in mitigating the school sanitation/hygiene crisis.
- UNICEF focuses on marginalized sectors of society and districts and community-based management systems for water supply.
- UNICEF supported the production of a reference handbook for extension staff.
- Guinea worm cases dropped from 126,000 in 1991 to zero indigenous cases in 2004.
- UNICEF introduced GIS, acclaimed as a major success by local governments.
- UNICEF is lead agency in WES emergencies.