

Sh11.3b project improves water, sanitation

WEST NILE

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Four primary schools in West Nile sub-region have received improved sanitation facilities, while thousands of residents in refugee-hosting communities are set to benefit from a sh11.3b piped water project aimed at improving access to clean and safe water.

The beneficiary schools are located in Adjumani, Moyo, Koboko and Madi-Okollo districts, where pupils previously faced severe sanitation challenges, including inadequate and filled up latrine stances.

The newly constructed modern latrines, fully connected to water, are expected to improve hygiene and create a better learning environment.

The intervention was implemented by the Ministry of Water and Environment through the Water and Sanitation Development Facility-North.

It is part of the Water Supply and Sanitation Programme in Refugee Hosting Communities in Northern Uganda II, funded by the governments of Uganda and Germany through KfW Development Bank.

In addition to schools, communities

PHOTO BY ROBERT ADIGA



Stakeholders observing the flow of water at the reservoir in Rhino Camp town council, Madi-Okollo district during the technical handover ceremony, recently

in Pakelle (Adjumani), Dufile (Moyo), Lobule Refugee Settlement (Koboko) and Rhino Camp town council (Madi-Okollo) have benefited from improved access to piped water. The project has been handed over to the Northern Umbrella of Water and Sanitation for operation and maintenance.

At Boroli Primary School in Adjumani district, the headteacher, Steven Nyuma, said the school struggled with few latrines despite having many learners.

"The situation was worse in the school with an enrolment of 1,311 learners because of the few latrines. Pupils would line up to access the facility."

At Tukuliri Primary School in Koboko district, the headteacher, Jimmy Drandua, said teachers previously shared latrines with learners, and one staff latrine had been closed after filling up.

The school now has six latrine stances for boys, six for girls and two for staff, including an incinerator and changing rooms.

"As of now, we have around 1,000 learners and the stances we had were not enough, posing a lot of risks," he added.

At John Dufile Primary School in Moyo district, senior woman Beatrice

BETWEEN THE LINES

Perrina Kareo, a resident of Liria village in Boroli parish, Adjumani district, said they used to walk over 1km in search of water.

Ajedra said the situation had been alarming, especially for girls.

"The structure is beautiful and well-decorated and when the children enter there, they feel very comfortable. The hygiene has improved and now the girls can change their clothes and bathe during their menstrual cycles, which is likely to improve enrolment and retention at the school," Ajedra said.

She noted that the school had 10 latrine stances, but one building housing five stances collapsed, leaving only five for over 800 learners.

COMMUNITIES WELCOME CLEAN WATER

Perrina Kareo, a resident of Liria village in Boroli parish, Adjumani district, said they used to walk over 1km in search of water.

"Before the project, the available water source could not adequately serve all the members of the community and we could cover long distances; this has made our work easier," said Kareo.

In Koboko district, Faizo Dawa, 26,

from Pijoke village in Lobule sub-county, said during the dry season, they would walk close to 2km to fetch water which they shared with animals.

Richard Edema, the principal assistant chief administrative officer of Adjumani, said the area has long faced water shortages due to population pressure.

Samuel Abe, the chairperson of Refugee Welfare Council Three in Lobule Refugee Settlement, said conflicts at water points were common and appealed for continued co-operation.

Koboko district chairperson Ashraf Mambo warned against vandalism.

"Whatever investment is put in your place is your project and you should own and protect it, and if there are recruitments, priority should be given to the area residents. Only the technical workforce should come from outside," Mambo said.

In Madi-Okollo, assistant resident district commissioner Tony Abeka Anyuarach said safe water coverage stands at 64.5 % and called for more support.

Eng. Richard Matua from the water ministry said the project is part of wider efforts to expand piped water systems in northern Uganda. He urged communities to connect to the system and take ownership of the project in order to ensure its sustainability.