



**WATER AND SANITATION DEVELOPMENT FACILITY-CENTRAL**  
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## **BACKGROUND**

The Ministry of Water and Environment, in collaboration with its development partners, established the Water and Sanitation Development Facilities (WSDFs) across Uganda. These facilities include WSDF-South West in Mbarara, WSDF-North in Lira, WSDF-East in Mbale, WSDF-Central in Wakiso, and WSDF-Karamoja in Moroto. The primary goal of these facilities is to develop sustainable water supply and sanitation services in Small Towns and Rural Growth Centers. WSDF-Central is Headquartered in the Ministry's central regional offices located in Wakiso Town Council and its area of operation covers the 29 districts of the Central and Mid-western regions of Uganda. WSDF-C has been a pivotal force in improving water and sanitation infrastructure for over a decade.

WSDF-C was established in 2010 and has since constructed more than 60 piped water supply and sanitation systems. The region encompasses over 119 gazetted Town Councils and numerous Town Boards. Initially, WSDF-C operated with financial support from both the Government of Uganda (GoU) and development partners. This collaborative funding model continued until 2020, after which the facility has relied solely on financing from GoU.

Over the years, WSDF-C has constructed piped water supply and sanitation systems in 61 urban centres since its inception. This achievement, remains below the planned target of the 147 Towns that were prioritized for implementation in 2010. Nevertheless, the facility continues to receive numerous applications for services which has resulted into the current priority list of over 300 towns in dire need of water and sanitation services in the region.

Table 1 provides a summary of the Water Supply and Sanitation Systems implemented by WSDF-C.

Table- 1: Summary of WSDF-C Phase I and II accomplishments

Phase	Completed construction projects		Completed designs		Ongoing designs		Ongoing construction	
	WSS	FSMF	WSS	FSMF	WSS	FSMF	WSS	FSMF
Phase-I	28	1	12	-	-	-	-	-
Phase-II	30	2	13	1	14	3	3	-
WSS – Water Supply Systems								
FSMF – Fecal Sludge Management Facility								

WSDF-C has made remarkable strides in improving service delivery in Uganda, aligning with the government's strategic agenda for attaining middle-income. Key achievements include;

**Water Supply Projects:** Phase-I and II construction projects led to over 16,681 new private consumer connections (yard taps) and 564 public fetching points. These facilities initially serve 732,905 people for Phase –I and 484,093 people for Phase-II, projected to grow to 1,004,115 in Phase-I and 552,108 under Phase-II by the 20-year design horizons.

**Increased Water Delivery:** More water reached 7,392 villages in 1,077 parishes, translating to 68.3% village/parish coverage by the end of 2022.

**Improved Hygiene and Health:** Wider access to water boosted daily water use, improved hygiene, health, and socio-economic activities. The burden of collecting water from remote locations decreased.

**Reduced Gender-Based Violence:** The project significantly reduced gender-based violence, including rape and assault, by shortening distances to water sources and reducing competition at point water sources.

Increased School Attendance: Particularly among girls, due to shorter distances to water sources and better hygiene practices.

Enhanced Sanitation: The Government of Uganda together with Development Partners have invested in sanitation and hygiene improvement through infrastructure development projects and promotional interventions and despite such investments, the resources are still insufficient to spur the requisite sanitation and hygiene improvements. The WSDF-C sanitation and hygiene programmes are guided by the Integrated Sanitation and Hygiene financing strategy (2018-20230) which is hinged on the three pillars of Demand creation, Supply chain management and enabling environment.

Urban sanitation and Rural sanitation outcome indicators (Annual Programme Performance Report, 2023) are as follows;

Percentage of the population with access to basic sanitation in urban areas

Basic sanitation is defined as “the percentage of the population using an improved sanitation facility not shared with other households”. Access to basic sanitation in urban areas was reported to have slightly reduced to 47.8% from 47.9% while in rural areas, basic sanitation increased to 26.9% from 24% in FY 2021/22. The slight reduction in basic sanitation in urban areas was attributed to inadequate funding of urban sanitation while the increase in basic sanitation in the rural areas was attributed to the increased uptake and implementation of market-based sanitation, which focuses on upgrading and construction of improved sanitation facilities. Access to any form of sanitation slightly increased to 90.8% from 90.6% in urban areas while in rural areas the sanitation coverage increased to 79.5% from 77% in FY 2021/22. This implies that an additional 1.12 million Ugandans gained access to sanitation services in rural areas.

(ii) Percentage of the population using safely managed sanitation services

Safely managed sanitation is defined as the “percentage of the population using improved sanitation facilities not shared where excreta is safely disposed in situ or transported and treated off-site” The population using safely managed sanitation in urban areas increased to 41.02% from 40.7% while in rural areas safely managed sanitation increased to 9.8% from 9% in the FY 2021/22. This was attributed to construction of Faecal Sludge Treatment Plants (FSTPs); sanitation promotion approaches/concepts that focus on higher service levels both in urban and rural areas and increased marketing and awareness creation of fecal sludge management services across the service chain (containment, emptying, and transportation, disposal, re-use) through Umbrellas of Water and Sanitation and engagements with the private sector.

(iii) Percentage of population with hand washing facilities with soap and water at home in urban areas

Hand washing is measured as the “percentage of people with access to hand washing facilities”. Access to hand washing with soap in urban areas slightly dropped to 53.1% from 53.4% in FY 2021/22 which was attributed to the perceived reduction in the risk of getting COVID-19 while in rural areas, hand washing with water and soap increased by 0.2% from 35.8% in FY 2021/22 to 36% in FY 2022/23. This was attributed to the hand washing with soap campaign, which was run throughout the year, coupled with innovations around hand hygiene. However, more efforts are required to implement systematic, innovative, and sustained hand washing with water and soap campaigns that will culminate into actual behavioral change as opposed to short-lived campaigns based on disease outbreaks and epidemics.

(iv) percentage of the population practicing open defecation

The percentage of the population practicing open defecation was 9.2% in urban areas while in rural areas, it slightly reduced to 20.5% from 23% in FY 2021/22. These populations have no access to any form of sanitation facility.

With indicators above, the WSDF-C areas of operation in Buganda and Bunyoro regional percentages of sanitation and hand washing coverage reflected in the summary table 2 below are still below the national level.

Table-2: Summary of WSDF-C region percentages of sanitation coverage and hand washing coverage per region

WSDF-C regions	Percentage of sanitation coverage	Percentage of hand washing coverage
Buganda	73.3%	31.6%
Bunyoro	77.3%	43.0%

Certainly, while WSDF-C has achieved tremendous progress, several challenges were faced during the implementation of these projects:

**Funding Constraints:** the level of financing for development of water supply and sanitation systems is not commensurate to the population growth which has continuously slowed achievement of 100% coverage for water supply and sanitation.

**Safely Managed Sanitation:** The Ministry of Water and Environment through the regional WSDF-C is carrying out different initiatives to raise the level of Safely Managed Sanitation through the Central Umbrella of Water and Sanitation and engagements with the private sector. Using the leasing model, the private sector is engaged through Public Private Partnership to support in pit emptying, transportation and disposal/reuse. However, the C-UWS does emptying, transportation, treatment and disposal/reuse. Currently, the safely managed sanitation in urban areas stands at 41% while in rural areas it stands at 9.8%. However, the low levels of safely managed sanitation in urban and rural areas poses serious diseases of public health importance and environmental risks. Such concerns need to be addressed through development of a complete sanitation value chain comprising of containment faecal waste, emptying, transporting, disposal, treatment and reuse.

Most of the urban centers in the country cannot generate adequate waste water flow volumes to sustain proper operations of sewerage faecal sludge management systems.

Most of households and business premises in the country depend on onsite sanitation facilities for containment of faecal sludge. However, most households and institutional toilets do not meet the required minimum standards for onsite sanitation technologies. Yet the filled up toilet facilities must be safely emptied and the sludge is safely discharged into the environment.

To ensure that the sanitation value chain is complete and operational, faecal sludge treatment plants have to be developed within reasonable distances thus ensuring affordability of the process.

**Land Acquisition:** Limited willingness of people to sacrifice their land for the development of Water Supply Systems, land is increasingly due to increasing population pressure.

**Costly Technologies:** Developing appropriate and sustainable technological solutions for water supply and sanitation is becoming more expensive due to degradation of the environment, spatial distribution of water bodies, poor waste disposal, rapid population growth (urbanization) among others. These have necessitated installation of technologies for haulage of water and waste over long distances and advanced water treatment.

Going forward:

WSDF-C has transformed access to water and sanitation in Central Uganda, benefiting thousands of people. While challenges persist, continued investment, donor partnerships, and

government support are key to meeting Uganda’s Vision 2040 and SDG goals. Looking ahead, WSDF-C is committed to expanding services, improving sustainability, and ensuring no community is left behind.

## PICTORIAL WORKS



WSDF-Central staff together with Kagadi stakeholders inspecting the wash out at the pump house for Kagadi Piped Water Supply System.



Aerial view of completed works for Kayunga-Busaana (Phase 1) Water Supply and Sanitation System, Kayunga district.



The new collection tank for Lunya Water Supply System under construction.



The Resident District Commissioner (3rd from right) handing over a completed system to beneficiaries.



An overview of the pump house, operator house, collection tank and solar panels on Butenga-Kawoko Piped Water Supply System.



The 100m<sup>3</sup> reservoir tank for Ngoma Town Water Supply System in Gomero Village.