



THE JESE BULLETIN

(ISSUE 1 from JANUARY TO FEBRUARY)

Development Without Destruction

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THE EDITORIAL

Adequate sanitation, together with good hygiene and safe water, are fundamental to good health and to social and economic development. Improvement in one or more of these three components of good health can substantially reduce the rates of morbidity of various diseases and improve the quality of life for a huge numbers of people, particularly the children.

JESE's contribution in helping the people access safe water and promotion of hygienic practices has been tremendous. This particular issue focuses on water, sanitation and hygiene in schools and communities highlighting events that took place in the month of February in a bid to improve health in the Rwenzori region. Enjoy your reading.



Changing lives with ceramic filters

By Atuhura Susan

To many of us, clean water is just a normal part of our lives, and we have never even given it a second thought, but there are several other people all over the world who are not as lucky. Truly water is life, and without it, you can't survive. Unfortunately, safe drinking water is in short supply for most people living in kamwenge district. Several people both young and old die from diseases related to lack of access to safe and clean water. A woman's daily routine in this part of the world includes walking miles in search for water not forgetting the heavy weight of water containers only to secure less desirable water for her family.

It is upon this background that JESE in partnership with PROTOS procured 27 ceramic water filters which were distributed to 3 sub counties of Mahyoro, Nyabani and Kanara in selected households for promotional purposes in a way of curbing the challenges related to the use of unsafe water.

The initiative was received with great joy and excitement among the beneficiaries which prompted the rest of the community to demand for more filters. The community considered the technology as cheap and efficient since all the materials required were available locally and has a relatively long life span of 2-3 years. They also appreciated the fact that the technology could work throughout the year in all the climatic seasons and does not add an objectable taste to the water.



beneficiaries receiving ceramic filters



some of the beneficiaries.



JESE GIVES MAHYORO RESIDENTS A NEW LEASE TO LIFE

By Atuhura Susan

On 15th February 2014, all roads led to mahyoro landing site, kamwenge district to attend the handover ceremony of the wash infrastructure. The project was implemented by JESE in partnership with Protos funded by the Belgian government. Presiding over the function was Ms. Lye an official with the ministry of foreign affairs and development in Brussels. Speaking at the function, she thanked the community of mahyoro landing site for the support and positive attitude towards the project. She urged them to own and protect the facilities since they were now left in their hands. She looks forward to seeing a better mahyoro on her return.

The district local government was represented by the secretary to works committee Hon. Byamugisha Deogratious who thanked JESE and PROTOS for the good work. He further said before JESE's intervention, the sanitation situation at mahyoro landing site was so alarming with the highest rate of water borne diseases in kamwenge district. Despite the proximity to water, people often faced the problem of accessing safe clean water, wash facilities and the disposal of human excreta was the most critical of all. A significant proportion of the households did not have access to latrines. The situation was aggravated by the fact that most of the surrounding lake shore had been encroached on by the increasing population. This led to the depletion of the wetlands, mainly papyrus lining that would act as a natural filter hence, poor sanitation and solid waste management within the community had to reduce the lake to a siltation and excreta repository.

Among the facilities handed over was 43 shallow wells, 5 springs, 7 institutional ecosans, 3 institutional latrines, 3 hand washing facilities, 4 fish slabs, 1 cleaning unit, 1 abattoir, 130 household ecosans, 2 cattle trough, 3 rain tanks in school, 1 garbage skip in kyandangara and 20 household tanks.

JESE has also facilitated the process of the formulation of a catchment plan that has been implemented through the existing structure of the beach management unit for purposes of building ownership, sustainability, hygiene and sanitation improvement and functionality of wash facilities.



Mahyoro water user drama group entertaining the guests



Ms Lye giving her speech



FROM BANANA LEAF WATER TO PROTECTED SPRING WATER

By Judith

The community of Mabale parish, Nyantungo sub county, Kyenjojo district has been suffering from water scarcity and contamination for some time which bred a lot of anger until their leaders faced the facts. With a population of about 4000 to 5000 people in the area, the parish had only one protected water source. The community was not sensitized to advocate for their right to clean and safe water. In their search for water, they walked long distances and resorted to using water from unprotected sources hence getting infected with water borne diseases.

Specifically in Mabale village in Nyantungo Sub County, the community was sharing a water source with the animals and also had difficulty in fetching the water. This water source was in between rocks and to access water one had to insert a banana leaf strategically between the rocks where water would pass as a channel to the fetching can. When the sub county leaders were consulted they claimed they had not prioritised water in the budget for the last three years because of limited funds.

Community Accountability Dialogues were organized by JESE where the community, service providers and the local leaders were brought together for an interface to discuss issues of water hygiene and sanitation. In the meetings, the community demanded for accountability from the Local council executive and service providers. The chairperson local council three was tasked to explain to the community what the budget and the plans of the sub county were in relation to water for the people of Mabaale Parish.

The health assistant and the Sub County Chief explained the procedure of applying and acquiring new water sources. The hand pump mechanic explained the procedure of repairing and protecting water sources and where to buy spare parts. In the meeting the communities also demanded for accountability of the collected user fees from the functioning protected water source. During these meetings resolutions and commitments were made, responsibilities of each category of people shared and a way forward decided.

The community asked the hand pump mechanic to get in touch with the engineer to prepare a BOQ for them to see how they can raise the money to protect their water source. They agreed to contribute 2700 from 120 House Holds, equivalent to 440,000/= to purchase cement and other materials required. Men and the youth volunteered to contribute construction material like sand, clay and aggregate and also support to the engineer. The sub county supported the project by paying the engineer for labor and supervision of the construction work.

OUT COMES

Through meetings held in Kyenjojo District, the community of Mabaale got one protected spring and one other water source repaired.

The farmer whose cattle previously drunk from the well, channeled the water to another drinking point away from the protected well.

The community agreed that all User Fee defaulters pay their arrears and the money would be used to cement around the source.

A water user committee for the protected spring was elected to look after the source and the committee is still functioning well.



One of the shallow wells handed over in mahyoro



Challenges

The Community is not informed about their right to clean and safe water and is still not sensitized on whose responsibility it is in O&M of water sources.

Lessons Learnt

Members of the community participate freely in a group of people without fearing to express their concerns to the leaders and the service providers. Planning for the sub county is made easy because all the people give in their views as they see it fit. The sub county leadership is willing to act once put to task.



The community members in a dialogue meeting



The protected water source after rehabilitation

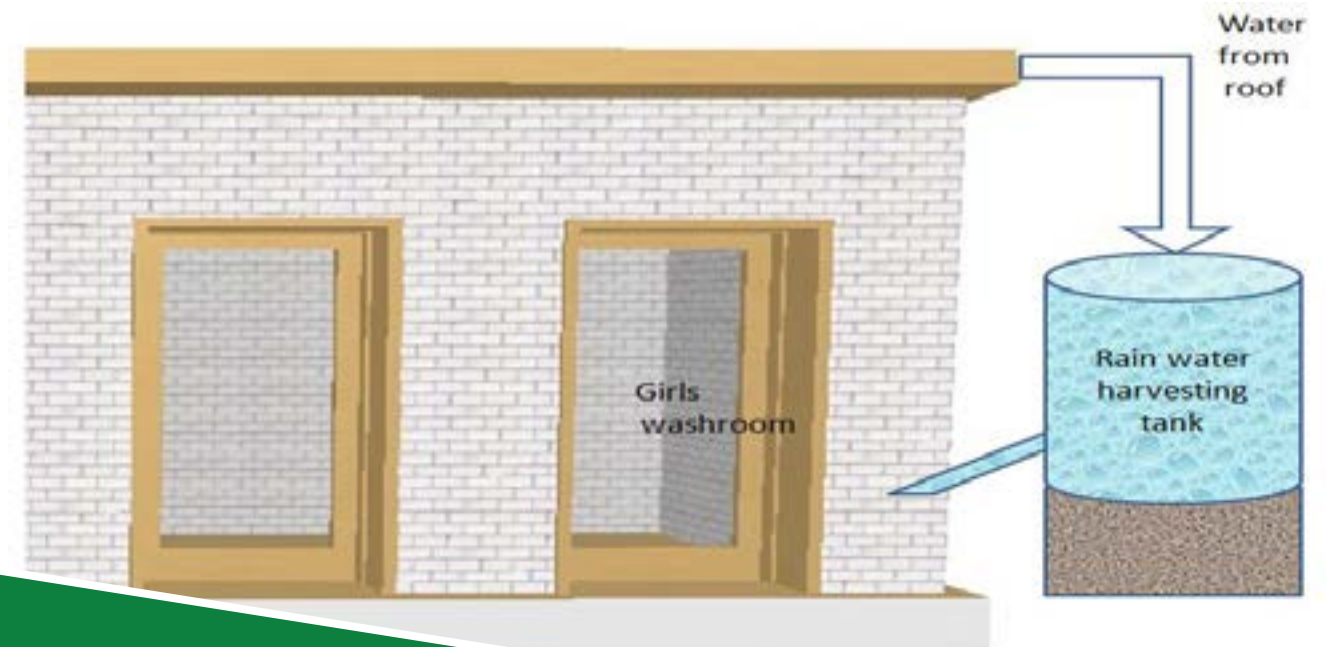


PUPILS' TESTIMONIES

By Rugumayo Godfrey

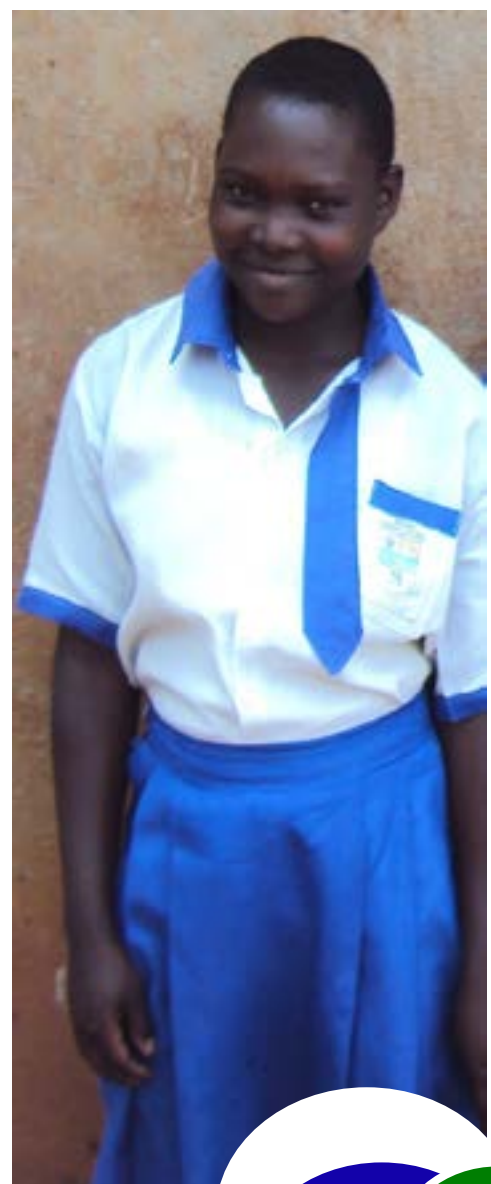
As the saying goes “don't judge each day by the harvest you reap but by the seeds you plant” was confirmed when our team visited Kajwiga and Iraara primary schools in a follow up visit to assess the level at which the pupils were demonstrating and promoting safe hygienic practices like, hand washing with soap, menstrual hygiene management, safe stool disposal, and solid waste management. This is what the pupils had to say:

Testimonies on the use and need for a school washroom



The case of Clean Water For Schools(CWFS) project in Iraraa and Kijwiga primary schools in Katooke Sub County, Kyenjojo District, Uganda

IRARAA P/S



Nyangoma Agnes, P.7

I appreciate having easy access to the wash room facility. I use it when I am sweaty after the gardening class and also when am having my periods. It is very condusive to have it within the school compound.

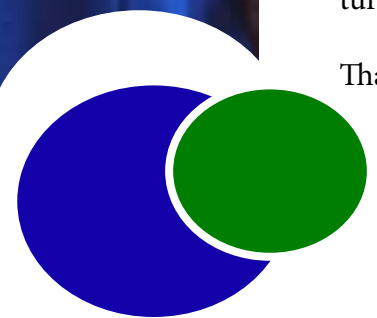
Previously we'd improvise one of the latrine stances and take baths there. It was difficult because of the smell nuisance, sometimes there is urine on the floor. The rooms are also small in size and are not comfortable for use.

This new washroom offers privacy because it has a door. In my former school of Tanaga P/S the wash-room had no door. Please provide a nail within this facility where we can hang our clothes.

Our bathroom at home does not offer privacy. It is made of reeds with a cloth curtain hanging in the doorway. Am cautious using it because someone on the outside can easily see me when am inside. To make it worse the entrance faces into the path leading to down to the well.

Am glad that I can use this school facility because, here the water is very near. It is also clean unlike the turbid water within the neighbourhood.

Thank you so much!



IRARAA P/S

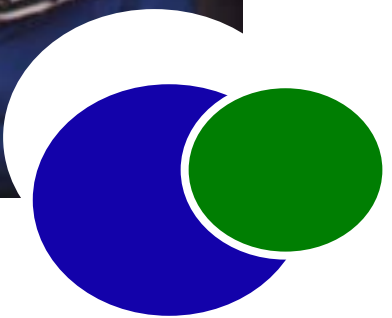
Muzungu Samuel, P.7

Am happy that we now have water within the school compound. Previously we had to walk about 1 km away , down the valley to collect it from a nearby stream and sometimes from ponds.

That water was mostly for drinking purposes but it was not good . sometimes it contained worms. Even when it was boiled and put into the plastic drum the pupils would not drink it in the end it was being used for washing the latrines.

As a candidate,the activity of cleaning latrines worries me because I think is time consuming though necessary. I would encourage my fellow pupils to take better care of these facilities by not scratching inscriptions on the plastic tanks using sharp objects(especially a compass and divider from the mathematical set). It is common for pupils to leave taps open after using them. This wastes water.

I wish there was a bathroom provided for the boys too. We play a lot and also have agriculture lessons where we get sweaty. We can only wash our legs after drawing water from the tank but a full bathe would be better.





IRARAA P/S

Kangume Rosette, P.5

The wash room facility helps me a lot to improve my personal hygiene through bathing. I usually need to bath after participating in sports activities and also after digging during agriculture lessons. This prevents me from smelling for other pupils.

In my former school, Mukole P/S where I attended P.1 & P.2 there were no facilities for washing hands. I like the appearance of flowers around the WASH facilities at school and that water is nearer to us for use. I wish we could also plant flowers around the facilities at home, too.

I usually engage in training younger children in using the latrine properly so that they do not defecate on the top.

I like the clean environment(compound) here at the school and would like to encourage other pupils not to throw peelings from sugarcane around the big tank . This will ensure that our environment is clean. Also, pupils should stop playing with the taps because they usually break them.



IRARAA P/S

Mukugize Sharon,P.6

I used not to value having a washroom facility at the school. When other girls who used it told of its advantages. I took interest and now use it myself and encourage fellow girls to do the same. It helps us maintain good personal hygiene through bathing.

Having water nearby is a great advantage for us and I think for everybody at large because at one time the community broke into the washroom in order to fetch water. Also the padlock at the main tank is usually tampered with.

I like the activities of the school health club. The members get water from the tank and boil it for use as drinking water. Members bring firewood for this activity from their homes.

I enjoy the outreach programs. Patrons ask us to assess the hygiene and sanitation situation in villages where we stay. If it is poor then they organize for the health club to visit and raise awareness of our communities.





KIJWIGA P/S

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Amanyire Elizabeth, P.7

I like the way having water at my school has improved my life.

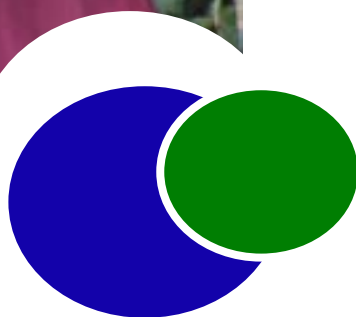
I use the washroom after playing and also when am having my periods. This helps me to remove smells and dirt from my body. our washroom has a basin, soap and water all the time.

The school provides these things and replaces them when they are damaged/broken or old. Since there is no nail, we have improvised hanging using a piece of stick.

At home, our bath shelter is made of reeds and someone one can see you when you are inside. This one at school has walls and offers better privacy.

Am glad that we have drinking water within the classroom because I don't have to move around in search of it any more .this means that I can better utilize my class hours. This water is safe to drink .it is treated using water guard.

The water in the hand washing facility is sprinkled with powdered soap and ensures that my hands are clean when I use it.



KIJWIGA P/S



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Kabatooro Cleophas, P.7

I like having the washroom at school. It has helped me because I don't worry about maintaining my sanitation needs while at school. Sometimes I carry extra clothing to change into during my periods . I use soap to wash out the previous clothing and leave it to dry out in the washroom. At home I don't have this privilege of hanging underclothes out to dry because it is an open shelter.

I also appreciate the tanks because we can collect water for washing the latrines any time they are dirty. We also have water to use for drinking purposes.

Sometimes it is very hot in the classroom and I get dizzy but after drinking some water from the drinking water facility I get refreshed. It also helpful for washing down food as we eat lunch.





KIJWIGA P/S

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Mwirumbi Patrick, P.7

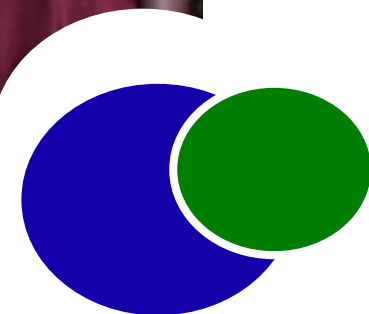
I like how having water at school has changed my life.

Sometimes when I am in class it becomes difficult to comprehend so much from the lessons but when I drink some water, it restores my mind.

I enjoy participating in washing of the latrines using water because I know this reduces the chances of catching diseases like cholera, diarrhea.

I have water to wash my legs after playtime. I improve my hygiene by washing my hands with the available water and soap after latrine use and before eating food.

There is less congestion when using the latrines because previously we had only one block but now there are two each which a urinal.



KIJWIGA P/S

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Murungi William, P.7

I think boys should be provided with a bathroom

We too, sweat and require taking baths. A bathroom with water, soap and a basin would be nice. Am concerned that most of the culprits of poor personal hygiene on our health parade are boys. When apprehended they are asked to go home and bathe. They are reassessed for cleanliness the following day.

Some of these pupils don't bathe and claim various reasons for not doing so. An example is Mugume of P.4 class who lives in Nyambya village.

Assimwe Andrew of P.6 who is his brother says that he doesn't like bathing. He will do so sparingly and only after a lot of pressure at home. He will not bathe even if he is beaten. Andrew says he has always taken bath water for his younger brother to the bathroom but when he has finished he still notices that his brother is not clean.

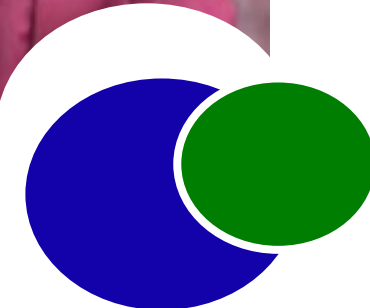


Andrew



Mugume

Andrew says "we are a clean family and I feel that my brother shames me at school and in the community. I wish there was a bathroom at school because the patron and club members would support me in having my brother learn how to get bathed".





Joint Effort to Save the Environment (JESE)
Binanata zone near the Kabarole District Local Government
P.O.BOX, 728, Fort Portal Uganda
Telephone: +256-483-4-25253/0772492109
FAX: 256-483-4-22636
Email: jese@jese.org; Web: www.jese.org;