

Gender Equality Certified UGANDAN SAFE WATER PROJECT

Emission Reductions - Energy Efficiency Domestic



THE PROJECT

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This project is also the world's first carbon project to be successfully certified under the Gold Standard's Gender Equality Framework, meaning it proactively supports gender equality. It demonstrates that it's delivered in a gender-sensitive way and generates measurable positive outcomes for women.

Communities are supported through improved access to safe water, enabled by the rehabilitation of hand-powered boreholes. These communities are located in the Lango sub-region, a predominantly rural area with minimal infrastructure and limited access to clean water.

The project is implemented by a local Ugandan team working closely with the national government, particularly the Ministry of Water and Environment.

Ministry staff conduct annual water quality testing across all 163 boreholes in this project to ensure the ongoing safety of water supplies.

The Lango sub-region experienced significant disruption by the insurgency of the LRA (Lord's Resistance Army). The conflict displaced more than two million people and severely damaged water infrastructure, as well as education and health services.

As a result, many communities rely on unprotected water sources that are vulnerable to contamination, contributing to a high prevalence of waterborne diseases. Households that treat water for consumption typically do so by boiling it over open fires, exposing families to harmful indoor air pollution.

Within these communities, women traditionally carry the primary responsibility for domestic tasks, including collecting water and firewood. These activities can take many hours each week, limiting children's ability to attend school and restricting women's participation in income-generating activities.

In response, the project supports improved access to safe water and creates opportunities for local participation in water management, including the involvement of women in community-level decision-making.



PROJECT KEY FACTS

Technology:
Borehole Rehabilitation

Location:
Lango, Uganda

Vintage:
2021 - 2023

Emissions Reduction:
50,000 tCO₂-e annually

Women Positively Impacted: 40,000

Annual Water Supplied:
117,964,350 Litres

Annual Wood Saved:
45,000 Tonnes

Boreholes Rehabilitated:
163

Certification:
Gold Standard (including Gender Equality Framework)

CO-BENEFITS

- This project contributes to and is certified against the following United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs): **SDG 3** (Good Health and Wellbeing), **SDG 5** (Gender Equality), **SDG 6** (Clean Water and Sanitation), and **SDG 13** (Climate Action).
- It is also certified under Gold Standard's Gender Equality Framework, which requires projects to demonstrate measurable outcomes for women, supported by gender analysis and ongoing monitoring.
- Improved access to safe water reduces the time spent collecting and treating water—particularly for women and girls—freeing up time for education and income-generating activities. Reducing reliance on open fires for boiling water also lowers exposure to harmful indoor air pollution and improves household health outcomes.
- Stark statistics from the United Nations highlight the importance of gender equality in achieving the SDGs. Across 89 countries, 4.4 million more women than men live on less than US\$1.90 a day. In Sub-Saharan Africa, nearly half of teenage girls are denied access to education, limiting their earning potential. Women are also underrepresented in leadership and are disproportionately affected by environmental degradation and natural disasters.
- Closing the gender gap can help alleviate poverty, improve health and education outcomes, create economic opportunities, and strengthen food security and environmental sustainability. The World Bank estimates that if women had equal access to productive resources, 100–150 million fewer people would go hungry globally.

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

GOALS



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