



Water, Sanitation, Hygiene and Economic Empowerment



Experiences from Village Savings
and Loans Associations;
Community Led Total Sanitation
in Napak, Katakwi and Amuria
Districts, Uganda





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I take this opportunity to present to you stories of change and lessons we have learnt while implementing Community Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH) project that has economically empowered communities in the districts of Amuria, Katakwi and Napak, north eastern Uganda.

We at Community Integrated Development Initiatives (CIDI) together with our development partner Misereor believe that communities have a right to safe drinking water, adequate sanitation facilities, clean surroundings and good hygiene behaviour practice. When communities attain equitable and adequate access to water, sanitation and hygiene services, they begin their journey to sustainable economic empowerment.

Stories we present here not only give you insights on how change happened but they show how improved access to water, sanitation and hygiene is central in transforming communities leading to economic empowerment.

In addition, these are expressions by real people whose lives in form of dignity, productivity, health and income have improved.

We are using this publication to raise awareness about the importance of ensuring access to WASH and in particular sanitation in communities among decision-makers, planners and district leaders. These stories also shed light on the good work that has been done by CIDI with support from Misereor.

I thank our partners, colleagues at CIDI and the different stakeholders we have worked with to implement this project. It is my hope that this publication gives you a better understanding of our organization and its development approach to community WASH in the districts of Amuria, Katakwi and Napak.

Yours sincerely,

Dr. Fulgensio Jjuuko
Executive Director CIDI

Aguyagunya BH VSLA
Okungur S/C



MEMBER SHARE
PASSBOOK

ASSOCIATION NUMBER
MEMBER'S NAME
MEMBER'S NUMBER

AGUYAGUNYA BH VSLA
OKUNGUR S/C



Introduction

In 2015, Community Integrated Development Initiatives (CIDI) received support from Misereor to implement a three-year safe water, sanitation and hygiene project in three sub counties of Okungur in Amuria District, Ongongoja Sub County in Katakwi District and Iri Sub County in Napak District, north-eastern Uganda.

We chose two villages in each of the sub county for modelling and demonstration of how improved access to safe water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) contributes to achieving Sustainable Development Goals; economic empowerment of rural communities and restoring people's dignity.

Contributing to Sustainable Development Goals (SDG)

Working with our partner Misereor, we believe that the sustainable development goals present

a new course for the next era of global human development and promises transformational change for families. WASH is at the centre of this ambitious new agenda and has a distinct goal (SDG 6) that envisions universal, sustainable, and equitable access to safe drinking water, sanitation and hygiene, as well as the elimination of open defecation by 2030.

WASH also contributes to numerous other goals, including those relating to nutrition, health, education, poverty and economic growth, urban services, gender equality, resilience and climate change. In addition, attaining SDG 6 requires concerted efforts in ensuring availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation, paying special attention to the needs of women and girls and those in vulnerable situations by 2030.

The change

As CIDI, we focus on addressing gap in service delivery; supporting communities to



have improved access to clean safe water, sanitation and hygiene education, stopping open defecation, empowering water user management committees to improve and maintain their WASH facilities as well as observing good hygiene practices. We have trained communities in managing water and sanitation facilities, sensitised them to stop open defecation to establish open defecation free communities, establishment and management of village savings and loan associations.

In all our community WASH interventions, we enhance community economic empowerment, to ensure that water, sanitation and hygiene become a neutral unifying factor in community development. We ensure that each household works with other households in the community to build a decent place for defecation, hand washing, bathing, washing and drying plates.

Obwokor George William, 69, member of Okuliak B Village Savings and Loans Association



Asano Betty, 30, from Aguyaguya Village, Amuria District happy to have a dish drying rack in her home

Our supported work includes:

1. Ending open defecation in communities

Our Community Led Total Sanitation (CLTS) approach was demonstrated in four villages, Okuliak B village in Katakwi District, Lokakichit village and Napiananyani village in Napak District and Aguyaguya village in Amuria District. We supported local communities in the target districts to establish sanitation committees that formed a governance structure for the management of sanitation improvement through own community initiatives.

This involves key roles like planning for sanitation improvement, mobilization for community action to ensure that every household establishes a pit latrine, hand washing facility, a bathing shelter, sweeping the compound and having a kitchen and animal house.

The committees also kept records and monitored progress of community efforts. In addition, we complemented CLTS efforts with:

- Slabs to help in the construction of the pit latrines;
- Radio talk shows on CLTS. These radio talk shows were facilitated by both the project staff, duty bearers at district level and the community leaders;
- Campaign on open free defecation eradication and declaration of open defecation free villages/ zones.

2. Capacity enhancement to manage and sustain water services in the community

Safe water was provided in the communities after sanitation and hygiene conditions in communities had greatly improved. To do this we carried out the following activities:

- Trained the water user committee in operation and maintenance
- Trained caretakers and hand pump mechanics.
- Provided safety kits/protection gear to the members of the water user committee
- Trained user committees on village savings and loan associations as an approach to management of water user-fees while also improving community household income. This integrated approach enabled community members to save money and also access credit and meet immediate household development need

3. Economic empowerment

Building on the community demonstrated ability to mobilise resources for operation and maintenance of the water sources, in all our WASH projects, we enhance community capacity through sensitization on Village

Savings and loan associations. (VSLA).

This approach helps to ensure that communities continue to pay water user fees while at the same time are able to borrow and pay back with interest to finance their own individual household needs. We enhanced community good governance, supporting them to elect their leaders who were trained in managing VSLA.

Impact

Through our work in these communities, more than 364 households have construct pit latrines in the target communities. There is improvement in good hygiene practices such as hand washing after visiting the toilets using tippy taps, washing hands before handling food, before eating and before breast feeding of babies thereby reducing spread of WASH related diseases. 280 households put up drying racks at their homes and 311 households constructed bath shelters. There is a reduction

Itukot Suzan



in open defecation from 87.8% at the start of the project to the current 14.6% (information from district).

Steps we use to ensure that our WASH services last:

- Supporting communities to have functional water and sanitation users' committees.
- Training VSLA leaders in book keeping, governance, accountability for resources and inclusion of women and youth in VSLA.
- Provision of tools and materials (saving books, record books and saving boxes).
- Follow up support to ensure that VSLAs operations are transparent and there is accountability to the members.

Sina Catherine



“ The borehole is very near home. It takes me about three minutes to collect water. The water is not salty; we use it for all our household needs including drinking, cooking, washing utensils and bathing. Now that I am on school break, I have more time to go digging instead of spending time in search for water. Here we mainly grow cassava, simsim, rice and groundnuts.

When school opens, I am always on time because I don't have to waste any of my time collecting water for home. My best subject is History and I would like to become a teacher upon completion of my studies,” Sina Catherine 17, Senior one student at Amuria High School but resident of Aguyaguya Village, Okungur Sub County, Amuria District

Improving access to safe water

Access to safe water is a fundamental human right and an important resource for sustaining life. The decline in water quality endangers the health of humans as well as the ecosystem. In light of this, CIDI in partnership with Misereor has been working in the sub counties of Okungur in Amuria District, Ongongoja Sub County in Katakwi District and Irii Sub County in Napak District, in north eastern Uganda improving community access to safe water.

Under this project, we have rehabilitated nine boreholes serving communities, schools and health centres in target communities with safe water drinking water. These boreholes are serving more than 4,400 people with safe water.

In addition, we have facilitated the formation and training of water user's committee for each of the rehabilitated boreholes in order to improve its functionality. We have also trained community

based operation and maintenance teams that focus on collecting user fees making sure that the borehole has a fence and above all carrying out preventive maintenance. Communities now have commendable Knowledge and skills in Operation, maintenance and repair of WASH facilities, this translates into increased functionality of the facilities.

One other important and unique thing we have done in this project is to transform Water User's Committees who are saving user fees into Village Savings and Loan Associations, after some time we are going to support these to evolve into Savings and Credit Cooperatives (SACCOs).

We have also facilitated the formation and training of three community led advocacy (CLTS) structures, one in each of the sub counties of Ongongoja, Irii and Okungur. The advocacy structures are very instrumental in addressing the existing gaps in the WASH sector working hand in hand with their local leaders and politicians.

Roles and responsibilities of water user committees

During the construction of the borehole we:

- Clear the path
- Provide food to the workers
- Keep construction materials and watch over the drillers
- Provide land for the borehole

After construction of the water point, we:

- Ensure that clean containers are used to collect water
- Clean and slash around the borehole
- Protect the borehole
- Conduct routine maintenance of the source
- Collect water user fees



A woman with a joyful expression is filling a yellow plastic water container at a public water tap. She is wearing a vibrant, patterned shawl in shades of red, yellow, and black, and a yellow headband. The background shows a natural setting with trees and a clear sky. The water tap is a simple metal structure with a vertical pipe and a horizontal handle.

Every
transformation
in a person's life
is a great
story of **success.**

“ Ever since clean water arrived in my village, I have more time to care for my baby, attend to my garden and go for church choir practice in the evening,” Mosing Rose 20.

Photo: James Kiyimba

Improved access to **WASH** transforms lives in **Okuliak B Village**

Angiroi David 52, is the village chairman of Okuliak B village located in Okocho Parish, ngongoja Sub county, Katakwi District, north eastern Uganda. Ever since CIDI started implementing the WASH project in the village, a lot have changed for the better says Angiroi David, the village chairman.

Situation before intervention:

“By the time CIDI started implementing WASH projects here in Okuliak B village, we had 98 households, these amounted to a population of 507 (of which 207 were male and 300 female). We used to have a challenge of collecting water at a distance of about 4km. I was using an ox to carry water. It was very difficult to collect water in the dry season. It used to take about three hours to collect water and I used to get only two 20 litre containers a day. When our wives would go to collect water they would spend almost the whole day since they had to wait for those with animals to first water their animals before they

would collect water. Fights would occur at the water source and some women were beaten.

The change:

“Now this has all changed, in June 2016, we got our own clean safe water source - a borehole, which we use, on a daily basis. We manage our water source by paying and managing water user fees. Each household in our village using the water source pays UGX. 2000 monthly and those with cattle pay UGX. 5000.

Our water source used to have low yield especially in the dry season. When we collected enough money as water user fees, we called a village meeting and agreed to use part of the collected user fees to buy an additional new pipe at UGX 70,000 to make the borehole deeper and also paid UGX 50,000 for labour. Since then, the borehole has never dried up, it serves us with water all through the dry season. Every six months, we conduct routine operation and maintenance on the borehole.

Now that the borehole is no longer breaking down more often, we have used the Water User Fees to start a Village Savings and Loans Scheme. Community members borrow some of this money and pay back with 5% interest rate per month. We started with UGX 102,000 and we currently we have UGX 4,000,000.

We have set up an executive committee comprising of nine members for managing the Village Saving and Loans Association (VSLA). To access a loan, a member has to request from the executive committee and indicates why the money is needed. The amount loaned is dependent upon the need.

If one of our members fails to pay, then the guarantor is asked to follow-up in case this also fails then the executive committee goes ahead to confiscate and sell a household item that is equivalent to the amount due. This however has never happened; people always find ways of paying back money taken. This is how we have managed to grow our operation and maintenance fund of the borehole.”

Aupal Gabriel





Akellot Rose

Throughout all of our work, involving women is crucial: water, toilets and hygiene underpin women's dignity, empowerment and equality.

From our supported work, we have examples of women who are breaking gender stereotypes taking up positions of leadership in managing their water sources as well as transforming lives of their entire families.

This could for example be about female masons building toilets, female pump mechanics or teenage girls breaking silence about menstrual hygiene management.

“My name is Akellot Rose, I am 30 years old, married and I live in Okuliak B village, Okocho Parish, Ongongoja Sub County, Katakwi district north eastern Uganda. I am a mother of nine children but two passed on. Before, CIDI constructed a borehole in our village, I used to collect water from Okocho Health Centre borehole, about 2km away from my home.

Collecting water has always been a time consuming venture for me, leaving me with less time for doing other household chores since in a day I collect water three times.

However, in June 2016, our lives were transformed because our village acquired a new borehole. We are very grateful to CIDI and Misereor. The borehole is very near; even pregnant women like me don't have any problems collecting water from the borehole.

“In my home, its myself and the children who collect water. Water from the borehole is clean and safe, we use it for all our household needs; drinking, cooking, washing, bathing and even feeding our life stock.

The borehole is very good because it can take us through even during dry seasons. We have a management committee to oversee that our water source is kept clean and working all the time. Each household in the village contributes 1000 shillings to the Water User's Committee for the operation and maintenance of the borehole. This water source is highly treasured in our community; we have also erected a wooden fence to deter livestock from destroying it.

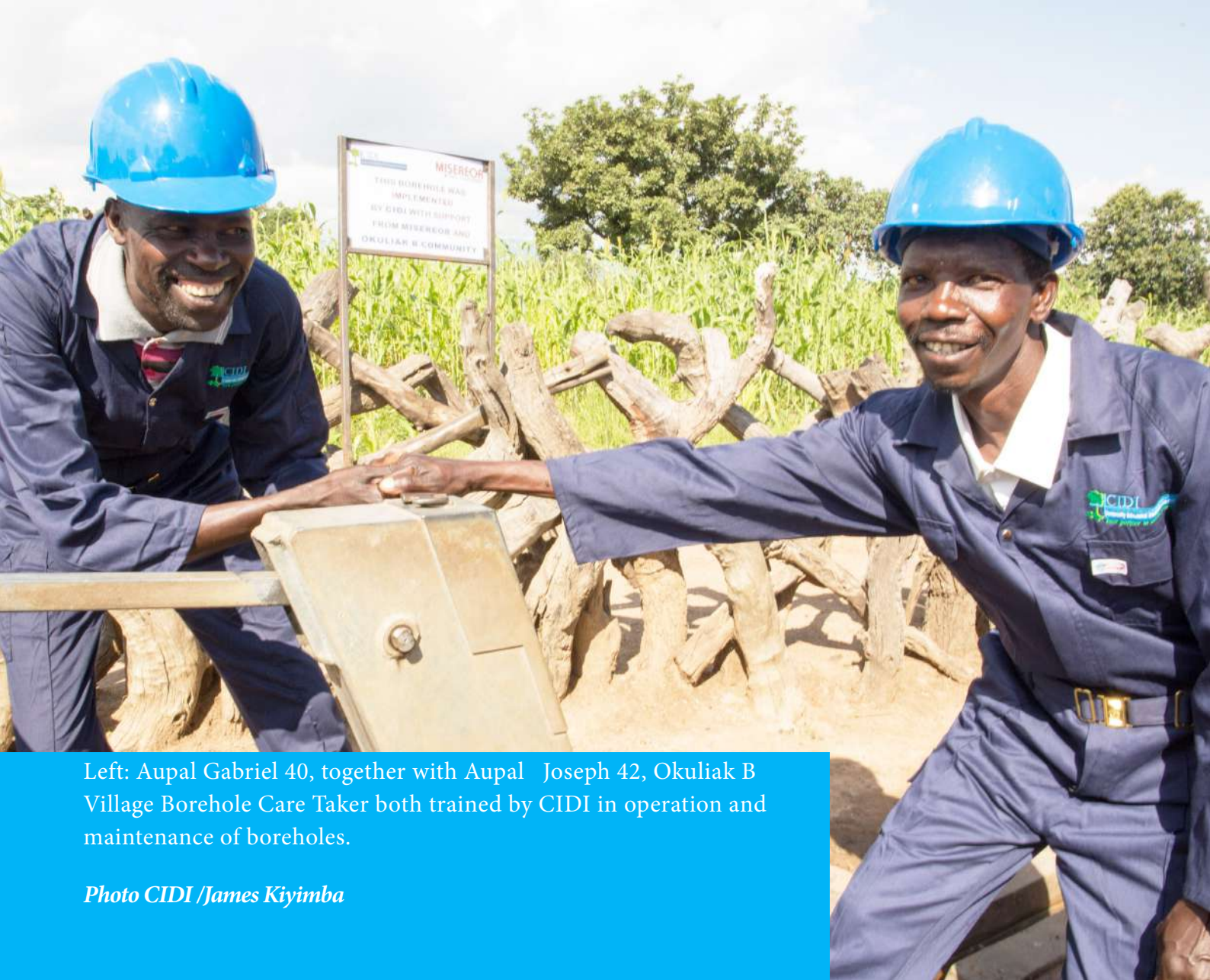
As women we are very grateful to CIDI, since we no longer have to walk far to other villages in search for water, we have ample time for ourselves; we are cleaner, have more time to tend to our gardens and above all, food is always prepared on time.”



For Akiteng Scovia 12, a standard five pupil in Okocho Primary School, having safe water nearby her home means having more time to play with her friends and also assurance of an improved school attendance since she does not have to walk far distances often times missing school in search for water.

This is what she has to say in appreciation of the new borehole constructed with support from CIDI: " Before this borehole was constructed in our village, I used to fetch water from Okuliak A village which is very far from home. I always carry a ten-litre jerrycan but I could only reach home after more than two stops of resting. The new water source is near home; I don't need any rest carrying water home.

Water from the borehole is very good; it's not salty, its safe for drinking and the pump does not dry up. Since the borehole is near, I always go to school on time; I don't miss any classes as I used to do. I have lots of time to play with my friends; we usually play "dodge game" (type of ball game). At school, I also enjoy singing and I would like to become a teacher later in life.



Left: Aupal Gabriel 40, together with Aupal Joseph 42, Okuliak B Village Borehole Care Taker both trained by CIDI in operation and maintenance of boreholes.

Photo CIDI /James Kiyimba

Sustainability and functionality of their water containers.

Okuliak B village borehole

Sustainability of rural water sources has always remained a big challenge in Uganda. As CIDI, we are aware of this, and we have embedded sustainability mechanisms of building local community ownership and management of all water, sanitation and hygiene investments in place.

In Okuliak B village Aupal Joseph 42, is one of the people trained by CIDI in preventive maintenance and has since been elected to be the caretaker of Okuliak B Village borehole.

“When CIDI started working in our village, I got involved in all the WASH project activities including construction of this borehole and later I was trained by CIDI to become the water source caretaker. Being a borehole caretaker is a voluntary service. I am not paid but I do it because having water nearby with in our village is a good thing.

“My role as caretaker entails keeping the borehole clean, observing the general hygiene of water containers used- water users must clean

Here in our village many people have livestock, I make sure that animals do not damage the borehole fence as they come to drink water. For that matter, we have erected a strong fence and no one is allowed to water his or her livestock at the water source. People have to carry water to their homes for their animals to drink.

At the moment we have 95 households in our village, each contributing a monthly water user fee of UGX. 1000. It’s my responsibility to collect this money. For example, when a person gives me his or her monthly contribution, I record the money in a book and issue them a receipt. I thereafter take the money to the treasurer to be saved in our village savings scheme.

I love working as a borehole caretaker, but one of the challenges I meet is that some people don’t pay their contribution on time. I keep reminding them until they make their contribution. Since the borehole was handed over to the village in June 2016 we have added one pipe and it has been working all the time. We are very grateful to CIDI.”



Members of OkuliaK B Village Borehole VSLA showing their Savings Books as a sign of accountability and transparency. *Photo: CIDI/James Kiyimba*

Sustainability of rural WASH through Village Savings and Loan Associations

(VSLA)

As part of our sustainability mechanism, we have integrated Village Savings and Loans Associations (VSLA) in our WASH projects. CIDI believes that community access to financial services is a decisive factor in eliminating poverty and generating local development.

We mobilise water users and train them into formation of VSLA where the water point also becomes a member through saving of water users fee. These VSLA are self-managed and they don't receive any external funding from CIDI or any other organization.

Members save monthly, this provides them with a safe place to save their money, to access loans and to obtain emergency insurance. Members can take out loans to cover expenses

such as school fees, medical bills as well as for home improvement and capital for income generation activities.

How does Village Savings and Loan Associations

(VSLA) methodology work?

We support the Water Users Committees to organise themselves into VSLA; they are then training into group dynamics, book keeping and financial management all aimed at sustaining and management of their water sources while on the other hand accessing credit for their own family needs.

The fundamental principles of VSLA are:

Members are self-selected group when forming a VSLA to save money in the form of shares. The savings are invested in a Loan Fund, from which members can borrow money and must repay with an agreed interest.

The primary purpose of a VSLA is to provide simple savings and loan facilities in a

community that does not have access to formal financial services. Loans can also provide a form of self-insurance to members, particularly if they are supplemented by a Social Fund to provide small but important grants and no-cost loans to members in distress.

VSLAs are comprised of 15 - 30 members. This size enables the group to strike a balance between creating a useful pool of capital and keeping meetings manageable. Members are usually drawn from the adult population. Membership is open to both men and women.

VSLA are autonomous and self-managing, basing their system of governance, policies, and operating procedures on a written constitution. Uses these to manage their own affairs.

All transactions are carried out at meetings in front of all the members of the Association, promoting transparency and accountability. To ensure that transactions do not take place outside Association meetings, a lockable cash box is used to prevent unauthorized cash

movement and the risk of record tampering. The cash box has three keys, each one held by a different member of the group.

The cycle of savings and lending is time bound. At the end of an agreed period or 'cycle' (12 months) the accumulated savings and service charge earnings are shared out among the membership in proportion to the amount that each member has saved throughout the cycle. This is critical for transparency and the confidence of all members. A cycle must not last for more than one-year prior to share out.

All members have an individual passbook. This is necessary to permit varying rates of savings and to track member loan liabilities. The starting and closing balances of the VSLA Social Fund and Loan Fund are memorized at each meeting.

Associations meet at regular intervals during their first cycle, either weekly or fortnightly as the members agree. After VSLAs complete a cycle and become independent, meetings may reduce in frequency to once every four weeks.

Being member of VSLA transforms people's lives



“ I borrowed money from our VSLA to buy a sheep, it has since produced two calves. Before CIDI constructed a borehole in our village I used to borrow money to meet medical bills of the family.

With the arrival of safe water, I have access to financial resources to improve my household income. This is the biggest change in our village,”
Angiroi David,
Okuliak B Village
Chairperson



“The first time, I borrowed UGX. 2,000 from our VSLA to buy a hen which hatched eight chicks. Today my chicken project is becoming bigger and bigger because even the chicks have started laying eggs. As members of the VSLA, we are very grateful to CIDI for bringing this idea of saving and loans. My next step is to borrow to buy a cow,”

Amongin Norah 50, mother of five children from Okuliak B Village.

Photo: CIDI/ James Kiyimba



Members of Aguyaguya VSL

Success of VSLA in Aguyaguya village

In June 2016, CIDI supported Aguyaguya village, Aridai parish, Okungur Sub County, Amuria District to have access to safe water after rehabilitation of the village borehole. Upon completion, a Water Users Management Committee of nine people (4 male and 5 female) was put in place to ensure that the water point does not break down. Oosa Fastino 56, is the borehole chairperson and has this to say in regard to how they are using the Water Users Fee to keep their village borehole working and also using the VSLA to improve their livelihoods.

“When our borehole was handed over to the community, we formed a committee of nine members to manage its operation and maintenance. We collect UGX. 2,000 on monthly basis per household as water user fee and is kept by the treasurer.

So far we have repaired the borehole once at a cost of UGX. 97,000. At the moment our water

user fee account has UGX 2,322,000. Besides contributing the water user fees, the 30 households neighbouring the water source, we have formed ourselves into a Village Savings and Loan Association (VSLA). We meet every Thursday of the week to discuss any issues arising and also save. Each member saves a minimum of UGX.2000 and maximum of UGX 10,000 per week.

Our borehole is also a member of the VSLA. The total amount of money we have raised this year is UGX 8,624,000 (USD 2,331), which we are to share come November this year.

Members borrow money from the VSLA and pay back at 10% interest per month while non-members pay 15% per interest month. Through loans, we are able to accumulate our savings. As part of the VSLA, we also have a social fund, which helps us to borrow for emergency, which money is returned within two weeks. when one fails to pay in this time, an interest is instituted. The maximum we give is UGX 100,000 (USD 27) for emergency purposes.”


“I used my share from the VSLA to buy a cow and bull. The cow delivered a calf. I now get two litres of milk from it. I sell half a litre at UGX.500, feed the calf with half a litre and as a family we consume a litre of milk everyday. The VSLA is a very good idea; it helps us to get out of

poverty through accessing money for investing in income generating activities.

Thank you CIDI for this brilliant idea,” Otim Emanuel 27, Aguyaguya Village, Aridai Parish, Okungur Sub-county, Amuria District.



Otim Emanuel 27, used his share at the end of the year to buy a cow and bull, the cow delivered a calf.

A man with a friendly expression, wearing a bright green short-sleeved button-down shirt and light-colored trousers, stands in the middle of a lush green cornfield. He is holding a large, healthy corn leaf in his right hand. The background shows more rows of corn plants and a large, dense green tree under a bright, slightly overcast sky.

“ I borrowed money from our VSLA to buy a bull, which I use for ploughing. This season I have ploughed two acres of cassava, two acres ground nuts and one acre of maize.

I thank God for the good rains this season, I am sure I will have a good harvest, **Anino Immaculate 53**, Aguyaguy Village

Photo: CIDI/ James Kiyimba

Restoring peoples' dignity through sanitation and hygiene improvement

Improved sanitation and good hygiene practices have significant impacts not only on health, but also on social and economic development, particularly in developing countries like Uganda. Around the world, over 800 children under age five die every day from preventable diarrheal related diseases caused by lack of access to water, sanitation and hygiene.

To improve sanitation and hygiene in our project area, we employed the Community Led Total Sanitation (CLTS) approach. This is an innovative methodology for tapping into local community resources and mobilising community members to completely eliminate open defecation (OD) as well as improve their hygiene practices.

Our role as CIDI is to facilitate communities to conduct their own appraisal and analysis of open defecation (OD) and take their own action to

become ODF (open defecation free).

In CLTS we mainly focus on behavioural

change needed to ensure real and sustainable improvements – investing in community mobilisation instead of hardware, and shifting the focus from toilet construction for individual households to the creation of open defecation-free villages.

While implementing CLTS, we use a number of steps to trigger community's desire for collective change, propelling people into action and encourage innovation, mutual support and appropriate local solutions, thus leading to greater ownership and sustainability.

Pre-triggering

Pre-triggering is the process by which communities are assessed to be suitable for CLTS intervention. This involves visits and a number of different criteria, which are used to identify communities likely to respond well to

triggering. During pre-triggering, facilitators introduce themselves to community members and begin to build a relationship.

Triggering

The term “triggering” is central to the CLTS process. It refers to ways of initiating community interest in ending open defecation.

Steps for the triggering process:

- Community visit and tell members about the need to learn about their sanitation and hygiene situation
- Facilitate community mapping - which involves drawing the main sites in the village then the main sites for defecation
- Facilitate the ‘Walk of Shame’ - walking with community to the sites of Open Defecation
- Take a piece of faeces in a bag
- Put faeces on the floor in front of the community and discuss the way flies move between food and faeces
- Wait for the shocked realization that the

community is indirectly eating each other’s faeces

- Put some faeces into a water bottle and ask community if they would drink it
- Calculate how much faeces is produced each day and ask where it goes
- Ignition
- Wait for the emergence of “Natural Leaders” to work with in order to develop a plan of action.

Post-triggering

The idea of the triggering process is to stimulate disgust in the villagers by physical demonstration of the sanitation problems. At the ‘ignition’ phase, the villagers are expected to realise that there is a real sanitation problem and that they need to do something about it. Natural Leaders are people from the community who are engaged by the process and who are seen to be people who can drive change.

After a positive response to the ignition phase, CIDI staff work with communities to deliver sanitation services by providing information and guidance relevant to the local situation.

There are many challenges that occur in the post-triggering phase. These are mainly related to the supply of durable and affordable latrine hardware and technical support on latrine construction.

In most cases, as people move from open defecation to use of latrines majority of latrines constructed are not permanent. As CIDI, we continue to encourage toilet owners to upgrade and improve their sanitation and handwashing facilities using more permanent local materials.




“

When CIDI started promoting sanitation and hygiene in my village, I learnt how to construct dish drying rack, rubbish pit and latrine.

”

Akol Mary, 40, from Aguyaguya Village, Amuria District



Itukot Suzan's home has become a model good sanitation and hygiene in the village. She a dish drying rack, permanent latrine, tippy tap and bath shelter

Itukot Susan shares her story of how rapid sanitation and hygiene changes took place in her village

Itukot Susan 46, a mother of 10 children, married to Angiroi David the Okuliak B village chairman has lived in Okuliak B village for the last 20 years. Today she is happy to share her story of how life in her village has been transformed in the last few years since CIDI started implementing a water, sanitation and hygiene project in the village. Itukot vividly remembers the difficulties they used to go through in search for water as well as living with the shame of open defecation. She says:

“Before this borehole was constructed in the village, we used to collect water from ponds sharing with animals. Definitely the water was not safe, it used to be a breeding ground for frogs, but we had no choice. Without easy access to safe water, it was very hard to also improve our sanitation and hygiene practices including hand washing and open defecation

was widely practiced. In our home, we had a poor latrine but majority of people in the village where defecating in the open. Children would defecate in the open and flies would get into contact with our food thus eating faeces.

My children would fall sick frequently, suffering from diarrhoea diseases especially during the rainy seasons. The nearest big hospital was Matanyi Missionary Hospital which is far and costly to travel.

How change happened:

“When CIDI started implementing a WASH project in our village, we learnt about the benefits of improved sanitation and hygiene. I am very grateful that my home is very clean and has become a role model in our community.

We had a series of village meetings with CIDI staff aimed at promoting collective consciousness-raising of the severe impacts of open defecation and trigger shock and self-awareness.

One of our turning points was a village meeting chaired by Ochen Samuel from CIDI, together we drew a village map identifying open defecation sites. We divided into smaller groups and had a transect walk in the village going into different directions looking for faeces.

We collected some faeces back to the meeting and Samuel took us into an experiment using a bottle and stick to show us how we have always been eating our faeces. It was disgusting. From that moment we made a commitment to end open defecation as well as improving our hygiene practices.

I have since constructed a more permanent latrine with a nearby handwashing facility and a bath shelter. Through this project, I have learnt that some of the sicknesses that used to affect our family were as a result of poor sanitation

and hygiene practices.

For example, for many years I used to dry the utensils after washing them on the ground, I did not have a drying rack. Chicken, pigs and dogs would at times eat from them. Today, I have a drying rack. I am very happy that animals can no longer eat from my utensils and my compound is always clean to keep away flies that carry germs. There are no more diarrheal diseases, and I no longer spend lots of money on medical bills because my children are very healthy. Because of the cleanliness, my home was selected to be among role model homes in the village, this makes me very proud. I give thanks to CIDI.”

No more open defecation

This is what the chairman Kuliak Village had to say while talking about the change that has occurred in his village.

“We had poor disposal of faeces in the community. Only five households had latrines in the entire village but when we were sensitized

and shown how we were feeding on faeces we decided to come up with a plan to improve our sanitation. We organised ourselves into groups.

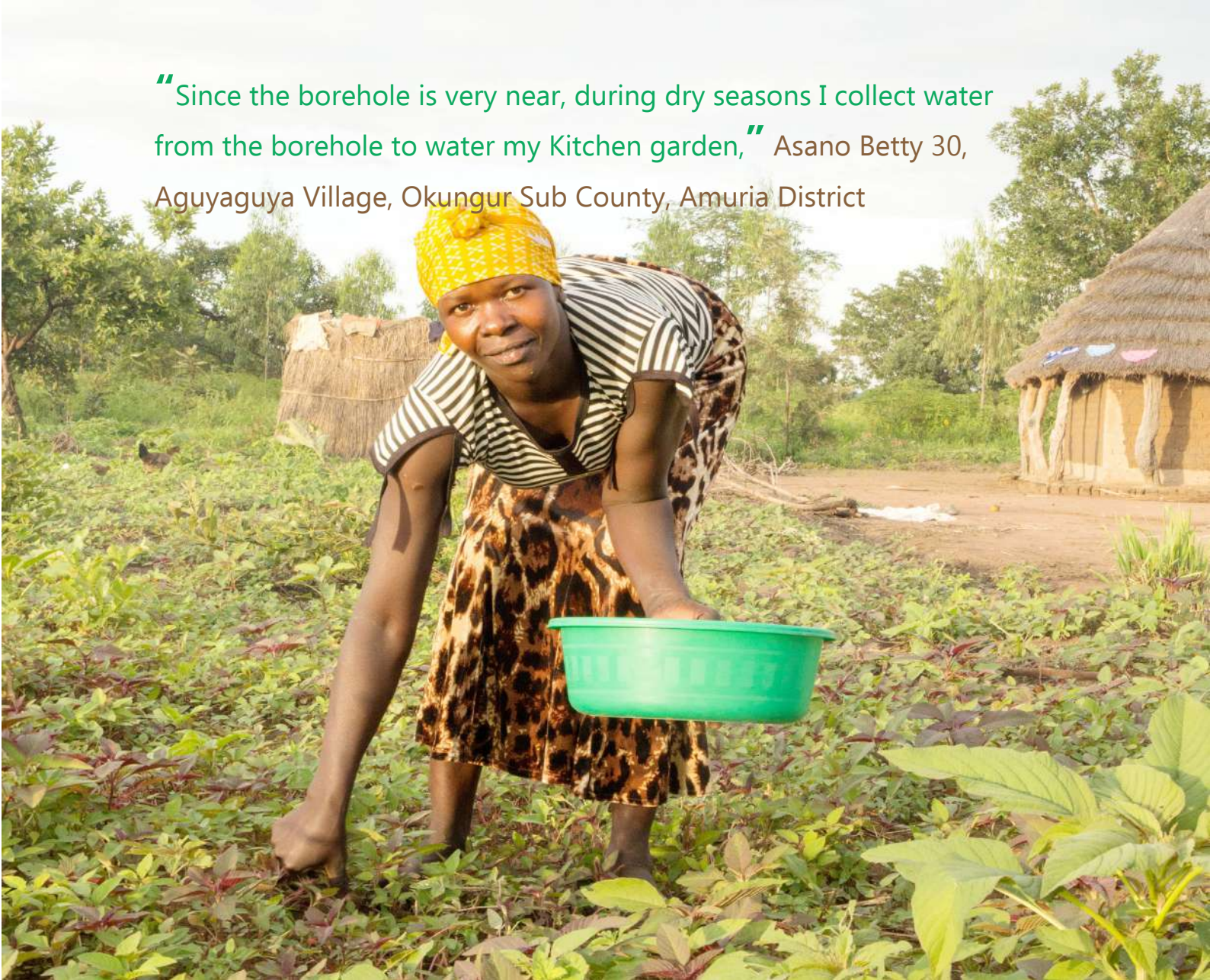
Three households formed into a group and through these groups we would dig a pit latrine for each of the household beginning with one and then move to the next until each person in the group had a latrine. Our community sanitation committee followed up households on ensure sanitation improvement by ending open defecation. Currently we have 94 households having latrines. The remaining four had constructed the toilets but they collapsed when it rained heavily.

We are happy since we can be able to borrow money, our nutrition has improved, and we are clean and smarter. We have also borrowed money from our VSLA to buy mattresses to sleep comfortably.”

Itukot Susan 46, has also constructed a handwashing facility nearby her latrine.



“Since the borehole is very near, during dry seasons I collect water from the borehole to water my Kitchen garden,” Asano Betty 30, Aguyaguya Village, Okungur Sub County, Amuria District





Nakiru Linda 18, Napiananya Village, Amedek Parish feels that her dignity has been restored ever since she constructed a latrine and a bath shelter in her home.

Building first latrine in our homestead



Joseph Mutia

“When CIDI started working in our community, there was no latrine in the ‘manyata’ (home stead). We used to defecate in the nearby bush. After learning the benefits of good sanitation and hygiene practices, we formed a committee of nine members which moved house to house encouraging everybody in the community to construct and use a pit latrine.

Initially we constructed three latrines in each of 12 ‘manyatas’ in our village. With improved sanitation and hygiene, the spread of diseases has greatly reduced. We no longer suffer from malaria, trachoma and diarrheal diseases as before when we used to defecate in the open.” Joseph Matia 50, Napiananya Village, Amedek Parish, Nabwal Sub county, Napak District.



From left: Samuel Ochan from CIDI, Lydia Apio, Water Engineer - Katakwi District, Rose Mwambazi, CIDI Project Manager and Stephen Amega, Assistant Engineer - Katakwi District

Working with District Local Governments to deliver Sustainable Water, Sanitation and Hygiene Services

Sustainability of rural water, sanitation and hygiene behaviour change at scale requires strong government ownership. It is critical to anchor programme leadership within government-led national coordinating bodies, and that existing systems are complemented and strengthened.

While implementing this project have t herefore continued to work with the District local governments of Amuria, Katakwi and Napak. We have had joint planning, coordination and harmonisation of approaches. Even when selecting communities to work, we consulted the district Local Governments to get the most

in need communities.

Lydia Apio District Water Engineer Katakwi is very grateful to work with CIDI. This is what she had to say: “I appreciate CIDI for supplementing government effort in improving access water, sanitation and hygiene services in our district. As a district, we encourage joint planning and coordination of efforts. We are happy that we have worked with CIDI promoting community ownership, training of hand pump mechanics and also scaling up promoting sanitation to end open defecation.

Going forward we wish to replicate the VSLA approach used by CIDI in other communities because the approach not only works to sustain water sources but it also improves people’s livelihoods.”



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