**IMPACT ASSESSMENT WATER SUPPLY PROJECTS IN TESO SUB REGION, UGANDA,**

**BY:**

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**IMPACT ASSESSMENT REPORT ON WATER GIRL**

**PROJECT SITES.**

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# **WaterGirl**

# **How many filters are in the field?**

As of the reporting period, there are a total of 50 bio-sand filters in the field. These filters have been successfully installed in various villages along the lake shores in Serere district as part of the Bio-Sand Filters Project implemented by Youth and Women for Opportunities Uganda (YWOU).

# **How many people are using the system?**

Bio-sand filter is shared by up to 5 families, the field team calculated the total number of people using the system by multiplying the number of filters by the number of families each filter serves.

Total number of filters installed: 50 Number of families served by each filter: 5

Total number of people using the system = 50 filters × 5 families per filter = 250 families

An average family size of, for example, 8 people, you can estimate the number of people using the system:

Total number of people using the system = 250 families × 8 people per family = 2,000 people

# **Main benefits:**

Improved Access to Clean Water: The installation of bio-sand filters has significantly increased access to clean and safe drinking water for the communities residing along the lake shores. This has reduced the prevalence of waterborne diseases, leading to improved health and well-being among community members.

Community Empowerment: The project has empowered community members by actively involving them in the installation process. Through participatory workshops and training sessions, community members have gained knowledge about the importance of clean water and sanitation practices. This empowerment fosters a sense of responsibility and sustainability within the community.

Bio-sand filters provide a sustainable water treatment solution by utilizing natural filtration processes. This approach reduces the reliance on expensive and environmentally harmful alternatives such as bottled water or fuel-based purification methods. The project has contributed to environmental conservation by minimizing plastic waste and reducing the carbon footprint associated with conventional water treatment.

Access to clean water has positively impacted the local economy. Improved health has enabled community members to engage in income-generating activities without being hindered by waterborne illnesses. Additionally, the reduction in medical expenses related to waterborne diseases has allowed families to allocate more resources towards education, nutrition, and other essential needs.

These benefits not only enhance the quality of life for the communities in Serere district but also promote sustainable development and a healthier environment.

# **Current challenges:**

The Bio-Sand Filters Project in Serere and Soroti districts, faces several current challenges that require careful attention and proactive management:

Transporting necessary materials like gravel, sand, and steel to the installation sites continues to be a logistical challenge. The rural and remote locations in Serere district often have limited access to reliable transportation infrastructure, making it difficult to transport heavy materials to remote areas. Poor road conditions, particularly during the rainy season, exacerbate these transportation challenges.

Adverse weather conditions, such as heavy rains or extreme heat, pose ongoing challenges during the installation process. These conditions can delay project activities, affect the curing process of the filters, and hinder the transportation of materials to the project sites.

Ensuring sustained community engagement and participation remains vital for project success. While initial resistance or hesitancy towards the bio-sand filters may have been overcome, ongoing efforts are required to maintain community trust and active involvement. Cultural beliefs and practices may still pose occasional challenges to filter adoption.

# **Steps taken to avoid challenges:**

Community Engagement:

The project team is maintaining open lines of communication with community leaders and members to address any emerging concerns or resistance.

Michael and the team do conduct regular community engagement sessions and awareness campaigns to reinforce the importance of clean water and the benefits of bio-sand filters.

Sustainability Planning:

The BSF team has a long-term sustainability plan that includes ongoing filter maintenance, replacement of filter media, and training for community members.

Monitoring and Evaluation:

The team has continued to implement a robust monitoring and evaluation system to track project progress and effectiveness.

Micheal and the team regularly collect data on water quality, community health, and filter usage to identify areas for improvement and measure the project's success.

Community Sensitization:

The team maintains an ongoing community sensitization program that reinforces the importance of clean water and hygiene practices.

The BSF team utilizes local influencers, community health workers, and trusted figures to convey project messages effectively.

**Community testimonials:**

Quotes from community members vividly convey the positive impact of the Bio-Sand Filters Project on their lives, emphasizing improved health, access to clean water, and the transformative effect on their communities. These testimonials can be shared with donors to showcase the project's success and the tangible benefits it has brought to the people it serves.

Jane Akello, Garama Village:

*"Before the bio-sand filters, my children frequently suffered from waterborne diseases. Now, they are healthier and can attend school regularly. This Filters changed our lives."*

Ojok David, Mulondo Village:

"*Clean water is a blessing. We no longer worry about getting sick from drinking water. The bio-sand filter is like a guardian angel for our family."*

Akello Beatrice, Mukura Village:

*"As a mother, my biggest fear was watching my children suffer due to contaminated water. Thanks to the filters, that fear is gone, and my children are thriving."*

Okello Patrick, Pingire Village:

*"The project not only brought clean water but also a sense of unity in our community. We came together to support and maintain the filters. It's made us stronger."*

Adeke Florence, Community Leader:

*"The Bio-Sand Filters Project has transformed our community. We are no longer haunted by waterborne diseases, and our children's future looks brighter."*