

Achievements in Uganda in just three years

Water for Kids (WfK) has been supporting water protection projects in Uganda since 2005 when trustee Peter Minhinnett, assisted by WfK member David Walsh, led their first party of health professionals and friends on a study tour to Iganga in Eastern Uganda.

The link with this small town started back in 1995 see the Daventry Friends of Iganga web site for full details of the very successful work they have been involved with there.

www.friendsofiganga.org

Over the years a strong working relationship has been built up with the health department of Iganga Town Council and especially Muzamiru Bidondole who is a Senior Health Assistant.

Muzamiru and his colleagues lead our work in and around Iganga and they find the water sources that require protection. In fact we have become so successful these days, and the need is so great that he is regularly inundated with requests for more help.

In 2005 we were able to protect our first water source in **Bugamba** which provides water from an underground spring and serves a large community living within 2 - 3 miles of it. The water was collected from a pond, which was open to contamination by animals, insects and the containers used again and again for collecting the water. The villagers had to submerge their containers into the water; there was a risk of muscle strain when lifting the heavy weight at an awkward angle and a danger of falling in the water. Children are often tasked with collecting water.

Following the completion of this project, up to 10.000 people now use this source due to its ease of access and excellent quality. They can now safely collect the clean water from a pipe and there is no ponding of water which attracts mosquitoes which are likely to spread malaria.

On this first study trip we were able to help our Ugandan colleagues protect two similar water sources using funds provided by our supporters.

In 2006 Peter and David led their second study tour to Iganga and were accompanied by several WfK members. This time WfK was able to provide funds for the protection of more spring water sources supplied, repair borehole pumps (including one supplying a primary school) and pay towards the plumbing works carried out at a Blind Centre and newly refurbished Health Centre.

During further visits later in 2006 and early in 2007 more water sources were repaired and protected around the wider Iganga District. WfK was able to fund the provision of its first borehole/pump in a village in the Iganga District. People in this village were using a very dirty water source or having to travel more than 2 miles to transport clean water by vehicle. This Pump in **Naitandu** was handed over to the villagers with great celebration in June 2007. On this trip Peter was joined by the WfK Chairman Stephen Young on his first visit to Uganda. This was as part of the third annual study tour to Uganda when again 25 people, mostly environmental health professionals, spent 17 days working on health related projects mostly in Iganga. More WfK funding went towards protecting more water sources and repairing pumps during this trip.

In November 2007 Peter was able to make another visit and this time, again working with Muzamiru, was able to protect two more small water sources and again provide clean water for local communities for the first time.

Following the success in improving water sources during study trips and other visits, Muzamiru is now able to arrange for more improvements to be done between visits. Each water improvement or water installation is approved for funding by the Board of Trustees for WfK.

In addition to the protection of these water sources, we have worked closely the local environmental health professionals and with the local communities to encourage an improvement in their living standards by building pit latrines and waste disposal pits.

Wash stands for the clinic and orphanage have been made available by WfK supporters making gifts to their friends in the UK. Visit our washstand page if you would like to pay for a wash stand for a family in Africa as a different kind of present to your friend or relative.

Local head teachers tell us that now they have access to clean water, the children attend school more regularly as they are not suffering as many stomach upsets. In addition the provision of a regular source of water at many schools means the children can for the first time get clean water to drink during the school day.

Completed Projects in Uganda funded by Water for Kids

May 2006

- Nabidongo Water Source Protected, 18Km north of Iganga (see "Before and After" photos opposite)
- Buligo South Water Source Protected within Iganga.
- Buligo North Water Source Protected within Iganga.
- Water Pump at King of Kings School serving Community repaired.
- Water Pump at Namansaala Village 5km north of Iganga repaired.
- Support to start new Clinic to be built at Namansaala and starting of excavations.
- Iganga Town Council Clinic refurbishment almost complete with completion of Maternity wings and installation of water services and digging of placenta pit. Grand Opening celebrations and use of beds and equipment sent from Daventry.
- Distribution of Computers to Makerere University School of Public Health and Mbale School of Hygiene.
- Computers to Iganga Hospital and MOH Offices.

Water for Kids contribution May 2006: £4,000

WfK Contribution

November 2006

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| • Walumbe village spring protection | £ 800 |
| • Buwongo village spring protection | £ 800 |
| • Buligo North repair to spring in Iganga | £ 60 |
| • Naitandu, Makuutu Village Survey | £ 246 |

March 2007

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| • Naitandu Borehole/pump completed in Makuutu village | £5000 |
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May 2007

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| • Kasokoso School, Iganga. School Pump repairs | £ 300 |
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June 2007

• Namunsaala village School/Church Pump, repairs	£ 235
• Iganga Town Council School Pump, repairs	£ 306
• Bugabwe village spring protection	£1278
• Bikardo (Igamba) village spring, repairs to structure	£ 20
• Buligo North/South, spring repairs to concrete	£ 20
• Bugamba A, spring repairs to protect structure	£ 100
• Bukaye village spring protection	£ 500

November 2007

• Luuka village spring protection	£ 940
• Walumbe 2 village spring protection	£1063
• Naitandu Borehole/pump Repairs	£ 386

January 2008

• Buwagi village spring	£1000
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www.waterforkids.org.uk