

Annual report

2016

WATSAN is a UK charity dedicated to the support of a water and sanitation programme in South-Western Uganda. Thanks to WATSAN's work, people in rural communities have access to life-saving clean water and hygienic toilet facilities.

Key statistics

2016 achievements



Chair's introduction

I am delighted to introduce WATSAN's most recent annual report – a slightly expanded edition that hopefully gives you a few more insights into the work of WATSAN, which of course would not be possible without your generous support. And, without the hard work of our wonderful trustees and committee, joined this year by Julie Bullett, with her excellent catering skills, and Kate Parrinder, who has transformed our website, WATSAN would be a lost cause!

As always, when looking back at what we have achieved, we in WATSAN's UK Support Group are struck by the continuing need for better water and sanitation. In Uganda today, many thousands of people still collect their water from muddy holes, and often have to walk several kilometres to collect it. Lack of safe, dignified facilities inevitably leads to ill health, preventing children from attending school and enjoying the success that could lift them out of poverty.

WATSAN's UK Support Group has very close connections with the small staff team that carry out the charity's work on the ground in Uganda. After a recent trip to the area, one of our trustees, Graham Piper, remarked particularly on the dedication, skill and compassion he observed in our friends in the project area.

As you'll see from the stories in this report, our partners in the Ugandan team don't just have the skill of the craftsman or engineer. Crucially, they have the interpersonal abilities and community connections to work in partnership, resolve conflicts, and get local people to buy into and take ownership of the schemes we are building – ensuring they will remain useful well into the future.

The trustees receive detailed quarterly reports on all of this activity, which you can find on our website. Good governance locally is also ensured by the oversight of a management committee, and fully audited annual accounts. Furthermore, during 2016, the staff team participated in an internal evaluation exercise supervised by local district water engineers.

Through our work we are reminded of how bringing safe, clean water into an area brings wider benefits. In Burema School for example, not long after WATSAN completed a project in 2014, enrolments doubled, and the numbers of pupils obtaining top exam grades tripled. New expert staff are willing to take jobs in schools or health centres because they now have acceptable facilities.

Looking ahead, the trustees are enthusiastic about funds being raised through our 2017 Walk for Water, which will enable much-needed work to be completed on Rumbugu Primary School, as well as a visit to the project by a team from St Peter's Church in Bishop's Waltham. I do hope these and other fundraising success stories in this report are inspiration for how we can continue to extend our support, love and hope to communities in South-Western Uganda.

Thank you so much for your generosity.

Ian Bensted

Chair, WATSAN UK Support Group



“WATSAN's staff have the interpersonal abilities and community connections to work in partnership, resolve conflicts, and get local people to take ownership of the schemes – ensuring they will remain useful well into the future”

Read more at

www.nkkkwatsan-uganda.com



Project highlights

Top-notch gravity flow scheme installed at Kiringa

The need

The community living in rural Kiringa was typical of many villages in the WATSAN project area, with no access to clean water, despite the availability of several natural water sources or 'eyes'. Water in the area was ample but was typically collected from unprotected pools, polluted with mud and animal faeces.

The project

In January 2016, the WATSAN team, with the help of Tearfund, began excavations for pipes to be laid leading from a series of protected springs that had been completed towards the end of the previous year. The simple system uses gravity to run water from a source in the hills down to communities in need. Eleven tapstands were then installed, meaning that 1,615 people could access clean water for the first time. A large number of sanitation improvements were also made to the homes of the same beneficiaries.



As with all WATSAN projects, these 'hardware' developments were accompanied by 'software' activities – education and outreach in the community that ensures that people are adopting best hygiene practice. This includes the team setting up 'demo homes' with improved sanitation, for other homesteads in the community to replicate. Local resident Vasta Kikabarema was awarded first prize in a demo home league table!

The scheme was handed over to the newly formed Kiringa Organisation and Management Committee in April 2016. The committee is responsible for

monitoring and maintaining the hardware, and during the handover to the committee, it was agreed that some longstanding tribal rivalries should be set aside. The local drama association put on a performance in the church to emphasise the importance of local people taking ownership of their schemes (picture below!).



The outcome

Lovis Natukunda, a nurse working at Kiringa Health Centre, reported a gradual reduction in Upper Respiratory Tract Infections (URTIs) and diarrhoea following the installation of the scheme, which are caused by unsafe water and poor sanitation.

Olivia Twesigye, who used to have to walk a kilometre to collect water from a dirty pool for herself, her three children and her livestock, commented: "Now I can easily fetch enough water for my two cows Shiella and Mutesi; I have time for growing produce; and my children attend school punctually. When the bajungu [whites/funders] come to see this project, I will be ready to appreciate them by serving them with tea from my cow's milk!"



Very poorest families reached at three Child Development Centres

Funding from the 2015 Walk for Water has enabled the development of brand-new facilities for three different Child Development Centres (CDCs) in Rwerere, Burama and Katurika. The CDCs are often the only lifeline for vulnerable children affected by abject poverty, malnutrition and HIV. On visiting Rwerere CDC recently, WATSAN trustee Graham Piper commented: "We were very impressed by the compassion and vision of those involved, and notably the project director, Jollie. Jollie explained how she and her staff endeavoured to show love and compassion to the children, and thereby expose the children to loving care, which they might not experience at home."



Community instrumental in Buhunga

The Buhunga project, funded by Tearfund and commenced in 2016, is a great example of WATSAN's community mobilisation process. Local people – the ultimate beneficiaries – were involved at every stage: at the start of the work, providing unskilled labour, removing bushes around the water source using hoes, slashers and pangas (and battling with a swarm of bees that was disturbed during clearance!). Locals later carried materials for the construction work to parts of the site that vehicles could not reach so that WATSAN's skilled craftsmen could build the required structures. The scheme will hopefully be completed in 2017.



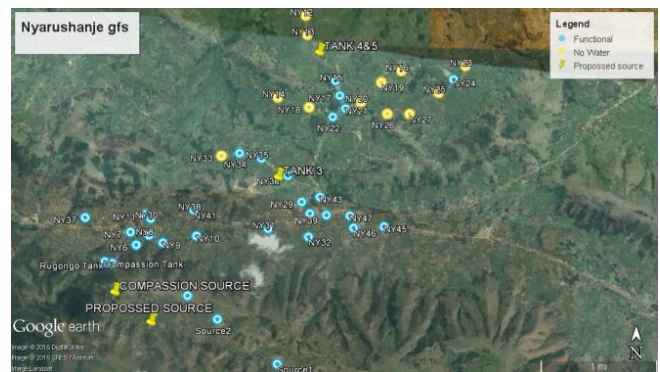
Full list of projects worked on during 2016

Project	Type
New schemes – three	
Kiringa	Gravity flow scheme bringing new clean water and sanitation facilities to 1,615 people
Rwerere, Burama and Katurika	Rainwater harvesting and sanitation systems within three Child Development Centres, which provide education and healthcare to the very poorest families in the area
Buhunga	Gravity flow scheme serving a secondary school and its surrounding community
Sustainability (maintenance) projects – five	
Nyarushanje	Gravity flow scheme needing more source water, and pipe clearing
Rwakirungura	Reconstruction of protected spring first developed in the 1990s
Nyambizi	Gravity flow scheme needing cleaning and new valves
Karerema	Gravity flow scheme where pipeline was washed away when the area was flooded
Karinoni	Organisation and Management Committee re-engaged via an exchange visit with Kiringa GFS

Importance of sustainability showcased at Nyarushanje

Nyarushanje is a gravity flow scheme originally developed between 2011 and 2014 – the largest project ever undertaken by WATSAN. During his visit in 2015, Mark Wickstead, a Thames Water volunteer who carried out a full evaluation of old schemes, identified Nyarushanje as needing particular attention, with people in areas at the ends of the pipelines having to wait three or four days to receive water.

In spring 2016 the WATSAN team carried out a more detailed assessment, using GPS to plot the water sources, as well as functional and problematic tapstands (pictured). This work is part of the team's methodical checking of over 2,000 individual springs in the project area, helping to identify weaknesses and make repairs, such as the removal of debris.



However, further discussions with local people revealed that some unregulated private connections had been made along the pipeline, reducing the availability via the public tapstands, which serve the poorest in the community. WATSAN has since agreed an arrangement with the Organisation and Management Committee for this scheme (composed of local people) to meter the private connections, and in the longer term to charge those more able to pay in order to fund the inclusion of an additional water source that will help the system serve the needs of everyone. This work demonstrates how WATSAN's local team is well placed to focus not only on mechanical maintenance issues, but on sensitive, judicious interpersonal engagement – both of which ensure the ongoing sustainability of its projects.

Fundraising highlights

Farmer Gow's sculpture trail raises £1,600

WATSAN supporter Anne Gow gave a unique opportunity to raise funds for the charity by hosting an innovative art exhibition on her farm near Faringdon. Sculpture on the Farm was an installation of nearly 300 works of art, including many by local artists. Curator Lendon Scantlebury generously donated 5% of each sale to WATSAN. The trustees were saddened to hear that shortly after the exhibition, Lendon passed away suddenly. We have sent our sincere condolences to his friends and family.



Stephen and Julie mark their anniversary with gifts to WATSAN

Congratulations were due to longstanding WATSAN trustee and Treasurer Stephen Bullett and his wife Julie as they celebrated their silver wedding anniversary in October. Guests were asked not to bring presents, but instead to consider making a donation to WATSAN, and an impressive total of £600 was raised!

Max's Fabulous Feast demonstrates great fundraising model

All Saints Church in Faringdon hosted a slap-up meal in aid of WATSAN in November 2016. In addition to the money raised from ticket sales of £1,026, chef Max Young had the brilliant idea of a 'seedcorn' fundraiser – or "YEAST". Each of the 45 people at the feast was given £5 in an envelope and encouraged to use it to generate more funds in whatever way they could think of – for example to buy ingredients for a cake sale. The funds were brought back to the church on Easter Sunday, and a further amount of £1,060 was raised from the original £225. Max says: "When it was suggested that I come up with an idea for a small present for each attendee, I remembered hearing of this being done about 20 years ago in another parish. Combining this with the thought of the action of yeast gave me a name for the project to raise funds for WATSAN!"



Walk for Water expands to China

Pupils at the American International School of Guangzhou, China have completed their own Walk for Water. The pupils, in Grade 2 at the school, are taught by Rebecca Twitchin. She and the children, aged 7, are working on a study all about water – how we use it, how our use affects other people around the world, and how we can help people who don't have enough water. Inspired by their studies, the children have completed fundraising walks in aid of WATSAN projects.

In March 2016 Rebecca and her pupils raised 10,000 Chinese Renminbi, or around £1,100, on their own WATSAN Walk for Water. Rebecca says: "Our Grade 2 students learn about how water is vital to life on earth and it is limited to many, and we decided to take action to do what we can for people in need."

Collection boxes prove great way to spend a penny



A WATSAN donor in Oxfordshire and visiting friends have filled her donor box to bursting, setting a new record of £41.13 and smashing her previous record of £22.75 – all collected while spending a penny! Many of our donors place WATSAN collecting boxes on their loos, and you can contact us if you would like one.

The custom-made boxes were designed by our treasurer Stephen Bullett and constructed by an elderly supporter, Brian Bartlett. Sadly, we recently heard that Brian has passed away. We are so grateful for his practical support.

Annual accounts 2016

	Unrestricted	Restricted	Total	Previous year
Receipts				
Donations (incl. Gift Aid)	£35,338	£3,442	£38,780	£56,012
Bank interest	£5		£5	£7
Event fees	£70		£70	£3,066
SUB-TOTAL	£35,413	£3,442	£38,855	£59,085
Payments				
Project work (Uganda)	£38,800		£38,800	£56,700
Sustainability review	£1,069		£1,069	£396
Publicity	£513		£513	£108
Event expenses	£300		£300	£3,689
Miscellaneous				£939
SUB-TOTAL	£40,682		£40,682	£61,832
Net of receipts/payments	£5,269	£3,442	£1,827	£2,747
Cash funds at year end	£7,395	£3,442	£10,837	£12,664

Accounts at 31st December 2016, as submitted to the Charity Commission. Note that incoming funds were less in 2016 than in 2015 because there was no Walk for Water held in 2016. This biennial event typically brings in around £15,000.

WATSAN UK Support

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Stephen Bullett (Treasurer)
Andrew Maclean
Graham Piper
Kate Parrinder
Julie Bullett
Caroline Maclean

Thank you
from all of us!

