

Rotary International

Bweyogerere Namboole Rotary Club D 9211

in Partnership with

Bellingham Rotary Club D 5050

Buffujja Water Sanitation and Hygiene project 'excites' the Visiting Project Verification Team Members.

Buffujja Water Sanitation and hygiene project is to provide clean drinking water , hygiene and sanitation facilities, education related to the health impacts and importance of clean drinking water, hygiene and Sanitation to the village of Buffujja and the nearby communities. It also includes education and follow up support to ensure the project is sustainable.

Buffujja Water Sanitation Project received recognition with the support of Uganda Rotary Water Plus through , with their organisation Wasrag identified potential partners for the project.. Thanks to Bellingham Rotary Club for taking the lead that enabled Rotary Foundation to sponsor the project. Following up with this, the project Verification team (PVT) comprising of a Past Vice President of Rotary International Thomsoin as the team leader, Past District Governors; Dennis Crawford and Ron Denharm , Incoming District Governor; Tim Murthew, Club President Kim and his dear Ann, the Vice Chairman Wasrag ; Nicholas Marcus and the Rotary International Current Director Marybeth Salin , the highest Rotary International member on the team, all accomplished Rotarians are visiting Uganda specifically to verify URWP supported projects.

Resulting from URWP support, Buffujja Water, Sanitation and hygiene project was aligned as one of the projects that the visiting project verification team was to visit during their short stay in Uganda.

Armed with the following guidelines among others; to increase the quality and likelihood of sustainability of Rotarian-led water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH) projects, to enhance Rotary's profile, reputation, and image, to utilize and leverage Rotarian expertise to enhance and improve project designs, to increase external funding as a result of strong projects and enhanced public image and transition from short-term projects to long-term and more comprehensive programs that holistically address community needs, visited Buffujja Water Hygiene and Sanitation Project on Wednesday 18th February 2015 to a rousing welcome from the Buffujja Community.



The excited community members and School children were unstoppable in showing their happiness. It took some time to cool them down to enable formal welcome to the Visiting Verification team members.

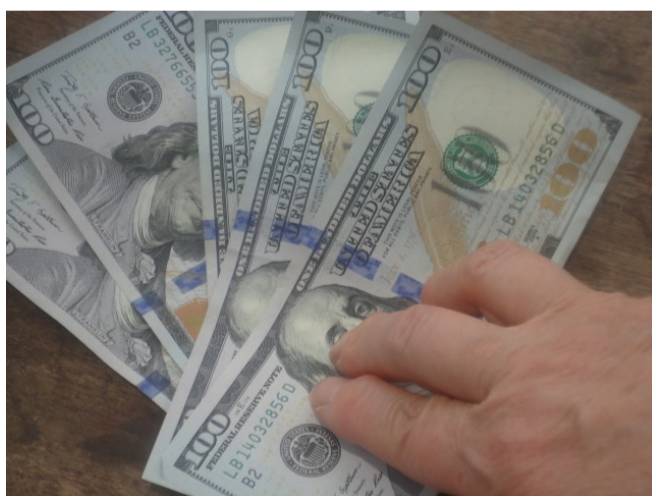


Bweyogerere Namboole Rotarians were joined by their cooperating partners in the project; Mbale Rotary Club members, Rotractors from Bweyogerere Namboole Rotaract Club, Mbale community Based Rotaract Club and the provisional Rotaract Club of Uganda Islamic University. The Mbale community based Rotractors were behind the youth entertainment drama group while the Uganda Islamic University donated scholastic materials to the Buffujja School children and also donated used and new clothes to the Buffujja Men's and Women' Groups.

The Lady Rotractors from the Uganda Islamic University also conducted training sessions to the community women and school going Girl Child of age in different groups about the importance of hygiene during their Menstrual periods . After which they demonstrated how the Re usable Menstrual Pads are used and the importance of hygiene thereof. After the training sessions, re usable pads were distributed free of charge to the women in the community and the School going girl children of age.



This turned a bit emotional seeing the joy on the faces of the School children, as they thanked the UIU Rotractors for their gesture, saying that it was a big relief for them as they could not afford the needed scholastic materials ! At this moment One of the PVT members Rotarian Dennis Kim pulled out from his wallet **USD 500** and donated it to the School to assist in the provision of scholastic materials! This further exploded into the Jubilations! He said that Korea, where he was born is what it is today because of Education. 'Rubbing off the tears of joy and giving hope to the children'!





UIU Rotractors donating Used & New clothes to the Community Groups



After these formalities, the Visiting Project Verification team were taken through the origin of the Buffujja water Sanitation and hygiene project , the project community needs assessment & the project conceptualisation and its scope whose water line has a total length of 6 Kilometres. They were also briefed of the progress of the project implementation. The team together with the Rotarians and some Rotractors boarded a Bus to take them to the 3 Installed and functioning water serving points.



This water serving point draws its water from the water line connected at a point 6 Km away on to the NWSC supply to a 5,000 Litre tank sitting on a strong water stand. This tank continuously receives its supply ready to serve through the service point below it. We have installed three water points 2Km apart to serve the Buffujja community and its underlying communities.



The time has finally come for the Buffujja Communities for a solution that will last for ever! Statistics indicate that, 80% of all sickness and disease – killing more People every year than all forms of violence, Including war – is simply a result of unsafe Water and lack of basic sanitation. Rotary has finally extended the lives of the communities of Buffujja. THANK you so much URWP for enabling the link to Bellingham Rotary Club.



After Inspecting the 3 No water serving points, the Bus returned to the main venue area; Buffujja Primary School for yet other activities in line with the Project Scope. This was done by the Lady Rotractors of the provisional Rotaract Club of Uganda Islamic University . They formed two groups; grouped the community women in one group and the School going girl Child of age in another group to yet another session of how to use the reusable sanitary pads and the importance of Hygiene during the menstrual period. Thereafter they distributed the Re usable menstrual pads to all the women and the School going girl child of age for free. Below are the pics. "Buffujja **'forces'** Gov't to embrace free sanitary pads for the girl child"



UIU Rotractors educating the School going Girl Children about overall hygiene and how to maintain good hygiene during the use of re usable menstrual pads & how to maintain them. After which they freely distributed the re usable menstrual pads to the relief of the students!



Rotary International is the hidden giant in the struggle to solve the water & sanitation challenge: 1.2 million men and women in business or professional life, nearly 34,000 clubs in over 200 countries – including all those most acutely affected by the water and sanitation crisis.

Buffujja community with no adequate information about Rotary are now ignorantly calling themselves Rotary International. They have gone ahead by co-opting Bellingham Rotary Club in their Church hymn. This is just to show how grateful the community is about the provision of safe, clean drinking water for their community that has saved them the dilemma of sharing silted contaminated drinking water with cattle from Manafa river hereto that has been the only source of drinking water.

Planning for sustainability with over one billion people without safe drinking water and over two billion without adequate sanitation facilities, the challenge of providing everyone with safe drinking water and proper sanitation is daunting. With 34,000 Rotary clubs in the world, the number of projects that would be required to make a difference will require all of the Rotarians to work together with partner organizations, host country governments, and village leaders with a new approach to WASH projects.

Thanks Uganda Rotary water plus & Wasrag for supporting Rotarians and Rotary clubs in sustainable water & sanitation projects around the world by providing reliable planning and alternative sources of matching funds. And to improve the life and livelihood of those in need by helping to provide safe water and adequate sanitation by facilitating access to well-developed sustainable projects and funding sources. From the memorandum read out yesterday in Buffujja they are grateful but the need still exists as all the underlying communities trek long distances to access the now safe drinking water at the 3 No water serving points. Their prayer was for the project water line to be further extended to the underlying communities such that other 3 No water points can be built to fully help these underlying communities.

Bellingham Rotary Club thank you for leading the way. Bweyogerere Namboole Rotary club, thank you for your frequent trips of over 250Km to and fro on every visit to this project area. Mbale Rotary Club, The Rotaract Clubs of Bweyogerere Namboole, Mbale community based, Mbale SOCCO & The provisional Rotaract Club of Uganda Islamic University Thank you.

Regards to you all: **Peter Kasango Project Primary Contact. pkasango@yahoo.com**