

Kampala – utility and city partnering up to accelerate success



SDG 6.3.
Wastewater treatment and reuse

Executive Summary

Kampala, the capital of Uganda, has received worldwide recognition as an African pioneer in integrated water management. The city's successful efforts to address serious wastewater and sanitation challenges have drawn particular attention from the global water community.

Only 10% of the city's 1.5 million inhabitants are served by the sewerage systems of the utility, National Water and Sewerage Corporation (NWSC). The remaining 90% are covered by on-site sanitation, which is under the mandate of the city administration, Kampala Capital City Authority (KCCA). Each of these systems and the stakeholders they include are already complex – but combined, and with various interlinkages, the challenge increases even further. On top of this is the pressure from rapid urbanization, a growing population, and rising demand for water and sanitation services.

To address these challenges NWSC and KCCA have teamed up to accelerate Kampala's transition towards sustainable water and wastewater management. These two lead organizations have worked to involve a range of additional city-based stakeholders, including citizens, in delivering solutions.

To do so, the city has actively sought partnerships and is working across silos along the entire sanitation chain. A central pillar of this approach is the establishing of call centers for septic tank emptying, doing home visits to create a GIS map of sanitation services across the city and setting up decentralized sanitation systems.

Kampala is taking an inclusive, city-wide approach to work towards increased treatment and reuse of wastewater and fecal sludge, setting the water sector on the path towards a circular economy.



Related SDGs

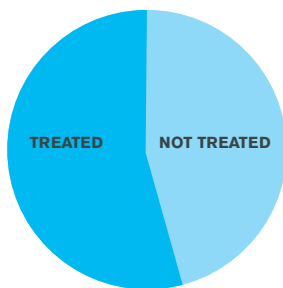


Background

Located at the shores of Lake Victoria, Kampala is the largest city and capital of Uganda. The current population is 1.5 million, but is estimated to nearly double during the day due to the influx of commuters. Around 60% of the total population lives in informal settlements.

Challenge

A large and growing population, which doubles during the day, and rapid urbanisation, have created a challenging environment for a low-income country with limited financial and human resources. In addition, the sanitation service chain is complex: the sewer system is managed by the National Water and Sewerage Corporation (NWSC), the city utility, and only serves around 10% of the population; the Kampala Capital City Authority (KCCA), manages the remaining on-site services. Urban floods and limited treatment and collection of fecal waste are the major sanitation challenges. It has been estimated that Uganda loses 177 million USD per year due to poor sanitation.



Wastewater treatment in Kampala: 54% is either treated or on-site contained (not emptied) sanitation, while 46% is released untreated.

Solutions & Stakeholders

The KCCA and NWSC have formed a partnership to improve sanitation services across Kampala, collaborating on a wide range of issues, and developing integrated solutions that make everyday life for citizens easier.

Their collaborative actions integrating the sewerage system and on-site sanitation extends across:

- All project cycles, from conception to operation
- the entire sanitation chain including, for example, industries, the septic tank emptiers associations, relevant NGOs and citizens.



Results

Kampala's ambitious agenda, and the collaborative work of KCCA and NWSC, have delivered many positive results for the city's residents, and improved health and environmental outcomes. Main actions include:

- Free hotlines to call centres, for customer care and faecal sludge trucks, which is linked to a tracking system for the trucks. Citizens can now contact the emptying services and receive efficient service delivery, and give feedback to further improve services. In addition the tracking systems provide information for further development of faecal sludge treatment facilities;
- Building a public-private-partnership, as well as a training and certification system, with the pit emptiers association, ensures all the emptied sludge is brought to treatment facilities;
- Restoring an urban wetland (for both wastewater treatment and flood protection);
- Reusing of sludge, as well as producing biogas, from the wastewater treatment plants;
- Sanitation drives and school water and sanitation clubs to raise awareness among young people;
- GIS mapping of the entire sanitation status and needs of the city to help improve efficiency and decision making for responding to needs and planning future developments.
- Industrial Pollution Control to conserve the water sources through dialogue, monitoring and capacity building of industries within the city.

How to replicate?

A clear vision: Strong leadership, a commitment to actively improving sanitation, seeking partnerships, and having a funding strategy are key to success.

Good governance structure. Have clear roles and responsibilities: one local institution with overall responsibility for city-wide services, improves outcomes compared with responsibility lying with the central government.

Active stakeholder participation. Engaging with citizens, and also all relevant stakeholders across the entire sanitation service chain. Public-private partnerships can foster an ongoing dialogue with key stakeholders, such as a pit emptiers associations and industries.

About

IWA has embarked on a journey to translate the SDGs into the day-to-day work of water professionals, and to show examples that inspire others to contribute to the global effort of achieving the SDGs. The focus of 2017 is wastewater and SDG 6.3

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