

The towns in Northern Uganda have been hit hard with a 21 year prolonged civil war and with the influx of refugees from South Sudan. The growing populations have out-stripped the existing capacities of water and sewerage services. The water infrastructure is aged and due to the prolonged conflict has not been replaced nor properly maintained over the years.

Alternative approaches and tools for improved and sustained water supply and sanitation (ATWATSAN)

Uganda

The National Water and Sewerage Corporation of Uganda as the utility service provider is faced with the challenge of high investment costs required to meet these service gaps.

Interventions require a multi-sectorial approach to meet technical, finance and capacity development needs. This project aims to support NWSC in increasing access to safe drinking water and sanitation in these small communities. The interventions shall focus on institutional development, capacity development, infrastructural improvements, community mobilization through WASH activities and exploration of alternative energy sources to boost reliability of water supply.

Project objectives

The poor WATSAN services have impacted on the social economic human development indicators in the northern region as far as service delivery is concerned. Therefore, the overall project objective of this proposal is to increase access to safe drinking water and sanitation in towns in Northern Uganda through capacity development, system expansion, improved functionality of the water schemes by ensuring reliable power

supply, installation of renewable energy facilities, use of asset management best practices and the provision of water and sanitation infrastructure.

Main project activities

A capacity development program shall be implemented together with NWSC, following a capacity needs and training assessment carried out by the capacity development expert. The delivery of the trainings shall be identified during the preparation of the capacity development program, but shall involve the following activities:

- Training, sensitization of communities and target groups in selected focus areas.
- Benchmarking & exposure missions for knowledge transfer.
- Training of technical staff in O&M of photo voltaic systems.
- Training of technical staff in energy management practices
- Training of technical staff in vocational skills.
- Training of selected facility operators in operations of community water systems (off grid).



The targeted skills, knowledge improvement and behaviour change will include: technical and operational skills, vocational skills and knowledge of safe water, sanitation and hygiene practice, and energy management practices respectively.

Specifically

- 30 technical staff and 4 engineers will be trained.
- 2 training sessions for local communities per annum will be held in each of the selected towns.
- There will be exposure for at least 20 technical staff and 10 technical staff will be trained in O&M of photovoltaic systems.
- 15 staff will be trained in energy management practices and 20 staff will be trained in vocational skills.
- 30 artisans will be trained in operations of communal water systems (O&M).

VEIs tasks will be:

- Energy audit and recommendations for improved energy use.
- Advice on the on-site interventions.
- Assist in the training program for improved efficiency of energy use.

Expected results

By means of the project activities the partners aim to achieve the following results:

- Enhance sustainable water management through capacity development and knowledge transfer programmes.
- Design and roll-out appropriate tools and approaches to serve vulnerable groups.
- Establish water management system to serve communities in informal settlements.
- Undertake community mobilization and sensitization
- Undertake feasibility studies and design for alternative energy- and water sources.
- Undertake system expansion and improve service efficiency
- Install water and sanitation facilities in informal settlements and selected institutions.
- Design and roll-out a performance monitoring and evaluation framework.

Type of contract

Water Operator Partnership.

Financing

- Fonds Duurzaam Water € 2,680,149
- National Water and Sewerage Corporation € 1,030,650
- Ministry of Water and Environment € 400,000
- Davis & Shirtliff € 241,500
- UNESCO-IHE € 89,000
- Kagga & Partners € 40,000
- Vitens Evides International € 31,952
- Plan International € 25,000

Contract value

€ 4,538,251.

Duration of the contract

4 year (January 1, 2015 - December 31, 2018).

About VEI

Vitens Evides International (VEI) shares Dutch water skills with companies abroad. The need for enhancing the performance of these companies is real, as around the world, large numbers of people still have no access to safe drinking water and proper sanitary facilities. VEI is an international water operator, helping water companies in developing and transition countries to improve their operational and financial performance in a sustainable way. To make progress in such areas as water safety, non-revenue water, financial and technical sustainability and asset management. VEI is a cooperation between the two largest water companies of the Netherlands: Vitens NV and Evides Waterbedrijf NV. These two are the shareholders of VEI and provide VEI with human capital. Further participants of VEI are the Dutch water companies WML (Waterleidingmaatschappij Limburg), Waterbedrijf Groningen and PWN Waterleidingbedrijf Noord-Holland. VEI is a social venture. We work to give people a better existence. We do so by improving the performance of colleague water companies in developing and transition countries, preferably with a multiple-year partnership. VEI offers services in three areas: improving water services delivery, financial and technical sustainability, and green utilities. Each area consists of specific tasks and support. With our work, we contribute to the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals of the United Nations.

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