

UNICEF Water for Life Calgary Impact Report 2020



UNICEF's Response to COVID-19 in Uganda

In the face of a global pandemic, 2020 was a year unlike any other. To contain the spread of the virus, the Government of Uganda closed all educational institutions across the country, forcing over 12 million learners out of school. To help reduce the impact of school closures, UNICEF supported the Ministry of Education to develop creative programming to ensure adolescents continued to access key life-skills interventions.

In order for schools to reopen, a number of requirements must be met, one of which is appropriate water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) facilities. UNICEF's WASH team is supporting schools to prepare for safe reopening and has provided **1,172 schools** with foot-operated hand washing stations, water purification tablets and cleaning supplies.

Because of the pandemic, UNICEF fast-tracked and prioritized the construction of WASH facilities to help as many schools as possible reopen when the time comes.



Your Impact

The goal of the UNdaunted project is to fulfil the right to education by enhancing adolescent girls' access to education in the West Nile Region of Uganda, as the onset of adolescence marks the beginning of a protracted risk period for girls.



* During the implementation period, three new districts were created by the Government of Uganda: Obongi, Madi Okollo and Terego, meaning the project is now in eight districts.

Provision of sanitation and clean water in schools is key to keeping adolescent girls in school. As girls begin menstruation, the presence of appropriate separate latrines for girls and boys, washing facilities and clean water allow girls to attend regularly and not miss school because of their periods.

By the end of 2020, **adolescent girls in 26 of the 40 schools** had benefited from WASH facilities. The facilities consist of gender and disability friendly toilets with menstrual hygiene management systems and solar-powered water systems to ensure the availability of water.

A total of **25 School Management Committees**, comprised of 105 men and 75 women, have been trained on the operation and maintenance of WASH facilities, to ensure sustainability.

Your support is helping to break barriers to girls' education, helping them to reach their full potential.

Thank you!

A Visit to the Umwia Primary School

Before the COVID-19 pandemic forced schools to close, a visit to Umwia Primary School, located in Adjumani District, clearly demonstrated the positive impact of providing the school with washrooms and running water for girls and a solar-powered water system constructed for the benefit of the school and the community.

The head teacher explained that since the installation of the infrastructure, girls no longer stay away from school during their periods. Moreover, girls who had previously dropped out were returning.

The community had taken it upon themselves to protect and maintain the new water source given that running water benefited not only the school, but also the entire community, saving them precious time and effort collecting water.

The head teacher shared that community members now have a greater appreciation for their children's education, now that the community has running water provided by the school.

The generosity of the Calgary Water for Life donors are changing lives in communities in Uganda. Although the in-person 2020 UNICEF Water for Life Gala was cancelled, our **supporters rallied to raise over \$400,000**, which is an extraordinary achievement. By working together, we are helping to make clean water and education a reality for every child.



Adolescent girls from Umwia Primary School in Adjumani.

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