

ACK – UCCS

PRESENTATION DURING A CHURCHES FOR
WATER IN AFRICA CONFERENCE

HELD AT

IMPERIAL RESORT BEACH HOTEL, ENTEBBE, UGANDA

FROM 21ST – 25TH MAY 2007

Presented by Esther Musili



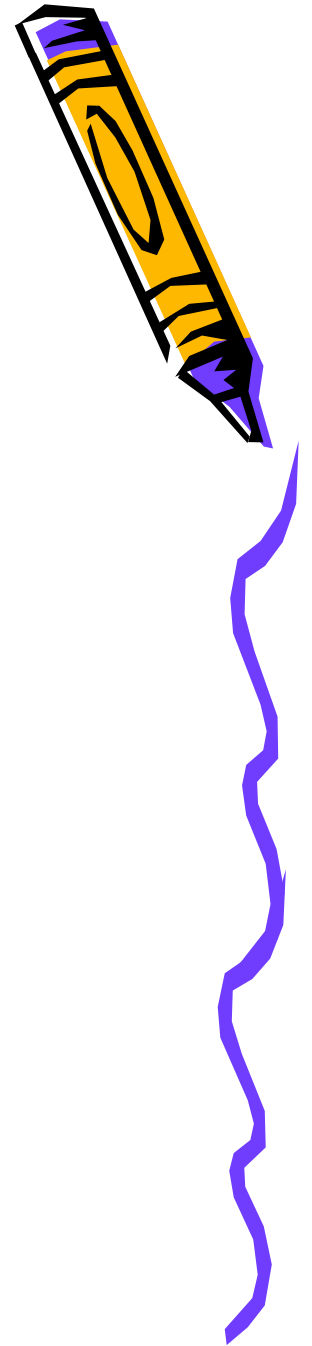
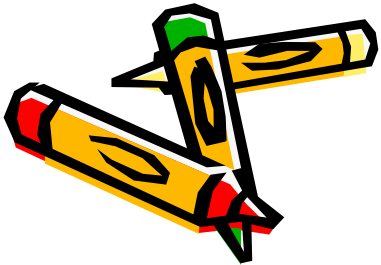
Ukamba Christian Community Services Region

- Ukamba CCS (UCCS) is one of the nine regions of DOSS and covers five districts in the Eastern province of Kenya - Machakos, Kitui, Makueni, Mwingi and Garissa.
- The area lie in the ASAL region experiencing increased rates of desertification and environmental exploitation.
- UCCS covers two dioceses: Machakos and Kitui in which the five districts fall.
- UCCS is an Organization that believes in a people driven development initiatives at all levels. It believes in a participative people-based decision-making process where stakeholders are able to take decision on the way they want their development.



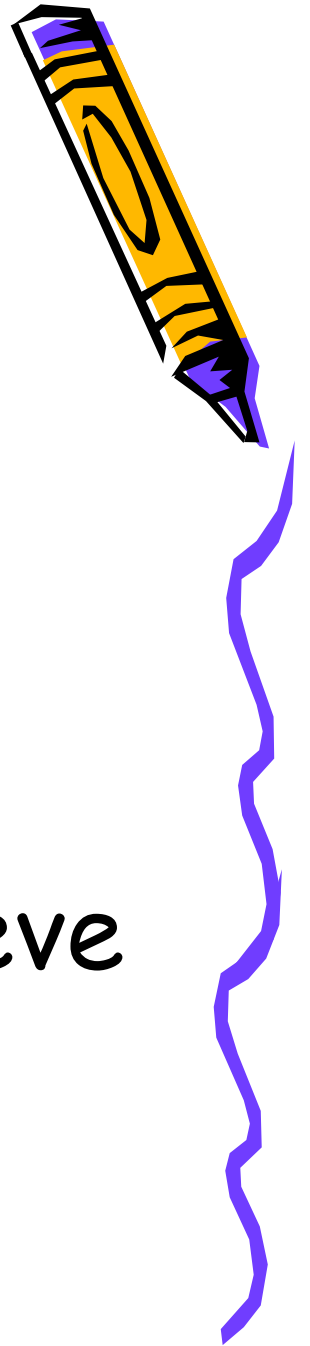
Vision

- The vision of UCCS is "Empowered communities in Ukamba who enjoy sustainable livelihoods free from food insecurity, unstable incomes, and inadequate water supply".



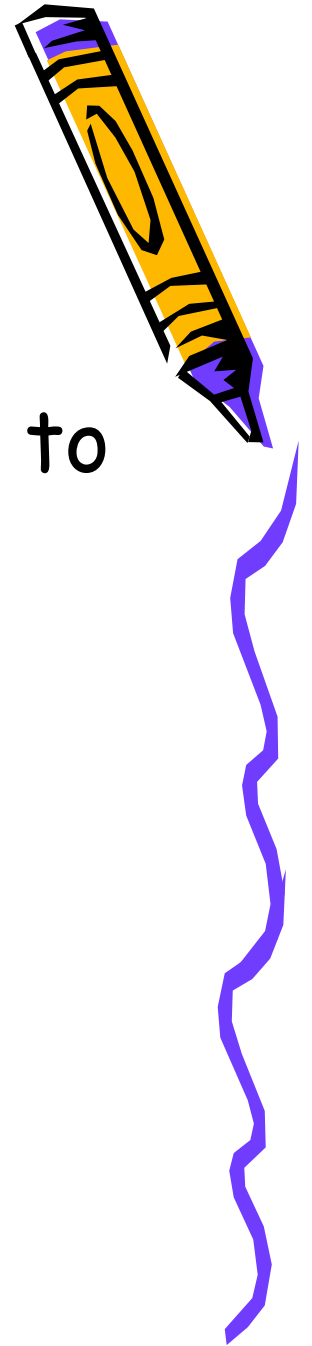
Mission

- To empower target communities through participatory process and Christian principles to achieve quality life.



Goal

- “To facilitate target communities to realize secure livelihood characterized by adequate food supply, stable income and potable water”.



PROGRAMME AREAS

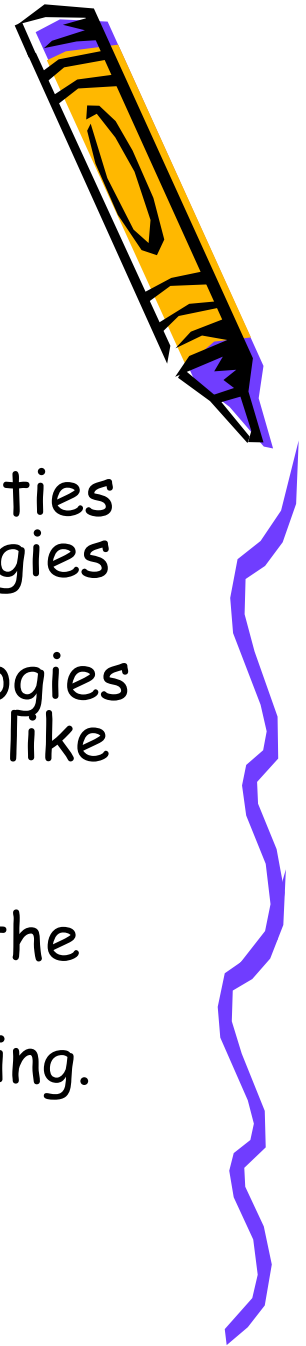
Currently UCCS is implementing an Integrated Food Security Programme. In this Programme, issues of Agriculture, water and sanitation, Environment and community sustainability are integrated as they impact differently to food security. Water and sanitation forms an integral component of the IFSP because UCCS is operating in an Arid and Semi arid lands of Kenya characterized by erratic nature of rains. With this therefore there is no meaningful development that can take place without water.

Specifically the IFSP has the following Components:



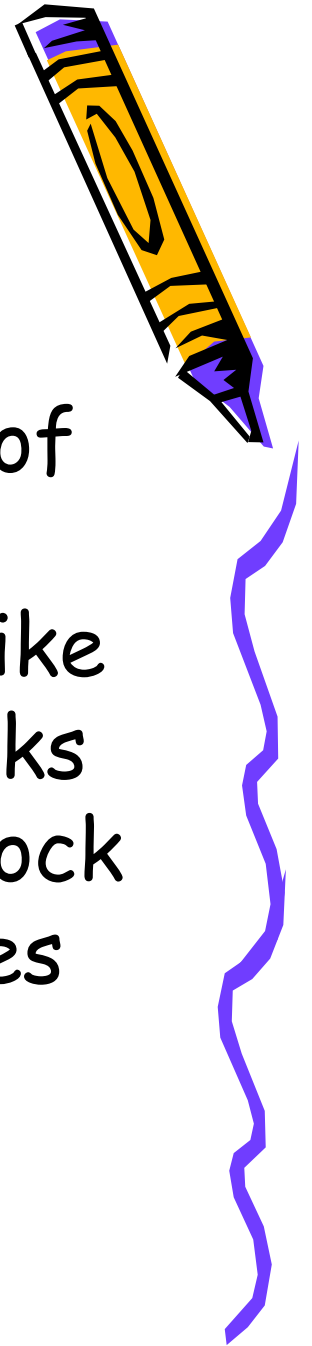
Agriculture

- This involves capacity building of the communities to embrace sustainable agriculture methodologies for increased food production. This includes demonstrations of farming practices, technologies and crops that can do well in harsh conditions like limited rainfall.
- Livestock improvement projects forms an important part of the agriculture component the reason being the fact that in Ukambani, the communities practice subsistence mixed farming.



Water and Sanitation

- This forms an integral component of IFSP and is comprised of technologies of harvesting water like Subsurface dams, Earth dams, tanks Shallow wells, spring protection, Rock catchments, Boreholes and Pipelines distributions systems.



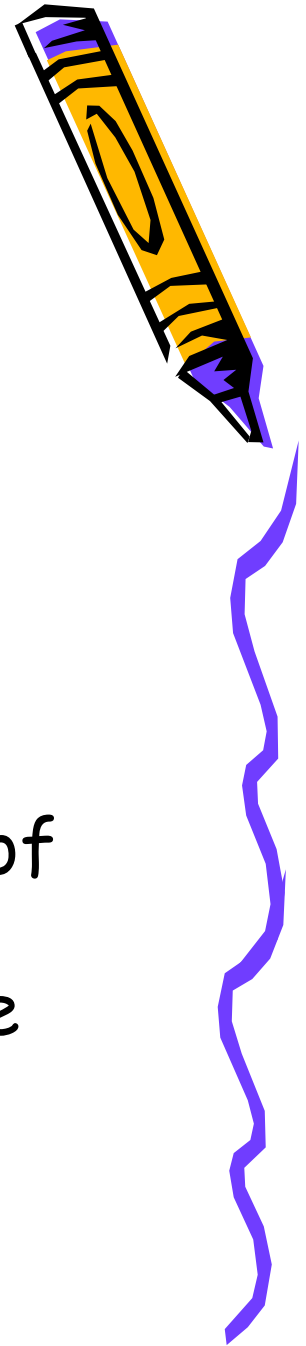
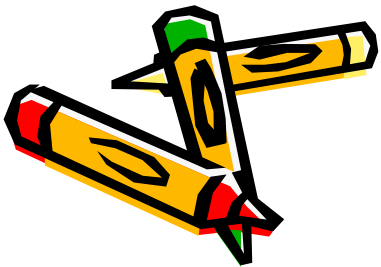
Environment

- UCCS is operating in the ASALs of Kenya. These areas are faced with serious environmental degradation which is aggravated by poverty. This makes the communities cut down trees for charcoal burning and sell sand looking for survival. The sad thing about it is that they cut down trees that have taken over 100 years to grow. UCCS is facilitating the community to identify the causes, opportunities and later development of appropriate plans to address the problems. Some of these plans are such as agro forestry, training in proper farming methods that ensure the soil is not washed away and and campaigns for maintaining manageable livestock herd.



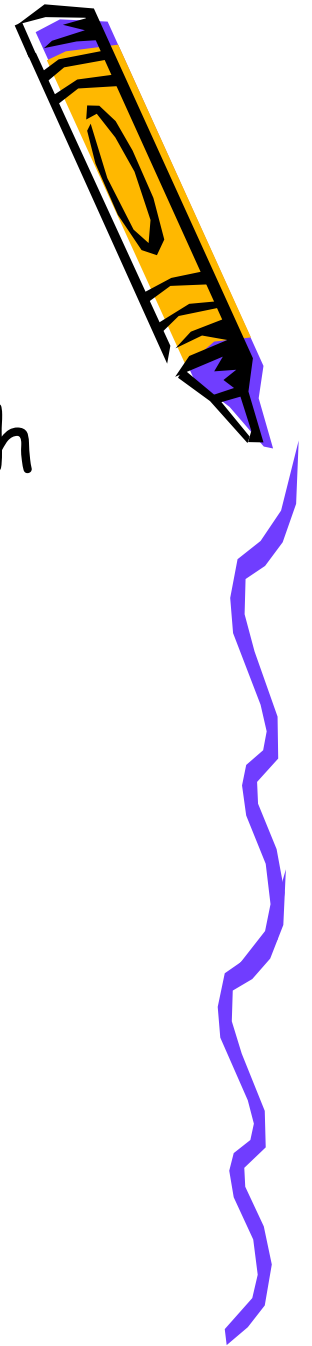
Gender and HIV/AIDS

- UCCS has developed gender and HIV/AIDS policies. It is ensuring that these are functional. These are mainstreamed in all the projects.
- It has further developed staff codes of conduct to facilitate the HIV/AIDS mainstreaming at organizational and the Programme levels.



UCCS DEVELOPMENT APPROACH

UCCS uses a participatory approach to ensure all stakeholders are brought on board for purposes of sustainability of the development work. It takes the following steps:



Project identification

This is about who should benefit and what their needs are. To be able to target the deserving beneficiaries, targeting criteria is predetermined as described below:



The selection criteria setting and adoption by all Stake holders

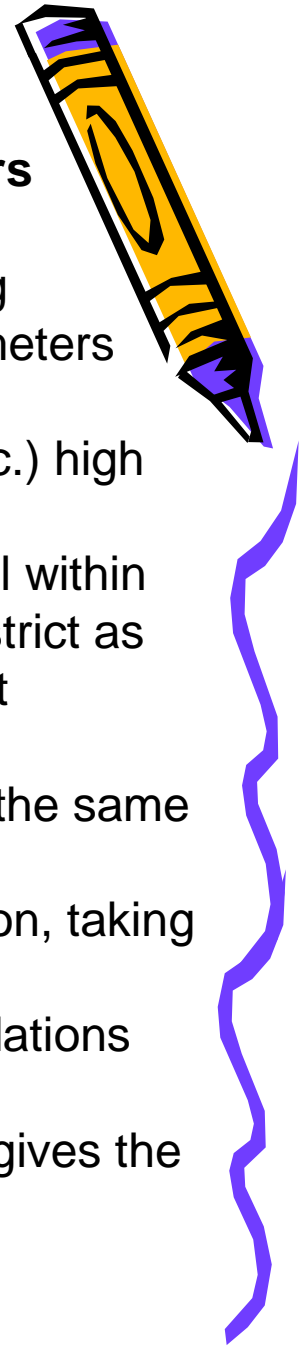
A Social economic status is established to assist in the targeting process. The process involves consideration of key poverty parameters such as availability of diseases, inadequate water supply, poor infrastructural facilities (dispensaries, schools, churches, roads etc.) high illiteracy levels, low levels of income amongst others.

Collection of secondary data is reviewed to now the areas that fall within such areas. Further consultative meeting is conducted in each District as well as reviewing information as provided for in each of the District Development plans documents.

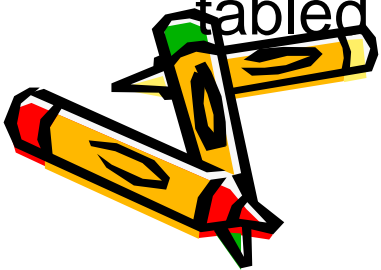
Field visits are then conducted with a questionnaire comprised of the same parameters to the proposed areas. Other data collection tools are administered on site such as focused group discussion, observation, taking photographs and transect walks for triangulation purpose.

Both the secondary and primary data is analyzed and recommendations made on the areas that fall within the set criteria.

Adoption of the priority areas is finalized at the Board level which gives the final authority concerning UCCS engagement in such areas.



A Baseline Survey exercise for the selected areas is then conducted to establish a detailed situation at the ground that forms the basis for intervention. Before the actual baseline Survey, orientation meetings are held at the target areas with the leaders to share the objectives. All stakeholders are then mobilized for the actual baseline Survey exercise. During the baseline data collection various participatory tools are applied to get the real situation at the ground. Once the data is compiled, it is validated at a public meeting whereby it is adopted as the actual situation. The Members then in participatory way selects representatives to get involved in the drafting of the constitution that is then tabled for any inputting before operationalization.



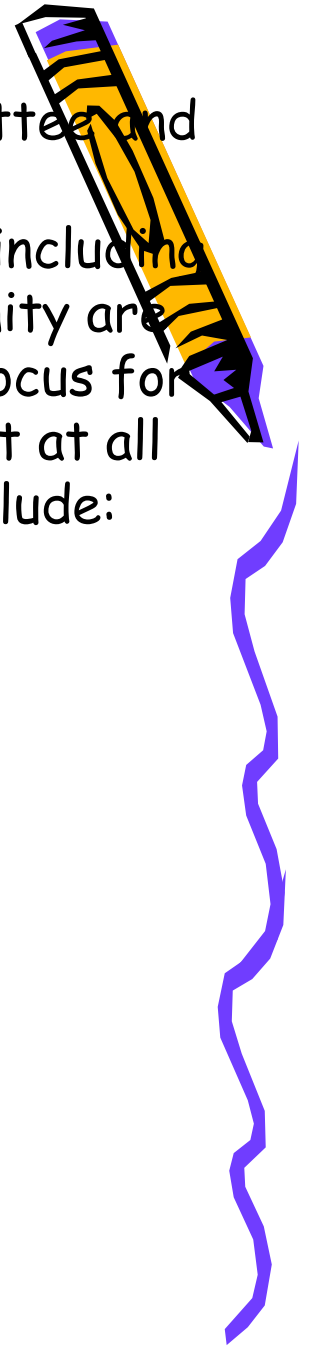


Constitution development for each of the target areas is meant to give focus as well as spelling out roles and responsibilities of the members while addressing their challenges. The constitution also once adopted is used to elect the umbrella Management Committee. The constitution is also used to have registration with the Government.



Detailed planning process with the site management committee and leaders is conducted where all critical issues are analysed, opportunities identified, targets and indicators spelled out including role clarification. The marginalized members of the community are considered for targeting at this stage as they are the key focus for support. Their needs should be known and incorporated right at all stages of the project implementation. These categories include:

- Female-headed households
- Widows
- Child headed households
- The Sick
- The youth
- Elderly
- Those with disabilities
- The poorest category of the beneficiaries





At the planning stage, all issues affecting the beneficiaries are considered such that those that do not fall within UCCS programme areas are referred to other actors.

The members are facilitated to generate plans such as catchments protection plan, agriculture activities, water detailed designs, operation and maintenance plans for the water structures, HIV/AIDS mainstreaming efforts and capacity-building efforts required to ensure efficient and effective implementation of the project.



Implementation, Monitoring and evaluation

- Community is facilitated to draw action plans, monitoring and evaluation matrix in a language they can understand.
- They are shown the importance for effective monitoring and evaluation.



Summary of activities achieved from year 2005 to date

A) Water and sanitation

- Four water distribution systems
 - seven (7Kms) at Kasunguni and eighteen (18 Kms) at Kako-Kyaluma in Makueni District.
 - Musengo WATSAN in Kitui District - *On-going*
 - Upper manza WATSAN in Tala, Kangundo District - *On-going*
- 29 water tanks [50 m³] in all primary schools, 4 distribution tanks and 3 tanks for rehabilitation
- Excavation of two earth dams in Kasunguni
- Desilting of two earth dams
- Construction of 40 Sub surface dams

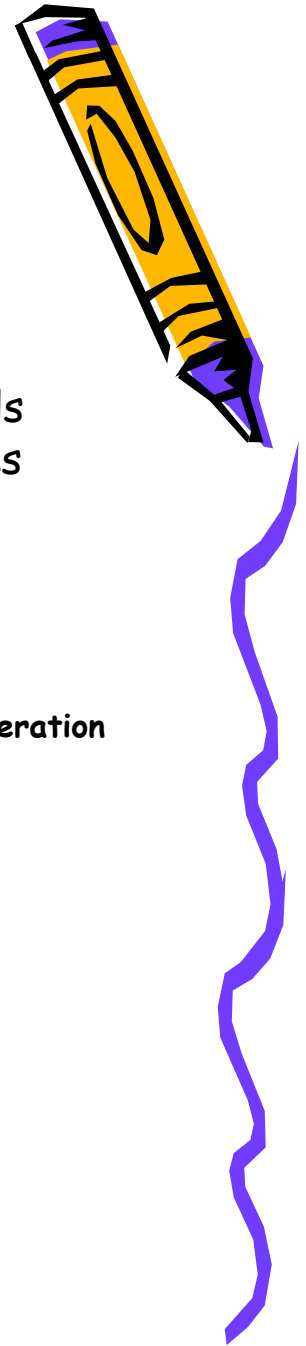


achievements contd.

- Sinking, protection and equipping with a hand pump of 12 Shallow wells
- Support for 11 institutions and 25 public places to put up VIP Latrines whose some that are strategically positioned have murals depicting community sanitation issues

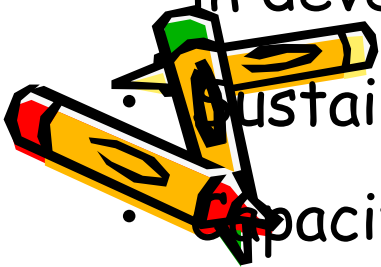
B) Agriculture - Demonstration plots in working areas

- Establishment of nursery trees
 - Special groups growing mangoes, green grammes and cowpeas for income generation
 - Community support with drought tolerant certified seeds
 - Seed multiplication
 - Honey production
 - Trainings in appropriate farming techniques
- **C] Social - Capacity building**
 - HIV/AIDS and gender are crosscutting issues in all activities



Challenges

- The availability of resources to match the community needs
- The effects of climate change. The target area is in the ASAL and the weather conditions have become very unpredictable
- Efforts in capacity building the communities to become food secure have become wanting given the rapidly changing environment.
- Inadequate Resources (Internal & External)
- Lack of recognition of the Church as a serious player in development
- Sustainability of the development initiatives
- Capacity to address emerging needs



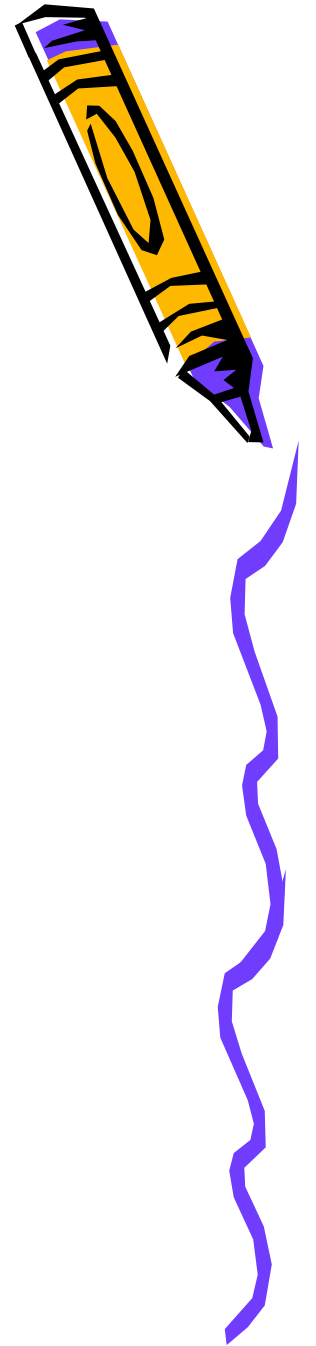
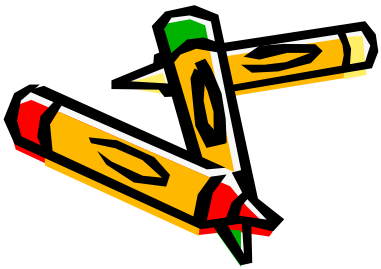
Lessons learnt

- The church can make a great deal of difference if well stirred up
- The values that drive the faith based dev organisations mostly are universal rather than partisan -FBOs need to be encouraged more
- Inadequate capacity can seriously compromise quality of dev products

- There is no meaningful development that can be done in the ASAL areas without addressing the water problem.
- Involvement of communities reduces the costs of the projects by close to 40%
- Communities when well facilitated have the key to the solutions of their problems.
- Environmental sustainability is a difficult concept if the root causes of the Environmental degradation are ignored.



PHOTOGRAPHS





Mutendea Sub Surface Dam



Muhi sub surface dam. Water is stored underneath the sand.





Kiko Kyaluma pumping station. Water is pumped from a subsurface dam and distributed to a distance of 18 Km with 10 water kiosks where the communities draw water.



Wambiti distribution water tank (100m³). The tanks are fenced for sanitation purposes.

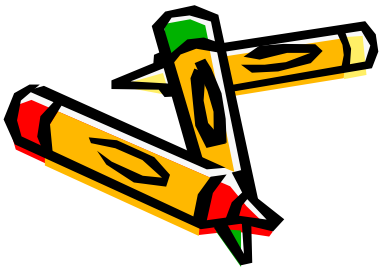




A public sanitation facility with murals depicting common sanitation and hygiene practices in the development areas. Murals such as the ones in the photograph have proved to be very effective in behavioural change.



Institutional sanitation facility with mural. Opposite is the toilet that was being used before the construction of the white (new) one.





Communities queue to get water at one of the water points of Kasunguni water and sanitation project. Although a lot has been done in water provision, more is needed to be done to liberate the community and save time for other activities of economic use.



Environmental concerns have also been addressed. Communities have developed tree nurseries





Children are even not spared in looking for this precious commodity – water. Fortunately for these kids it was during school holidays.



Kwa Ngindu Earth Dam with water. The dam has been fenced for sanitation purposes. Communities are not walking long distances as it used to be before the construction.





An institutional sanitation facility in Wambiti Primary School. The situation used to be worse because all the boys could share one latrine hence a lot of time wasted in queuing waiting for one another.



The situation has been improved in Wambiti Primary School by the construction of improved VIP latrines in the school. Murals have been drawn for behaviour change purposes. No more waiting hence time saved for academic purposes.





UCCS is using simple water harvesting technologies. Above is a shallow well in providing water to the community.



Community participation



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