



Ministry of Water and Environment

**UGANDA**  
**W&E**  
**WEEK**



## ALBERTINE REGIONAL WATER & ENVIRONMENT WEEK NEWSLETTER

Issue February– March 2024

*Theme:*  
*Technology and Innovation in Addressing the Water, Environment and Climate Change Crisis*



### INSIDE

|  |    |
|--|----|
| Foreword   | 01 |
| Raising the voice for sustainable WASH, WRM & Climate Change Community Engagements | 02 |
| Sustainable Approaches & Innovations   | 10 |
| Recommendations  | 12 |
| Pictorials   | 19 |
| Acknowledgements   | 19 |

Documentation and Publication supported by:

**IRC**



**This newsletter is produced by the Albert Water Management Zone (AWMZ), Ministry of Water and Environment**

**Content contribution:** AWMZ and RWSRC-5 Teams

**Photography:** MWE Officers, Water for People, AFRIYEA, Join for Water

**Compilation and Editorial:** Kiteme Rita, Jacob Musinguzi, Ainembabazi Hellen, Rubangakene Bruno –MWE Regional Office and Janet Olumbe –Water For People

**Documentation and Publication supported by:** IRC International Water and Sanitation Center (IRC Uganda)

**Cover Picture:** AWMZ Officers conducting flow measurement on R. Nile at Paraa earlier this year

**Inside Cover Picture:** One of the AWMZ telemetry stations submerged following heavy rains last year in the Kafu catchment in the Albertine region.

## FOREWORD



*Dr Guma Brian Emmanuel  
Team Leader, Albert Water Management Zone*

**W**e are excited to share highlights of the 6th Albertine Regional Water and Environment Week (ARWEWK 2024) held from the 25th of February to the 06th of March 2024. The Water and Environment Week aims to contribute to sustainable socio-economic transformation in achieving the Uganda National Development Plan and Vision 2040. Since 2019, the Albertine region has organized pre-events in collaboration with regional partners, providing a platform for knowledge exchange, dialogue, and learning to improve the region's water and environmental resources. This year's preparations were spearheaded by the Ministry of Water and Environment (MWE) - Albert Water Management Zone alongside other regional structures, including Rural Water and Sanitation Regional Center -5 (RWSRC-5) and Umbrella of Water and Sanitation - Mid West (UWS-MW) hinged

on the theme *“Technology and Innovations in Addressing Water, Environment and Climate Change Crisis.”*

ARWEWK 2024 focused on raising awareness and showcasing innovations, and sustainable approaches in addressing water, environment, and climate change challenges. We reached out to an approximate population of 8 million people in the districts of Kabarole, Kamwenge, Kyegegwa, Kasese, Rubirizi, Bushenyi, and Sheema through radio talk shows and the 518-kilometer walk.

The pre-event activities were successfully executed with support from our regional partners and stakeholders. We extend our gratitude to the participants from the District Local Governments, Parastatals, Civil Society Organizations, the Private Sector, Development Agencies, Religious Institutions, Academic Institutions, Cultural Institutions, Media houses, and the public.

***Dr Guma Brian Emmanuel  
Team Leader- AWMZ***



## RAISING THE VOICE FOR SUSTAINABLE WASH, WRM & CLIMATE CHANGE

Uganda has been experiencing significant impacts of climate change, such as changing weather patterns, decreased water levels, and increased frequency of extreme weather episodes like floods, as well as drought, leading to socio-economic vulnerability in communities. The catchment areas in the Albertine region such as Kafu, Semliki, and along the Rwenzori slopes have been affected most. The impacts are attributed to human activities such as deforestation and encroachment on fragile ecosystems like the wetlands & riverbanks.

The Albertine Regional Water and Environment Week served as a platform to increase awareness of existent sustainable technologies, innovations, and approaches to address water, environment, and climate change issues. This was achieved through activities such as; a 518km walk for water, environment, and climate change, football matches, an Environmental symposium, a Hackathon, School Debates, School outreaches, Public dialogues, and Radio talk shows. The details of these activities are here below;

### Media campaigns on ARWEWK 2024

The Ministry of Water and Environment with support from HEWASA a region-based CSO (Jubilee Radio-105.6 FM), Kabarole District Local Government (98.5 Cloud FM), and media houses - KRC 102 FM, and MMU 105.2 FM held 11 radio and 2 TV talk shows courtesy of Fort TV to raise awareness on the annual water and environment week pre-event and main events. The talk shows highlighted this year's theme and the overall goal to rethink

the existing approaches and solutions to addressing water, environment, and climate change challenges in Uganda. The discussions focused on various water, environment, sanitation, and hygiene challenges in the Albertine region and also highlighted some of the Ministry and other regional stakeholder interventions such as the promotion of piped water supply systems, Self-supply promotion, safely managed Sanitation Systems, Nature-based solutions, River

bank stabilization, afforestation/re-afforestation among others. Some of the listeners' concerns were in line with access to safe water whereby they demanded the Ministry's intervention to extend piped water systems. The public was urged to participate in the lined regional water and environment week activities and to continuously conserve the water and environment resources in their capacities.



Awareness creation on conservation & sanitation through radio talk shows



MWE hosted on Fort TV to inform the public about ARWEWK 2024



# SPORTS FOR WASH

## Sanitation Cup

**T**he Ministry of Water and Environment in collaboration with Kabarole District Local Government Organized a football match at Buhara Primary School, Kichwamba Sub-county where four Parishes participated; Bwanika, Mabale, Kihondo, and Kyakagusa. About 500 spectators received information about the ARWEWK 2024 activities and the 12 key sanitation and hygiene components that

were inspected during the sanitation week such as possession of a basic latrine, refuse pit, kitchen, and hand washing facility with soap among others.

Ms. Restetuta Balinda Mbajana, Secretary for Education and Health as Chief Guest delivered a message emphasizing the important connection between personal hygiene and social relationships, drawing inspiration

from Deuteronomy 23:11. By stating that "a dirty person cannot be my friend," she stressed the importance of cleanliness not only for individual health but also for fostering meaningful connections with others. Aligning personal hygiene with minimized medical expenses, she urged for a collective commitment to prioritizing cleanliness as a cornerstone of well-being and community togetherness.



*The Team Leader AWMZ handing over the trophy to Bwanika FC*



*Ms Birungi Cecilia, District Health Inspector addressing spectators after the match on issues of hygiene and sanitation*



## Corporate League

In a collaborative effort between MWE and Rwenzori Aid, the 7th edition of corporate games for Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene (WASH) was held at Boma Grounds in Fort Portal. The event aimed at rallying stakeholders to support enhancing sanitation and hygiene practices in schools. Notably, this initiative has resulted in the donation of seven rainwater tanks to schools in Kabarole and the city, benefiting approximately 7,000 pupils. As part of this year's event, MWE donated a rainwater harvester tank to Bukuku Primary School, demonstrating the ongoing commitment to improving WASH facilities in educational institutions.

Mr Murungi Rutalemwa Amooti, the Executive Director-Rwenzori Aid expressed gratitude to MWE for the continued partnership in raising awareness about water and sanitation within Fort Portal City through Corporate Games. He emphasized that these games were not solely

for competition but primarily aimed at raising awareness and promoting initiatives in WASH.

The event, graced by the presence of Hon Linda Irene Mugisa, MP for Fort Portal City, saw the participation of various organizations including NWSC-Fort Area, Pride Micro Finance, Kyancinga Child Development Center, JESE, Rwenzori Aid, and MWE decentralized structures. The competitive spirit was evident as teams competed fiercely on the field, with MWE showcasing commendable performance throughout the tournament. Joint Effort to Save the Environment (JESE) emerged victorious, securing a well-deserved trophy in the finals against Pride Micro Finance. As a testament to the spirit of participation and collaboration, certificates were awarded to all participants, highlighting the collective effort towards promoting WASH initiatives in our communities.



*Hon Linda Irene Mugisa, MP for Fort Portal City awarding a trophy to JESE who emerged as the*



**As Women, we are most affected without water! I therefore pledge to collaborate with MWE & regional partners in advocating for funds aimed at improving safe water access**

***Hon. Linda Irene Mugisa, MP Fort Portal City***





## Walking the Talk and the Talk of the Walkers

The Ministry of Water and Environment (MWE) in partnership with the Walkers Association of Uganda (WAU) organized a 518km walk for water, environment and climate change to traverse the districts of Bunyangabu, Kasese, Rubirizi, Bushenyi, Sheema, Mbarara, Lyantonde, Lwengo, Masaka, Mpigi, Wakiso to Kampala. This was aimed at advocating for



“  
The walk is to create awareness but actions should come from everyone.

*Mr. Albert Orjabo, Asst. Commissioner WRPRD*

the implementation of adaptation and mitigation measures to improve community resilience. Prior to the flag off, a press conference was held at the MWE regional office in Fort Portal and it was noted annual regional event (ARWEWK) has significantly increased awareness on climate change aspects, related challenges and the approaches to address them, attracting more partners and hence bridging the climate change financing gap.



**Hon Alex Ruhunda flags off 518km Walk at MWE regional Office in Fort Portal**



**During the press conference at MWE regional office**



**A**long the trail, a dialogue was held at Hima Town Council offices in Kasese District and highlighted critical environmental concerns like drought citing recent losses of livestock and the pollution challenges posed by industrial activities. The discussions also addressed policy implementation challenges, notably regarding the ban on poly-

thene bags (Kavera), revealing complexities at the intersection of politics and environmental governance.

Mr. Geoffrey Ayeni, the Walkers Association Uganda team leader, emphasized the urgent need to address climate change and its ramifications on water resources. He acknowledged the ongoing partnership with MWE

and stressed the role of community engagement in environmental management.

The dialogue yielded tangible outcomes, including ceremonial tree planting and plans for advancing catchment management strategies, signalling a proactive approach towards environmental sustainability in Hima.



*(Left)Hima T/C, Kasese DLG ,Walkers and MWE Officials during the dialogue and ceremonial tree planting (right)*

**A**nother gathering was held at Katunguru fishing landing site, uniting community leaders, environmental advocates, and government representatives in a shared mission for sustainable practices. Amidst the lively discussions, attendees emphasized the urgent need for solutions to pressing challenges, from the overgrowth of water hyacinth weeds to the

prevailing issue of plastic waste dumping. The community's call for support in tackling these obstacles, coupled with their plea for alternative livelihood programs and enhanced water system interventions, highlighted a collective commitment to safeguarding both livelihoods and the environment.



*Dialoguing on water resource challenges experienced in Katunguru and water hyacinth was major issue*



## School outreaches to promote environmental conservation & WASH

We recognized the importance of young minds in the sustainable promotion of environmental conservation and WASH practices. ARWEWK provided platforms for knowledge exchange on climate change, water, sanitation, and hygiene through school outreaches. Outreaches were made to St Charles Lwanga P/S, Kamengo P/S, Kagote P/S, Ngombe P/S, St Lucia SS, and Nyakasura SS in Fort Portal and in Kyegegwa to Mpara SS, Humura SS, Wekomire P/S in partnership with Community Empowerment Network. Through Q&A sessions, students demonstrated knowledge of the causes of environmental degradation and some of the adaptation measures to address the issues. The Team further sensitized the students about the disadvantages of open defecation and encouraged proper disposal of sanitary materials.



Mr Emmanuel Okurut-Environment Health Officer, MWE-RWSRC-5



**“80% of diseases which kill Ugandans are sanitation related”**

Mr Emmanuel Okurut-Environment Health Officer,  
MWE-RWSRC-5

Proper hand wash practices were encouraged along with washing of fruits before eating. As part of the outreach, 1,900 tree seedlings were distributed to the schools for planting including species like Avocado, Musizi, and Prunus Africana.



Eng. Hillary Mutabazi, Manager -RWSRC-5 during the awareness campaigns in schools in Fort Portal City



During the school outreaches in Kyegegwa



## Young Minds Debate the Future of Water and Environment

Inter-school debates held at the Youth Centre Kabarole witnessed a significant youth-led initiative in environmental conservation. These were successfully held by MWE in partnership with Kyaninga Forest Foundation and Join for Water. Dr. Guma Brian Emmanuel, the Team Leader –AWMZ opened the event and emphasized the global importance of such discussions amidst the emerging climate crisis. He stressed the need for urgent action to safeguard water resources for future generations. Mr. Mutabazi Hillary, Manager RWSRC-5, high-

lighted the substantial influence youth could have on global awareness and called for the dissemination of their discussions to a wider audience.

Secondary schools participated in the debating motions addressing key environmental issues. These included; Kye-bambe Girls, St. Leo's College, Mpanga Secondary school, Karugutu Secondary school, St. Mary's Gorreti and Nyakasura Secondary school. The schools engaged in rigorous debate around the motion ***"This house shall fund all innovation programmes***

***associated with water and environment in compliance with 17 sustainable development goals"***, with judging criteria including speaker proficiency and relevance of arguments. Nyakasura Secondary School emerged victor, showcasing their commitment to finding solutions to pressing environmental challenges. This event not only fostered critical discourse but also empowered young minds to drive positive change in safeguarding our water and environment for the future.



Students during the debates



Students during the debates



Nyakasura School awarded a trophy after emerging the winners of



Additionally, the Ministry of Water and Environment in partnership with Water for People conducted an impactful environmental conservation awareness campaign through debates in Schools in Kamwenge district, under the motion, **"Innovations and Technology has caused more positive than negative impact on Water, Environment and Climate Change"**. The debate aimed at leveraging technology and innovation to address water, environment, and climate change challenges. Six primary schools were engaged, that is; Kanyegaramire, Kigarama, Mpanga, Mirembe, Rwebikwato, and Kiyagara. These debates provided a platform for pupils

to articulate their ideas on the motion, fostering awareness among students, teachers, and parents alike. Mirembe Primary School emerged victorious in the debate competition, showcasing a keen understanding of the pertinent issues and potential solutions.

Also showcased at the event was the ingenuity of young minds through innovative exhibitions aimed at promoting hygiene, sanitation, and environmental stewardship within schools. Pupils demonstrated their skills in crafting liquid soap, producing reusable pads, and utilizing solid waste effectively, all to promote cleanliness and sustainability.

Additionally, the occasion featured engaging performances by students, including music, dance, and drama segments that creatively highlighted water and environment-related challenges and proposed solutions. Notably, the event involved a symbolic tree-planting ceremony, signifying collective efforts to combat climate change and preserve natural resources. The participation of key personalities such as the RDC, CAO, LC5 Chairperson Kamwenge DLG, and Ministry Officials underscored the significance of the occasion and emphasized the importance of concerted action in safeguarding the environment for future generations.



*Students showcased innovations aimed at the promotion of sanitation, hygiene & environmental stewardship*



*Joseph Karungi – LCV Chairperson Kamwenge DLG demonstrating proper handwashing at a mass handwashing facility (WASHaLOT) as a way of promoting hand washing*



*During ceremonial tree planting by Joseph Karungi LCV Chairperson Kamwenge DLG and other District Officials*



# COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENTS

## Home improvement campaign

The home improvement campaign was successfully conducted in partnership with IRC, AMREF, Mid-western Umbrella, Turikumwe, and Kabarole District Local Government. This was aimed at increasing awareness about the importance of improved sanitation, and collaborative efforts between communities and local authorities for sustained improvements. Ms Kemigabu Catherine, a Health Educator with Kabarole District Local Government said **“14% of the surveyed homes in Kichwamba were doing open defecation since the parents do not regard Children’s faeces as harmful”**.

During the household survey, model homes were identified within Kichwamba and were rewarded with certificates, basins, soap, and handwashing stations as appreciation for maintaining good WASH standards at the household level.

School health club members from Kiamara and Ruteete plus a local drama group performed educative poems, drama, and skits to further create awareness of environment conservation, and improved WASH developments and practices.



*(Left-Right) Kabarole District Health Inspector, IRC Regional Wash Officer, MWE Sociologists during a household inspections in Kichwamba*



*Hygiene and sanitation items that were awarded to the model homes*



## Improving access to safe water through piped water systems

A groundbreaking occasion was organized through the collaborative efforts of Mid-Western Umbrella for Water and Sanitation-Kyenjojo (MWUWS) alongside Kabarole District Local Government and IRC. The event was held at Omwikiriza's place in Bwanika Parish, Kichwamba Sub-county in Kabarole District. Hon Richard Rwabuhinga, LC V Chairperson –Kabarole District said, “For years, residents of Bwanika Parish have been relying on water from crater lakes, exposing

them to contamination. With the imminent completion of the water project, our optimistic outlook is that the community will have access to safe drinking water.” The water supply project is aimed at elimination of fetching or drinking water from unprotected sources by 2023. The Chairperson noted the collaborative efforts with partners including IRC International Water Sanitation Center (IRC) that will facilitate the timely completion of the project before 2026.



(Center) Hon Richard Rwabuhinga presided over the ground breaking for the 900 million gravity flow scheme in Bwanika Parish-Kichwamba Sub-county

## Clean up exercise in Kihondo

A clean up exercise was conducted through collaborative effort by MWE, Kabarole District Local Government and the regional WASH partners including IRC, Turikumwe, and AMREF at Kihondo market along Fort Portal Bundibugyo Road. The clean-up was to demonstrate to the communities that sanitation and hygiene practices

are crucial since most diseases that get them hospitalized are preventable.

Mr. Peter David Bazira, the Area Councillor –Kichwamba thus called for collaborative efforts by key Stakeholders in advocating for emptyable pit latrines.



MWE and partners during the clean-up in Kichwamba

# SUSTAINABLE APPROACHES AND INNOVATIONS

## Innovate and restore: Environmental Symposium 2024

The symposium held at Tooro Botanical Gardens in Fort Portal City, brought together a diverse audience to explore this year's theme. This was organized with support from AFRIYEA, Tooro Botanical Gardens, Join for Water, and Root Zone Africa. The presentations and discussions highlighted pressing issues and potential solutions.

In his opening remarks, Eng. Hillary Mutabazi stressed the urgency of addressing climate change, highlighted challenges such as decreasing water coverage and wetland encroachment, and called for collective action and awareness, particularly among schoolchildren, to safeguard the environment for future generations.

One of the focal points of the symposium was the panel discussions, where experts and stakeholders deliberated on key topics such as the utilization of technology for effective water resources management. Amans Tiwanye from AWMZ led a discussion on the Soil and Water Assessment Tool (SWAT) Hydrological Modeling and Climate Change Modeling, addressing challenges like population growth, altered precipitation patterns, and



*Mr Mwesige Isaiah , CEO AFRIYEA giving remarks*

pollution. The panel underscored the importance of sustainable water management practices amidst changing environmental conditions.

Another significant discussion centered on funding climate-resilient innovations to address the climate change crisis. Muhereza Duncan, the Project Officer-Climate Change-Reproductive Health Uganda highlighted the importance of climate innovations in meeting growing energy needs and advancing sustainable economic development. The panel identified barriers such as limited funding, inadequate capacity, and

bureaucratic hurdles, emphasizing the need for enhanced support for locally relevant climate technology innovation in developing countries.

These panel discussions provided a platform for stakeholders to share insights, exchange ideas, and propose actionable strategies to address Uganda's water, environment, and climate change challenges. By fostering collaboration and knowledge-sharing, the symposium played a vital role in advancing efforts towards sustainable water management and environmental conservation in the region.





*A picture moment with Prof. Edward Rugumayo, the Chief Guest (centered)*



“According to the statistics, 1.1 billion people have no access to clean water”

*Eng. Hillary Mutabazi, Manager –RWSRC-5*



## Water quality improvement: Pohe Treatment Facility commissioned



*Cluster Engineer explaining the water treatment process after the commissioning in Pohe-Bunyangabu*

The commissioning ceremony of the Pohe Treatment Facility in Pohe village, Bunyangabu district, organized by the Umbrella of Water and Sanitation - Mid West (UWS-MW), showcased a significant step towards improving water access and quality in the area. The Cluster Engineer from UWS-MW, John Kiiza, provided an overview of the treatment facility, highlighting its components such as the Sedimentation tank, Filter Media, and Chlorination room and stated that the system is capable of processing up to 30m<sup>3</sup>/hr. Before the construction of the treatment facility, the community was receiving contaminated and silted water which was one of the major reasons why the facility was put in place.

Amidst the many speeches, a unified message resonated among the speakers, echoing gratitude towards MWUWS while urging communities to prioritize sanitation efforts and safeguard water sources. Emphasis was placed on cultivating tree species that are conducive to maintaining water resources. The Chief Guest, Bunyangabu's Resident District Commissioner, Mr. Amooti Masereka Joshua commended UWS-MW for their contribution to the water sector and emphasized the government's commitment to facilitating water projects. The ceremony concluded with a call for community engagement and the promotion of hygiene and sanitation practices.



*Mr. Masereka Joshua, RDC Bunyangabu addressing the audience*



*Manager- UWS-MW during ceremonial tree planting aimed at source protection*



## Emergency response to climate change: IWMDP to enhance livelihoods

The Integrated Water Management and Development Project (IWMDP) marked a significant milestone with the official handover of key facilities aimed at mitigating floods and fostering sustainable development in Kasese District. This initiative was prompted by the recurrent flooding in Nyamwamba valley, causing significant damage to infrastructure and loss of lives over the years.

Launched in October 2021 by the Government of Uganda through MWE, the IWMDP focused on nature-based solutions to restore the degraded Nyamwamba catchment. Through interventions such as soil and water conservation, afforestation, and income-generating activities, the proj-

ect aimed to stabilize riverbanks and improve community resilience. On February 29, 2024, four sites, including a coffee processing unit, river maintenance site, and eco-tourism sheds, were officially handed over to the Kasese DLG for monitoring, marking a significant milestone in the restoration efforts.

The handover ceremony, graced by Hon. Aisha Sekindi, Minister of State for Water, as the chief guest, highlighted the positive impacts of the project on coffee production and livelihoods. Dr. Callist Tindimugaya, Director for Water Resources Management, expressed appreciation for the collaborative efforts in executing the IWMDP.



***"These were priority measures that would desirably be upscaled if resources were available to the government."***

*Dr. Callist Tindimugaya, Commissioner Water Resources Planning & Regulations Department/Director MWE-DWRM*

Implemented by NRD, the coffee processing unit not only reduced transportation costs for coffee beans but also created employment opportunities and facilitated the formation of a SACCO. Similarly, at other sites like the river maintenance site and eco-tourism sheds, local leaders and project beneficiaries expressed gratitude for the government's support and highlighted the importance of continued collaboration between government and communities for sustainable development.



***"It was unbelievable to see that the June 2023 floods which were always detrimental to the Kilembe mines hospital area were contained by the installed infrastructure"***

*Mr Bomera Richard,  
LC 3 Chairperson-Bulembia Division.*

As the IWMDP handover concluded, calls for accountability, replication of successful interventions, and further support for community development echoed, emphasizing the ongoing commitment to address environmental challenges and promote resilience in Kasese district.



*Hon Aisha Sekindi, State Minister for Water officiating the commissioning of the coffee huller*



*Hon. Aisha Sekindi-State Minister for Water inspected the coffee huller during the commissioning ceremony*



*During the commissioning of one of the 3 constructed ecotourism shades in Nyamwamba catchment*



*Hon. Aisha Sekindi inspecting some of the crafted items displayed within the tourism shade*



*Implemented structural measures in Nyamwamba upstream to contain the adverse flooding effects*



# Empowering tomorrow's innovators: University Hackathon

The Student Hackathon, a highlight event of the ARWEWK 2024, was successfully held and targeted participants from higher institutions of learning in the Albertine region including; Fins University, Mountains of the Moon University, Uganda Martyrs University, Uganda Pentecostal University, Uganda Technical Institute-Kicwamba. This was organized and facilitated by MWE in partnership with Water for People, IRC, and Tooro Botanical Gardens.

The Hackathon was aimed at fostering innovation among youth in addressing water, environment, and sanitation challenges. Participants from various higher institutions gathered to develop creative solutions aligned to this year's theme.

**Students formed teams and tackled four sub-themes, including;**

- Sustainable utilization of water and environmental resources for economic development
- Nature-based solutions
- Resilient built environment and infrastructure,
- Investment in community resilience.

After rigorous presentations and judging, FINS Medical University emerged as the champion, showcasing its Bicycle Urban Energy Model to address urban waste mismanagement. The hackathon not only encouraged innovative problem-solving but also provided a platform for collaboration, learning, and the integration of youth-led solutions into sector planning for a sustainable future.



*Hackathon participants were technically supported by MWE Officers and partners before their presentation to the judges*



*Fins University emerged as a champion in presenting the Biocycle Urban Energy Model to address urban waste mismanagement*



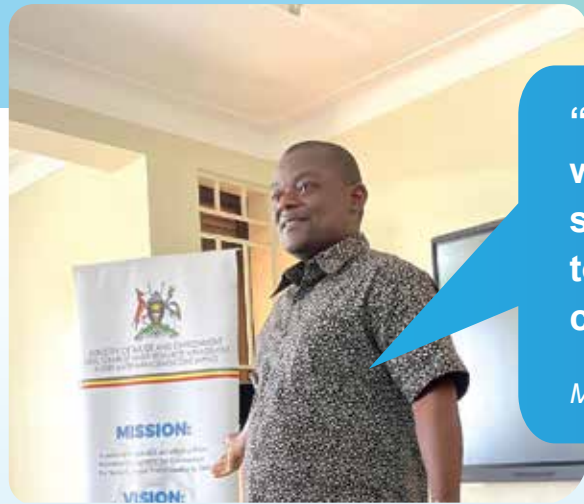
*Ms. Kiteme Rita presented the water resources challenges in the Albertine region and the innovative approach (CbWRM) adopted by MWE-AWMZ in addressing climate change*



*Mr Jacob Musinguzi, presented on MWE-RWSRC-5 operations in the region*



*Mr Mubangizi Silver, Economist-MWE-AWMZ moderated the Hackathon sessions*



“The SDG 6 indicator on access to safe water has stagnated between 65-71% since 2010-to-date and so we need to think differently to address the climate change challenges”

*Mr. Watsisi Martin, the Regional WASH Advisor with IRC Uganda*

## Climate resilient technologies to improve WASH

**J**oin for Water, in partnership with Natural Resources Defence Initiatives (NRDI) as the implementing partner, has undertaken significant initiatives to enhance sanitation and water access in rural communities in western Uganda. Recently, the construction of sanitation facilities, including ECO-SAN toilets at Mount Gessi Primary School in Karangura Sub-County, and a piped water system in Kayanja Village, Bweramule Sub-County, has been completed.

A team from the Ministry of Water and Environment (MWE) actively monitored the construction process to ensure quality assurance before the facilities' commissioning. The ECO-SAN toilet features separate sections for male and female pupils, each equipped with five stances. Additionally, a private room was provided for female students during sani-

tary pad changes. Recommendations to the contractor included implementing stone pitching to prevent land collapse around the facilities and ensuring long-term stability.

Furthermore, Join for Water and NRDI implemented a Water for Production project in Ntoroko District, establishing a solar-powered water supply system sourced from a borehole. The water serves a dual purpose, supplying a water trough for cattle and a standalone tap for the community. This initiative aims to mitigate risks associated with cattle herding near R. Semliki, where both cattle and herders

face threats from crocodiles, while also addressing river contamination issues. Recommendations for the contractor included obtaining an abstraction permit, conducting water quality testing, and water treatment, and developing improved fecal matter disposal solutions.

Eng. Collins Yebazamukama, a Senior Engineer with RWS-RC-5 expressed gratitude towards Join for Water and NRDI for their dedication to improving livelihoods in the region and their valuable contributions to the goals of the WASH sector.



*MWE and partners during inspection of the ecosan toilet & solar powered water supply system in Ntoroko District*



## RECOMMENDATIONS FROM THE ARWEWK 2024

- Political leaders should be at the forefront in enforcement of existing policies on water and environmental resources
- MWE should enhance collaboration with development partners (Private sector, NGOs, International funding institutions)
- Government of Uganda and sector partners should fund more research and design of innovative solutions to the climate change crisis
- Training sector professionals and community groups in new water supply, sanitation and environment protection technologies and approaches
- Need for further stakeholder engagement to protect water resources
- Promotion of alternative income-generating activities for riparian communities
- Demarcation of protected zones to minimize conflict with locals

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The Ministry of Water and Environment regional units acknowledge the partnership and sponsorship of various partners in organizing a successful Albertine Regional Water and Environment Week 2024. IRC International Water and Sanitation Resource Center, Water For People, Join for Water, Kyaninga Forest Foundation, Turikumwe, AFRIYEA Golf Academy, Tooro Botanical Gardens-TBG, Rwenzori Aid, Health through Water and Sanitation-HEWASA, Joint Effort to Save the Environment, Natural Resources Defence Initiative -NRDI, Mountains of the Moon Radio, KRC Radio, Clouds FM, Mubuku Intergrated Farmers Association-MIFA, Common Grounds, AMREF, World Wide Fund for Nature –WWF, Tab Logistics, Community Empowerment Network, Excel Hort Consult –ECHAI, National Forest Authority-NFA, iles de paix, Joint Effort to Save the Environment-JESE, Kabarole District Local Government, Rootzone Africa, and Fort TV.





# PICTORIAL



During the cleanup exercise at Mpanga market in Kabarole as walkers traversed Fort portal



One of the areas near Mpanga market which was cleaned during ARWEWK 2023 currently turned into a relaxation shade for the vendors



During the handover of a 10,000 ltr Rain Water Harvesting Tank to Bukuku Primary School



Hon. Kambale Feligo and Hon. Aisha Sekindi during the commissioning of the coffee processing unit in Kasese



Tree seedlings were distributed during School outreaches to promote Environmental conservation



During the commissioning ceremony in Kasese



Pride Microfinance Team awarded certificate for participating in corporate games for WASH



MWE Team receiving certificate



Certificates awarding to hackathon participants



Certificates were awarded to the debaters





For more information, contact;  
 Ministry of Water and Environment  
 Directorate of Water Resources Management  
 Plot 54, Nyaika Avenue-Nyabukara  
 Fort Portal City, Kabarole  
 Tel: +256 393246020





Ministry of Water and Environment

# UGANDA W&E WEEK

