



The **WASH** Foundation

THE WASH FOUNDATION – UGANDA

Tororo Project – Progress Report

MARCH 2025



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Background

In 2019 The WASH Foundation partnered with the Rotary Club of Kampala through a Rotary International-funded WASH project in the community of Merikit, located in the district of Tororo in eastern Uganda and very close to the border with Kenya. It has been reported that because of increased access to water, WASH-related disease dropped from 40% to 5%, the mortality rate of children under 5 decreased, and there was a steady positive increase in livelihoods due to improved knowledge and behavior around hygiene and sanitation. Merikit's population increased 10% from 26,000 to 28,600 people, uplifting the community from a trading center to a municipality. Because of this the Tororo district government asked The WASH Foundation to expand and replicate the project into 5 additional parishes with a catchment area of over 21,600 people.

Phase 1: Stakeholder Meetings and Community Surveys

1.1 Stakeholder Meetings in Tororo, Uganda May 2023

In May 2023, The WASH Foundation conducted the first visit to these five parishes in Tororo, Uganda. On May 2, 2023 TWF held a stakeholder meeting, where Executive Director, Steffani Fields presented The WASH Foundation and the project plan to stakeholders at the Tororo District Headquarters, including the Bukedi Diocese Church of Uganda, Head Teachers of participating schools, Healthcare Facility staff, Tororo Ministers of Education and Health, other district officials, and members of the communities who represented all levels of age, gender, and economic status.

During this visit, The WASH Foundation signed an MOU with Bukedi Diocese Church of Uganda. This organization, whose presence is widespread throughout the area and in each community of the project, will work with TWF to support the project in each community, coordinate with relevant stakeholders, and communicate project updates and plans to local officials, head teachers, and others.

1.2 Community Surveys: May 2023

During the May 2023 visit, TWF visited each parish and spoke with local officials, community members, teachers, students and healthcare staff to gain a baseline understanding of the water, sanitation, and hygiene situations in each community, conducting community focus group discussions and surveys.

Of the 6 communities analyzed, 5 reported that water systems had failed, and they rely on seasonal water wells that often stop functioning or do not produce enough water. Women and students in every community reported having to walk 1-3km daily to springs or distant water wells to fetch water. Only one of the communities reported having a communal water tank.



TWF staff also visited each school and conducted KAP surveys (knowledge, attitudes, and practices) with the students at each of the five schools. 77% of the students reported they had no access to safe drinking water at school. Of the 166 students surveyed across all schools, 72% cited a lack of water as an obvious problem with their toilets, while 67% noted there was nowhere to wash their hands. All head teachers expressed the need for reliable water and sanitation infrastructure on the school grounds.

Other results from these surveys are as follows:

Water:

- Across the region, there is sufficient water, but insufficient access, prioritization, and administration. A variety of barriers exist against access, storage, administration, maintenance, and security of community water points.
- There exists an abundance of water and fertile soil for agricultural production as well as rain that contributes to the success of farming in the region.
- Each water point that is meant for human collection and consumption is highly over-stressed and cannot meet the demands of people.
- Water infrastructure that does exist, like rainwater collection systems built at schools, have fallen into dis-repair beyond use due to broken pipes, vandalized tanks, and lack of maintenance and upkeep.

Sanitation

- Latrines and toilets were present, but there was a lack of ownership and maintenance.
- Each of the 6 schools and the healthcare center have at least one latrine, but many are not used due to a lack of water, unclean conditions, lack of maintenance, funding, and prioritization around the upkeep of the toilets.
- None of the focal schools had a person or group of people assigned to clean or maintain the latrines, illustrating the lack of funding and organization around sanitation maintenance.
- At Kwapa Health Center, one salaried person is responsible for all the cleaning and maintenance of the whole facility including the latrines. Without water on site and without a consistent monthly budget for cleaning supplies, the job is too large for one person.
- Kwapa Health Center burns its waste in an open pit, with no dedicated incinerator or separation of waste types.

Hygiene

- There is evidence of previous attempts to implement handwashing stations and promote handwashing practice at schools and the Healthcare Center. As part of a COVID-era initiative, all facilities received UNICEF handwashing stations and soap, however TWF's assessment in 2023 revealed these resources had no water or soap supply.



The WASH Foundation's initial recommendations after the assessment include:

1. **Strong alliances and partnerships with organizations** already addressing similar challenges in Ugandan Communities (NETWAS, UWASNET, Ugandan Water Project)
2. **Alternative forms of water sourcing and storage**, such as rainwater collection systems, community water tanks with solar powered pumping systems, and water treatment plans
3. **Security for WASH infrastructure** (fencing around water wells, school latrines and handwashing stations, locks on toilet stalls, and fencing around school property)
4. **WASH Champions and experts** – dedicated individuals to promote good hygiene practices, clean and maintain latrines, and rally around WASH initiatives.
5. **WASH Education** – The WASH Foundation will give its signature WASH-in-Schools training for teachers at all 6 of the schools.
6. **Menstrual hygiene management** – TWF will implement its 'Keep a Girl in School' program which teaches menstrual hygiene management to students and parents. The program designates school and community leaders who are empowered through training and materials to produce reusable menstrual pads, enabling students to practice menstrual hygiene and continue attending school during their periods.
7. **Friendly Competition** – creating WASH clubs in schools and creating friendly competition between them to incentivize long term behavior changes
8. **Budgeting & Fundraising** – this includes the aspect of budgeting and fundraising to include WASH resources and labor in each institution

1.2 Pre-site Assessment Report Assessments: July 2023

The WASH Foundation identified a drilling company through our nonprofit partner Ugandan Water Project (UWP), Red Rhino Development LTD. The assessment led to planning for partnership activities to include hydrological surveys, drilling of water wells and installation of handpumps, installation of rainwater catchment systems, rehabilitation of existing water wells, and the training of community water-user committees.

In July 2023, UWP and TWF conducted a joint trip to Tororo to administer a technical assessment of the water infrastructure and needs at each of the 5 schools and healthcare facility. The following recommendations were made:



Water Well Drilling: The following Institutions should be prioritized for study and drilling new water wells within the facility compound or a nearby potential point (if potential is not established with the facility);

1. **Kwapa Health Center III** – exclusive water well for the health center operations. If funds are available and the yield is good, it should be motorized for a piped network in the facility.
2. **Magodes Primary School** – students and the community around the school are at risk of drinking water from a stream. A water well within the school or in the community will help the school and the entire community.
3. **Ochegen Primary School** – students and the surrounding community are at risk of drinking water from an unprotected well. A water well within the school or in the community will help the students and the entire community.
4. **Apuwayi Primary School**, since the community at Akoret is not friendly to share the water well with the school, the school needs to have its own water well.

Note: based on TWF's assessment and conversations with our partner Bukedi Diocese, TWF decided that a new water well would be drilled at Asinge Primary School.

Water well Rehabilitation: The following institutions and communities should be prioritized for water well rehabilitation:

1. Kalait Primary School, which is currently non-functional and in need of repairs.
2. Asinge Primary School and community water well which is currently non-functional and in need of repairs
3. Akoret water well, which is used by Apuwayi Primary School and community which is currently partially functional
4. Kwapa Primary School /Kwapa Health Center and community water well which is currently non-functional and in need of repairs.

Rainwater Harvesting Systems: all the assessed facilities require their current water sources to be supplemented with rainwater harvesting systems. The systems installed in the past are, unfortunately, NOT salvageable. The catchment roofs are vast and if funds are available, each institution has capacity to accommodate up to four 10,000-liter capacity storage tanks. UWP's complete set of Rainwater Harvesting Systems with water filters and handwashing stations are recommended all the six assessed institutions.

Conclusion: The assessment highlights significant water and sanitation challenges faced at all the seven institutions assessed. Urgent action is required to improve water availability, quality, and sanitation infrastructure. Ugandan Water Project together with The WASH Foundation in partnership with the community and their leaders should prioritize support for these institutions and surrounding communities to implement appropriate solutions to ensure a safe and sustainable water supply and improved sanitation and hygiene interventions for the targeted communities.



	Asinge PS	Magodes PS	Kwapa PS	Kallait PS	Apuwai PS	Ochegen PS	Total
Student Total	1457	1207	1390	1669	931	1250	7904
Student F	701	595	710	857	446	588	3897
Student M	756	612	680	812	485	662	4007
Teaching Staff	12	10	11	11	9	15	68

1.3 Hydrological Survey: September 2023

In **September 2023**, TWF and UWP visited Tororo again to conduct a hydrological survey. The goals of the hydrological survey were: to obtain and study information related to the geology, hydrogeology and existing water well data, to carry out hydrogeological evaluation and geophysical investigations in the selected sites to determine potential for groundwater, to determine the appropriateness of drilling a water well as well as recommend maximum drilling depth, and to identify a site within the institutions' land boundaries with enough ground water potential for construction of a hand pump water well .

The focal sites for the hydrological survey conducted in September 2023 were **Asinge Primary School, Magodes Primary School, and Kwapa Health Center III**. The survey found that current water sources included water wells, streams, and rainwater harvest tanks that in each case are shared with the community, with water sources overwhelmed by the huge populations they serve.

The goal of this project phase is to increase access to a sustainable and safe water source within the institutions' land boundaries to meet their daily water demands.

Beneficiary Community	Current Water Source(s)	Distance to Source (m)	Estimated Population
Asinge Primary School	Deep borehole	200	7000
Kwapa Health Centre III	Deep borehole	240	3000
Magodes P/S	Stream	950	1020

Conclusions from the hydrological survey:

- **Asinge Primary School:** groundwater potential was classified as "good" with an estimate of 90% success rate for water well drilling averaging a yield of 1400 l/hr.

- **Kwapa Health Center III:** groundwater potential was classified as "good" with an estimate of 90% success rate for water well drilling averaging a yield of 1400 l/hr.
- **Magodes Primary School:** groundwater potential was classified as "good" with an estimate of 90% success rate for water well drilling averaging a yield of 1400 l/hr

During the Hydrological Survey it was also noted that drilling permits would be required for each of the sites, especially the recommended site near Kwapa Health Center III. Ugandan Water Project and TWF's partners Bukedi Diocese worked together to request these permits. In **May 2024**, no objection letters for drilling (drilling permits) were received by UWP.

Phase 2 – Water well drilling at Asinge & Magodes

2.1 Drilling Water Wells: January 2025

In January 2025, The WASH Foundation dispersed funds to our drilling partner, Red Rhino Development LTD, so that drilling could start at the 3 sites which had been evaluated in the hydrological survey. The water well attempts at Asinge and Magodes were successful. The water well at Asinge pumps 3000 litres per hour while the water well at Magodes pumps 750-900 litres per hour.

Unfortunately, the water well attempt at Kwapa Health Center III was not successful. After drilling, the hole yielded only 130 litres of water per hour. The passing yield for a hand pump is 500 litres per hour. The hole was filled by the drilling team after failure.

2.2 Handpump Installation, Water User Committee Training, and Water Well Handoff: February 2025

In February 2025, TWF's Uganda Team traveled to Tororo to document the new water wells and attend the Water User Committee training.

Ugandan Water Project facilitated a 2-day Water User Committee Training. Per Ugandan law, each water well and water access point must have a Water User Committee responsible for the management and maintenance of the water and infrastructure. With two new water wells at Magodes and Asinge Primary Schools, head teachers, local officials, and community members from each school community chosen to serve on their water user committees were present to receive training and certificates.

UWP's 2-Day Water User Committee training includes:

1. Roles and responsibilities of water source and sanitation committees, operations and management of water sources
2. Communication and mobilization skills for participatory implementation of activities
3. Hygiene, Sanitation and Safe Water Chain
4. Financial Management
5. Operation and Maintenance
6. Community Participation and Conflict Resolution



After the Water User Committee training finished, TWF and UWP held ceremonies at each of the primary schools, commissioning and conducting the handover and maintenance responsibilities to the school and their respective water user committees.

Notes from the schools:

Asinge PS: The people of Asinge Primary School and the community were very happy, thankful and grateful to TWF for having received a water source and the water user committee promises to take care of it.

Magodes PS: The people of Asinge Primary School and the community were very happy, thankful and grateful to TWF for having received a water source after **71 years** without clean running water in their school.

Future needs from the schools:

Asinge PS:

- Asinge P/S has no water tanks and soap for children to wash their hands after using the latrines
- School lacks cleaning brushes, detergent, and soap
- Request for WASH posters to be put in school to remind students of the importance of handwashing with soap and water
- Lack a tank to store clean drinking water for the children in the kitchen

Magodes PS:

- Magodes has 1 functioning water tank for children to wash their hands
- They lack brushes, detergent and soap to clean their latrines
- Lack a tank to store clean drinking water for the children in the kitchen

2.3 Solution for Kwapa Health Center III

The water well attempt at Kwapa Health Center III did not yield adequate ground water to support a water well. TWF will work with Ugandan Water Project to determine an alternative solution to deliver water to Kwapa Health Center III.

Phase 3: Finalizing Infrastructure Investments

3.1 Water wells and Water well Rehabilitations

Two additional water wells will be drilled per UWP's recommendations at:

1. Ochehen Primary School
2. Apuwai Primary School

Both schools/communities will also organize Water User Committees and receive training as well as handoff ceremonies.

3.2 Rainwater Collection Systems

Kalait Primary School will receive a rainwater collection system.

3.3 Sanitation Infrastructure

While all of the schools and the healthcare center have latrines on-site, most are in disrepair or poor condition, and all schools requested new latrines to be built. None of the facilities had locks on the doors or designated, private, changing rooms for female students or patients. Kwapa Health Center had only 2 latrines for all patients, and none designated for women or the maternity ward.

TWF will identify a sanitation partner in the Tororo region that can evaluate the current sanitation situation at each site and make recommendations for new, improved infrastructure that can be safely managed by the facility.

Phase 4: WASH Trainings

The WASH Foundation aims to conduct all 3 of its signature training programs in Tororo, Uganda between July 2025 and January 2026.

4.1 WASH-in-Schools

The WASH-in-Schools training will bring together 5 teachers from each of the 5 schools (6 if including Kwapa Primary School teachers) for a multi-day training. During this training, teachers participate in training-of-trainers style curriculum, covering 6 lessons that they will then teach to their students over 6 months.

The training includes the following lessons: germ transmission, proper handwashing, how to protect our water sources, practicing good hygiene, practicing good sanitation, and menstrual hygiene management.

4.2 WASH-in-Healthcare Facilities

TWF's WASH-in-Healthcare Facility training is a 3-4 day training of healthcare staff, Ministry of Health workers, and the village health teams. The goal of the training is to strengthen the abilities of healthcare workers to sustain WASH services and promote good hygiene, ensuring healthcare facilities are safe and healthy environments with sufficient water supply, adequate sanitation, proper waste management and appropriate cleaning techniques and supplies.

The training modules are focused on safe WASH practices in the healthcare facility, including hand hygiene, safe, adequate water management, healthcare waste management, cleaning and disinfection, WASH budgeting and finance, and community participation and action planning.

4.3 Menstrual Hygiene Management “Keep a Girl in School” and Economic Empowerment

While menstrual hygiene management (MHM) is the sixth and final module of the WASH-in-Schools curriculum, TWF also conducts a multi-day MHM training that brings together female and male students, teachers, and community members. The program begins with menstrual hygiene management education and ends with a practical, technical skills training in the production of reusable menstrual pads.

This training ensures that there are community leaders knowledgeable in the importance of menstrual hygiene management and also imparts the skills and material investments needed to provide each school with menstrual products that can ‘Keep a Girl in School.’

The program includes:

1. A reusable menstrual pad production workshop that models local ownership for the girls and their families
2. A start-up set of necessary tools and materials to manufacture pads (sewing machine, fabric, patterns, needles, thread, scissors)
3. An accounting, marketing, and sales management course that promotes financial literacy

Summary: Comprehensive WASH Project

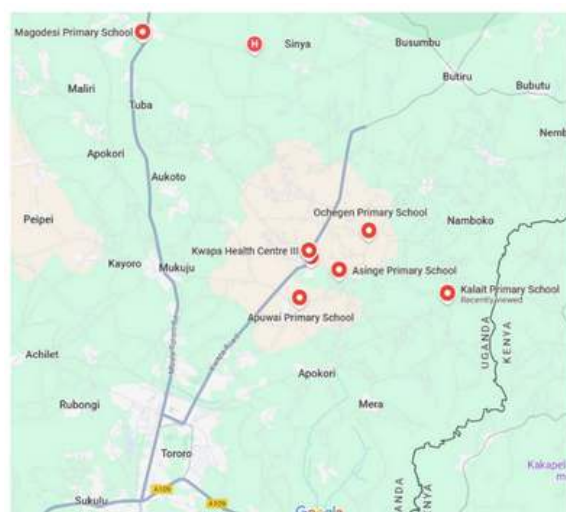
The WASH Foundation is committed to completing this comprehensive WASH project in these five parishes in Tororo, Uganda. A **“Comprehensive WASH Project”** means water infrastructure, sanitation infrastructure, training and education that responds to the needs of the communities and adapts with time. Until the project wrap-up in 2026, TWF will continue working with our partners in the area to adapt the responses and project plans to address the prioritized needs of each community.

Maps:



Tororo region, including each of the focal sites of the Comprehensive WASH Project:

- Magodes Primary School
- Ochege Primary School
- Asinge Primary School
- Kalait Primacy School
- Apuwai Primary School
- Kwapa Health Center III



Timeline

2019

The WASH Foundation participated in Merikit project with Rotary International. Conducted WinS, WinHCF, and MHM trainings

MAY 2023

TWF travels to Tororo to hold stakeholders meeting and sign MOU with Bukedi Diocese Church of Uganda. Knowledge, attitudes, and practices surveys were conducted.

JULY 2023

Pre-site assessment with Ugandan Water Project (UWP), travel to 6 locations to make recommendations on water availability, quality, and sanitation infrastructure

SEPTEMBER 2023

Hydrological survey at Asinge, Magodes, and Kwapa Health Center III

MAY 2024

Drilling permits received progress continues

JANUARY 2025

UWP attempts drilling at Magodes Asinge, and Kwapa Health Center III. Water well successfully drilled at Magodes PS and Asinge PS.

FEBRUARY 2025

TWF and UWP travel to Tororo to install handpumps, conduct Water User Committee Training, and handover water well oversight to schools

2025-2026

Finish water infrastructure at remaining schools (2 water wells, water well rehabs, and rainwater collection system)
Sanitation infrastructure
WinS training, WinHCF training, and MHM training

