



**Aromo Sub-County Water & Sanitation Project
2011 – 2013**



Progress Report 1

November 2011



Canadian International
Development Agency

Agence canadienne de
développement international

1. Project Background

Divine Waters Uganda (DWU), in partnership with the Ryan's Well Foundation (RWF) and the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA), are working together to provide access to safe water, sanitation and related community mobilization, skills training, hygiene education and sanitation promotion for Aromo Sub-County of Lira District, Uganda. In 2009, Aromo Sub-County was identified through the local district water council as the geographical focus area for Divine Waters. As such, Ryan's Well has worked with Divine Waters to develop multi-year project implementation and monitoring plans.

Project activities began in Aromo Sub-County on March 21, 2011. To date, two quarterly progress reports have been submitted by Divine Waters to Ryan's Well including photos and stories from residents of the area.

2. Activities and Accomplishments

(i) Provision of Access to Safe Water & Sanitation

To date, nine of fifteen shallow wells have been constructed. Five of these were completed in the quarter ending June 30, 2011 and the remaining four were finished as of September 2011 (*See Table 1*). Construction of deep wells was postponed until the dry season, approximately November to March. Heavy rains during the reporting period created challenges for the transportation of materials as well as mobilization in order to start deep wells. Access to sites affected by the heavy rains was managed by usage of the 4WD truck. Divine Waters has now purchased 2 motorcycles and four bicycles which can access communities for training when weather is not permissible for construction. The environmental and operational risks of transporting materials via truck to the remote well sites presented more risks than benefits therefore scheduling construction of the deep wells will begin in December.

Latrine construction has now resulted in completion of 10 stances – one block of 5 stances at St. Gabriel Agak Primary School (also includes a change room for girls) and 5 stances at Aromo Secondary School. Another 17 stances at three schools are near completion (*See Table 2*). In all, six of the most in need schools throughout Aromo Sub-County were identified as priority sites for latrines within this project and five of these are in progress or completed.



Divine Waters field crew at work casting spillway and cap for new shallow well at Lele-Dam Village. (June 2011).



Akore Primary School latrine near completion. (Oct. 2011)

(ii) Community Mobilization and Skills Training

Throughout the communities where shallow wells were constructed, Water Source and Sanitation Users Committees (WSSC) were formed and trained. The objectives of this training were as follows:

- To create awareness at the community level of how diseases are transmitted and what can be done to block transmission.
- To prepare the community to keep safe water safe including the water source, containers for fetching water, storage of water and drinking containers.
- To demonstrate to the community how basic practice of handwashing with soap can reduce diarrheal disease and the impacts on children under 5 years.
- To build community capacity for sustainability and maintenance of their water source.

Topics covered within the training included safe waste disposal (pit latrine, rubbish pit and urinal shelter); the safe water chain of water source and keeping containers clean; construction of tippy taps and use of soap for handwashing; and maintenance of water source including bookkeeping, local contributions and managing the account). Overall, the WSSCs determined a plan of action including local contributions per household and opening of an account for funds for future maintenance of the water sources, plan to assist neighbours with digging of household latrine pits; sharing of knowledge to build simple tippy taps for handwashing and general agreement to keep water containers clean and for exclusive use for water.

The initial WSSC training for the first 5 well sites took place in June. In total, 258 community members took part in the training including 150 women and 108 men. Of these participants, 45 individuals (20 females and 25 males) will compose the local committees of each of the first 5 well sites.

"I have been having stomach problems and diarrhea because of using an unprotected spring which we share with animals. There are some small insects found in the water as well as a bad smell from the water when it sits in a storage container for two days.

During the dry season, the spring dries up and I have to move across the swamp to Gulu District looking for water and it is 5 kms away. It would take me 6 hours to get 20 litres of water. During the rainy season all the dirty water from the up land pours into the spring. This last rainy season, my son John and I suffered from diarrhea and spent over 30,000 shillings for treatment. This training has helped me a lot to know more about proper WASH in the community and in our homes.

Today I agree to take up the post of caretaker in the WSSC of Lele Dam well in Lele-Dam Village, Otara Parish in Aromo Sub-County. I will make sure the water source is maintained and sustained for the future generation."

- Apio Silvia, aged 29 years, married with three children



Joseph Ebong of Divine Waters looks on as Apio Mary, sister of Apio Silvia, collects water from the unprotected spring at Lele-Dam Village prior to construction of a new well. This was the only source of water - unsafe water. (May 2011)

(iii) Hygiene Education and Sanitation Promotion

In August 2011, Divine Waters Uganda organized training for the first 10 health and hygiene trainers in a training of trainers or “TOTS” approach. Participants representing 10 different parishes included 8 males and 2 females. The objectives of the “TOTS” training included:

- Educating participants on the “safe water chain” from source to point of use.
- Increasing awareness of disposal of faeces and rubbish and impacts on disease transmission.
- Build capacity on sustainability and maintenance of WASH facilities.
- Raising awareness of handwashing with soap and methods for building of tippy tap handwashing stations.
- Emphasize the sharing roles of males and females in the home regarding water, hygiene and sanitation.

As an outcome of the training, participants agreed to work together with key community leaders and make arrangements to be at local gatherings to educate about hygiene and sanitation. They will ensure that their own homes have all necessary hygiene and sanitation facilities to act as a model for their neighbours to learn from. This includes establishing a latrine pit digging crew, teaching others to make tippy tap handwashing stations and make home visits in their villages to assess and monitor activities. Every month, a report will be given to Divine Waters to provide information on the ongoing activities.



Ojok Jaspher from Obalodak Village in Otara Parish of Aromo Sub-County utilizes his TOT training and explains to other participants how disease can be transmitted by mapping the faecal-oral route. (August 2011)



Participants of hygiene training of trainers at the Divine Waters compound in Lira demonstrate use of tippy tap handwashing stations. (August 2011)

(iv) Monitoring, Evaluation and Reporting

In October 2011, an independent monitor from Uganda visited all the project sites and provided a report to Ryan's Well. This monitor is a colleague of a Ryan's Well Board Director who has expertise in rural development, food security and water. His local knowledge and expertise helped to create a collaborative working relationship with Divine Waters Uganda and the communities involved in this project. The monitoring report provided valuable information on project activities and impacts to date including feedback to mitigate environmental impacts during the current rainy season such as potential road/pathway, vegetation damage and soil erosion in areas surrounding the well sites. In addition, the great need for continued hygiene sensitization and education were quite evident. He was able to discuss issues with many local residents, both water users and those involved in the water source committees.

(v) Public Engagement in Canada

In-Canada public engagement is focusing on youth empowerment and education about the global water crisis and illustrating how the activities in Aromo Sub-County are addressing the issues in this region. To date, Ryan's Well has communicated this project through a number of vehicles:

- 2 E-blasts and 1 e-newsletter: feature story & photos, reaching over 3,000 people
- 2 Print newsletters (fall & spring): story and photo, mailed to over 5,000 people
- Web: 1 update of the project
- Social media: 8 mentions on each of Facebook and Twitter reaching over 10,000 people
- Highlights of the Aromo Sub-County project in partnership with CIDA included in presentations to 7 school groups reaching over 1,200 students from grade 3 through to university students.

Future plans include blog posts about Aromo Sub-County with stories from beneficiaries and the impact of water and sanitation access for their livelihoods. Discussions are taking place to plan updates to current Youth In Action materials and incorporate a Q&A on the Aromo Sub-County project activities along with a reorganization of downloadable Youth In Action materials on www.ryanswell.ca. In addition to these discussions, our Education Coordinator highlights the Aromo Sub-County project in all student and educator presentations including Skype sessions with classrooms across the country, the Canadian Student Leadership Conference (www.cslc2011.ca) in Cornerbrook, Newfoundland and the Ottawa Carleton District School Board Leadership Camp at Camp Iawah in Westport, Ontario.

3.0 Impacts & Lessons Learned

(i) Environmental Impact - The construction of the shallow wells affected vegetation since sites had to be cleared and trees were cut for fencing. The vegetation cleared was however quite minimal. Discussions are under way for the source committees to plant at least 20 tree seedlings at each source to replace trees that have been cut. Heavy rains affected transportation of materials as well as mobilization activities at new water sources. With the purchase of two motorcycles, Divine Waters field crew were able to continue visits to mobilize the communities. Divine Waters Uganda drilling crew sometime spill oil and grease during the drilling and installation of the wells. The crew solved these problems by cleaning the spilled oil/ lubricant and cleared the well environment from all disposed waste.

(ii) Social Impact - There are no more quarrels between those with livestock and those without in queues for water usage and discussions about water management. Raising awareness about hygiene and sanitation will lead to increased privacy and removal of shame from the community themselves due to no open defecation. Improvements in good hygiene and sanitation in households is creating a healthier family environment. There have been indications from more than one female beneficiary that less abuse is taking place in the home when water sources are readily available and greater emphasis on shared roles of hygiene and sanitation practices.

(iii) Economic Impact - Many households that had been spending money and time to transport water from far villages have now been relieved of this burden. The extra time is now being invested in agriculture for food security. The communities with new wells are now coping better with the increasing cost of living in Uganda. The number of households that needed to spend significant sums of money due to illnesses related to poor hygiene and sanitation will now reduce. This will save more money and enable them to concentrate on developing their homes and community. The annual inflation rate reached at 18 year high this past August and has had significant impacts on food and fuel costs throughout the year.

(iv) Health Impact - Most of the water borne diseases will now be reduced since people are now having access to clean water. Sanitation and proper hygiene practices have been introduced and behavioral change is expected to improved with the knowledge acquired from the Health and Hygiene Trainers and Water Source Committees. Most of the disease that comes as a result of poor hygiene and sanitation will now reduced due to knowledge of good hygiene and sanitation, keeping water safe, improved hygiene through hand washing and safe food handling. With hygiene and sanitation facilities closer to homes as a result of increased knowledge, there is early evidence indicating that sexual harassment and assault of women and young girls will now reduce.



Malayum Ayesu, 70 years old from Wigweng Village, collects water from the previous source – an unprotected water hole. (July 2011)



Malayum Ayesu pumps water from the new well at Wigweng Village as fellow community members look on. Construction is near completion with fencing yet to be finished. (September 2011)

"I am 70 years old and I have been in this village and taking this water. I am so happy that you have given these grand children of mine safe and modernized clean water and I believe this new well will help them to reach my age."

-Malayum Ayesu, 70 year old resident of Wigweng Village

(v) Lessons Learned - Most villages are still water-stressed with the ratio of borehole to population served being quite high. This presents significant challenges in management and maintenance that must be monitored on an ongoing basis. Community preparation for facility management under the operation and maintenance framework is undoubtedly high. However, we are still facing the challenge of moving the community transition from emergencies handout to development activity programmes. We are calling upon the local leaders to give greater input to support community mobilization.

Aromo Sub-County did not previously have trained people who could help in the promotion of good hygiene and sanitation. The few trained to date will have a significant workload to reach all of the villages in Aromo. Overall, despite the challenges of population and raising awareness, the people of Aromo are so grateful for the services rendered for them within this project. This is seen in their willingness, cooperation and participation in the entire ongoing project.

4.0 Missions, Events and Meetings

(i) Missions – It is anticipated that this mission will take place in March 2012. A planned monitoring mission by the Ryan's Well Program Manager for July 2011 was cancelled due to unforeseen personal circumstances. In the interim, an independent monitor from Uganda visited all project sites in October 2011 as outlined in Section 2(iv).

Early concept discussions are also taking place for a possible expedition to Uganda, with partial focus on Aromo Sub-county, by Ryan's Well and a Canadian youth empowerment and adventure partner organization for October 2012.

(ii) Events and Meetings – The next Ryan's Well Board of Directors meeting will be held on November 17th where an update on the Aromo Sub-County Project and CIDA partnership will be provided to the Board to facilitate planning discussions for the coming months. Board meetings for the remainder of the fiscal year are scheduled for January 2012 and March 2012.

In preparation for the regional Health and Hygiene Workshop planned for 2012 within the Aromo Sub-County program, it is anticipated that a meeting with the Uganda staff of the Canadian based Centre for Affordable Water and Sanitation Technology (CAWST) will now take place during the March 2012 mission. With their expertise in delivery of training workshops, and previous involvement with local partners Divine Waters Uganda, a discussion of the possible involvement of CAWST in the planned workshop in Lira will be worthwhile.

Rotary Club of Kanata Sunrise, in partnership with Ryan's Well, is hosting an inspiring evening with The Right Honourable Michaëlle Jean on November 28th at the Ottawa Convention Centre. This evening will honour Madame Jean with the Rotary Paul Harris Fellow and highlight the work of Ryan's Well, Rotary and our partners.

Table 1: Shallow Wells Completed As of November 2011

S/N	Local Site	Village	Parish	GPS Code	YIELD L/SEC	DEPTH (M)	REST LEVEL (M)	POPEN: SERVED	COMPLETION DATE
1	ALEKA	AKAI- IDEBE	APUA	N 02' 33. 981" E 32' 49. 185" Altitude: 3350ft	800	19.6	3.0m	445	JUNE 14 2011
2	LELA DAM A & B	LELA DAM	OTARA	N 02' 37. 859" E 32' 49. 065" Altitude: 3368ft	980	18.5	3.3m	600	JUNE 13 2011
3	AYANG	AYANG	OTARA	N 02' 38. 345" E 32 49. 862" Altitude: 3330ft	100	15.3	3.2m	345	JUNE 13 2011
4	ARWOT OLARO	ARWOT OLARO	OTARA	N 02' 36. 970" E 32'48. 892" Altitude: 3382ft	760	19.2	2.0m	385	JUNE 13 2011
5	APUCE	APUCE A & B	APUCE	N02 35. 157" E 32' 53. 982 Altitude: 3310ft	970	19.1	4.2m	1280	JUNE 14 2011
6	WIPUNU	WIPUNU	WALELA	N02'56 269 E032'84 342	820	18.6	3.3m	498	SEPT 2 2011
7	ODOCE	ODOCE	BAR PII	N02 589.91 E032'82 31	889	19.4	4.0m	380	SEPT 6 2011
8	MALYAM AYESU	WI GWENG	BAR PII	N0'59 889 E032'83300	796	18.8	3.6m	745	SEPT 6 2011
9	ACAN GODI	ACAN GODI	BAR PII	N02'58231 E032'81581	841	18.3	3.9m	1200	SEPT 6 2011

Table 2: Latrine Sites – Progress as of November 2011

S/N	Local Site	Number of Stances	Designated for Boys or Girls	Drainable Latrine Yes/No	Status
1	St. Gabriel Agak Primary School	5 plus 1 changing room	Girls	Yes	Completed
2	Akore Primary School	6	Girls	No	Painting yet to be done
3	Aromo Secondary School	6	Shared	No	Completed and is the only toilet at the school
4	Acutkumu Primary School	5 plus 1 changing room	Girls	Yes	Painting yet to be done
5	Apua Primary School	5 plus 1 changing room	Girls	No	Painting yet to be done