



EACO UGANDA: CLEAN WATER PROJECT



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Project summary

Empower and Care Organization (EACO) is a registered non-profit charity committed to reducing poverty in rural Uganda through economic empowerment, educational opportunities and support for marginalized groups of people. EACO currently operates six different programs, instilling hope and improving life for more than 4000 people in the Mukono and Maracha districts.

The objective of this project is to make clean water accessible within 1 kilometer for 100% of the people in rural Mukono and Maracha. By constructing fresh water wells throughout these regions, EACO will bring relief to thousands of residents, including those in surrounding communities.

The reality of clean water scarcity

Lack of access to clean water is at the root of devastating social issues including poverty, disease, abuse and inequality.

Due to social and gender roles, women and children bear the responsibility of fetching water for their families. As the search for water takes them deep into the forest, their lives are threatened with danger on a daily basis. Women are frequently raped and beaten while children can be kidnapped, mutilated and sacrificed. Throughout the country, child sacrifice has evolved into a

business perpetuated by the belief that drugs made from human organs will yield riches. A report released by Humane Africa identifies Mukono as the leading district for levels of child sacrifice in Uganda.



A young boy collects water from a dirty surface source in the Kitete village of rural Mukono

According to a study conducted by EACO, 44% of people in rural Mukono and Maracha must walk an average of 5 kilometers to access a clean and safe water source. This distance is amplified during periods of low rainfall when shallow water wells dry out, forcing residents to walk up to 10 kilometers in search of clean water. Travelling on foot, sometimes twice a day, for up to 17 hours per week takes significant time away from more productive activities. Children are kept out of school to perform this, and women have less time to tend to their families.

The health effects associated with drinking contaminated water are devastating and not fully understood by the target population. A Joint Monitoring Program report by UNICEF and WHO reveals that 32% of rural Ugandans

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draw their water from lakes, ponds and open streams. These surface sources are shared by cattle and other livestock, creating a natural breeding ground for bacteria and disease. As a result, cases of typhoid fever, bilharzias, malaria and diarrhea remain widespread and can be fatal. The Kypisi Health Center in Mukono reports an average of 30 new cases of waterborne diseases each day. As climate change contributes to water stress in the developing world, water-related deaths are expected to skyrocket. A report issued by DARA International predicts that diarrhea-related mortality will jump 55% by 2030.



The average waiting time at this water source in rural Mukono is 30 minutes

Sustainable, clean water wells

The good news is that there is a solution to help end the suffering for thousands of people in these communities. EACO's clean water project intends to build 40 water wells throughout rural Mukono and Maracha. Implementation can be understood as a three step process:

1. Education

The EACO ground team works to identify and approach change agents within each target community. Change agents may consist of tribal, regional or religious leaders who hold some level of influence with the locals. It is vital for change agents to understand the value of drilling a borehole as a means for improving access to clean water. Their support helps garner trust and facilitate solution acceptance within the community.

2. Construction

EACO has secured a team of experienced drillers who have constructed four fully functioning water wells in Mukono to date. Boreholes are dug and equipped with waste diversion channels to ensure that the groundwater remains uncontaminated. In heavily populated areas, a deep borehole is necessary to ensure that an adequate amount of groundwater is available throughout the dry season. In less populated areas a shallow borehole will suffice. All boreholes are capped and a manual pump is installed.



Clean water well in the Lugali village of rural Mukono

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3. Maintenance

To ensure that each well remains fully functional, proper management and continued maintenance is required. EACO creates a community of self-reliance by training a committee of locals on the water lifecycle, construction process, and maintenance procedures. The committee monitors the well on an ongoing basis and performs checks every three months. Each household pays a small usage fee of 500 UGX (\$0.20 US) to help cover repair and maintenance costs. Support from technicians and EACO staff is available as needed.

Thanks to generous funding from UK organizations Just a Drop and Travel 2, EACO successfully implemented two clean water wells in the Mukono villages of Namanganga and Lugali. These wells supply a total of 20,000 L of clean water each day.



Lugali children enjoying clean water from the well funded by Just a Drop and Travel 2

Clean water, healthy bodies, productive lives.

Introducing 40 new clean water wells in Mukono and Maracha will significantly improve the health and wellbeing of residents. The clean water project will directly impact the following four areas:

Poverty

- Shorten distance to nearest clean water source by up to 9 kilometers
- Free ~15 additional hours per week for those who hold the burden of fetching water

Education

- Foster higher education and increase literacy by giving more children the time to attend school and study

Health

- Reduce cases of water-borne diseases including typhoid fever, bilharzias, malaria and diarrhea

Safety

- Prevent incidents of abuse and torture including rape, kidnapping, child sacrifice and mutilation

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Budget

ESTIMATED COST OF ONE CLEAN WATER WELL		
Item	Cost (UGX)	Cost (\$US)
Borehole inner system components	8.240.630	3127.38
Pump and upper structure components	2.270.300	861.59
Cement work components	2.342.500	889.00
Labor	2.959.000	1122.96
Construction	10.897.000	4135.49
Water awareness and education	2.182.000	828.08
Total	28.891.430 UGX	\$ 10,964.50 US

Timeline

ESTIMATED TIME TO IMPLEMENT ONE CLEAN WATER WELL					
Task	Week 1	Week 2	Week 3	Week 4	Week 5
Find, approach and educate change agents	■				
Drill borehole		■			
Cap borehole and install manual pump			■		
Form committee of locals to look after water well				■	
Train committee members					■

*Maintenance checks to be completed by committee members every 3 months