

WATER BENEFIT CERTIFICATE PROJECT

IMPROVING & MAINTAINING ACCESS TO SAFE WATER

BUILDING CAPACITY FOR CHANGE

SAFE WATER SECURITY PROGRAMME IN RURAL UGANDA – WHAVE SOLUTIONS LTD

The aim of a **water access, sanitation and hygiene (WASH)** project is to reduce incidence of water-borne disease in order to bring better health, livelihood and educational opportunities to deprived communities. On the one hand, this means establishing local systems for maintaining a clean water source in good operational condition every day. Just as important, it also means that contamination is avoided by supporting the communities in construction of adequate sanitation amenities and in behaviour transformation, moving on from outdated hygienic practices.

Whave Solutions is working with District Local Governments in Uganda to develop a national programme that focuses on the two goals of daily operational reliability of clean water and transformation of sanitation and hygiene. The programme franchises local WASH micro-utilities to establish and maintain improved water sources and promote hygiene. The emphasis is on building a successful local businesses, and to do this, revenue from WBCs is used to pay the local WASH franchisees according to their performance in achieving the goals of reliable clean water supply, improved hygiene, and improved water quality in the home and at the source.

The **Safe Water Security programme** so far engages 220 communities in 5 districts in eastern and central Uganda, improving the livelihoods of over 60,000 people. Clean water supply reliability has risen to above 95% in all communities consistently, and hygiene levels are so far showing a 10% increase per year. With revenue from WBC sales, the programme will expand to reach more communities in rural Uganda and acts as a model for replication in other countries.

PROJECT KEY FACTS

Location:
Rural Uganda

Project type:
Water Access Sanitation, and Hygiene (WASH)

Project standard:
Gold Standard Water

Total water volume:
60.000 m³/a

Number of Water Benefit Certificates:
60.000/a

Project start date:
July 2013

Project auditor:
SGS

[Click here to see the project video](#)



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HOW DO WATER BENEFIT CERTIFICATES HELP?

WBC revenue is an essential tool for sustainability and consistency of health benefits from clean water sources. The WBC revenue rewards daily operation of clean water sources, and it rewards hygienic practice, to ensure good quality drinking and bathing water. The WBC revenue professionalizes local entrepreneurs who achieve these critically important results. The Whave WBC programme is a public-private partnership, building willingness-to-pay by local communities for reliability assurance, service agreements and building capacity by community WASH committees, and local health and water officials to regulate and moderate the agreements. The WBC revenue sponsors the transition to full sustainability and hygiene transformation, leading to eradication of water-borne diseases which are key causes of educational issues, the rural poverty cycle, population pressures and urban migration issues.

ADDITIONAL BENEFITS AT A GLANCE

- Whave establishes efficient maintenance and operation systems to ensure that the clean water supply is reliable. Otherwise, communities are forced back to open ponds and other unsafe sources.
- New infrastructure is not the end of the story as out-dated hygiene practices undo a great deal of its benefit. Without good hygiene the water is not yet “safe”. Whave’s approach stresses improving hygiene levels through constant education and monitoring.
- Whave is working closely with the Ugandan government to develop a national safe water programme that incentivises local actors to establish and maintain improved water sources and promote hygiene.



WHO IS BEHIND THE WATER BENEFIT CERTIFICATE STANDARD?

The Gold Standard Foundation, First Climate Markets AG and more than twenty **Water Benefit Partners** (blue chip corporates, public institutions, NGOs, research institutes) have developed the Water Benefit Certificate Standard as an innovative financing mechanism to support water projects in regions particularly affected by water-related problems. **Water Benefit Partners** is a Public Private Partnership (PPP) that was formed in 2011. The partnership was initiated by First Climate Markets AG and is co-funded by the Swiss Development Cooperation (SDC).