



**DRINK LOCAL  
DRINK TAP™**



**IT'S NOT JUST WATER.**

UGANDA WASH IMPACT REPORT

## OUR VISION

A world with equal access to clean, safe water for **all**.

## OUR MISSION

Our mission is to solve global water equity through education, advocacy, and community-centered water, sanitation, and hygiene projects.

## OUR VALUES



### EQUITY

Treating people fairly with a process to ensure the most urgent needs are met first



### INTEGRITY

Prioritizing quality work to ensure respect for all life, people, and environments



### IDENTITY

Valuing our roots while strategically adapting to change



### CURIOSITY

Staying curious creates space for creativity, innovation and never-ending learning

*Drink Local. Drink Tap. Inc.™ is a non-profit organization whose mission is to improve water equity through projects, programming, and partnerships because we believe clean water is a human right. Drink Local Drink Tap. Inc.™ is a registered 501c3 in the USA and a registered foreign NGO in Uganda.*



## Letter from the Founder.

Since our first water project opened in Uganda in 2012, we've been on a mission to increase clean water access in rural or underserved areas and improve the sustainability of each project. In over 20 districts in Uganda, we've explored partnerships and found our current core impact areas of Nakasongola, Luwero, and Gomba. These districts have created enabling environments that have an openness and energy for collaboration and coordination. In addition, the communities and schools have embraced leadership, exhibited curiosity, and prioritized WASH for children in school. We are thrilled to continue expanding in these districts and in districts across Uganda as funding and partnerships allow.

Over many years, I've been impressed with the professional WASH sector organizations that contribute to advocacy through UWASNET (Uganda Water and Sanitation Network), up-skilling government and NGOs through training, and who value the strengthening of utilities and systems to push for greater sustainability, quality, and monitoring. The WASH investments, both in the construction of culturally appropriate WASH facilities and systems strengthening, go hand in hand, moving the sector forward to create lasting, generational change.

As a sector, we need to continue to demand high-quality, sustainable work that benefits generations of people so we can finally break the chains of poverty, improve education, reduce death and diseases, and continue to develop the future of Uganda, together.

We believe that water, sanitation, and hygiene (handwashing with soap and menstrual hygiene management education) should be available in every school so that learners can learn and teachers can teach. Our Ugandan-led team ensures that we are making lasting change in true partnership with each community we serve. It's not just water - **everything changes** when clean water happens. I invite you to help make clean water a reality with us!

Erin Huber  
Executive Director  
Drink Local Drink Tap

# BACKGROUND

## SOLVING WASH ACCESS SINCE 2012

Drink Local Drink Tap (DLDT) plans, designs, implements, and monitors WASH solutions mostly in rural schools and communities in Uganda. These solutions include deep boreholes, piped water schemes (groundwater or large-scale rainwater), VIP latrines (ventilated improved pit latrines), handwashing facilities, safe bathing areas, MHM (menstrual hygiene management) training, reusable sanitary napkins, and WASH sensitization. A gender-balanced WASH committee is formed with each project, and a savings account is created for Operations and Maintenance. Committees are trained, an MOU is signed, savings accounts are started, and the projects are planned alongside communities as equal partners. Sustainability happens through strong partnerships, genuine engagement, and listening to communities. *In everything we do, people matter.*

DLDT primarily utilizes groundwater to develop sustainable water sources that provide reliable access 365 days a year. In areas where groundwater is not feasibly available, rainwater harvesting systems (above and underground) are tailored to the local environment and need. In every case, solutions are designed in close collaboration with communities and local government, using culturally appropriate technologies and designs that are robust, climate-resilient, and built to last with proper care.

What sets DLDL apart is our commitment to sustainability, quality, and accountability. We use durable, high-grade materials and monitor every project indefinitely to ensure long-term functionality and impact. All projects are community-managed and include multi-layered partnerships with parents, youth, elders, and various levels of local government and line ministries.

DLDT innovates every day and continuously seeks to improve designs and processes. Along the way, many of our design changes have been instigated by constant inquiry, community feedback, and our urge to always think and plan in a climate-resilient way. After 15 years of impact, we've built deep roots in communities, been exposed to intimate local issues, built trust, and gained the expertise needed to scale our impact while implementing Vision 2030, our districtwide WASH planning approach for schools.



# ADVANCING GLOBAL GOALS

## IMPACT THROUGH IMPROVED, RELIABLE WASH ACCESS



Drink Local Drink Tap addresses the foundational human right to safe water and sanitation. Through its mission-driven work in rural, last-mile communities, DLDT delivers holistic WASH facilities that improve health outcomes, support education, promote gender equity, and strengthen local economies. By centering community leadership, sustainability, and long-term impact, DLDT helps create the conditions necessary for broader development, ensuring that clean water access catalyzes lasting social, health, and environmental change.



### Water is life.

We believe that partnerships and government collaborations with agencies of all sizes and expertise are key to realizing a sustainable, healthy, thriving, and equitable future for all. In addition, advocacy at all levels is important to educate decision makers so they can advance policies that support the human right to safely managed sanitation and clean water. Through our UWASNET (Uganda Water and Sanitation Network) membership and our partnership with Sanitation and Water for All, we strategically advocate for a more equitable future in WASH access.



*Children playing in water for the first time at the Masaka Primary School Borehole Opening in 2023*

# WASH SOLUTIONS

From deep boreholes to piped-water systems, to large-scale rainwater harvesting systems and spring rehabilitation, we create the right solutions to make clean water happen.



## Piped Water Systems

Using groundwater or rainwater, DLDT constructs solar-powered water systems predominantly in rural areas or highly populated schools.



## Rainwater Harvesting Systems

Maximizing rainwater capture, DLDT constructs above-ground rainwater systems with first flush designs, separate tap stands, and water meters.



## Hand Pump Borehole

After professional surveying and careful consideration of risks, DLDT drills deep boreholes and installs handpumps to address water supply needs.



## VIP Latrine

VIP (ventilated improved pit) latrines are constructed to solve sanitation issues in water-stressed areas while protecting groundwater and providing a long-lasting solution.



## Bathing Facilities

After professional surveying and careful consideration of risks, DLDT drills deep boreholes and installs handpumps to address water supply needs.



## Handwashing Facilities

Each new DLDT toilet includes a handwashing facility. Facilities are also added to existing toilets that don't already have one.



## Classroom Water Filtration

In every school, classroom water filters are installed to provide point-of-use filtration. SPOUTS Purifaaya filters are made in Uganda, supported by good science and years of field testing and user feedback by DLDT.



## Community Engagement and Ownership

In addition to DLDT's catalog of WASH Solutions, we provide community WASH training and WASH Committee development in every community/school, and partner with organizations to encourage safe, unstigmatized menstrual hygiene management.



**"I'VE SEEN THE WATER TANKS AND THE LATRINES  
CONSTRUCTED BY DRINK LOCAL DRINK TAP IN  
OUR SCHOOLS. THEY ARE SUSTAINABLE AND THE  
QUALITY IS VERY GOOD. THEY ARE DOING THINGS  
THE RIGHT WAY WHILE ALSO INVOLVING THE  
COMMUNITY."**

**Samuel Mbangire**  
Acting District Education Officer  
Nakasongola, Uganda

# ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT

Drink Local Drink Tap's work extends beyond infrastructure to include intentional, environmentally responsible practices that support long-term behavior change and improved community health.

## Tree Planting

Each DLD T WASH project is supplemented by the planting of at least ten fruit-bearing trees, which provide nutritional, ecological, and economic benefits to the surrounding community. Planting the 'right' trees can help retain (groundwater) and clean water, provide relief in the heat, attract rain, provide food, reduce erosion, improve the general atmosphere of school, and combat climate change. Education around tree planting versus tree cutting accompanies every tree planting, and children take the lead in caring for each tree.

## Climate-Friendly Water Filtration

Purifaaya filters reduce the need for boiling water, cutting reliance on firewood and charcoal. This helps prevent deforestation, lowers carbon emissions, and protects natural resources, promoting long-term climate resilience.







**PEOPLE AND STRONG PARTNERSHIPS MAKE  
SUSTAINABLE WASH SOLUTIONS POSSIBLE.**

# PROJECT SUSTAINABILITY

PEOPLE MATTER. STRONG PARTNERSHIPS MATTER. TRUST MATTERS.

Sustainability happens when strong foundations are built. Not just with concrete and solid engineering, but with people. Since day one, DLDT has prioritized people and building community capacity and trust to support WASH projects and behavior change that can last for generations. Moving at the speed of trust and genuine engagement while aligning with local culture, DLDT follows simple steps that build deep roots.



DLDT's unique people-centered approach ensures that safe water, sanitation, and hygiene solutions don't just *arrive*—they **stay, thrive, and serve communities for decades to come.**

## Community-Led Site Selection and Design

Schools and village leaders help guide every intervention. Districts guide our team to the most at-risk communities first.

## Ongoing Hygiene Education

WASH Committees are formed with parents, teachers, local leaders, and students to encourage building healthy habits and safe caretaking of projects. DLDT trains, but the community leads.

## Locally Sourced Materials and Labor

Supporting local economies and ensuring cost-effective maintenance, we hire local and are proud to have a 100% Ugandan team in Uganda. We support local hardware shops and businesses.

## Training for Maintenance and Ownership

School staff and community members learn to care for the systems, and we train local people on preventative maintenance.

## Monitoring & Evaluation

Regular site visits and data collection ensure functionality and safety indefinitely.



# DESIGNING SOLUTIONS WITH CARE

## WE LISTEN

In 2015, DLDT constructed its first toilet in a displaced persons settlement in rural Uganda. Since then, we've listened to hundreds of communities and schools about their sanitation needs and ideal solutions. None of our conversations include hearing about water-borne toilets in water-stressed areas, none of the communities' ideal solutions are high tech, but ALL of our community partners want safe, accessible, reliable facilities that last. Through constant user feedback and monitoring, we've innovated our ventilated improved pit latrines to include:



- A short door in one stance (stall) with painted cartoons inside and a slightly smaller hole so that tiny children stopped fearing the toilet. They are now very proud of their special room and love using it! (pictured)
- Rainwater harvesting for the girls' washroom stance to help girls avoid carrying water across the school to wash during menstruation. The washroom is equipped with a bench and a clothes-hanging area, providing ample light, space, and privacy.
- Clay flooring tiles are used to prolong life and facilitate preventative maintenance as needed due to high-volume usage at schools.
- A stance carefully designed for students with a spectrum of special needs.

Whether planning for current students with special needs or opening opportunities for future youth, we make sure that we plan for everyone and that **no one is left behind.**



# MENSTRUAL HYGIENE MANAGEMENT

## EMPOWERING YOUNG GIRLS AND WOMEN



Through partnerships with existing Menstrual Hygiene Management (MHM) programs, DLDI provides as many teachers and girls as possible with reusable sanitary napkins in the schools where DLDI WASH projects exist. Access to reusable sanitary pads provides longer-term, environmentally friendly solutions for menstruation management that are economically impactful for families. Through the reduced burning of plastic single-use pads, air quality and safety at schools are also improved. Many girls face the barrier of purchasing pads monthly, and reusable pads provide a more budget-friendly MHM. Traditional single-use pads are made from plastics, which, when burned at school, create toxic air pollution and cause issues in latrines when not properly disposed of due to fear of 'being seen' disposing of the pads. In addition, every VIP latrine constructed provides private washrooms for girls with water to allow for washing during menstruation. These solutions combined reduce dropout rates, poverty, and early motherhood and improve education access for girls.

*"DLDI has completely improved health, especially for girls, at Nsawo Primary School. We now have a borehole, water filters, safe toilets, and even reusable menstrual hygiene pads for girls. The girls' toilets have private spaces for girls to wash too. Our school has been completely changed forever, and these girls have a fighting chance at forming their future. Thank you!"*

**-Nakajiri Rose, Head Teacher**

Nsawo Primary School, Luwero, Uganda



# A GENERATION TRANSFORMED

## BREAKING THE CYCLE OF WATER SCARCITY

In 2012, Drink Local Drink Tap completed its inaugural water project at St. Bonaventure Primary School in Luwero, Uganda. Rachel, who was a student at the school at that time, is now working at another school where DLDT recently implemented a new water and sanitation system. Upon reuniting with the team, she immediately recognized them.

During a 2024 interview conducted at St. Bonaventure, Rachel recounted her experience as children drew water from the same taps installed over twelve years prior. These children have never faced the hardship of transporting water from a swamp or missing school to wait at a borehole. As Rachel and Erin talked, they cried as they witnessed this brand new generation benefiting from the same water! Born after the project's completion, they won't know the hardship of fetching dirty water, getting sick, and missing school.

Drink Local Drink Tap is creating lasting change that transforms lives for **decades**.



*Drink Local Drink Tap founder, Erin Huber, sits with former student, Nabukenya Rachel, as they reflect on how access to clean, safe water has changed her life and the lives of children yet to come.*

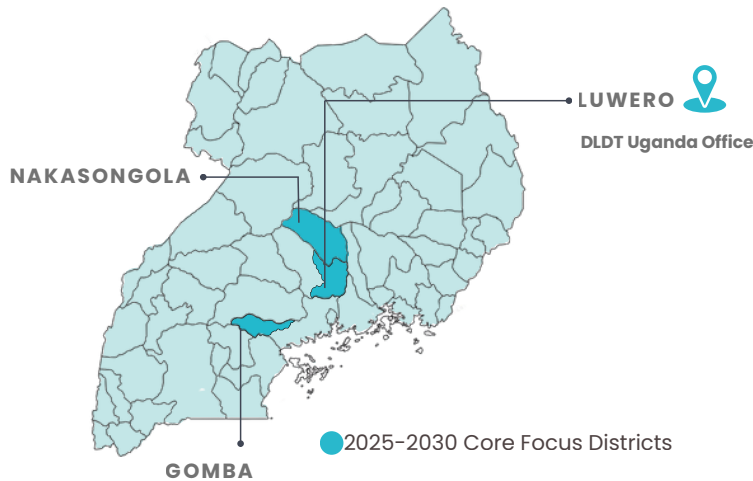
*"When a child opens a tap, that sound the water makes without putting in the energy- it brings you happiness." - Nabukenya Rachel*



# OUR IMPACT

PROGRESS AS OF JULY 2025

Drink Local Drink Tap is a registered NGO in Uganda, with a current 2026–2030 primary focus on three core districts. However, our safe water and sanitation projects have expanded to reach communities in over 20 districts across the country, and we continue to help where we are needed most.



**65,158**

People who now have safe water in Uganda

**21,844**

People who now have safe sanitation in Uganda as of August 2025



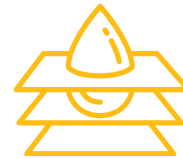
**90,000+**

Estimated number of gallons per day



**718**

Number of fruit trees planted at schools



**205**

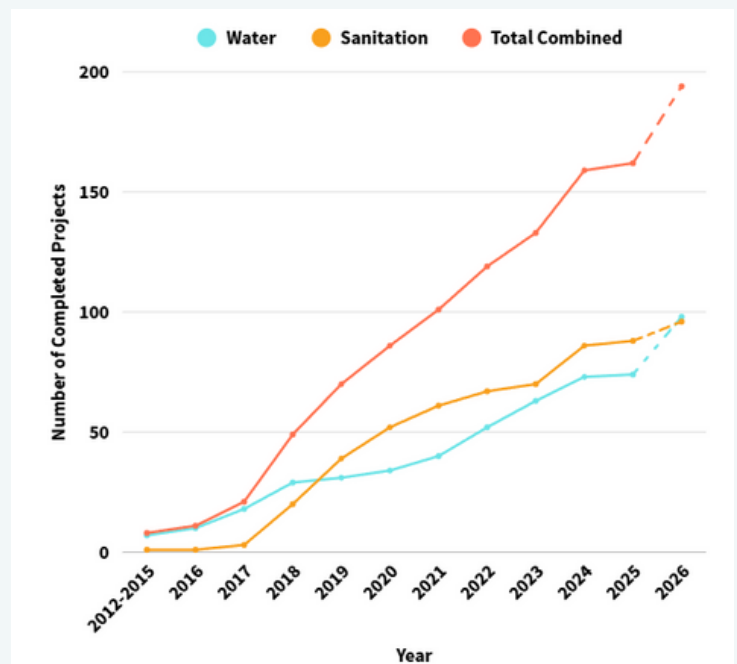
Number of water filters installed in classrooms

*90,000 - 350,000 gallons of water estimated based on minimum of 5 gallons per person/day*

## WE ARE GROWING

DLDT has made a steady impact since opening its first project in 2012. Now, as we approach our work with our Vision 2030 plan, we aim to scale our efforts by exercising a district-wide WASH in Schools planning approach, moving through project implementation one subcounty at a time.

DLDT began with one project at a time and has now grown into one *subcounty* at a time.





# IT'S NOT JUST WATER, IT'S EVERYTHING.



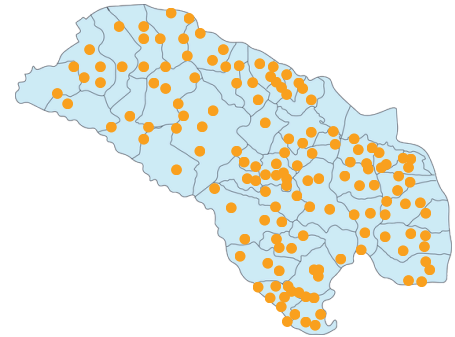
# VISION 2030

## IMPACTING THE LIVES OF 100,000+ PEOPLE BY 2030

Since 2015, our partnership development and WASH interventions in Nakasongola, Uganda, have laid the groundwork for DLDT to take the natural next step, thanks to our strong collaboration with communities and local leaders. This groundwork also sets the stage for further replication of district-wide WASH planning into neighboring districts.

### Vision 2030 ensures that:

- A broader vision is aimed at simultaneously improving health outcomes for all children and ensuring no child is left behind.
- Children have equal access to safely managed WASH facilities in every school within the district, enabling them to attend any school.



*Existing and Planned Impact in Nakasongola, Uganda*

## Methodology

After over a decade of deep engagement with communities and schools all across Uganda, DLDT settled into planning, constructing, and monitoring WASH projects in rural schools to improve 'WASH in Schools', break the cycle of poverty, improve health outcomes, improve education, and promote girls' equity. Our focus on schools (about 90% of our work) has led to deep awareness of the unique issues government-aided (public) schools face. With limited resources and capacity, districts are often only able to construct a few toilets and school improvements each year. These improvements are often not WASH-related, as building or improving the safety of school buildings can take precedence.

Many teachers who place requests for urgent help with water, sanitation, and hygiene are often on waitlists for years, and there may never be capacity for help at the speed required by the safety and retention of students and teachers. Too often, we see toilets collapsing due to flooding, pits being built by distraught parents (that cannot be drained and are often not up to code), and water storage or sources, if added, are often completed with meager budgets that do not have space for the materials needed to fulfill climate-resilient, future-forward, robust designs or solutions.



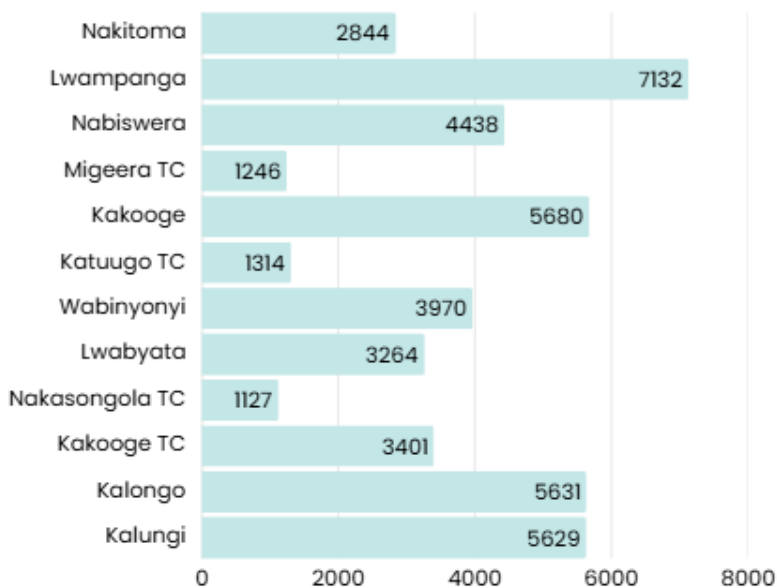
*...It is at these crossroads that we come to our current methodology for planning WASH facilities in schools.*

In January 2024, DLDT began approaching WASH in Schools differently after witnessing the continued pattern of underresourced local governments and passionate desires of parents, teachers, and local leaders. Unable to keep up with the speed of need, implementing a few projects at a time, we decided to think bigger with our local partners and create a district-wide WASH Plan for Schools. With a new holistic and large-scale approach to planning and implementation, we are attempting to bridge WASH access gaps in **every single government-aided school, one district at a time**. We have only witnessed pieces of this approach from others, rarely attempting a full district of impact. Making district-wide WASH plans for schools requires partnerships at all levels, trust, and local, long-term ownership of behavior change and O&M. If every school in a district has safely managed WASH facilities, teachers, parents, and students are motivated, and every child can experience equal safety and facilities and can choose to attend the school closest to their home.

DLDT is taking a sub-county approach to the implementation of WASH projects in the first District Wide Plan in Nakasongola, Uganda. Water systems will be implemented sub-county by sub-county and are likely to be completed at a faster speed than the sanitation portion of this plan. Sanitation facilities will be implemented in three phases, rated by urgency, but will also take place sub-county by sub-county. The first pilot sub-county of this plan was completed in 2025.

We are committed to leaving no one behind. We thank Nakasongola District for being a committed partner since 2015.

**Nakasongola SubCounties/Town Councils**



Closing the WASH access gap in every district/sub-county in Nakasongola means addressing the needs of **150+ schools**. Within those 150 schools, a projected number of **45,406+ people** will gain access to clean water. Of those 45,406, an estimated 42,859 will also benefit from new sanitation facilities.

Note: The Number of people (school children and teachers/staff) beneficiaries from water and sanitation projects may differ, and population increases are not estimated above. These numbers are from initial needs assessments and planning and are subject to increase/ change as the plan is executed.

# NAKASONGOLA WATER PLAN

## NAKASONGOLA DISTRICT-WIDE WASH PLAN

### New Water Sources

DLDT will construct new water projects consisting of:

- 233 rainwater harvesting systems
- 3 boreholes
- 1 piped scheme- underground rainwater harvesting

### Approach

- Move at the speed of trust with communities and partners
- Co-created
- Culturally appropriate solutions
- School managed
- Parent and teacher supported
- Long-term monitoring and meters

### Water Filters

To complete the safe water chain in all school districts, DLDT will install **410 SPOUTS Purafyaa water filters** in classrooms across Nakasongola.

### Impact

Once fully implemented, the water plan will provide clean water to over **45,406 people**— 41,297 through new projects and filters, and 4,109 through filters alone.

**45,406**

**lives improved through access to safe water.**



# NAKASONGOLA SANITATION PLAN

## NAKASONGOLA DISTRICT-WIDE WASH PLAN

### Sanitation Facilities

DLDT will construct new sanitation projects with **95** latrine blocks in **phase 1** alone, consisting of:

- Ventilated Improved Pit (VIP) Latrines
- Handwashing facilities
- Community WASH training

### Handwashing

To complete access to handwashing, DLDT will:

- Construct hundreds of handwashing facilities alongside each of the VIP latrines
- Construct **79** additional handwashing facilities to improve access where existing sanitation is fair.

### Approach

- 3 phases of investment, with the most urgent situations being addressed first.
- Culturally appropriate facilities
- Fill gaps in access to handwashing
- Long-term monitoring with school-supported maintenance plans
- District partnership for emptying latrines
- Phases 2, 3, and 4 will require updated needs assessments to determine the number of latrines needed.

### Impact

Once fully implemented, the sanitation and hygiene plan will impact over **42,859** lives, with **71 schools** in **urgent** situations serving 21,782 people identified in the first district-wide phase.

**42,859**

lives improved through access to safely managed sanitation.





# WASH IN SCHOOLS CAN'T WAIT.

By investing in clean water, sanitation, and hygiene, we protect the health and dignity of children today while building stronger, more resilient communities for generations to come. It takes all of us to create a better future for children. Join us in helping them, especially little girls, thrive, break cycles of poverty, and grow into tomorrow's leaders. Be part of this change with Drink Local Drink Tap as a funder, partner, or member of our team.



*Support our work by making a donation to clean water and safe sanitation.*



IT'S MORE THAN **JUST** WATER

# Water is life



## For more information, contact:

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