

Clean Drinking Water for Schools and Households in Uganda



A twelve-year-old schoolgirl is happy with the good water from the 450-litre water treatment system of her school, the Nkumba Talemwa Junior School in Entebbe.

The primary objective of the programme is to disseminate water purification systems to low-income households and institutions such as schools, starting in Uganda. Carbon finance is used to give households access to the clean water technologies thereby improving the livelihoods and health conditions of thousands of people and at the same time reducing CO₂ emissions by reducing the consumption of non-renewable firewood and charcoal.

Lack of access to safe drinking water and inadequate sanitation and hygiene are responsible for the majority of the 2.2 million annual deaths caused by diarrhoeal disease. Children under five are particularly affected. According to the WHO report, 2.1 billion people do not use improved sources of drinking water. Over one third of those live in sub-Saharan Africa.

In Uganda, 40 per cent of people boil water for purification and many more do not treat water at all. In addition, wood harvest for domestic cooking and boiling water is one of the major causes of deforestation. The burning of wood not only damages the environment, but can also negatively impact human health. In addition, many women and children spend much of their time gathering fuel instead of putting that time toward more productive purposes.

Ever since we had the water filter tank, our children do not have waterborne diseases anymore and typhoid went. It is saving us money because we do not have to boil water.

Francis Epyaka Otai, Mirembe Junior School

Project type:

Water (Purification & Saving)

Project location:

Uganda

Project status:

In operation, credits available

Annual CO₂ reduction:

61,399 t

Situation without project

Water purification by boiling with non-renewable wood and charcoal

Project standard

Gold Standard[®]

VER

Awards



United Nations
Climate Change Secretariat

Impressions



More than 210,000 pupils are being reached by these installed water filters.

The programme addresses the above issues while enabling access to water purification technologies at household as well as institutional level such as schools. Examples of water treatment devices currently used include solar and electric ultraviolet (UV) purification units, ceramic filters and ultra filtration systems. Institutional water treatment systems can treat depending on type between 120 to 650 litres per hour that can provide safe water for 1,000 students and more. Smaller filters used in households treat 2-6 litres per hour. For women and children this means time saved that they otherwise spent in collecting or buying firewood.

Since I have a water filter unit, the number of my clients has increased, as I can offer them free drinking water. Compared to its benefits the unit was not that expensive.

Mastula Nakanja, restaurant owner Kampala

The systems for schools consist of a UV filter or ultra filtration system and a water tank with a capacity of 450 to 1,000 litres. Electricity is needed for operation, the water comes from the water pipe. The UV water filter cleans the water in three stages. In a first step, the coarsest impurities in the water are filtered out. In a second step, an activated carbon filter is used, which absorbs the smallest particles and volatile organic compounds and ensures that the water is odourless and tasteless. In the final purification stage, the water is irradiated with UV light. This kills microorganisms such as bacteria, viruses and other pathogens. The individual filters are replaced every 6 months to ensure smooth operation and water quality. The filter systems have an average service life of ten years.

We constantly have good drinking water. When we used to boil it it was never enough.

Susan Mubiru, Director, Namutebi Nkata Primary School

Some schools have a waste and littering problem with the plastic bottles students bring to school. Thus the systems also reduce plastic waste at schools. myclimate works together with local and international organisations to adapt the programme and the technology to local conditions. myclimate invests the proceeds from climate protection contributions in the expansion of the project, for example via product subsidies, in raising the awareness of local partners and in the promotion and development of distribution channels.

This project contributes to 7 SDGs (as of end 2021):

Find out how myclimate reports these SDGs in our FAQ.



Lack of access to safe drinking water and inadequate sanitation and hygiene are responsible for 10,800 annual deaths in Uganda caused by diarrheal disease.



Every year children lose 272 million school days due to diarrhea.



Barack Obama loves the benefits of the so-called Solvatten water filter unit. From left: Fredrik Reinfeldt, former prime minister of Sweden, Barack Obama and Petra and David Wadström, founder.

The following SDGs are verified by the Gold Standard:



Over 130 tons of firewood can be saved by a school on average per water filtration system.



More than 210,000 pupils benefit from the installed systems.



Thanks to clean drinking water, pupils are ill less often and can attend school more regularly.



One school can treat 457,000 litres of drinking water per year.



354 water filter tanks and water treatment filters have been installed so far.



61,399 tonnes of CO₂ are saved per year.

These SDGs have been approved by myclimate:



1,266 hectares of forest saved from deforestation.