

A New Washroom: An Exciting Opportunity for Adolescent Girls at Kaboyo Primary School



Ruth demonstrates the use of the Incinerator

Kaboyo Primary School is located in Kiseeru Parish, Mugusu Town Council, Kabarole District and has an enrolment of 944 pupils (**484 girls and 460 boys**). It is one of 30 beneficiary schools under the Sanitation and Hygiene Fund (SHF) project, which aims to increase access to sustainable sanitation, hygiene, and menstrual health in schools. These four schools benefited from the construction of a new five-stance girls' latrine with a washroom and an incinerator.

The school lacked a functional washroom for menstrual hygiene management for too long. ***"Our washroom didn't have a door, so we never used it because we feared being seen. nstead, we used the latrine and threw the pads inside,"*** says Kezabu Ruth, a Primary 7 pupil at Kaboyo Primary School.

The SHF project conducted training sessions for various beneficiaries, including the School Health Club (SHC), teachers, parents, and school management committees as part of the operation and maintenance interventions. After these trainings, the SHC conducted sensitization meetings with adolescent girls to encourage them to avoid disposing of pads in the latrine and instead use the washroom and incinerator. ***“Most girls used to stay home during their menstrual days, missing school for about 3 to 5 days, which affected their academic performance. But with the construction of the new latrine by the SHF project, we are all excited to use the washroom and dispose of pads in the incinerator,”*** Kezabu said.



Ruth displaying the reserve pads provided by the school in the storage chamber inside the washroom

“Another challenge we had as girls was carrying a pad to the washroom. But now, the school has installed a storage facility where the senior woman teacher places a packet of reserve pads daily,” she added. This is in addition to other facilities like a basin, soap, sandals, and a steady water supply to maintain menstrual hygiene at school. The School Health Club selects about four members every Friday to inspect the incinerator. If they find used pads, they burn them.

“The new latrine facility, especially the washroom, has attracted more girls to Kaboyo Primary School, increasing enrolment from 427 in 2024 to 484 in 2025,” says Madam Twine Jacinta, the Senior Woman Teacher.

“I therefore appeal to Water For People and the Sanitation and Hygiene Fund to extend such services to more primary schools in Uganda, because many of them are in the same state Kaboyo Primary was in before the new facility was built,” said the Senior Woman Teacher.

The Sanitation and Hygiene Fund Project in Uganda aims to accelerate access to improved sanitation and hygiene services through market-based approaches across seven districts—Buikwe, Buyende, Kabarole, Kamuli, Kayunga, Luuka, and Kole—reaching approximately 2.35 million people. Running from April 2023 to December 2025, the project is led by Water For People Uganda in close collaboration with partners including the Ministry of Health, Ministry of Water and Environment, Ministry of Education and Sports, IRC, the Uganda Water and Sanitation NGO Network, Kampala Capital City Authority, Finnish Mondial, and the respective District Local Governments. Together, they are working to deliver sustainable and inclusive solutions, ensuring that no one is left behind.

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