THE GSF-SUPPORTED PROGRAMME IN UGANDA

is led by the government and is known locally as the Uganda Sanitation Fund. The Environment Health Division in the Ministry of Health is the Executing Agency and the 30 District Local Governments are implementing activities on the ground, some in partnership with NGOs to complement activities. A sub-group of the National Sanitation Working Group is the USF Programme Coordinating Mechanism.

The programme targets approximately 5.6 million people in over 9,000 villages, to live in open defecation free environments, and to adopt good hygiene practices. The programme contributes to the National Development Plan objective of increasing access to quality social services and is built on Uganda’s Improved Sanitation and Hygiene (ISH) strategy.

The USF Programme is a catalyst to demonstrate that even with limited resources for sanitation and hygiene promotion, immense savings are made by government in addressing the burden of sanitation and hygiene related diseases.

PROGRESS:

It is important to remember that the USF works at a very large scale in Uganda. In the original 15 districts, USF is looking at full coverage, i.e. targeting the entire population, which amounts to about 3 million people, to live in open defecation free environments and adopt good hygiene practices. Furthermore, in the 15 expansion districts, USF is aiming to support about 50% of the total population to live in ODF environments and adopt good hygiene practices.

In the districts in the West Nile region covered by the expansion, the USF is working in close collaboration with a key partner – SNV that is covering the other 50%. In total, there are 112 districts in Uganda.

Cumulative end-of-year result delivery in 2014 against GSF core indicators were 1.5 million people living in ODF environments; 878,000 people with access to improved /hygienic toilets (45% of the programme target) and 1.4 million people with handwashing facilities (31% of the programme target).

Some 4,900 communities have been triggered since the programme started, of which 2,360 have been declared ODF. It is worthy to note that although these achievements (and targets) are attributed to the programme as a whole, they relate wholly to the original 15 programme districts.

The 15 expansion districts have been undertaking capacity development activities, and programme advocacy activities and are yet to contribute to the monitored result indicators.

The expansion, which granted an additional USD 3 million to the USF, took effect in early 2014. Despite some initial challenges 15 expansion districts were oriented, trained in CLTS and started implementing activities on the ground by year-end. In terms of results, Uganda is hereby on track to meet programme targets.

The Country Programme Monitor and the Programme Coordinating Mechanism continue to play vital roles during the expansion phase. The Country Programme Monitor’s (CPM) contract was amended in 2014 to incorporate the expansion component as well as intensified on-site verification of systems in place at the District level as well as reported results. The Programme Coordinating Mechanism (PCM) continues to be a strong driving force, meets quarterly and provides continuous strategic advice and support to the Executing Agency (EA), i.e. the Ministry of Health.

Ensuring continued funding for the USF beyond the GSF investment is considered a priority in Uganda. Several high level discussions on how to leverage the USF results took place in 2014 targeting the World Bank, USAID, GoU and others.
UGANDA SANITATION FUND PROGRESS REPORT MARCH 2015

KEY RESULTS
Results to date and targets

| People with improved toilets | 31 Dec 2014 | 878,000 | Targets | 2 million |
| People live in ODF environments | 1.5 million | 5.6 million |
| People wash their hands with soap | 1.4 million | 4.4 million |

INTERMEDIATE INDICATORS
Results to date and targets

| Communities declared ODF | 31 Dec 2014 | 2,360 | Targets | 9,300 |
| Communities triggered | 4,900 | 9,300 |
| People received hygiene messages | 2.9 million | 5.6 million |
| People live in target areas | 2.9 million | 5.6 million |

FINANCIAL PIPELINE
- 31 Dec 2014

| GSF commitments | $10,424,825 |
| GSF disbursements | $6,255,903 |
| In-country awards to sub-grantees | $8,040,001 |
| In-country grant disbursements | $4,962,813 |

UNIT COST

| $5 |

FACTS

TOTAL POPULATION
36.3 million

IMPROVED SANITATION COVERAGE
Total: 34%, Urban: 33%, Rural: 34%

TOTAL % POPULATION USING OPEN DEFEICATION
8%

UNDER 5 MORTALITY RATE
69/1,000

% OF UNDER 5 DEATHS CAUSED BY DIARRHOEA
9%

GDP PER CAPITA
US$ 551 per annum
**INNOVATION:**
Whereas the Global Sanitation Fund programmes in most other countries are implemented through civil society organisations, a unique feature of the USF Programme is its implementation through government administrative structures with the Ministry of Health as the Executing Agency, and the district local governments as the Sub-grantees. Working through the government system has its challenges, however, the key strength is the positioning within the Ministry of Health (at EA level) and District Local Governments (at Sub grantee level) and the ability to implement through existing structures.

The implementation through the government structures comes with a number of additional values that include:
- Contribution to programme sustainability with the anticipation that structures and systems will continue to be in place long after the GSF support ceases.
- Building capacity of civil servants working in Environmental Health to plan, manage, implement and monitor sanitation and hygiene promotion. Among others, skills are being built in the application of CLTS.
- The programme focus goes beyond attaining an open defecation free environment and the USF is embedded in the government-led campaign to address wider environmental home improvement such as hygienic kitchens, animal pens, rubbish pits, drying racks and clothes lines, clean homes and compounds and safe water supply.

**MONITORING AND EVALUATION:**
The Mid Term Evaluation commissioned by the GSF was undertaken by IOD Parc and financial monitoring and result verification studies were conducted by the Country Programme Monitor. Key challenges earlier identified and highlighted by the studies include addressing the supply chain component of the programme, programme monitoring, and addressing challenges related to keeping records of programme funds at EA level.

**CHALLENGES:**
Challenges of addressing inability to construct latrines in water logged areas, sandy soils and rocky grounds still persist as well as collapsing latrines following heavy rains. These issues are contributing to slippage of villages earlier declared ODF. The programme is aware of the related sustainability issues and in 2014 a study on sustainability was undertaken. The results of this study will be available in 2015 and will provide recommendations for the way forward.

The USF Programme intends to quantify the extent of the problem of sustainability and appropriate technology as solutions are sought under the supply chain component together with the Programme Coordinating Mechanism and partner organizations (SNV, Water for People, Plan Uganda, WSP).

**LESSONS LEARNED:**
When government extension staff are facilitated and supported technically, they will deliver results. By facilitating their movement to mobilise communities the programme has allowed qualified environmental health staff that previously had no funds, to now perform their work. A previously idle workforce has thereby been revitalised. In districts where the programme is not doing well, the issues are more managerial than technical. District leadership, programme organisation, and management at district levels are key elements to programme success.

**LEARNING EVENTS:**
The USF Programme was represented at a number of key international learning events such as the:
- Africa Regional workshop on scaling up CLTS organised by the CLTS Foundation;
- ‘Sanitation as a Business: Unclogging the Blockages’ workshop organised by Water For People,
- Sustainable Sanitation and Hygiene for All East and South Africa Workshop with the theme ‘Scaling up rural sanitation and hygiene’ organised by SNV
- As well as a range of national events such as a teambuilding retreat for Executing Agency staff; an inter district meeting was held for the ‘old’ districts; an inception workshop for new Districts.

**THE YEAR AHEAD: 2015 AND BEYOND:**
For the year 2015, programme efforts shall be directed at four major areas
- Improving the triggering and follow-up aspect of CLTS to strengthen quality of behaviour change
- Addressing the supply chain, specifically to address appropriate technology in geologically and geographically challenging areas.
- Improving programme monitoring and evaluation
- Documentation and learning to refine the USF programme and to share with the sanitation sector at large, nationally and internationally.
GSF SANITATION FUND SUPPORTED COUNTRIES
The GSF programme in Uganda started in 2011 and is referred to as the Uganda Sanitation Fund (USF). It is run through the Government both at the national and sub-national level with the Ministry of Health as the Executing Agency, Ministry of Water chairing the PCM, and District Local Governments as the main implementing partners. The USF is fully aligned with the national sanitation strategy and at the local level it is integrated within a wider home improvement campaign targeting wider aspects of environmental health. USF has delivered impressive results and has also had a high expenditure level since year one. At the sub-national level the performance is good. However, at the national level the programme has faced challenges to adhere to GSF and UNOPS requirements in terms of some management system aspects, such as recruitment, procurement, reporting etc. This was addressed in 2012 and significant improvements have been seen since. Due to these improvements and the impressive results delivery, the programme was expanded in early 2014 and now covers 30 of Uganda’s 112 districts with a total budget of 10 million USD.