



ANNUAL REPORT



2023-2024

Our work in Uganda

Habitat For Humanity Uganda (HFHU) is an affiliate of Habitat For Humanity International (HFHI) whose global impact has positively impacted more than 62 million people in over 70 countries helping them **build or improve the place they call home**.

Established in Uganda in 1982, HFHU has built, rehabilitated, and repaired more than 40,000 homes, providing adequate and affordable shelter for over 240,000 people. HFHU people-centred approach focuses on partnerships with local communities and the housing sector players to achieve a broader societal impact, thus fulfilling our mission of 'Seeking to put God's love into action by building homes, communities and hope'.

HFHU's current Strategic Plan 2023-2027 aims to shape the organization's work, operations, and ambition to achieve her current outlook for the future.

Our partnerships Focus

As Habitat for Humanity Uganda, our partnership focuses on building collaborations with institutional agencies, corporate entities, local governments, central government and families to deliver strength, stability and self-reliance through:



Habitability and adequacy of housing;



Affordable and inclusive housing;



Equitable basic services;



Tenure security for sustainable housing

Vision



A Uganda where everyone has a decent place to live and thrive

Mission



Seeking to put God's love into action by building homes, communities and hope

Asheville Area Habitat For Humanity (NC)	
Association of Real Estate Agents (AREA) Uganda	Midland Habitat For Humanity (TX)
Austin Habitat For Humanity (TX)	Ministry of Lands, Housing and Urban Development
Black Hills Area Habitat For Humanity (SD)	Monroe County IN, HFH of (IN)
Buganda Kingdom	Northwest Metro Atlanta, Habitat For Humanity of (GA)
Cape Cod, Habitat For Humanity of (MA)	Orlando & Osceola County, Habitat For Humanity of Greater (FL)
Chemung County Habitat For Humanity (NY)	Pikes Peak Habitat For Humanity (CO)
East St. Tammany Habitat For Humanity (LA)	Proctor & Gamble (P&G)
Erie Area Habitat For Humanity , Greater (PA)	Rowan County, Habitat For Humanity of (NC)
Evansville, Habitat For Humanity of (IN)	Shelter and Settlements Alternatives
Fayette County, Habitat For Humanity of (OH)	Sisters Habitat For Humanity (OR)
Flagler Habitat For Humanity (FL)	Soroti District Local Government
Fort Collins Habitat For Humanity (CO)	Southern Santa Barbara, Habitat For Humanity of (CA), CA ID
Foster Family Foundation	St. Joseph County, Habitat For Humanity of (IN)
Guernsey Overseas Aid Commission (GOAC)	St. Tammany West, Habitat For Humanity (LA)
Habitat For Humanity Netherlands	Syracuse Habitat For Humanity (NY)
Hancock County Habitat For Humanity (ME)	Tennessee, Habitat For Humanity of
Indian River County, Habitat For Humanity of (FL)	Uganda Electricity Transmission Company
Kabarole District Local Government	Uganda Government
Kansas City, Habitat For Humanity of (MO)	Upper Cumberland Habitat For Humanity (TN)
Kumi District Local Government	Upper Keys, Habitat For Humanity of the (FL)
La Plata County, Habitat For Humanity of (CO)	Wichita Habitat For Humanity (KS)
Namayingo District Local Government	Woodford Habitat For Humanity (KY)
Mayuge District Local Government	York Habitat For Humanity (PA)



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List of Abbreviations / Acronyms

ALC	Area Land Committee
AREA	Association of Real Estate Agents
ASRH	Adolescent Sexual Reproductive Health
CCO	Certificate of Customary Ownership
DIT	Directorate of Industrial Training
HFHI	Habitat For Humanity International
HFHU	Habitat For Humanity Uganda
HMIS	Health Information Management Systems
ICR	Integrated Community Resilience
ILO	International Labour Organisation
ISSBs	Interlocking Stabilized Soil Blocks
MHM	Menstrual Hygiene Management
MLHUD	Ministry of Lands, Housing and Urban Development
PFOH	Parliamentary Forum on Housing
SBS	Street Business School
SDGs	Sustainable Development Goals
T4T	Technology For Tomorrow
TCIS	Terwilliger Centre of Innovation in Shelter
UBOS	Uganda Bureau of Statistics
VGH	Vulnerable Group Housing
VIP	Ventilation Improved Pit latrine
VSLA	Village Savings and Loans Associations
WASH	Water, Sanitation and Hygiene

Foreword



Ruth Mitimangi Nabutali,
Interim National Director



Oweek. Robert Waggwa Nsibirwa
Chairperson, Board of Directors

This report highlights the outstanding outcomes achieved through our community-driven approach. From building sustainable infrastructure to enhancing community capacity, we strive to make strides in creating lasting, and positive change through significant improvements in water access, strengthening of local governance structures, and fostering community-led development.

Amid tremendous challenges of aligning our thin financial resources to available technical capacities, we aggressively pursued providing affordable and decent housing for vulnerable families with a total of **65** new homes built, benefiting **325** family members directly. A delighted Margret from Kabarole says, *“the shelter support has made me understand that no condition is permanent and that prayers works”*.

Recognizing the importance of land ownership to decent and affordable housing, HFHU supported **85** families in acquiring Customary Certificates of land Ownership (CCO) and trained **128** members of Area Land Committees on land governance. We reached over **71,000** people through radio campaigns on land ownership and governance, helping to empower communities and promote equitable land rights. An additional **792** community members received information on low-cost, resilient housing innovations.

We continue to advocate and increase accessibility to safe water and clean sanitation at homes, schools and communities. In Kamwokya informal settlement for instance, a partnership with National Water and Sewerage Corporation brought safe water to **3,250** individuals through 20 low-cost pipe water points.

Our strategic partnerships and advocacy continue to build strong collaborations with key actors in the housing sector, advocate for policy changes that support affordable housing, and promote land governance.

On behalf of the Board of Directors, I applaud the management and staff for committing to the mission of putting God’s love into action by building homes, communities and hope for the most vulnerable.

Introduction

Habitat for Humanity Uganda (HFHU), an affiliate of Habitat for Humanity International (HFHI), is dedicated to eliminating housing poverty in Uganda. Since 1982, HFHU as a leading housing organization in Uganda has built, rehabilitated, repaired and improved over 40,000 houses providing simple affordable shelter to over 240,000 family members. This is in response to the continuing housing poverty with a housing deficit of 2.1 million units.

HFHU also supports water and sanitation solutions at household level, schools and community safe water points to promote access to safe and clean drinking water, clean sanitation facilities and general hygiene, given that up to 35% of Uganda population (48,582,334) as of 2023,¹ don't have access to safe water both in rural (33%) and urban (41%) areas². Sanitation solutions target the 17% of the country's population that lacks access to improved sanitation solutions³.

Capacity building in water source management, land and property rights, youth skills and entrepreneurial skills is offered to both family caregivers and vulnerable out-of-school youths. This contributes to eliminating household poverty, addressing youth skilling and unemployment. The interventions are part of the HFHU Impact 2027 that prioritizes habitability and adequacy in housing, affordability and inclusivity, basic service and tenure security.

These are aligned to the government's efforts in realizing Uganda's Vision 2040, National Development Plan III, National Housing Policy 2016 and Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) 1, 2, 5 and 11; specifically targets 1.4 (1.4.2), 2.3, 5.a (5.a.1 and 5.a.2) and 11.1 (11.1.1). These strategic interventions create impact at community level, within the housing sector level and the society.



¹ [Uganda Population 1950-2023 | Macrotrends](#)

² [Uganda Water Supply Atlas \(mwe.go.ug\)](#)

³ [Uganda's Water Crisis - Water In Uganda | Water.org](#)

Impacting the Community

At community level, HFHU partners with families to improve affordable housing, ensure access to essential water and sanitation services and attain security of tenure to land. Low-cost housing technologies are adopted to facilitate families with affordable housing solutions while the water and sanitation component provides hygiene solutions to the families. At schools and other community points, water and sanitation facilities not only ease the burden of access but also provide safe and reliable user points. These interventions are strengthened by capacity building for teams as either water user committees, school clubs or area land teams.



45

Water user committees



05

School clubs



128

Area Land committee members

Promoting Affordable Housing

HFHU partners with families to promote decent, affordable and inclusive housing based on a market systems approach. Housing is considered affordable when its cost – whether rent, mortgage payments or construction does not exceed 30% of the household's total annual income. In communities where HFHU partners with families, housing is mainly substandard, made of wattle, mud and grass; overcrowded with limited use of eco-friendly amenities.

Affordable and inclusive housing for partner families includes a two-bedroom house with a lounge, ventilated improved pit latrine and shower stall, and 3,000 litres water tank for rain water harvesting. Houses and facilities with differently abled members are tailored to achieve maximum accessibility.

Outcomes:

In the reporting year, HFHU's Vulnerable Group Housing (VGH) program yielded significant outcomes, including:



65 families benefited directly, impacting

325 family members



3,250 indirect beneficiaries, including neighbours, visitors, friends, and relatives, accessed services provided to target families



792 people were sensitized on low-cost shelter innovations and resilient building techniques



Improved living conditions for partner families, with

90%

reporting reduced housing costs and

85%

reporting improved health outcomes.

These outcomes demonstrate HFHU's commitment to providing affordable, inclusive, and sustainable housing solutions, ultimately contributing to the well-being and prosperity of vulnerable families in Uganda.

Table 1: Number of new houses and sensitisation on low-cost housing

Indicators	TARGETS	Grand Total	
	FY24	#	%
# of new houses constructed	58	65	112%
# of people sensitized on HFHU low-cost shelter innovations and resilience building	1,080	792	73%

Margaret’s family receives a safe and secure shelter



Margret Kayuganda, a single mother aged 40 years is a caregiver of five biological children. She also takes care of her 100 year-old grandmother. The family lives in Kyakabaseke village, Kyakabaseke parish, Kabende Sub county, Kabarole district.

Margret works at Tamteco tea factory located in Kijura, Kabarole district. Margret narrates that she is very happy for what God has planned for her despite being a single mother.

“The shelter support from Habitat for Humanity Uganda gave me, my children, and my grandmother a sense of safety and security—something we lacked while living in our old, leaking house.”

“Our new home received through support from Habitat for Humanity Uganda reassured me, my children and my grandmother of safety and security—something we lacked while living in our old house that was constantly leaking.”

Talking about descent living, Margret says “Through this support, I now understand that no condition is permanent and that prayers works”. She now feels assured of safety and security through decent living.

“

Before Habitat supported me with shelter, I and my children used to be accommodated in an old leaking shelter, life was not easy



One of the partner families in Mayuge district at her new house with a water harvesting system

Advancing Land Tenure Security



ALC members at a field training in Nyero, Kumi district

Security of tenure specifically for vulnerable households is evidenced as a driver to their investment both on land and housing. HFHU strengthens land tenure security for poor and vulnerable families, ensuring better access, control and ownership for improved homes and livelihoods.

HFHU conducts capacity building for land governance, creates awareness on land rights and builds coalitions of policy strengthening for land management at national level. HFHU also empowers the community through dialogues and mass media to participate in localised solutions for land governance and leadership.

During the reporting year, HFHU trained **128** members of the Area Land Committee (ALC) and provided them with land governance and management tools to effectively serve their communities



- Trained **128** ALC members, equipping them with tools to serve their communities effectively



- Supported **85** families in acquiring customary certificates of ownership, securing their land rights



- Reached **71,200** people (**25%** of Kumi district's population) through radio talk shows and spot messages, promoting land governance and management

Table 2: Targets and achievements for land tenure security

Indicator	Targets	Grand Total	
	FY24	#	%
# of stakeholders from the formal and informal structure of land administration and management trained on land rights and their mandates	128	128	100%
# of supported families acquired Certificate of Customary Ownership (CCO)	30	0	0%
# of community members sensitized on land and property rights	180	161	89.4%

Increasing Access to Basic Services

At community level, HFHU supports access to safe water and clean sanitation facilities at families, schools and selected urban points. Establishment of motorised solar-powered deep wells, boreholes and water harvesting systems for schools and households is made within rural communities, while stand water points are extended within urban centres in partnership with government agencies. Inclusive and gender sensitive VIP latrines at schools are intended to address issues of high efficiency ratios of latrines, inclusivity and gender inequality. Other interventions focus on creating awareness on the importance of using clean water, hand washing, and menstrual hygiene.

In this reporting period, HFHU provided **65** rain water harvesting systems to each the partner families that received a house. Twenty (**20**) water points were constructed with an estimated coverage of **5,000** community members accessing safe water. In partnership with National Water and Sewerage Corporation (NWSC), 13 piped water stand points set up now provide safe low-cost water to **3,250** members within **650** households in Kamwokya informal

settlement.

As part of improving sanitation, 6 five-stance latrines were constructed at six schools serving a total of **1,800** pupils. Water and sanitation kits including hand washing and menstrual hygiene management (MHM) were distributed to **1,652** persons while **1,038** school girls underwent MHM training. Community sensitisations reached **876** caregivers with **794** receiving sensitisation on WASH and **82** sensitized on home-energy efficient solutions.

Outcomes:



of partner families reported improved access to safe water. This has potentially contributed to reduction in water borne illnesses among partner communities.



of school girls reported improved menstrual hygiene practices.



of caregivers demonstrated improved knowledge and practice of WASH

5,000 community members benefited

from improved water access, sanitation, and hygiene facilities



The Budangi solar powered water point

Spotlight: Improving Safe Water Access in Namayingo



A solar powered water source in Budangi village, Buswale Sub-county, Namayingo district

Much as access to water is a fundamental human right as provided for in SDG 6.1, this is still far from reality in Namayingo district. According to the WASH gap analysis conducted by Habitat for Humanity in 2023, the sanitation coverage is at 75%. Incidences of diarrhea among children under 5 years was at 27.3% according to a WASH survey conducted by Namayingo district water department in 2019. In addition, 52.9% of the district population still use drinking water from unprotected sources or open water and 35% of the rural water systems are unreliable or nonfunctional. The water access rates in Namayingo vary from 20% in Bukana Sub-County to 95% in Buyinja Sub-County.

HFHU is responding to these challenges by providing safe and clean water systems. The Budangi solar water powered source constructed in February 2024 in Budangi village, Buswale Sub County, serves more than 150 households in the three villages of

Budangi, Bukechi A and Bukechi B.

Before the construction of the facility, community members relied on unsafe sources including swamps, and shallow wells. This water often caused stomachaches, diarrhea, and typhoid among other diseases which increased the household expenditure on treatment. Following our intervention, household expenses on treatment for waterborne diseases are bound to drop significantly, allowing families to invest in income-generating ventures.

During the water source construction, community members participated in site selection, selection of the water user committee and offered land for the water source at a free cost.

The water source will improve the quality of life not only to the households in Budangi but also the neighboring village.. It will also boost economic activities by enabling community members to use the water for animal rearing, poultry keeping and agriculture.



The water system has cut the distance that my village mates used to cover to fetch water. The swamp was very unhygienic and far, and this made the lives of us wives very hard while trying to do chores”;

says Nantalo Rose, the Chairperson of the water user committee.



Indicator	T a r - gets	Grand Total	
	FY24	#	%
<i># of water sources constructed</i>	20	20	100%
<i># of 5 stance latrines constructed</i>	5	6	120%
<i># of people sensitized on WASH</i>	2,074	794	38%
<i># of people trained on MHM</i>	1,200	1,038	87%
<i># of WASHKITS distributed ((MHM kits, hand washing stands, soaps, etc)</i>	1,800	1,653	92%
<i># of households supported with home energy efficient technologies for cooking and lighting.</i>	15	21	140%
<i># of people sensitized on home energy-efficient solutions for cooking and lighting.</i>	75	82	109%

Outcomes:



Over **150**

households gained access to clean water



Reduced incidence of water-borne diseases



Increased productivity in agriculture, animal rearing, and poultry keeping.



Empowered community members, particularly women, through reduced water collection time and improved health.

Impacting the Housing Sector



Participants at the Parliamentary Forum on Land Governance

As a leading housing sector player, HFHU responds to addressing housing poverty by partnering to families for low-cost decent houses. HFHU so far has the lowest constructed house of its size (32 sqm). Through technologies such as the ISSBs, HFHU continues to lead the development of solutions that ensures affordable housing.

HFHU is also developing strategic partnerships that can leverage on reducing overall construction costs.

At the national level, HFHU is engaging policy makers, key experts and other stakeholders to secure policy changes that promote affordable housing.

Building Strategic Partnerships

During the year, HFHU joined the **Uganda National Urban Forum (UNUF)**, became member of the **Parliamentary Forum on Land Governance** and participated in key land governance and WASH policy meetings. Under the **National Land Coalition**, HFHU and partners delivered a policy paper on land governance to Members of Parliament. Through partnership with **National Water and Sewerage Corporation (NWSC)**, HFHU

extended low-cost safe water to Kamwokya Informal Settlement. Under the International Land Coalition that organized the *Global Learning Week on Land Governance*, HFHU and the coalition members called upon government to address the issue of rampant land corruption. The coalition made the call to the Prime Minister who represented the President in presence of the Senior Minister for Lands, Housing and Urban Development.

Advocating for Policy and Systems Change



Political, religious and cultural leaders discussing land governance in Kumi district

At community level, HFHU advocates for systems that recognise inclusive land rights for the differently abled, children, women and widows. HFHU specifically facilitates access to Customary Certificates of Ownership for those occupying customary land including women. Through meetings, trainings and awareness, HFHU advances practices that recognise that all people regardless of sex have rights to land.

During the year, HFHU collaborated with Kumi District Local Government (DLG) to review the charges for those seeking Application Forms to register their customary land and decentralising the application process at the Sub-county level since high transport costs were reported as a hindrance to those seeking Application Forms. A key recommendation from this collaboration was to cap the cost of Application Forms for customary land registration at **5,000** Uganda Shillings (**USD 1.3**), a move that will unlock land ownership opportunities for thousands.

At national level, HFHU advanced the need for a **Housing Fund** that will address funding for affordable housing within urban areas. HFHU's tireless advocacy efforts have sparked meaningful change in Uganda's housing sector, empowering vulnerable communities to secure

their land rights and access affordable housing. As HFHU continues to push for inclusive policy change, the organization remains committed to creating a world where everyone has a safe and decent place to call home.

Outcomes:



Increased access to land ownership for vulnerable groups, with over

500 families benefiting from HFHU's advocacy



Reduced charges for customary land registration, saving communities thousands of Uganda Shillings



Improved awareness and practices promoting inclusive land rights, with over **1,000** community members trained



Advancements in national policy discussions on affordable housing and environmental conservation, paving the way for a more sustainable future.

Impacting Society



Community members attending a HIV awareness session in Mayuge

HFHU is a leading voice in matters of housing poverty. HFHU advances strategies, coalitions and partnerships for decent and affordable housing. In partnership with Ministry of Lands, Housing and Urban Development (MLHUD) and key stakeholders, HFHU convenes national level events such as the Uganda National Housing Symposium that brings together all housing stakeholders in the country and beyond to collaborate, co-create, learn and adapt solutions aimed at transforming Uganda's housing sector. Policy makers, experts, academicians and housing service

providers are increasingly participating in the Symposium and generating ideas, actions and solutions intended to promote affordable housing.

As a key stakeholder, HFHU participates in various policy discussions and reviews that relate to housing, water and sanitation, land tenure security, urbanisation and settlement. This participation contributes to national wide efforts to influence policies and systems, strengthen local capacity and improve awareness to housing issues.

Creating Awareness

Raising awareness creation is key to promoting knowledge and ensuring sustainability. HFHU conducts awareness campaigns at both national and community levels through community gatherings, use of traditional media such as radio and through social media platforms. Messages on water, sanitation and hygiene; land governance and leadership; property rights, inheritance rights; on malaria prevention, control and other health conditions are disseminated by champions and technical

experts. HFHU works with the district health offices and other technical units to organise community meetings, develop message posters and hold radio talk shows.

At national level, HFHU organises events such as the National Housing Symposium, media dialogues, and World Habitat Day commemorations to raise awareness about housing challenges, water and sanitation and youth unemployment

Table 4: Performance on awareness created across platforms

Indicator	FY24				Cumulative total
	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	
# of social media fans and followers	6,484	6,815	7,954	8,423	29,676
# of media mentions	196	231	604	408	1,439
# of unique webpage views	3,763	6,441	2,505	3762	16,471
# of active names on HFHU mailing list	18	18	18	18	72
# of participants in awareness events	219	1,426	122	132	1,899

Building Capacity of the Youth



Youth participate in the production of ISSB block for construction of a partner family house in Mayuge



Primary school pupils from Buwaya making re-usable sanitary pads

HFHU supports community-led consultations with local government structures, families and youth groups to identify and engage youth. Most-at-risk youth such as those living with disabilities, school dropouts and teen mothers, are identified to undertake specific market driven skills training based on their potential and ability. In partnership with accredited training institutions, local artisan and Rotarians, youth undertake trainings in Carpentry & Joinery, Bricklaying & Concrete Practice; Tailoring & Garment Cutting; Catering; Welding & Metal Fabrication; Hair Dressing; and Motorcycle Mechanics.

Other innovative approaches to training such as the Street Business School (SBS) and Youth Hubs are revolutionising youth uptake of skills. The SBS offers tailored training opportunities

to youths who have never attended school but have a business drive. Youth Hubs help youth acquire skills from a centralized point and provide trained youth an opportunity to expand their skills and collaborate.

During the year, **177** youths received various skills trainings. They also received trainings in financial literacy and entrepreneurship management. Additionally, **150** school girls were trained in making re-usable sanitary pads which is one of our strategies to address menstrual hygiene management, promote sustainability and empower girls to take control of their health and well-being. Sensitizations on MHM were also conducted with girls of appropriate age at various schools within the communities where HFHU partners with families.

Table 5: Capacity building for selected areas of intervention

Indicator	Targets	Grand Total	
	FY24	#	%
# of youth trained on vocational skills within the housing value chain for employment	105	105	100%
# of youth trained on vocational skills outside housing value chain	72	72	100%
# of organized social enterprise groups established	3	2	67%
# of people acquired financial literacy or business development skills	300	313	104%

■ Building Sustainability

In a quest to enhance sustainability, HFHU is strengthening both its human and financial resources to achieve the four strategic program priorities set for the Impact 2027. Improving individual and organizational effectiveness, developing a diverse workforce with the leadership skills and knowledge required for general management and coordinated resource mobilisation are critical to building HFHU's sustainability.

The current Human Resource composition cover 39% staff in program, 35% finance and operation, 10% HR/ Executive office, 6% MEAL and Communication and Advocacy, and 3% for Business Development and Donor Relations. Voluntary staff turnover was 3%, new recruits 28% and 69% staff retained from the previous financial year.

■ Financial Position for the FY24

STATEMENT OF INCOME AND EXPENDITURE FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2024

	2024	2023
INCOMES	US\$hs	US\$hs
Loan Income	59,219,985	59,989,228
Grants from HFHI	6,430,280,011	5,452,616,106
Grant Income from in-country Contributions	23,414,743	107,367,905
Transfers from GFN	822,324,463	932,336,520
Other Income	<u>69,760,842</u>	<u>128,978,840</u>

Total Incomes	7,405,000,044	6,681,288,599
EXPENDITURE		
Compensation & benefits	(2,042,819,331)	(1,281,987,889)
Administrative costs	(699,088,993)	(715,952,003)
Construction & training costs	(4,851,667,188)	(4,764,829,461)
Total expenditure	(7,593,575,512)	(6,762,769,353)
Deficit for the year	(188,575,468)	(81,480,754)

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION FOR THE YEAR ENDED JUNE 2024

	2024	2023
CAPITAL EMPLOYED	UShs	UShs
Accumulated funds	<u>1,196,433,155</u>	<u>1,385,008,632</u>
	<u>1,196,433,155</u>	<u>1,385,008,632</u>
REPRESENTED BY Non-current assets		
Property, plant and equipment	879,682,800	1,211,682,195
Institutional Loans		<u>74,999,997</u>
Current assets	<u>879,682,800</u>	<u>1,286,682,192</u>
Home improvement Loans	-	17
Receivables	467,085,095	336,357,530
Cash and cash equivalents	1,610,690,696	2,765,352,450
Construction Work - in progress	417,326,069	-
Current liabilities	<u>2,495,101,860</u>	<u>3,101,709,997</u>
Payables & accruals	300,337,520	266,020,777
Deferred income	1,878,013,985	2,737,362,780
	<u>2,178,351,505</u>	<u>3,003,383,557</u>
Net current assets	<u>316,750,355</u>	<u>98,326,44</u>
	<u>1,196,433,155</u>	<u>1,385,008,632</u>

Restoring dignity: Decent sanitation keeps girls in school

Excitement fills the air as groups of girls move in and out of the newly constructed toilet at Ariet Primary School in Kumi District, grateful to finally have a decent and private sanitation facility. Just two months ago, the school faced a critical sanitation challenge. With 919 learners, girls and boys had to share the same toilets. “The competition for toilet use was overwhelming, there were always long queues during lesson breaks.”, says Amulen Jennifer, a senior female teacher at the school. The girl’s toilet block collapsed hardly three years after being built, leaving 429 female learners with no choice but to share facilities with the boys.

“Girls had no privacy especially those on their menstrual cycle. Some who lived nearby would run home to change and return to class, while others whose homes were farther away either came to my house or missed school altogether”, Amulen recalls.

Sixteen-year-old Tino Joy, remembers the difficulty of walking over four kilometres round-trip just to go back home and change.

“Walking back under the hot sun was exhausting, and sometimes, it was tempting not to return to school”, she admits. Thanks to the support from the Foster Family Foundation in partnership with Habitat for Humanity Uganda, Ariet Primary School now has a modern toilet facility with a water tank and a dedicated bathing area. Ms Amulen notes that the new facility has significantly reduced absenteeism. “The girls now have a safe space and no longer need to go home to change.”.

“I am very excited that our school now has such a toilet”, says Alupo Irene Peace, a primary seven student. “Now, I can stay at school and even bathe since we have water and buckets.”. Although the toilet tank currently has limited water due to the dry season, the school ensures that water is collected from the community borehole so that the girls’ toilets have sufficient water. “I’m happy that we finally have our own space and no longer have to fight for toilets with the boys.” Adds Tino Joy. “We are truly grateful”, says Amulen.



Senior district officials led by the chairperson receive the toilet facility handed to them by HFHU

