

# Clean water through borehole rehabilitation in rural districts of Uganda



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## Background

Uganda is one of the world's poorest countries. In its largely rural districts Alebtong, Dokolo and Otuke a large portion of the population has no access to safe water but rather depends on unsafe water supplies such as ponds or surface water.

The consumption of unsafe water leads to massive health problems, such as infections and diarrhea caused by E.coli bacteria. According to the World Health Organization (WHO), 88% of diarrheal diseases worldwide are attributed to unsafe water supply. In Uganda 27,200 people died from diarrheal diseases (WHO 2009). Consequently, a large percentage of the Ugandan population boils their water to purify it before consumption.

The combustion of firewood releases significant amounts of greenhouse gases, results in indoor air pollution and contributes to the deforestation in Uganda. Every year Uganda loses 90,000 hectares of forest. If deforestation continues at the current rate Uganda will have lost almost all its forest and with it many wild animal species by 2050. Uganda will become more vulnerable to drought and floods and consequently experience more famines.

## Solution

This project utilizes a technology that does not require fuel (wood or fossil) to supply safe water. We work with community groups to identify broken down boreholes and renovate them so that they deliver clean, safe water and breakdowns are fixed rapidly. An annual maintenance program ensures that the water supplied by each borehole is pure and that the borehole remains in full working order.

## Contribution to sustainable development

*"Once we can secure access to clean water and to adequate sanitation facilities for all people, irrespective of their living conditions, a huge battle against all kinds of diseases will be won."* [World Health Organization (WHO)]



### Social benefits

People in rural areas will have access to save water. Less time spend collecting firewood means more time for girls to attend school and for women to pursue income generating activities. Reduced waterborne diseases will help families to save up to 150 Euro per year.



### Environmental benefits

Forest saved from deforestation continue to be an important part of the local ecosystem (e.g. prevent drought, floods as well as soil erosion and store CO<sub>2</sub>).



### Health benefits

Access to safe water together with sanitation and hygiene training will prevent diarrheal diseases and save lives. Improved indoor air quality will also result in better health for women and children (e.g. less respiratory diseases).