

July-30th/2025

Phase 1 – Northern Uganda WASH Projects (May–July 2025)

Partner Organization: Divine Agency for Integrated Development

Reporting Period: May 1st – July 17th, 2025

Project Title: Integrated Water Access and Community Health Initiative for Amwoma and Okwalongwen Sub-Counties, Dokolo District (Phase1).

Project Summary

This initiative in Dokolo District, Northern Uganda, aims to elevate public health, promote sustainable environmental stewardship, and improve livelihoods through integrated water and sanitation development. The project targets 13 underserved communities across Amwoma and Okwalongwen sub-counties and focuses on:

- Construction of Deep Wells
- Formation and Training of Local Committees
- Health and Hygiene Promotion
- Economic Empowerment via VSLAs
- Environmental Conservation through Community Engagement

Key Achievements This Quarter

1. Deep Well Construction

- 4 deep wells successfully constructed in Aweowia, Acangweno, Agori, and Aolikwac villages.
- Yields ranged from 1.7 to 6.8 m³/hr, surpassing national benchmarks.
- Community contributions included local labor and materials to foster ownership.
- All wells assigned official DWD registration numbers ensuring regulatory compliance.

2. Community Mobilization and Leadership Development

- 346 residents (199 women, 147 men) participated in community meetings.
- 44 Water Source and Sanitation Committee (WSSC) members trained in leadership, maintenance, record-keeping, and teamwork.
- All sessions conducted using inclusive methods and local dialects.

3. Health and Hygiene Education

- Community Health Clubs (CHCs) were formed in all target communities.
- Training covered hygiene practices, disease prevention, nutrition, and gender equality.

- Emphasis on reducing infant mortality and improving household sanitation.

4. Environmental Protection Initiatives

- 4 Village Environmental Protection Committees (VEPCs) established.
- Members trained in:
 - Climate change adaptation
 - Tree planting (1,000 seedlings per site)
 - Sustainable wetland use and plastic waste management

5. Economic Empowerment through VSLAs

- 4 Voluntary Savings and Loan Associations (VSLAs) formed and trained.
- 20 participants gained skills in:
 - Savings mobilization
 - Loan administration
 - Conflict resolution
 - Governance and transparency

Immediate Impacts Observed

- 1,764 people directly benefited from improved water access and health education.
- Reduced burden on women and children through proximity of water sources.
- Enhanced safety, hygiene, and dignity, particularly for vulnerable groups.
- Improved school attendance and household productivity.

Impact Stories

Apio Sarah – Aweowia Village

A young mother once vulnerable to assault at remote springs now fetches water safely near home. “This water is more than a resource—it’s a lifeline,” she shares.

Akello Dilish – Aolikwac Village

A 56-year-old widow once dependent on her children for water can now fetch it herself. Her children no longer miss school, and “this well is a chance at a better life.”

Challenges Faced

- Dry Borehole in Koroto: Despite a positive hydrogeological survey, drilling failed, leading to resource reallocation.
- Weather Delays: Heavy rainfall temporarily halted drilling and casting in some areas.

Lessons Learned

1. Environmental Literacy is essential for long-term conservation.
2. Local Leadership is key to effective community mobilization.
3. Inclusive Participation (especially women and youth) enhances sustainability.

Beneficiary Summary Table

<u>Village/Source Name</u>	<u>Sub-County</u>	<u>Yield (m³/hr)</u>	<u>Households Served</u>
Aweowia	Okwalongwen	2.8	68
Acangweno	Okwalongwen	2.9	86
Agori	Amwoma	1.7	55
Aolikwac	Amwoma	6.8	85
Total Beneficiaries			294 households

Estimated Direct Beneficiaries (May–July 2025): 1,764 individuals

Target Population of Sub-Counties: ~36,493

Outlook for Next Quarter

- Construction of six additional deep wells
- Training of hand pump mechanics
- Ongoing monitoring and mentoring of WSSCs, VSLAs, CHCs, and VEPCs
- Continued community engagement to sustain momentum

Conclusion

The Dokolo Phase I project is off to a strong start with tangible health, economic, and environmental benefits for some of Uganda’s most vulnerable rural communities. With continued community engagement and strategic implementation, the initiative is well-positioned to achieve its goals in the next phases.



Drilling in Aweowia village of Okwalongwen sub-county



Drilling in Agori Village



Casting in Aolikwac Sub-County

From Fear to Freedom: How Clean Water Changed Sarah's Life

For 22-year-old Apio Sarah, life in the remote village of Aweowia in northern Uganda once revolved around a daily ordeal: the search for water. A young mother, she lived through years where water scarcity wasn't just inconvenient—it was dangerous.

"I grew up believing that struggling for water was normal," Sarah says. Her village relied on a slow-moving spring that barely met the needs of two communities. It wasn't just the physical strain, it was the daily tension. "I was once attacked by a man at the well. He smashed my jerrycan and shoved me into the pool when I tried to fetch before him."

That moment marked a turning point. For safety, Sarah could no longer collect water without her husband. But he wasn't always available, yet he expected the house to be in order when he returned home. "It was a constant source of conflict. He called me lazy, not understanding that I simply couldn't go alone."

During the harsh dry seasons, the well would run completely dry. Pregnant and desperate, Sarah walked over three kilometers to another village just to collect enough water for her household; a trek that



was agonizingly difficult in her condition.

But then, everything changed.

Today, a new clean water source stands in Sarah's village. Thanks to the generosity of DivineAid and Ryan's Well Foundation.

"It's impossible to describe the relief I feel," Sarah says, smiling. "I can now fetch water safely, finish my chores on time, and focus on caring for my child. My husband is happier, and our home is peaceful again. This water is more than a resource it's a lifeline."



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