



Uganda Water Projects Report

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1. Introduction

IHSAN provided a grant of \$10,000 to the GVN Foundation in June 2011. The GVN Foundation is a 501(c)(3) tax-exempt non-profit organization in the United States that works with local charitable organizations around the world to alleviate poverty.

The grant received from IHSAN was managed by our partner organization, The Real Uganda. The Real Uganda works with over 23 Ugandan community-based organizations and schools in south and central Uganda. The Real Uganda's aim is to increase the capacities of these organizations through providing funds, leadership training and foreign volunteers.

2. Report

2.1 Achievements

The grant from IHSAN achieved the following:

- Renovated two natural spring wells and created two shallow wells – clean, free water where before there was none;
- Educated local people about the importance of using clean water, not just any water available;
- Created temporary jobs for hundreds of local people – carrying supplies, making bricks, digging, technical construction, site clearing;
- Demonstrated to local people that they need not rely on government to develop the area, they can do it themselves;
- Changed local people's negative mentality toward development;
- Brought unity between neighboring villages as they worked together to bring clean water to their people.

2.2 Example success story

In the village of Biibo the government had constructed a borehole a few years back. It lay broken from almost the beginning, bringing water for only two months. The locals were very suspicious of The Real Uganda when they came along to construct a shallow well. They told them that they didn't want it as they thought The Real Uganda might be part of the government and would only do a sub-standard job.

The Real Uganda brought together the community leaders and held a meeting to show what they'd do and that they were not government. The community came out to watch but wouldn't help at all at the beginning. When they saw that The Real Uganda had good tools and were excavating so deeply (11 feet beyond the water table), they began to take the project seriously. They joined in to help and sang songs to encourage the workers.

The well is now complete, the people are happy and using it. The technology is such that even old grannies can use the pump. They are surprised and telling other

communities about it. The Real Uganda has been approached by other communities to come and do the same thing at their location.

2.3 Number of beneficiaries

- More than 3,000 people and six schools now have access to clean, free water.
- Hundreds of people benefitted from short-term jobs.

2.4 Challenges faced

The following challenges were faced during the implementation of the four projects:

- Negative attitude of local community members - this delayed implementation as some community members wouldn't give their time for free. They thought The Real Uganda were government officials and trying to skim money from the final budget. Once The Real Uganda gave them a few dollars (or lunch) each day they were happy to help out. In the end, the allowances paid were a tiny percentage of the final budget.

- The weather - when we first scheduled this project it was to accommodate the WPI volunteers. As they cancelled with short notice, we decided to go ahead with the projects anyway. November is Uganda's rainy season so the projects were delayed a bit due to daily rains. Cement doesn't dry as quickly when wet. Also, wells are typically at the bottom of valleys. Carrying supplies up and down steep muddy hills slowed the projects down as well.

- Padlocking - in the case of the shallow wells, the leaders opted to padlock the pumps so the locals wouldn't break them. The Real Uganda had to call a meeting to show that this was not an optimum solution as the man with the key is not always around (this is a wide spread problem all over Africa!) The Real Uganda explained that if the well was under lock and key, the locals would not have easy access to the water and this would turn the villagers against future development projects. An official "well opening" was scheduled so leaders could show the locals how to use the pump properly. Removing the padlock also ensured that the water stays free.

2.5 Lessons that can be learnt from this project

- Project implementers must ALWAYS involve the community. Ignoring the locals and bringing in too many outside people results in apathy. Paying small daily wages to local men to actually build the project themselves (with expert supervision, of course) created ownership of the water projects almost immediately.

- Project implementers learned that people don't just need water, they need clean water. We didn't realize the extent to which people didn't really know about water borne diseases and the importance of using clean water.

- Project implementers can help local governments to learn about appropriate technologies (local government had to grant us permission to do the projects so they were around during implementation). Local people now know about appropriate technologies. The simplicity of creating a cement catchment area to keep a natural spring well clean cannot be underestimated. Also, new pumps are available (made in Tanzania!) that are easy to use and don't contain many small parts that get easily broken.

3. Financials

3.1 Financial Summary

The table below provides a summary of how the \$10,000 grant from IHSAN was used. 90% of the funds reached The Real Uganda and were used directly to the benefit of the local communities.

ITEM	COST
GVN Foundation Fee	1,000
Uganda Project Management	2,250
Kigombya	1,346
Kasangalabi	1,346
Bibbo	2,019
Kitoola	2,019
The Real Uganda banking fees @ \$10/installment	20
TOTAL	\$10,000

3.2 Funds Breakdown

The following tables provide the breakdown of exactly how the funds were used.

Uganda Project Management

ITEM	AMOUNT
Eddie Muwonge wages (technical assistant)	1,600
Eddie transport	250
Eddie telephone/internet airtime	150
Allowances for community workers	190
Engineer's initial site survey, planning, budgeting	60
TOTAL	\$2,250

Kigombya Natural Spring Well Renovation

ITEM DESCRIPTION	AMOUNT
Material and other Requirements	
15 bags of cement @ \$12	180
10 kg of water proof cement @ \$1.20/kg	12
1 trip of lake sand	38
1 trip of plaster sand	31
1 trip of aggregate stones	46
1 trip of Hardcore stones	38
1 trip of clay	19
1 trip black soil	52
60 cement blocks @ \$1.15	69
Transport of blocks from factory to site	96
2 HDPE pipes @ \$27	54
5 feet of galvanized pipe	15

6m of polythene @ \$1	6
Site clearing	40
Spring capping	38
Retaining wall development	40
Stairs formation	29
Spring connection and back filling	23
Apron casting	19
Provision of temporary facilities by engineer (lock up)	52
Feeding the masons for two weeks	80
Construction Supervision	130
Transport of tools & equipment	65
Labour	174
Total	\$1,346

Kasangalabi Natural Spring Well Renovation

ITEM DESCRIPTION	AMOUNT
Material and other Requirements	
15 bags of cement @ \$12	180
10 kg of water proof cement @ \$1.20/kg	12
1 trip of lake sand	38
1 trip of plaster sand	31
1 trip of aggregate stones	46
1 trip of Hardcore stones	38
1 trip of clay	19
1 trip of black soil	52
60 cement blocks @ \$1.15	69
Transport of blocks from factory to site	96
2 HDPE pipe @ \$27	54
5 feet of galvanized pipe	15
6m of polythene	6
Site clearing	40
Spring capping	38
Retaining wall development	40
Stairs formation	29
Spring connection and back filling	23
Apron casting	19
Feeding the masons for two weeks	80
Construction Supervision	130
Transport of tools & equipment	65
Provision of temporary facilities by engineer (lock up)	52
Labour	174
Total	\$1,346

Bibbo Hand Dug Well Renovation

ITEM DESCRIPTION	AMOUNT
Material and other Requirements	
20 bags of cement @ \$12	240
2 pcs of iron bars ½ @ \$12	24
2 pcs of iron bars ¼ @ \$9	18
1 pc of wire mesh	9
2 kg of binding wires @ \$3/kg	6
Nira pump	652
Quarry dust for block making	85
Transport for quarry dust	22
1 trip of lake sand	38
14 bags of cement for block making @ \$12	168
Water for block making	6
De - watering pump hire	35
Fuel for de - watering pump	22
6m of polythene	6
1 litre of oil for de - watering pump	4
Labour for block making	38
Provision of temporary facilities by the engineer (lock up)	52
Construction supervision	130
Feeding the masons for two weeks	38
Test drilling	65
Pit excavation	87
Labour	174
1 trip of plaster sand for construction	38
1 trip of aggregate stones for construction	46
1 trip of Hardcore stones for construction	38
Total	\$2,019

Kitoola Hand Dug Well Renovation

ITEM DESCRIPTION	AMOUNT
Material and other Requirements	
20 bags of cement @ \$12	240
2 pcs of iron bars ½ @ \$12	24
2 pcs of iron bars ¼ @ \$9	18
1 pc of wire mesh	9
2 kg of binding wires @ \$3/kg	6
Nira pump	652
Quarry dust for block making	85
Transport for quarry dust	22
1 trip of lake sand	38
14 bags of cement for block making @ \$12	168
Water for block making	6
De - watering pump hire	35
Fuel for de - watering pump	22
6m of polythene @ \$1/m	6
Labour for block making	38

Provision of temporary facilities by the engineer (lock up)	52
Construction supervision	130
Feeding masons for 2 weeks	38
Test drilling	65
Pit excavation	87
Labour	174
1 trip of plaster sand for construction	38
1 trip of aggregate stones for construction	46
1 trip of Hardcore stones for construction	38
Total	\$2,019

4. Looking Ahead

We would like to do more of the same in other communities in Uganda for the following reasons:

- Stagnant, dirty well renovations are good value for money. We were able to provide thousands of people with clean, free water for just \$10,000! The wells tap the natural water table so water will be available year round for years to come. We contracted a trustworthy, efficient engineering company to do the work. We have great local technicians and workers. The Real Uganda and STORINET have proven success for this type of water and sanitation work.

- The Real Uganda has been approached by community leaders from neighboring villages to the projects. They have been showed other wells in need of renovation. The government is not interested in this type of development because the resulting water is free to the public (doesn't contribute to government income). The government of Uganda is concentrating on putting piped water into communities. This piped water will never be free or clean. Further, when government officials come into communities, they ask for the community to pool their money together to pay for the piped water;

- There is no intention of bringing piped water to rural areas anytime soon;

- We can't decide if water/sanitation aid is totally unavailable or if it's there, but the money is being mis-used by the implementers on the ground. Time and time again people commented to The Real Uganda team that they had never seen this type of project before coming from a donor abroad. Just sub-standard government work. Perhaps, much of the aid money coming into Uganda goes for malaria, TB, AIDS, etc. Clean water seems to be less important to international organizations. Either that or their project implanters are not well skilled or trustworthy.

A huge thank you to IHSAN for your support! If you require any additional information, please do not hesitate to contact us.