



Final Report
Zzinga Health Centre, Uganda
Project Reference: 375/AF/19
Sponsored by Baltimore Aircoil Company
January 2021



The Project

Just a Drop is pleased to provide the final report for Zzinga Health Centre in Uganda, where we have brought safe water and sanitation to a health centre which supports 23,000 people.

The following outcomes have been achieved:

1

Access to safe water

- A 30,000 litre rainwater harvesting tank pumping up to a 5,000 distribution tank to feed to various taps

2

Access to sanitation

- An incinerator was constructed for medical waste
- 14 stance latrine block with washrooms

3

Improved hygiene practices and knowledge

- Training of the Health Management Committee and Village Health Teams on the operation and maintenance of the facilities

Helping to tackle the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals:

6 CLEAN WATER AND SANITATION



3 GOOD HEALTH AND WELL-BEING



5 GENDER EQUALITY



10 REDUCED INEQUALITIES





Location





Zzinga Health Centre

The Health Centre serves a population of 23,000 people and offers services such as treatment for minor infections, anti-natal services, immunisation for children, tetanus, cancer treatment and an operating theatre for young children. It is located in an extremely remote area, which is relatively difficult to reach and therefore often ignored by government and other agencies.

Previously, they relied on 2 rainwater tanks of 5,000 litres each, however these would only last for around 4 weeks. There was not enough water for basic washing, creating an intolerable situation for a health centre.

The small latrine block for staff and patients was never cleaned and almost full. Adding to this, there was no incinerator to dispose of medical waste properly, and so waste would accumulate and present further risk to health.

Thanks to the support of Baltimore Aircoil Company, Zzinga Health Centre has a very different future.





Zzinga Health Centre

Since work began, the environment at Zzinga Health Centre for both patients and staff has been completely transformed.

Water is now available at all times to support the healthcare of the community.

This is achieved through the construction of a 30,000 litre rainwater harvesting tank. A pump takes the water to a storage tank, and from there, it is distributed to key points around the centre.

Zzinga also has a brand new 14 stance latrine, with gender sensitive sanitation facilities and washrooms – which give patients privacy and dignity to wash easily.

The Health Centre has become much tidier with the provision of robust dustbins so it is easier to dispose of rubbish and take it to the incinerator constructed for safe disposal.

Overall, this project has provided a significant improvement in health, hygiene and sanitation.





Challenges

The journey to get the materials for this project across to the Health Centre was very challenging. The journey required two different boat trips and various routes by pick-up truck. Travelling across Lake Victoria can be treacherous, so extra planning was in place to ensure a safe passage. Delivering the doors for the latrines was one of the toughest logistics to organise, especially during the heavy rains and gales.

The other main challenge we ran into during construction was the sandy soil on the island. It made digging the latrine pit harder with more materials needed to reinforce the sides, and the heavy rains didn't help with this either.

These challenges illustrated why so many other agencies ignored the need of the Health Centre. However, the transformation that has been achieved, supporting so many people to access the healthcare they need, means that Just a Drop will always take on the challenge.





WASH training

WASH training was also conducted which is crucially important for increasing the impact of this project. Just gaining access to water and sanitation does not provide the community and Health Centre with the full health benefits possible.

Trainings and demonstrations were conducted with the Health Centre staff, Health Centre Management Committee members, the Health Centre caretaker and people from the Village Health Team.

The training focused on good hygiene and sanitation practices, to improve these practices in the nearby communities by seeing them done at the Health Centre and through the Village Health Teams who are working within them. Issues covered included handwashing at critical moments, proper handling of food and patients, proper storage of utensils and the safe water chain.





Sustainability

Just a Drop ensures the local community is involved with a project from the outset, to encourage community commitment and ownership of the project, supporting its sustainability.

The local communities and the Health Centre staff were involved with the project from initial planning stages to construction. Training sessions were carried out on the operation and maintenance of the facilities, ensuring they will be managed effectively and efficiently into the future for better health care of in and outpatients.

An official handover ceremony was conducted in Wakiso to which the Chairman of the District of Health officiated. At this meeting, which Just a Drop attended, the focus was on sustainability and an MOU was signed by the officials pledging publicly to support the facilities.





Impact

The expected overall impact for the project is:

- Zzinga Health Centre can better deliver its vital services, from a clean and hygienic environment
- An improvement in health across the community through improved facilities and outreach activity to promote good hygiene and sanitation practices and raised awareness
- Health Centre staff are now better able to integrate WASH issues into the health programme for in and out patients
- There are now sufficient gender-sensitive latrines and washrooms for users of the health centre to use at any time
- Users of the health centre can now wash their hands properly with soap and water
- Personal hygiene and dignity among female users of the health centre will improve since they can change and dispose of their menstrual materials within the washrooms

Just a Drop is very grateful for the support of Baltimore Aircoil Company, thank you.





Just a Drop
Gateway House
28 The Quadrant
Richmond
TW9 1DN

www.justadrop.org