
This item was submitted to [Loughborough's Research Repository](#) by the author.
Items in Figshare are protected by copyright, with all rights reserved, unless otherwise indicated.

Increasing access to safely managed faecal sludge services in underserved urban areas of Uganda through private sector partnerships

PLEASE CITE THE PUBLISHED VERSION

PUBLISHER

WEDC, Loughborough University

VERSION

VoR (Version of Record)

LICENCE

CC BY-NC-ND 4.0

REPOSITORY RECORD

Atwijukye, Osbert, Jonathan Annis, Rahul Singh, and Diana Keesiga. 2021. "Increasing Access to Safely Managed Faecal Sludge Services in Underserved Urban Areas of Uganda Through Private Sector Partnerships". Loughborough University. <https://hdl.handle.net/2134/16867129.v1>.

42nd WEDC International Conference

ONLINE: 13 – 15 September, 2021

**EQUITABLE AND SUSTAINABLE WASH SERVICES:
FUTURE CHALLENGES IN A RAPIDLY CHANGING WORLD**

**Increasing access to safely managed faecal sludge
services in underserved urban areas of Uganda through
private sector partnerships**

O. Atwijukye, S. Rahul, A. Jonathan & D. Keesiga

Uganda

REFERENCE NO. 3326

Introduction

Only 42.7% of Uganda's urban population, and 7.1% in rural areas, have access to safely managed sanitation services (MWE, 2020). Outside of Kampala, fecal sludge management entrepreneurs (FSMEs) are few and most struggle to provide an affordable yet profitable service. FSMEs often empty into open spaces to avoid transport to designated sites and disposal fees in order to price their service competitively with informal manual emptiers that don't incur these costs. Additionally, public emptying services that often provide cheaper services have not yielded sustainable results, often failing because of inappropriate tariffs and inadequate vehicle maintenance. Nurturing the emergence of viable private sector FSMEs is a sustainable strategy towards achieving SDG 6 on safely managed sanitation as well as Uganda's vision 2040 of improvement of socio-economic status through improved water and sanitation services provision.

The USAID Uganda Sanitation for Health Activity (USHA) together with the MWE Urban Sewerage Division and several urban councils has developed a multistep process to understand contextual challenges towards achieving safely managed sanitation services and supports FSMEs to increase business viability to deliver safely managed FS services at institutions and households.

Approach

Scoping studies are conducted to understand the FSM landscape of a service area and identify FSMEs who are taken through detailed business analysis using profit and loss statements to understand the performance of the business. The most common challenges FSMEs face are: operating informally, high operational costs; inadequate investment in sales and marketing; poor health and safety practices; and inefficient or no emptying and transportation equipment.

USHA responds to these needs through technical and financial support in areas of financial literacy, access to commercial finance, safe sludge removal and disposal practices, monitoring and using business metrics, using profit and loss statements and sales and marketing.

Results

Despite the lockdown that has affected most institutional customers that form largest market base, we are seeing a great improvement in volume of jobs done by the partner FSMEs. After a year of supporting private FSMEs in Masaka and Jinja cities, there has been a general increase in job volume; for example, the partner gulper entrepreneur has seen a 104% increase in the number of jobs completed compared to previous years, while one of the cesspool truck entrepreneurs has witnessed a 99% increase in number of jobs completed as shown in Figures 1 & 2.

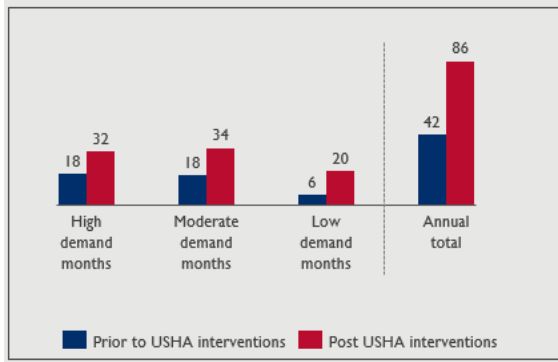


Figure 1: Jobs done by a gulper

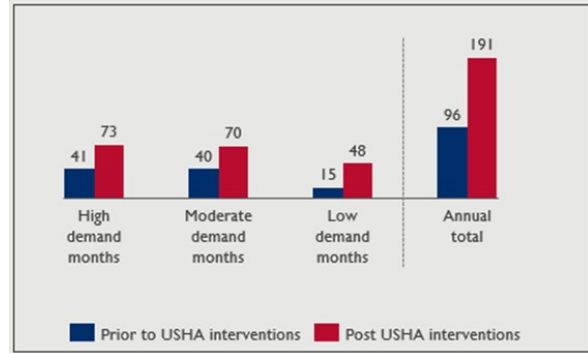


Figure 2: Jobs done by Cesspool truck entrepreneur

Conclusion and recommendations

The first year results have shown that there is still a lot of room to increase utilisation among the enterprises hence more revenues and profitability. The FSMEs, if well supported to operate formerly, access financing, improve marketing and business records management, reduce cost of operation, they can be able to increase access sustainable safely managed sanitation services. This will reduce pressure on government to deliver such services to the public, as has previously proved to be costly for local authorities in terms of vehicle maintenance and unreliable due to high community demands.

References

MWE., (2020). *Faecal Sludge Management in Un-Sewered Urban Centers Project, Uganda*.
 NPA., (2013). *Uganda Vision 2040*. <http://www.npa.go.ug/uganda-vision-2040/>

Contact details

Osbert Atwijukye (R.Eng, MUIPE) is a Civil Engineer and WASH specialist with a passion for faecal sludge management innovations and business models. Osbert is currently working with Tetra Tech-USAID Uganda Sanitation on the Health Activity Project.

Osbert Atwijukye:

Telephone: +256779233939.

Email: osbert.atwijukye@uganda.sanitation.org

Website: <https://www.tetratech.com/en/projects/uganda-sanitation-for-health-activity>

Jonathan Annis:

Telephone: +256779598038. Email: jonathan.annis@tetratech.com

Website: <https://www.tetratech.com/en/projects/uganda-sanitation-for-health-activity>