



# SNV

## Uganda – SSH4A results programme endline brief



The Government of Uganda aims to eliminate the practice of open defecation by 2030<sup>1</sup>. In support of this vision, SNV's Sustainable Sanitation and Hygiene for All (SSH4A) approach was implemented under the SSH4A Results Programme in 15 rural districts across two regions in the country. As a result, an additional 457,974 people gained access to safe sanitation and hygiene; 63,964 people practise handwashing with soap after defecation and before cooking/eating; and open defecation rates fell to 7% (compared to 16% in 2014).

This endline practice brief shares the final outcomes of the SSH4A RP implementation in Uganda<sup>2</sup>. It also presents disaggregated outcomes on improved access rates from two types of households – those belonging to the poorest wealth quintile, and those that are female-led.

### The challenge

For many rural households, particularly those belonging to the poorest wealth quintile, good quality sanitation facilities are few. Do-it-yourself (DIY) methods result in poorly-constructed facilities. Knowledge of technological solutions for difficult conditions remains low. For example, constructed technologies are not suited to the context of collapsing soils, leading to slippage. By end 2017, open defecation rates for households belonging to the poorest

wealth quintile rose to 13% (0% in 2014). Using proxies of handwashing with soap (HWWS) for use after defecation, the poor and poorest wealth quintiles were found to have high proportions of no access to HWWS in 2017, at 85% and 89% respectively.

In collaboration with the Government of Uganda, SNV implemented SSH4A's four-pillared integrated approach: demand creation, sanitation supply chain development, behaviour change promotion, and support on governance issues to strengthen sustainability<sup>3</sup>. The approach was piloted in districts<sup>4</sup> with poor sanitation conditions (at least 40% of the population was exposed to open defecation areas on a daily basis), were distant from main cities, ranked low in Uganda's Human Development Index, and had minimal engagement with development partners.

### Key achievements (2014 to December 2017)

The four-year rural sanitation programme reached 2,277,682 people (from a baseline of 2,033,442)<sup>5</sup>, and achieved the following by the end of 2017:

**69%** of all households  
have access to a sanitary toilet  
(55% in 2014)



**78%** of all households practise  
hygienic use and maintenance of  
toilets (77% in 2014)



**16%** of all households have  
access to a handwashing facility  
with soap (10% in 2014)

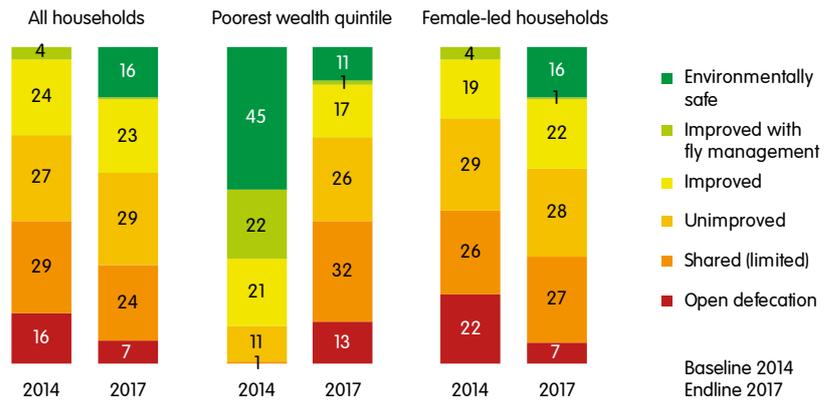




## Access to a sanitary toilet up by 14%

% access rate: **69%** (2017 endline) **55%** (2014 baseline) 

FIGURE 1: Access to a sanitary toilet in % for all households, 2014 and 2017



NB: Households belonging to the top four levels of this table are considered to enjoy a certain level of access to a sanitary toilet. Improvements in access are measured as households enter and/or move up the "Unimproved toilet" level.

## Results of SSH4A implementation in Uganda

Between November and December 2017, SNV and partners visited 222 villages, and interviewed 3,326 households across the programme districts to measure the impact of SSH4A Results Programme's four-year implementation in Uganda. For efficient data gathering and verification purposes, Akvo's FLOW mobile application software was used during the survey process. Endline results are presented in percentage of households, and are rounded off to the nearest whole number.

Programme activities to increase access to safe and improved sanitation facilities included enhancing supply chains, promoting informed sanitation technology choice (such as use of SaTo toilet pans)<sup>6</sup>, and working with the Hand Pump Mechanics Association<sup>7</sup>. Strong political will and involvement of local government officials in sanitation campaigns were key to achieving this. So have demand creation approaches and MANDONA<sup>8</sup> participatory follow-up approaches that enhanced behavioural change. The Ministry of Health conducted open defecation free verification and MANDONA follow-up approaches for district officials.

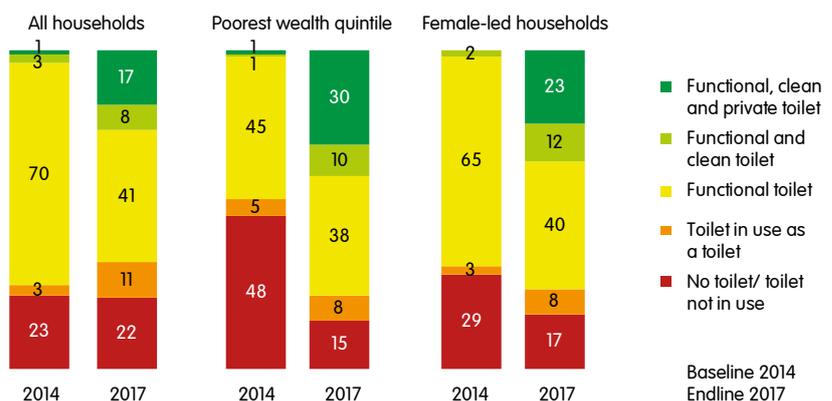
By end 2017, 69% of all households had access to improved sanitation (55% in 2014). Open defecation practice among female-led households dropped to 7% (22% in 2014).

Women who participated in sanitation and hygiene behavioural triggering sessions were reached through the church and women's groups. Improvements for the poorest wealth quintile were evidenced by the increased proportion of households with access to the "Unimproved toilet" level (from 11% in 2014 to 26% in 2017).

## Hygienic use and maintenance of toilets up by 1%

% access rate: **78%** (2017 endline) **77%** (2014 baseline) 

FIGURE 2: Hygienic use and maintenance of toilets in % for all households, 2014 and 2017



NB: Households belonging to the top four levels of this table are considered to be practising hygienic use and maintenance of toilets. Improvements in practice are measured as households enter and/or move up the "Toilet in use as a toilet" level.

Application of the MANDONA approach has been effective in facilitating toilet usage among households through follow ups, particularly for the poorest and female-led households. MANDONA was complemented by the involvement of Village Health Teams (VHTs), who tracked hygienic behaviours after the MANDONA sessions.

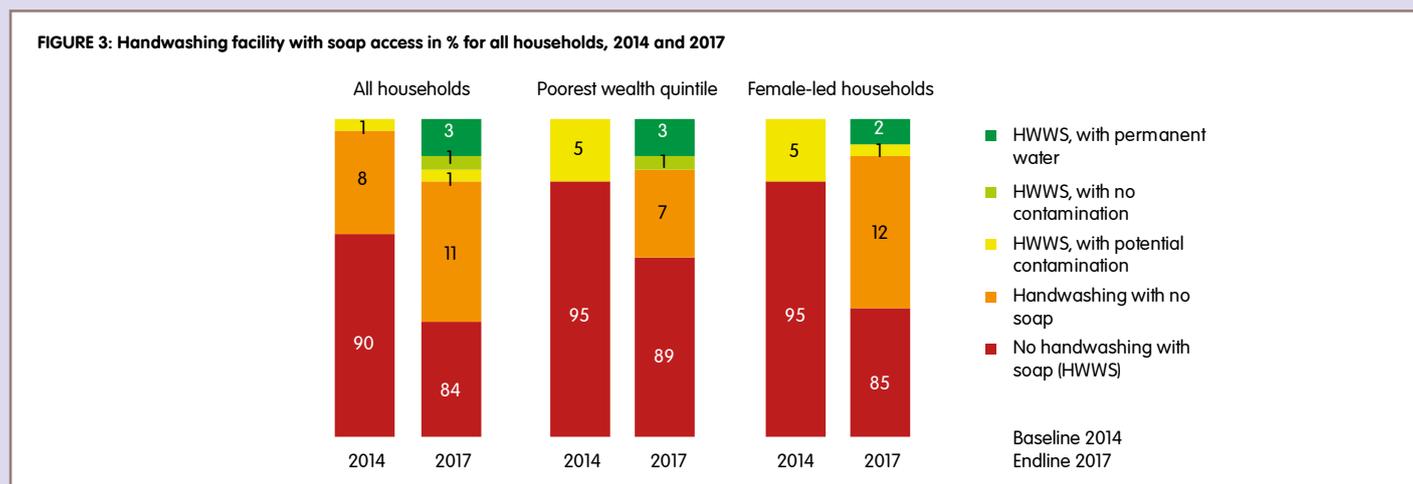
Practice of hygienic use and maintenance of toilets across all households saw a marginal increase of 1% (from 77% at baseline to 78% at endline). Disaggregated household results showed a different picture, with female-led households and those belonging to the poorest wealth quintile faring better. For households in the poorest wealth quintile, the proportion of households practising

hygienic use and maintenance of toilets increased by 34% (52% in 2014 to 86% in 2017), and 2017 closed with 30% of the poorest enjoying a functional, clean and private toilet (compared to 1% in 2014). Female-led household rates of improved practice registered an increase of 13% (70% in 2014 to 83% in 2017), and a 23% increase in the “Functional, clean and private toilet” level.

By end 2017, 33% less households within the poorest wealth quintile (48% in 2014 to 15% in 2017), and 12% less female-led households (29% in 2014 to 17% in 2017) were found to have no toilet, or were not using a toilet.

## Access to a handwashing facility with soap in/near a toilet up by 6%

% access rate: **16%** (2017 endline)  
**10%** (2014 baseline)



NB: Households belonging to the top four levels of this table are considered to enjoy a certain level of access to handwashing (with soap) facilities. Improvements in access are measured as households enter and/or move up the “HW facility with no soap” level.

While there was a marginal increase in all-household access to a handwashing facility after defecation: 3% in 2017 (0% in 2014), 84% were still without access. Only 5% of all households (1% in 2014) reached the levels with soap access (see top three levels). Results suggest that more encouragement for the use of soap or soap alternatives after defecation is needed to accelerate progress.

From 95% in 2014, the proportion of households within the poor wealth quintile with no access to a handwashing facility dropped by 6% (89% in 2017). Interestingly, half

of those households climbed up to the highest HWWs level (3% in 2017). Among female-led households, those with access to a handwashing facility increased from 0% to 3% at endline, and the number of households with no access went down to 85% (95% in 2014).

Incremental progress in “climbing” the handwashing facility levels was achieved by the introduction of the tippy-tap technology<sup>9</sup>. But, given the temporary nature of installations, facilities were found to be prone to vandalism.

## Recommendations and next steps

✔ Government needs to intensify behaviour change communication activities, and revisit rural sanitation scale-up strategies to accelerate progress and target households with low access: female-led households and those that belong to the poorest wealth quintile. Government engagement in fora, such as the yearly sanitation week, and local leadership forum is one strategy to take, as well as organising a rewards system to recognise ODF villages. Encourage local leaders to develop sanitation-related by-laws to facilitate knowledge transfer to communities. Organise (re-)training moments for village health teams (VHTs) to roll out health and sanitation awareness campaigns, and empower them to sanction people caught vandalising.



✔ Local leaders and key persons in communities have a role to play in breaking cultural beliefs and taboos that impede access to and the delivery of proper sanitation. Beyond toilet use and maintenance, involve female-led households in construction work, motivate land owners to build permanent toilets on their premises, and, where possible, provide sanitation options to excluded groups, e.g. people living with disability.

✔ Stakeholders should intensify public-private partnerships. Encourage and train private artisans in the construction of pro-poor and low-cost toilets/handwashing facilities, and the use of locally-available and affordable materials. Seek ways to strengthen the purchasing capacity of households.

### Endnotes

- <sup>1</sup> As envisaged in the Government of Uganda's Vision 2040 and the National Development Plan II (2015-2020).
- <sup>2</sup> SNV's SSH4A approach was first developed in 2008. Reported interventions in Uganda form part of the UKAID-funded multi-country initiative, Sustainable Sanitation and Hygiene for All Results Programme (2014-2017).
- <sup>3</sup> Learn more about SNV's SSH4A integrated approach, read: Sustainable Sanitation and Hygiene for All Capability Statement.
- <sup>4</sup> Arua, Koboko, Maracha, Moyo, Nebbi, Yumbe and Zombo in the West Nile region | Kyegegwa, Bundibugyo, Kasese, Kabarole, Kyenjonjo, Kibaale, Kamwenge and Mubende in the Rwenzori region.
- <sup>5</sup> Population growth rate using exponential model with varying district rates.
- <sup>6</sup> A simple, plastic, pour-flush pan that provides an air-tight seal, keeping odours in and insects contained in the pit.
- <sup>7</sup> Hand Pump Mechanics Associations was introduced by the Ministry of Water and Environment, Uganda to provide technical support for major maintenance and repairs associated with breakdowns and service failures for rural water supply facilities.
- <sup>8</sup> MANDONA follow up is an action-oriented approach to accelerate efforts in ending open defecation, following initial demand triggering. Based on participatory demand creation approaches, MANDONA involves a series of facilitated sessions with the entire community to reinforce behaviour change, and collectively undertake small, immediate and doable actions to achieve ODF status in the shortest time possible.
- <sup>9</sup> Tippy-Tap is a low-cost device to wash hands in areas where there is no running water. Suspended from a wooden frame, a tippy-tap consists of a 3-to-5-liter jerry can that is filled with water. A string attached to the neck of the jerry can is tied to a piece of wood at ground level. Soap is suspended from the frame beside the jerry can, and pressing with the foot on the wood tips the jerry can, releasing a stream of water through a small hole. A tippy-tap can provide a convenient and inexpensive means of washing hands after toilet use.

## SUSTAINABLE SANITATION AND HYGIENE FOR ALL RESULTS PROGRAMME (SSH4A RP)

SSH4A RP is SNV's largest results-based funded programme that was implemented in eight countries in Africa and Asia. The programme contributed to ending open defecation; increasing the use of toilets that are safely managed, functional, and facilitate privacy; and increasing access to handwashing with soap facilities (located next to a toilet or areas where food is prepared).

SSH4A RP in Uganda is a collaborative initiative with the Government of Uganda. It is being implemented in two phases, and receives generous funding from the United Kingdom Government. The next phase of the programme concludes in 2020.

### SNV

SNV is a not-for-profit international development organisation. Founded in the Netherlands over 50 years ago, SNV has built a long-term, local presence in 38 of the poorest countries in Asia, Africa and Latin America. SNV's global team of local and international advisors work with local partners to equip communities, businesses and organisations with the tools, knowledge and connections they need to increase their incomes and gain access to basic services – empowering them to break the cycle of poverty and guide their own development.

### Photos ©SNV

(FRONT) Sub-County Chief, Jangokoro speaks to the Ayibu village community about the importance of good hygiene and sanitation.

(P2) A YSE in Alwi sub-county, Pakwach district demonstrate how to apply ash after latrine use.

(P3) Woman with sight impairment in Arabanga reaches a tippy-tap to wash her hands with soap with the help of a string guide installed between the toilet and the tippy-tap.

This endline practice brief reflects the country's achievements during the first phase. It was prepared by SNV's Anne Mutta and Anjani Abella, with the support of Rosenell Ondondi, based on the December 2017 Endline Household Survey Report of Uganda.

### For more information

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