

# Uganda Office Newsletter

## Pressing for progress



### Celebrating women #PressforProgress

March 8<sup>th</sup> is International Women's Day, a global day celebrating the social, economic, cultural and political achievements of women. SNV has been an advocate for gender equality, mainstreaming gender into its programming as a way of promoting equality between women and men, and combating discrimination.

### In this issue we profile two women;

**Zainab** who believes all women are leaders and that biogas can contribute to their empowerment. [Here is her story](#)

**Philomena** a dairy farmer who has succeeded in a predominantly male dominated sector. [Here is her story](#)

**“Gender equality is more than a goal in itself. It is a precondition for meeting the challenge of reducing poverty, promoting sustainable development and building good governance.” Kofi Annan**



## Nature for Water starts with understanding the Why

Borrowing from this year's World Water Day theme - **Nature for Water**, SNV Uganda's Communication's Officer, Dorah Egunyu explores the dynamics around behavior change and shares her thoughts on why we need to start asking questions before proposing solutions to water challenges. [To read the full story](#)



## Sustainable Sanitation & Hygiene for All results Programme – 1<sup>st</sup> Phase ends with 175,780 people abandoning open defecation.

Between 2014 and 2017, SNV implemented the first phase of the Sustainable Sanitation and Hygiene for All Results Programme (SSH4A RP) across 15 districts (Arua, Bundibugyo, Kabarole, Kamwenge, Kasese, Kibaale, Kaboko, Kyegegwa, Kyenjojo, Maracha, Moyo, Mubende, Nebbi, Yumbe, and Zombo).

By December 2017, an additional **457,974** people had gained access to safe sanitation and hygiene; **63,964** people were practicing handwashing with soap after defecation and before cooking/eating; and open defecation rates fell to **7%** (compared to 16% in 2014).

Read the [endline brief](#)



## The Inclusive Dairy Enterprise (TIDE) project – Stories of transformation.

The five year project in Uganda (funded by the Embassy of the Kingdom of the Netherlands) aims to improve incomes for 20,000 dairy farmers in the districts of Bushenyi, Isingiro, Kiruhura, Mbarara, Ntungamo and Sheema.

Now in its third year, the project is creating tangible results, having developed a number of relevant products and services for dairy farmers, delivered by the private sector.

*Below are stories that highlight the transformation that the TIDE project is creating at farmer and private sector level.*

**BM Investments** started providing comprehensive fencing and paddocking services after partnering with TIDE. [Read their story](#)

**Bells Katongole** was motivated to take up farming as a business after attending one of the TIDE practical dairy trainings. [Read his story](#)

**Kabura Farmers' Cooperative** has been able to show a boundless growth trajectory as a result of the support provided by SNV and Agriterra. [Read their story](#)



Practical training in hay making at one of the Practical Dairy Training Farms (PDTF's)

## Highlights of the Quarter

### SNV hosts a debate during the Water and Environment Week



Behaviour change is not a walk in the park, especially when it comes to issues of a private nature such as defecation practices. SNV Uganda recently participated in the Water and Environment week organised by the Ministry of Water and Environment. In their rural sanitation session, SNV decided to open the floor to participants to debate on the topic: **Households are content with their unimproved toilets, so forget about achieving the SDG targets**. Proponents for the topic argued that communities have too many competing demands including food, shelter, health and education, without the unnecessary burden to improve their household latrine facilities and that these funds could be put to better use. The opposing viewpoint argued that eliminating open defecation practices improves overall household health and hygiene reduces overall medical costs, absences from work and increases childhood attendance in school. Funds spent on ODF practices should be viewed as complementing existing household spending, not as a separate financial burden. In addition, SNV programming statistics reflect a growing trend amongst households to constructing improved latrines. At the end of the debate, it was clear that for effective behaviour change to occur, we have to sell sanitation in a manner that convinces rural households of the health benefits and financial savings which result from the use of improved latrines.

### New Wins for SNV & Partners

- SNV Uganda, SNV Zambia & CDI have recently won the **Sustainable Nutrition for All (SN4A) II Project** which is funded by the Swiss Agency For Development & Cooperation (SDC). The aim of the SN4A II Project is to improve dietary diversity for all household members, with a particular focus on the nutrition outcomes of women of reproductive age (WRA) and infants under 2 years. SN4A II addresses four critical pillars simultaneously- demand creation through triggering; behavior change communication; nutrition sensitive agriculture; and governance. The project will be implemented in Zambia & Uganda. In Uganda, this project will be implemented in Kasese, Kyenjojo and Kakumiro Districts.
- SNV Uganda, SNV USA and Tetra Tech (TT) also won the **Uganda Sanitation For Health Activity (USHA) Project**, which is funded by the United States Agency For International Development (USAID). In the face of rapid population growth and urbanization in Uganda, inadequate water and sanitation services are contributing to poor health outcomes that constrain human and economic development. The USHA Project is a timely and integral component of USAID/Uganda's portfolio of complementary activities to improve the health and nutrition status of target groups and geographic areas- by accelerating sustainable improvement in quality, access and supply of water and sanitation services and improving hygiene behaviours. The 5 year project will be implemented in the North-Central, East and Southern parts of Uganda

### Out & About



*"Before the introduction of PHH Hermetic Storage equipment by SNV, I used to store my grain in sacks and I often lost most of the grain to rats and weevils. Now I am able to keep quality grain because rats and weevils cannot access grain stored in the hermetic silos,"*  
Generoza Tibarimpita, Kirasa Villaae, Kakumiro District



**Chap Chap Africa Ltd, one of the IAP Investees making a mock pitch during the IAP pitch training workshop facilitated by BoP Inc. [Read more about IAP](#)**

10