



KYAKA II PROJECT REPORT



Prepared by

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Introduction

Kyaka II Refugee Settlement, located in Kyegegwa District in South Western Uganda, hosts over 128,000 refugees primarily from Rwanda, the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), Burundi, and Somalia. The settlement's average water consumption stands at 16.3 litres per person per day (L/P/D), with three main water systems—Sweswe, Buliti, and Bujubuli—currently operating at full functionality.

Despite this, 20% of the settlement's 67 hand pumps are non-functional, forcing some households to rely on unsafe water sources such as swamps, unprotected springs, and shallow wells. Due to limited access to firewood and other water treatment options, many families drink untreated water, exposing them to waterborne diseases such as diarrhoea, typhoid, and cholera.

To address this challenge, Lifewater, in partnership with Nsamizi TISD, UNHCR, and the Office of the Prime Minister (OPM), conducted a targeted water filter distribution exercise in September 2025 to enhance household-level access to safe drinking water.



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Problem Statement

Water stress in Kyaka II is worsened by low groundwater levels, high population density, and contamination of natural sources—96% of water sources in the Toro region are reported to contain faecal matter (MWE, 2023). This situation increases vulnerability to waterborne diseases and puts additional strain on households already facing limited resources for water treatment.

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Project Overview

In response to these challenges, Lifewater distributed household and institutional water filters in high-risk zones within Kyaka II.

The intervention not only ensures continuous access to safe and clean drinking water but also reduces the dependence on firewood for boiling water, thereby mitigating deforestation and contributing to climate change adaptation efforts within the settlement.



2 Key Activities

4.1 Identification and Verification of Beneficiaries.

Nsamizi TISD’s Public Health Team, with support from Village Health Teams (VHTs) and Refugee Welfare Councils (RWCs), identified 200 households most affected by unsafe water access. The identification targeted water-stressed villages where households rely heavily on unprotected sources.

Data was compiled and verified using UNHCR systems before printing final beneficiary lists. Mobilization was conducted one week prior to distribution to ensure preparedness and transparency.

Households excluded from the exercise included households that had previously received water treatment support.

This approach ensured that the intervention reached the intended beneficiaries—households most in need of safe water access—while eliminating duplication of support.



4.2 Distribution of Water Filters.

Between September 17th and 19th, 2025, Lifewater with funding from Water works programme successfully distributed 200 household water filter kits to persons of concern in Kyaka II Refugee Settlement. The activity was conducted in the following zones: Ndololire, Itambabiniga, Kyamagabo.

The process followed structured steps:

- Orientation of beneficiaries and introduction of implementing partners and donors.
- Verification of beneficiaries using the UNHCR GDT system.
- Registration and issuing of cards with water filter IDs.
- Hands-on training on filter installation, use, and maintenance.
- Return of signed attestation forms and issuance of water filters to trained households.

In total, the exercise enabled 1,006 individuals to gain access to safe and clean drinking water.

A detailed GDT Distribution Summary Report is attached.

4.3 Institutional Filter Expansion

During the same period, LifeWater also expanded its Institutional Water Filter Pilot Project, which began in September 2024 and was extended in February 2025.

The September 2025 phase focused on scaling up access to safe water in schools and health facilities. In Bukere Secondary 2 systems were given to the newly constructed boys and girls dormitory each.



a) Lifewater systems in schools todate

School	Number of Systems	Notes
Kakonu Primary School	4	Installed in 2024
Bujubuli Primary School	4	Installed in 2024
Bujubuli Secondary School	4	Installed in 2024
Bukere Secondary School	8	4 installed in 2024, 4 added Sept 2025
Total	20 Systems	

b) Health Facilities with Lifewater Systems todate:

Two systems were given to Bujubuli Health center to cater for the increased population the health center is serving especially during the current health emergencies.

- Anthrax outbreak: 9 reported cases (1 confirmed fatality).
- Mpox outbreak: 74 cases among refugees across multiple settlements.

Health Facility	Number of Systems	Notes
Bujubuli Health Centre IV	10	4 installed in 2024, 4 added Feb 2025, 4 added Sept 2025
Mukondo Health Centre III	2	Installed in 2024
Bwiriza Health Centre III	2	Installed in Sept 2025
Itambabiniga Health Centre II	2	Installed in Sept 2025
Total	16 Systems	



● Conclusion

The provision of water filters to vulnerable households in Kyaka II marks a significant milestone in improving community health and resilience.

The Lifewater systems not only increase access to safe and clean drinking water but also reduce the need for firewood used in boiling water, helping to conserve the environment and reduce carbon emissions. This makes the project not only a public health intervention but also a climate-friendly solution that supports environmental sustainability.

The collaboration between Lifewater, Nsamizi TISD, UNHCR, and OPM demonstrates the power of coordinated WASH interventions in improving health outcomes, promoting sustainable water use, and protecting the environment in refugee communities.

We sincerely appreciate Water Works programme, our donor, for their continued support and commitment to improving the lives of persons of concern in Kyaka II Refugee Settlement.