

EVENT REPORT

SUPPORTING BUGWERI DISTRICT WATER WEEK DAY CELEBRATION AT KIWANYI TOWN CENTER, BUGWERI HELD ON 10th APRIL 2025



Introduction:

The International Water Week (IWW) is a global initiative that brings together governments, NGOs, and private sector stakeholders to address water security, sanitation, and sustainable management. It promotes innovative solutions to water challenges, emphasizing universal access and climate resilience. In Uganda, the National Water Week 2025 aligns with these global efforts under the theme: *“Accelerating Water and Sanitation for All: A Collective Responsibility.”* This theme underscores the need for multi-stakeholder collaboration to ensure equitable access to clean water and improved sanitation, particularly in rural and underserved communities.

Event Overview:

The Bugweri District Water and Sanitation Day was held on 10th April 2025 at Kiwanyi Town Center, attracting over 300 participants, including:

- District officials (LC5 Chairperson, Water and Sanitation Team, Health Inspectorate).
- Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) & NGOs (Right2Grow partners – Wilmatt Development Foundation, THPU and other local actors like the Rwenzori Rear Earth Minerals LTD, BRAC Uganda and more).
- School children and teachers from 3 primary schools and 2 secondary schools.
- Local leaders (village chairpersons, councilors).
- Security personnel (police, community policing teams).
- Market vendors and business owners.

The day began with a mass clean-up campaign along the town's trading center, focusing on:

- Proper waste disposal (demonstrating segregation of organic vs. plastic waste)



- Unclogging drainage channels to prevent flooding



- Awareness sessions for vendors on maintaining clean market spaces



Key Highlights & Speeches:

1. Water Source Protection – Borehole Fencing Initiative

Mr. Kiyemba Michael (District Water and Sanitation Officer) highlighted:

- That over 70% of boreholes in Bugweri lack permanent fencing, risking contamination.
- The district’s new policy that at least all new boreholes must have stone/brick fences (not makeshift wood/thorn barriers).
- A newly fenced borehole at Kiwanyi was commissioned, showcasing a community-led model with a lockable gate to restrict animal access.
- **Plan:** Fence one borehole per sub-county quarterly, prioritizing high-demand areas.



2. Sanitation Enforcement – Household Toilet Coverage

Mr. Mugoya Ibrahim (District Health Inspector) reported:

- That many households in Bugweri now own toilets, even though some do not have especially in town centers who are sharing with their neighbors.
- That Village Health Teams (VHTs) will conduct monthly inspections and issue warnings to households without toilets.

3. CSOs/NGOs Commitments

Matte (Right2Grow Project Focal person at Wilmat Development Foundation) emphasized:

- Community-led advocacy success: Over 10 villages now self-monitor water points via WaSH committees as a result of the Right2Grow project in Ibulanku and Igombe sub-counties of Bugweri district.
- Call to action: District should allocate at least 15% of water budget to maintain boreholes and train mechanics.

4. Student Performances & Public Engagement

Pupils from Kiwanyi Schools staged:

- Drama: “A Day Without a Toilet” – showing disease outbreaks from open defecation.
- Poem: “Water is Life” – urging protection of springs and boreholes.
- Songs: Composed lyrics on handwashing.



5. District Leadership Commitments

LC5 Chairperson Muziransa announced:

- Radio campaigns: Pledged support to the district in providing free airtime to district officials in dissemination of information on proper sanitation and hygiene including water source coverage.
- Last-mile water access: He pledged to support the allocation of new permanent boreholes to congested villages to ensure access to clean and safe drinking water.
- Partnerships: Requested local actors and companies to train communities on rainwater harvesting.

Key Takeaways & Next Steps:

- Prioritize high-population villages with less than 1 borehole.
- Scale CLTS (Community-Led Total Sanitation) in prone communities in Bugweri.
- Introduce “Cleanest Village Awards” to incentivize toilet construction.

Conclusion: The celebration reinforced shared responsibility in achieving SDG6 (Clean Water & Sanitation). Bugweri’s practical demonstrations (fencing, clean-ups) and community engagement (schools, radio) set a model for future engagements.