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Meet Sylvia, Mpudde Village's Sanitation Champion.



A close picture of Sylvia Nadengo

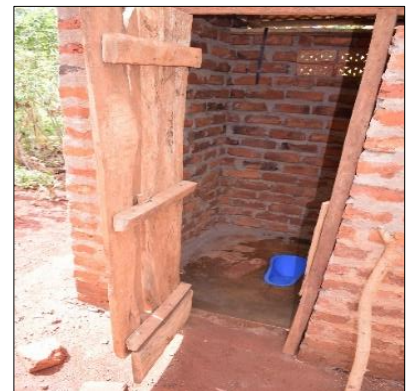
Ms. Nadengo is one woman who has taken on the role of championing improved sanitation in her community in Buyende district. She has led the efforts of forming a sanitation committee where members pool funds to construct improved toilets for member households.

It is the responsibility of both women and men to improve sanitation, not only in their households but also in the communities. This extends beyond the usual day to day home care activities which are mostly performed by women. In most cultural settings in Uganda, women are at the center of vital household chores like cleaning, cooking, gardening, fetching water and most importantly, childcare.

The household work done by women is in service of others and [motivated](#) by reasons other than financial compensation. Women's contributions and their commitment to household improvement continue to stand out as leaders even in the sanitation improvement in Uganda.

Sylvia Nadengo, a 49-year-old mother of nine and farmer, resides in Mpudde village, Buyende district, Eastern Uganda. Upon learning the importance of good sanitation, Sylvia worked to improve sanitation in her home as well as her village. Sylvia used her meagre income from selling maize, cassava and beans to finance construction of an improved toilet for her family. She initiated an effort to leverage the pooled money and collective efforts of willing committee members to construct their household toilets in their community.

The USAID Uganda Sanitation for Health Activity (USHA) implements Market-Based Sanitation Implementation Approach (MBSIA) in Buyende district through [Water Mission](#), one of the USHA grantee organisations. This approach supports households to move from unimproved to improved toilets and install hand washing facilities. USHA supports the sanitation supply chains with value chain actors to make improved sanitation products and services more accessible to people like Sylvia Nadengo and their communities. The project also stimulates demand creation, through door-to-door promotions and trigger sessions. Trigger sessions are gatherings through which the community is educated and sensitized about the importance of improved sanitation and how to improve sanitation in their households.



A photo of Sylvia's toilet now.



Sylvia's fired bricks in a kiln

Sylvia attended the trigger session hosted by Water Mission, which sparked her interest to improve sanitation in her home and community. This gave her confidence and the know-how to proceed with the improvements. The trigger session included education on the need for improved sanitation, safer- hygienic product options like SATO pans and handwashing facilities. Like many other trigger session attendees, Sylvia had no toilet at home. Following the session, Sylvia took the lead in mobilising and forming a sanitation group in her village. The group consists of seven household representatives who all shared the need of improving their home sanitation. With knowledge from the session, Sylvia successfully convinced the group to work together and collectively improve every group member's household sanitation status.

“Each member contributes UGX. 20,000 monthly and the collected funds are given to one member at the end of the month.

This money is used to dig a pit and construct a toilet slab. “With the slab in place, it is easy for the household to complete the structure,” explained Sylvia. For quality toilet construction work, the team uses masons and pit diggers that were trained by USHA, ensuring the structures are built sustainably.

This collective funding strategy has since benefited five households. Three of these five members: Tizomu Mawanzi, David Musene and Sylvia Nadengo, completed the construction of their toilets and fitted them with an improved sanitation product called a SATO pan.

Today, Sylvia is happy and proud to be a model for sanitation in her village. She says, “our Nabakyala (Village Woman Representative) improved her toilet and also installed a hand washing facility after visiting my household.” Sylvia continued, “Thanks to USHA! My toilet no longer has houseflies or a bad smell, and we haven't experienced sanitation-based diseases such as diarrhoea in my home since we constructed this toilet.”



Sylvia demonstrating handwashing with her household handwashing facility