

MBUYA II WARD – ADVOCACY COMMITTEE LOBBY EFFORTS RESULTED IN CONSTRUCTION OF A COMMUNITY DRAINAGE CHANNEL.

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Like most slums in Kampala, Mbuya II ward is a victim of poor drainage systems with most of the drainage channels not being lined. To worsen matters, Residents of Mbuya II dispose of household waste into the drainage channels. Worse still, during heavy rains, a number of the household's release sewage into the channels. Such actions are of great public health concern.



Figure 1: A restaurant in Mbuya II located at the drainage channel before construction. Photo by Environmental Alert.

The solid waste blocks the path way for storm water, thus causing it to divert into the neighborhood, resulting in floods. The sewage that flows through the channels creates high risk for spread of water borne diseases especially to those living near the channel, most affected being children. Such have been among other challenges that Environmental Alert in partnership with Water Aid Uganda and with funding from Comic Relief has been addressing under the Kampala Slum Transformation Initiative (KASTI) in Nakawa and Central divisions of Kampala.

Frustrated by the status of the drainage channel in zone 6, Bogere Francis Byabagambi, a VHT and Vice Local Council I Chairperson, in late July 2016 reached out to Kampala Capital City Authority (KCCA) to construct the channel, however, his request went unattended. None the less, he continued with the efforts to search and lobby support elsewhere. As luck would have it, SOGEA SATOM, a construction firm soon began laying sewerage lines passing through Mbuya II ward, zone 6. The contract was awarded to them by National Water and Sewerage Cooperation (NWSC). Since these sewerage lines were to be constructed through zone 6 and the firm does other forms of construction as well, Francis felt stirred to lobby for support from the company.

In August 2016, Francis approached Justus Turyayesiima, the Project Site Engineer for SOGEA SATOM and presented the community's concern of the need to line the drainage channel and requested the company to support them in this initiative. Justus took the matter seriously and discussed it with his senior colleagues at the head office in Bugolobi.



Figure 2: Francis inspects the lined section of the drainage channel accompanied by an Engineer of SOGEA SATOM. . Photo by Environmental Alert.

Since one of the operating principles of SOGEA SATOM is to repair whatever they damage on site and to help community, they arranged a meeting with the community and their leaders. On 8th August 2016, Francis together with Karatunga Aston – the Local Council I Chairperson, and a few other community members and advocacy committee of Mbuya II met with the SOGEA SATOM team to discuss the matter

further. After lengthy negotiations, SOGEA SATOM accepted to line half of the drainage channel.

In October 2016, this agreement was actualized and SOGEA SATOM instructed Dot Services – one of the sub-contracted companies to line half of the channel as per the agreement. As a bonus for the

community, a new pipe was installed in a nearby drainage channel to replace the broken culvert that was causing water to stagnate. This process took approximately two (2) weeks and toward the 4th Week of October, the channel had been constructed. Engineer Justus revealed that the overall cost for the construction works was 4.5 million Ugandan Shillings and that they were happy to help the community and fulfil their Corporate-Social Responsibility.

Francis was very pleased with the positive response that SOGEA SATOM gave to them and he was very thankful of Environmental Alert for the knowledge and skill that he has acquired and applied as a result of the trainings. In his own words, Francis said *'Am so grateful to Environmental Alert for training us and giving us knowledge. It is the only organization that works to improve the lives of people in Mbuya II. They taught us how to map stakeholders and lobby from them good sanitation and hygiene facilities. I feel happy that I have used the knowledge they gave me to lobby for something good for my community.'* Francis and other VHTs from Mbuya II pledged that they would continue lobbying different organizations and influential figures to have the other half of the channel lined. In addition, they plan to lobby MTN Uganda for a toilet facility since MTN promotes sanitation through supporting construction of sanitary facilities through the marathon particularly this year's marathon based on constructing bio-toilet facilities.

Box 1. About Environmental Alert

Environmental Alert (EA) was founded in **1988** and has developed and transitioned into a National Non-Governmental organization contributing to an enabling policy environment for sustainable agriculture and sound environment and natural resources management at community, local, national and international levels. EA is officially registered with the NGO Board as a Ugandan non-governmental organization (NGO), incorporated as a company limited by guarantee. EA is governed by an Independent Board that is responsible for providing strategic oversight of the organization including ensuring its integrity as a voluntary service organization.

EA is a **1st prize winner of the Energy globe award for environmental sustainability-2005 under the category, earth.**

EA is a member of the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) and a Member of The IUCN National Committee for Uganda.

EA envisions, *'Resilient and dignified communities, managing their environment and natural resources sustainably.'*

EA's mission is to, 'Contribute to improved livelihoods of vulnerable communities by enhancing agricultural productivity and sustainable natural resources management'

Program and institutional Components:

1. Environment and Natural resources management;
2. Food security and Nutrition;
3. Water, Sanitation and Hygiene;
4. Finance and Administration;
5. Resource mobilization and Investment.

Scale of Implementation:

EA operates in selected districts for generation of evidence to inform policy engagements on agriculture, environment and natural resources at National and International levels. Currently EA's operations are in 20 districts across the country. EA undertakes area wide targeted awareness on selected issues in agriculture, environment and natural resources engagements

EA is a Secretariat for following networks:

- a) The Network for Civil Society Organizations in Environment & Natural Resources Sector (ENR-CSO Network);
- b) Uganda Forestry Working Group;
- c) The Standards Development Group; and
- d) Promoting Local Innovation in ecologically oriented agriculture and natural resources management (PROLINNOVA-Uganda Network).

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