

Disability Inclusive WASH and Livelihoods Among Refugees and Host Community in Kenya, Uganda, Iraq and Rwanda

Miikka Niskanen

Head of Humanitarian Aid and Grants

Disability Inclusion Advisor

World Vision Finland

November 2019



- In early 2014, World Vision Finland got an opportunity to start collaborating with Finland Government's Unit for Humanitarian Assistance and Policy on humanitarian programming.
- Globally, World Vision is one experienced player in water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) in humanitarian contexts. Disability inclusion is World Vision Finland's key priority.
- A niche on *Disability Inclusive WASH* was agreed upon between World Vision Finland and Finland's Government for humanitarian work to be carried out together.
- In 2017, a component of *Inclusive Livelihoods* focusing on food security was added.

Inclusive Projects This Far

2014:

- Kyangwali Refugee Settlement Uganda
- Dadaab Refugee Camp Kenya

2015:

- Adjumani Refugee Settlement Uganda
- Kakuma Refugee Camp Kenya

2016:

- Arua & Koboko Refugee Settlements Uganda
- Kirkuk IDPs Iraq

2017:

- Palorinya Refugee Settlement Uganda
- Hasansham IDP Camp Iraq

2018:

- Palorinya Refugee Settlement Phase II Uganda
- Mugombwa Refugee Camp Rwanda

2019:

- Omugo Refugee Settlement Uganda (ongoing)
- Kigeme Refugee Camp Rwanda (ongoing)

Main Project Components

- Construction and rehabilitation of clean water sources and accessible water distribution points.
- Construction of accessible latrines and sanitation facilities for communities, schools, health centers and some homes. Hygiene promotion.
- Construction of inclusive Menstrual Hygiene Management (MHM) facilities in schools.
- Support for PWD livelihoods opportunities, especially through co-operatives and community groups.
- Promotion of PWD active and equal participation in project planning and monitoring, as well as in community decision making. Promotion of equality and empowerment and reduction of stigma and discrimination.

Results / Impact 2014-2019



Total beneficiaries from improved water and sanitation facilities **245.000 people**

- female 51%, male 49%
- refugees roughly 70%, host community members 30%
- **total PWD beneficiaries 13.300**

World Vision Uganda, Kenya, Rwanda and Iraq have revised their water and sanitation (WASH) programming to be inclusive of PWD.

Several Government and other partners have started paying more attention to inclusion.

Stigma and discrimination towards PWD has reduced markedly in all target locations.

Local Disabled People's Organizations (DPO) have been strengthened.

Potential tensions between refugees and host communities have been further mitigated by including both refugees and host community members as project beneficiaries.

- PWD prevalence data unreliable. Particularly people with intellectual disabilities usually undercount.
- Advocacy/promotion on disability inclusion can be challenging if one organization tries to do it alone.
- Staff turnover and constant need to train and refresher train staff for the proper approach (social model on disability and human rights perspective).
- External factors like floods and community tensions vs. one-year implementation time.
- Contractors building inclusive WASH infrastructure may not follow accessibility standards properly.

- Inclusive and accessible WASH is 'more than WASH'. It is a catalyst for PWD sense of dignity and evidence on PWD existence for the community.
- Inclusiveness does not only benefit PWD, but also the elderly, children and basically the whole community.
- PWD empowerment and active participation can take place surprisingly quickly once PWD are listened to.
- Inclusive programming is not particularly costly, especially when taken into account already in project and programme planning phase. Repairing and reconstructing later on can be more costly.
- Implementing organizations do not need to be specialists on disability issues when collaborating with local Disabled People's Organizations.
- Disability inclusion is not burdensome or mournful; it turns quickly into a source of work motivation and delight!

Thank You !!

World Vision

