



UGANDA

Water Without Borders 2014



UNITED NATIONS
UNIVERSITY

UNU-INWEH

Institute for Water,
Environment and Health

McMaster
University





MAJI

- (Water)

The Foundation of Life

Water is part of the essential foundation of life, and its value varies intensely amongst different groups of people.



UPATIKANAJI

- (Access)

The juxtaposition of culture and development represents some of the challenges and opportunities facing countries like Uganda, particularly in scaling improved sanitation access.



RASILIMALI

- (Resources)

Water-Constrained Environment

From the 20-litre yellow jerry cans used to fetch and store water that marked both the urban and rural landscapes, to the large rainwater harvesting tanks of all varieties, life in a water-constrained environment was evident.





FAMILIA

- (Family)

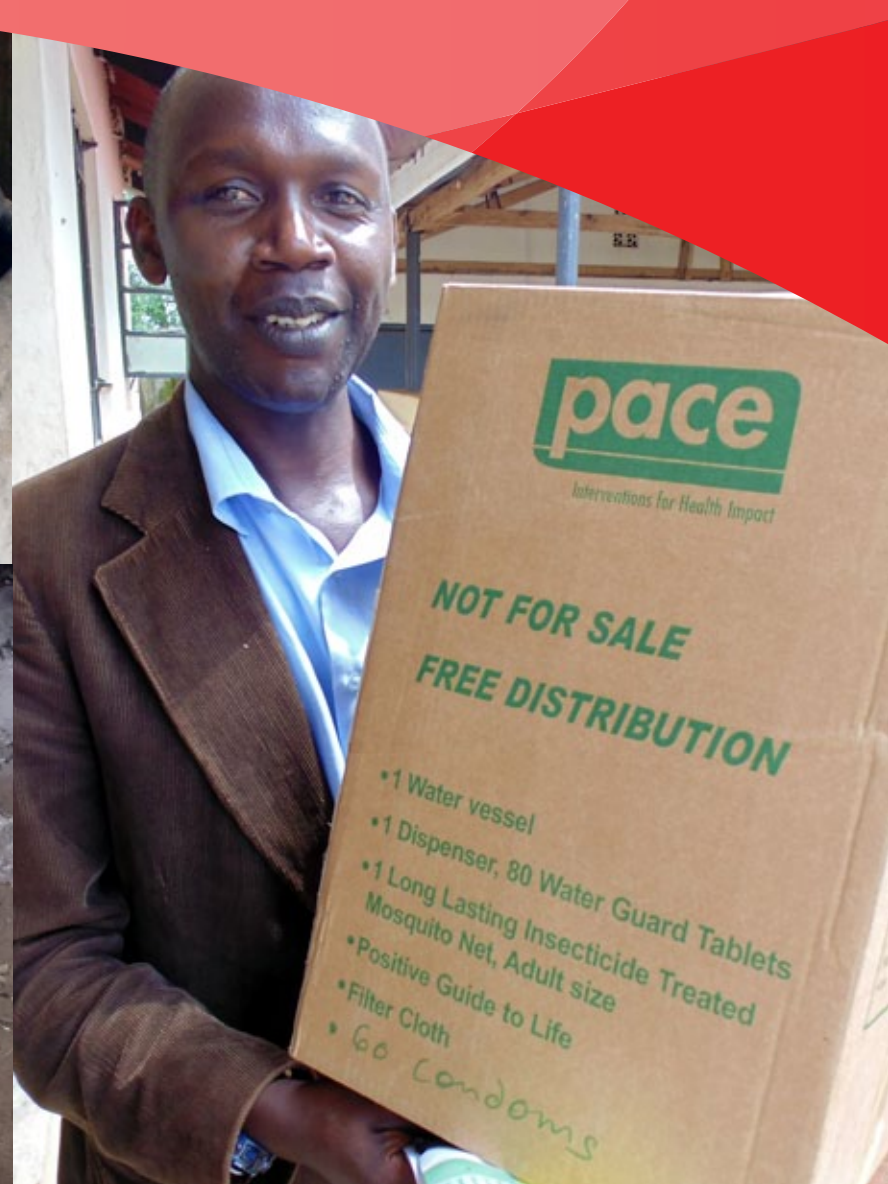
A Willingness to Invest

Stories of families taking out a loan to build a rainwater tank at home highlight the willingness of the community to invest financially and collectively.

UMUHIMU

- (necessity)

It is easy to lose sight of the value of necessities when they are consistently available, and it is only when we are able to imagine a life without them that we become conscious of their vitality and temporality.





JAMII

- (Community)

A source of inspiration

The individuals we encountered in communities and the people in the field that were working to address their community's water, sanitation, and hygiene concerns were not only sources of learning but also sources of inspiration.

KUJIFUNZA

- (Learning)

From Classroom to Community

Much of what we learned during our visit was exemplary of what we had discussed in the classroom.



TIMU

- (Team)



Together we built on each other's observations, we recognized our own limits and learned to rely on one another.



UFUMBUZI

- (Solutions)

Overwhelming challenges can be transformed into obtainable goals. Of all the learning experiences we were exposed to during our time in Uganda, the interaction with individuals in communities and those working to alleviate their daily difficulties held the greatest value, both academically and personally.





PAMOJA

- (Together)

Enduring Friendships

Our time together not only provided us with a one-of-a-kind learning experience, but also with life-long memories that laid the foundation for enduring friendships.

UWEZESHAJI

- (Empowerment)

Equitable Access

Understanding the complexities and nuances of ensuring equitable access to water for environmental and health-based concerns is a goal that needs to be recognized in a greater effort to empower communities to develop sustainably.





UELEWA

- (Understanding)

Igniting Solidarity

A significant problem that has been notably cropping up throughout our research this year has been the fragmentation of development sectors and the difficulties that this can cause in harmonizing ideas and projects. Throughout the year, and during this trip, students in the Water Without Borders program have worked together despite disciplinary differences. This experience in working across backgrounds and ideologies has been challenging to manage at times but has allowed us to better understand barriers to project implementation and why it is both essential and valuable to break them down. It is rewarding to consider how friendships and partnerships can be forged across difference and how experiences can ignite solidarity.



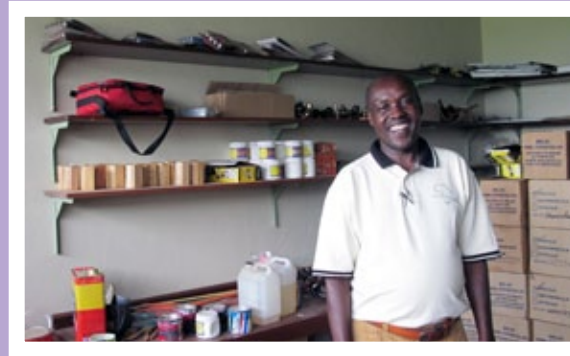
NAFASI

- (Opportunity)

Water Without Borders

The community of learning established each year through the Water Without Borders programme is not only transdisciplinary, but it is experiential and opportunistic, with new knowledge and ways of knowing presented at every turn.









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175 Longwood Road South, Suite 204
Hamilton, ON Canada. L8P 0A1
1-905-667-5511 | inweh.unu.edu
Contact: Corinne.SchusterWallace@unu.edu