

## at a glance: uganda

- Nickname:** Pearl of Africa
- Population:** 29 million, 87 percent rural
- Area:** 241,000 sq km (about the size of Oregon)
- Ethnic Groups:** More than fifty. The Baganda, formerly the strongest in the region, make up 17 percent of the population.
- Languages:** English (official), Luganda, Swahili, Luo, and other Bantu and Nilotic languages
- Religion:** 42 percent Roman Catholic, 42 percent Protestant, 12 percent Muslim
- Exports:** Coffee, fish, tea, cotton, flowers, and gold
- GNI\* per capita:** 280 dollars. In northern Uganda, where Lifewater and its partners work, 70 percent of the population lives on less than one dollar per day.
- Life Expectancy:** 49 years
- Safe Water:** 60 percent of the total population, 56 percent of the rural population
- Sanitation:** 43 percent of the total population, 41 percent of the rural population
- History:** People arrived in the region over 2,000 years ago, and numerous tribes made the land their home. Europeans and Arabs arrived in the mid 1800s, bringing with them Christianity and Islam. By 1900 the British ruled most of present-day Uganda and remained in power until Ugandan independence in 1962. A series of oppressive dictatorships, including that of Idi Amin in the 1970s (recently depicted in the film *The Last King of Scotland*), resulted in the deaths of over half a million Ugandans. The current president, Yoweri Museveni, took power through a military coup in 1986.
- Challenges:** Violent conflict in the north; strained resources due to large numbers of refugees from Sudan, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, and Rwanda; lack of safe water, adequate sanitation, and effective hygiene practices.
- Lifewater:** In 2007 Lifewater and its Ugandan partners have drilled nine wells, repaired ten broken hand pumps, constructed thirty-one biosand filters, and conducted seventeen village level hygiene trainings, serving over 40,000 people with safe water and education. Lifewater has sent five teams to equip and train Lifewater's Ugandan partners to date this year. In November, another Lifewater team is training partners in latrine promotion and construction. Lifewater partners in Uganda make long-term commitments to local villages with the goal of lasting change.

Sources: UNICEF, CIA World Factbook, World Bank, Lifewater Projects Department

\* Gross National Income (GNI) comprises the total value of goods and services produced within a country together with its income received from other countries (notably interest and dividends), less similar payments made to other countries (from [investordictionary.com](http://investordictionary.com).)



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Lifewater does not share its mailing lists with anyone.

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### that ugandans may dare to hope

Lifewater and its partners help restore communities in northern Uganda

Photo: Cindy, a girl in Akwia-Woro Village, Uganda, shows off a new communal latrine constructed with the help of Lifewater partner organization, Divine Waters Uganda.

Photo by Sam Moore, Lifewater International

by Sada Andrews, Community Relations Manager

The people of Northern Uganda long for a safe home. The region has been devastated by a war between government forces and the rebel force, Lord's Resistance Army (LRA). For two decades violent groups have committed atrocities, killing, maiming, and abducting thousands of men, women, and children. As many as 1.7 million people have been forced into Internally Displaced Persons (IDP) camps. Rape, violence, and disease are rampant in the camps, yet many fear leaving them because what they experienced in their villages was worse.

During violent periods, staff members from Lifewater partner Divine Waters Uganda risked their lives to work in villages and IDP camps. Drilling teams would leave the main town, Lira, in convoys after dawn. When working, they would pay government soldiers to guard them from attack. The soldiers would perch themselves in nearby trees to look out for approaching rebel soldiers. The teams had to leave drill sites by mid-afternoon to make it back to town before dark, taking all the drilling equipment

back with them each night so it would not be stolen. Gabriel, a Divine Waters driller, says, "It was a time of great prayer for our team."

Since mid-2006, peace talks have resulted in a tentative calm. IDP camps are closing and people are beginning to return home. Most face damaged or destroyed homes, crops, and businesses. The transition has been even more challenging since last September, when severe flooding across Central Africa destroyed latrines, contaminated water sources, and increased waterborne disease.

Lifewater's Ugandan partners are working to bring health and hope to communities that have endured severe hardship. Deleo Moses Ocen, director of Divine Waters, sums up his organization's mission: "[We work to] bring hope to people who see no point in gaining health or wealth or a home if it will just be taken away again in an instant."



### Safe Water Brings Joy in the Midst of Pain

A testimony by Mary, an AIDS widow in Kisumu, Kenya

I am Mary, aged 36 years. I was married in the year 1994, and God blessed me with four children, two boys and two girls. In the year 2002 my husband became sick. He started having frequent diarrhea, which only subsided while admitted in hospital. I used to take a whole day looking for water for cleaning my husband, and this left me with no water for other domestic chores. With the continued diarrhea—and there was no proper hygiene due to lack of clean, safe water and poor sanitation, so my husband was re-infected with typhoid germs and cholera. Because of low immunity caused by HIV/AIDS he was unable to improve. He passed away in the year 2005.

Being an HIV positive widow, I sought help from a health facility, and they gave me drugs to boost my immunity. I gained strength and joined a women's group. The group applied for a borehole drilling [a water well] with GWAKO Ministries [a Lifewater partner organization], and they followed up until the group was blessed to have a community borehole. The borehole has changed my life and I am no longer the same. With the group, I have been trained by GWAKO Ministries in health, hygiene, and sanitation is-

sues. I have started my own kitchen garden and have planted tomatoes, vegetables, and onions, which I sell and get money for domestic use and school fees.

My last-born boy is also HIV positive, and I am able to keep him clean and neat because there is plenty of water which I use for washing his soiled linen and boil some for drinking. I have enough time to take care of my sick child because I get water a distance of less than one hundred meters—not like before when my husband was sick and I had to walk for not less than five kilometers in search of water. Due to health and hygiene training, I am able to prevent other diseases by simply hand washing with soap.

Apart from missing my late husband, I now live a happy life with my four children who are all in primary school. I am happy that they will be able to read and write because of the water project sponsored by GWAKO Ministries in collaboration with her partners. I wish GWAKO and her donors long life and may God bless them as they organize for more trainings for schools and communities to change human lives.



Women's lives are difficult without safe water, even when they are healthy. This photo, of a woman and child in rural Uganda, was taken before the village's hand-pump was rehabilitated. The community had returned to this contaminated water hole after the hand pump had broken. Photo by Sam Moore, Lifewater International

### testimonies from the field

### from the director's desk



Six months ago the young men of Akwia-Woro, Uganda, would have little to do with the excitement of improving village health through water development, sanitation, and hygiene education. They stood at the outskirts of community meetings and rarely interacted with me or my host, Deleo, director of Lifewater partner organization Divine Waters.

Returning to the village six months later, I was delighted to see that Akwia-Woro's young men had become key participants in Divine Waters' activities there. I asked Deleo what inspired them to get involved. "Soccer," he said.

Concerned that young men were not making an effort to be a part of things, Deleo introduced a year-long soccer tournament that involved making a commitment to improving village health. Word of the tournament spread like wildfire, and eighteen villages now have participating teams.

To participate in the tournament, a team must assess the needs of its village. The team then receives a soccer ball and can begin playing in the tournament. During half-time at games, each team shares about health improvements taking place in their village, and Deleo

and his team share the gospel. Points are assigned to the winning team and to teams whose villages have made improvements in water, sanitation, and hygiene practices.

At the end of the year, Divine Waters will hold a final match and celebration with food, dancing, and creative hygiene education. The winning team will receive a trophy and soccer shoes for each player, and all participants will get t-shirts.

Someone once told me, "Don't ask what the community needs; ask what will bring it fully alive." Through soccer and other creative methods, Akwia-Woro is becoming fully alive. Witnessing God at work in all this is phenomenal. Villagers in Akwia-Woro and surrounding communities are realizing they have the ability, power, and energy to solve their own problems.

This Christmas season, may you do those things that empower you to become fully alive!

In His Love,

Dan Stevens  
Executive Director



“When the poor and needy seek *water*, and there is none, And their tongue is parched with thirst, *I the Lord, will answer* them; I the God of Israel will not forsake them. I will open rivers on the bare heights, and fountains in the midst of the valleys; I will make the wilderness a pool of water, and the dry land *springs* of water.”  
 ~ Isaiah 41: 17-18

Photo: Children in Lira, Uganda, try out their new village water source. Photo by Sam Moore, Lifewater International



gift of  
**Water**  
 gift of life

**Give something better this Christmas.**

Instead of material gifts, choose gifts from Lifewater’s online Christmas catalog to honor your friends, family, and business associates. Present your honorees with our attractive holiday gift cards that explain Lifewater’s mission and how the gift you made in their honor will make a difference to families in need.



Photo: A women’s group gathers in the Massinga District of Mozambique. Lifewater’s initiative with its Mozambican partner, Agua Para Todos, will tap into already established groups such as this one. Read below for more information on this project. Photo by Fred Proby, Lifewater International

**lifewater volunteer corner**



Photo: Field trainers and staff experience the joy of clean water after fixing a Mark II bush pump at the inaugural pump repair training workshop held at the new Lifewater Training Center in San Luis Obispo. Photo by Sam Moore, Lifewater International

**God is Working with Lifewater Field Trainers!**  
 by Lisa Zisa, Lifewater Field Trainer Manager

As Lifewater’s new field trainer manager, I am grateful for the sacrifices that our field trainers have made this year to help Lifewater accomplish the work to which God has called us. This year so far, a total of 45 field trainers gave of their time, talent, and resources to equip partners in seven countries in the lifesaving work of water development, sanitation, and hygiene education. I look forward to continuing to see God work through our field trainers in 2008. **Please join me in praying that God will raise up many new field trainers, as there is much work to be accomplished.** A blessed Christmas and joyous New Year!

**WASH works**

News on Lifewater’s work in Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene (WASH)

**Hands-On Training Made Possible**  
 by Fred Proby, Water Specialist

Lifewater International now has a fully functional training center located only two miles from our San Luis Obispo office. The Lifewater Training Center has outdoor and indoor classrooms, five working hand pumps, space for drilling wells, and areas for constructing biosand filters and latrines.

Lifewater’s pump repair training facility has five wells, each with a different kind of hand pump. The wells range in depth from 33 feet to 150 feet and have closed casings so we can control the water levels in all but the 150-foot working well. The pumps can be easily removed and replaced with different models so students can work on more than five types of pumps without drilling additional wells.

The overall objective of Lifewater’s pump repair training is to prepare Lifewater volunteers to train partners overseas. During the training, Lifewater conducts participatory lessons in subjects such as the principles of pump repair, basic hydrogeology, proper well construction, safety, and the roles and attitudes that an effective pump repair technician should have. Lifewater trainers then introduce different kinds of faults in the pumps for the students to diagnose and repair.

Lifewater’s first pump repair training at the new Training Center took place in September 2007. Ten students worked in teams of three, each with a lead trainer who had previous overseas pump repair training experience. Two of the teams were preparing for training trips to work with new Lifewater partners in Ethiopia and Mozambique. Christi Williams, one of the students, summed up the blessing of the new facilities: “There’s nothing like getting your hands dirty and your feet wet. At the new Training Center you learn by doing, and the satisfaction of water pouring out of the spout is worth all the hard work.”



Above: Participants in the inaugural pump repair training workshop held at the new Lifewater Training Center in San Luis Obispo discuss issues related to pump repair in the field. Photo by Sada Andrews, Lifewater International

Below: Students at the Training Center repair the Mark II bush pump. Photo by Fred Proby, Lifewater International

\$25



**Help Construct a Latrine to Provide Security and Dignity.**

A gift of \$25 provides the materials needed to construct one latrine, providing a family with improved health, security and dignity.

\$50



**Buy a Biosand Filter to Provide Safe Drinking Water.**

The gift of a biosand filter for \$50 brings a family of ten or more the blessing of safe, accessible drinking water.

\$75



**Purchase the Gift of Handwashing Training for a School.**

This gift of \$75 provides handwashing training for 750 primary students, decreasing diarrhea by an estimated 42 percent.

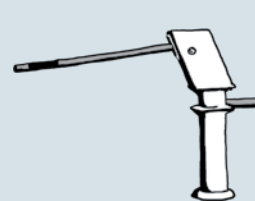
\$100



**Fund a Hygiene Training Session for Health Workers.**

A gift of \$100 will fund one hygiene education session for fifteen health workers, who will then go on to share their knowledge with thousands.

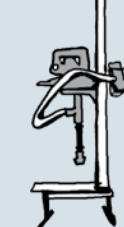
\$200



**Provide a Hand Pump to Offer Fresh Water Every Day.**

Your gift of \$200 will purchase a village hand pump and provide 600 gallons of fresh water to a community every day.

\$500



**Equip a Drill Training Team to Make a Lasting Difference.**

Your gift of \$500 will equip drillers with the knowledge and hands-on experience they need to make a long-term difference in their countries.

**To buy your gifts, donate, or get involved in other ways, visit [www.lifewater.org](http://www.lifewater.org) or call 888-543-3426.**

**growing giving**

**Urgent Funding Need: Water and Hygiene Education in Mozambique**  
 by Erin Roberts, Director of Communications & Development

“With Lifewater International, I believe our dreams will one day become a reality! And the problems we are facing now will be known as a past history.” - James Humbane, founder of Lifewater partner organization, Agua Para Todos, Mozambique

Mozambique has among the world’s lowest coverage for basic water and sanitation. **In rural areas, just 24 percent of people have access to safe water and only 14 percent have adequate sanitation.** Nearly 70 percent of the population lives below the poverty line. Problems in Mozambique have been intensified by civil war, the HIV/AIDS pandemic, and natural disasters. Yet, perhaps because its main language is Portuguese, Mozambique receives less coverage in the international press and is often overlooked by English-speaking aid organizations.

**After seeing the great need in Mozambique and establishing a partnership with Agua Para Todos, a highly qualified Christian Mozambican water development organization, Lifewater launched the “Water and Hygiene Interventions in Mozambique” initiative in July 2007.** Over the next eighteen months Lifewater and Agua Para Todos will drill and repair wells as well as provide hygiene education to an estimated 34,000 people in sixty-eight communities. Lifewater will also work to build its partner’s capacity in planning, implementing, and evaluating field work. The goal is long-term, sustainable development through skilled and compassionate work in the name of Christ.

**To date 45 percent of the budget for Lifewater’s new work in Mozambique has been raised through cash and gift-in-kind donations from volunteers, individual donors, churches, and foundations.** Join Lifewater in supporting the people of Mozambique through this much-needed project. Please contact Erin Roberts ([eroberts@lifewater.org](mailto:eroberts@lifewater.org) or 888-543-3426) for more information.