

Inspiring Communities to Take Initiative Through School WASH PPP Models



Photo: A Private–Public Partnership constructed this school latrine at Kurukerege Primary School located in Musoma District, Mara Region. Photo by Yvonne Mwakisyala.

Over the past decade, Public–Private Partnerships (PPPs) have gained widespread acceptance as one of the strategies to achieve global development outcomes across different sectors, including Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene (WASH). There is broad recognition that the contribution of the private WASH sector can be expanded to improve systems and desired outcomes in the developing world.

In collaboration with the local authorities in Tanzania, under the McGovern Dole USDA-funded Food for Education Program (FFE III), Project Concern International, a Global Communities Partner (PCI) has improved 52 latrines and has constructed 45 rainwater harvesting tanks and three borehole systems in the Mara Region since 2017. FFE III is an integrated school feeding program that works with 231 primary schools to improve literacy outcomes, enhance overall educational performance and improve student’s health and nutrition practices. Despite these efforts to build improved latrines and water systems, these initiatives often lack important steps that lead to project sustainability and community ownership, creating a gap in sustainability outcomes.

“The biggest challenge my council faced was First and Second Grade students not being able to read and write, as well as the lack of improved latrines and access to clean and safe water in schools. To address these challenges, my office, in collaboration with PCI’s FFE program, built improved latrines and water tanks to harvest clean water, support schools with reading books, build capacity of the agricultural extension officers, and equip teachers to become proficient in teaching. Thank you, PCI Tanzania, and we call upon you to possibly extend the program beyond the Mara Region.”

—Vincent Anei, Musoma District Commissioner

BY THE NUMBERS

**52**

improved latrines

**45**

Rainwater harvesting tanks

**3**

Boreholes

**887**

Students benefitting from improved access to sanitation

Success Story // Tanzania

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Under FFE, qualified contractors were engaged to construct WASH facilities under the supervision of PCI and district engineers. This mode of implementation resulted in timely project completion, but due to the lack of community ownership and the assumption that PCI oversaw all financial implications, there was poor maintenance of newly constructed WASH facilities. This is what led the Musoma District Commissioner to come up with a Community Engagement Model PPP to construct latrines that enhance project sustainability.

Inspired by the milestones achieved by the FFE program across the area, the Musoma District Commissioner, as one of the program beneficiaries, led the District Government and the community to start constructing improved latrines in two schools with little support from PCI. With this partnership, four block latrines were constructed in two primary schools that consisted of two restroom blocks disaggregated for boys and girls. Each restroom block includes five drop holes, with one designated for students with special needs, a menstrual hygiene room for girls, a urinal room for boys, as well as an access ramp. The community contributed 13%, Musoma District contributed 3% and PCI contributed 84% of the total construction cost.

With this construction, at least 887 students now benefit from this improved access to sanitation. The structural designs have Gender Equity and Social Inclusion (GESI) at the forefront of their planning, ensuring the project meets the needs of people with special needs. With the toilet facility in place, the school community reduced sanitation-related diseases and improved student health and wellbeing. These facilities have had a positive impact on education, including reducing girls' absenteeism due to their menstrual cycles.

As well as increasing program community ownership and sustainability, the PPP model used for this project proved to be cost effective as it reduced overall program costs by 15%. This reduced cost is a result of the community contribution of sand and building blocks, as well as the labor needed to deliver the construction materials to the site. Community members also contributed labor for the extraction of the pit latrines and to keep the building materials secure.



Photo: Female students using the new PPP latrines at Chanyahuru Primary School in Musoma District.

"Before having these new latrines, we were using the nearby school latrine which was too crowded. Otherwise, we opted to help ourselves in the bushes surrounding the school. It was even worse for the female students, especially during our menstrual cycles, and we felt the only option during those days was to skip classes or rush home from school. The situation has improved after the construction of these new latrines: the rooms are much bigger, there is a changing room for girls, as well as installed water storage tanks".

-A student at Kurukerege Primary School

Another advantage to the PCI and Musoma Council PPP model is the importance it played in project sustainability and scalability. The cost-sharing gave the communities more project ownership, which allowed them take charge. This model bolstered PCI and the Musoma Council to successfully design, build, and maintain the two primary school latrines in the district, exceeding the donor target of 50 latrines by two latrines.

This PPP between Musoma District Commissioner's Office and PCI has demonstrated the potential to help many communities across the FFE III program in the Mara Region. By optimizing communities' limited resources with agreements with private parties, communities can become empowered to help build and maintain their public infrastructure. Further, this PPP model has enhanced accountability and ownership of the local government and communities, and also promotes sustainability. This is visibility demonstrated at the communities around the involved schools as they are more engaged in managing the infrastructure of the latrines due to their newfound program ownership.