

VCA UGANDA *Newsletter*



Viva con Agua Uganda is excited to share with you the latest updates from Viva con Agua (VcA), an organisation that promotes access to clean drinking water, sanitation, and hygiene. We believe that water is life, and our vision of "Water for all – All for water" drives us to work towards this goal.

Since 2015, we have supported WASH projects in the Karamoja Region, West Nile and Central Regions of Uganda. Our long-standing partnerships with various stakeholders have provided us with valuable experience and learnings that are now being used in our integrated WASH programs.

Cheers!

David Bakka
Communications Officer



Networking @ VCA

Networking at Viva con Agua (VcA) feels like surrounding yourself with the unlimited opportunity of meeting new people every day with similar interests, and banking on people's potential to achieve our mission as a network.

VcA is a network of individuals and organizations working together for the common goal of supporting access to clean water and basic sanitation for all humans.

One morning during a coffee break at work, I approached a colleague and asked what they understand by the term Networking, and he went "it's quite practical, I can't explain it but I can actually practice it. I can go to a bar and quickly connect with someone over drinks or go watch a football match and connect with people instantly. He continues to say that he wishes business networks were as sufficient and serious enough just the way sexual networks are". This left so many questions for us to reflect on.

The network is called "Agua Hub" and we realize that in the Agua Hub, members from different backgrounds within the WASH sector interact daily,

share ideas with peers in the network, learn from each other's experiences, explore opportunities, share information, have fun together, discuss challenges, and find solutions together as a network.

When we talk of individuals and institutions in the "Agua Hub", we are not limited to working with organizations, but rather open to individual people like volunteers, artists, musicians, activists, groups, institutions as well as organizations. We believe that we can all maximize our potential and contribute to the "Drop"

As a network, we have laid the ground at which different groups come together to reflect on the current work using the ULA approach, discussing a lifeline of support VcA can provide to the groups, explore opportunities and see how this translates to fostering growth in the network.

The network is open to all individuals and organizations involved in water, sanitation, and Hygiene (WASH): for example, the developed and developing country government institutions, agencies of the UN, bi- and multi-lateral development banks, professional associations, entrepreneurs, the Academia, research institutions, and the private sector.



Eunice Katushabe
Network and Community
Development Manager



From Passion to Purpose: How Football4WASH is Creating Impact in Kampala Slums and Beyond

Loving sports and football in particular, I always tried to find a way to create purpose out of my passion, and that's how Football4WASH was born. From a response to a cholera outbreak in Kisenyi, a Kampala slum, to an approach that has traversed countries with joyful play-based learning on WASH, Football 4 WASH defines my entry into Viva con Agua.

I see myself as a dynamic and highly motivated leader with a progressive attitude. I have enjoyed experiences in WASH and behavioural change, education, sport for development as well organisational leadership.

Every day, I am motivated by the joy in every kid's face when they see water flowing, and when they wash their hands with soap. The smile on kids' faces as they learn through fun-filled initiatives gives me inexplicable enjoyment.

I believe in the potential everyone has to change their own fortunes. This is why I love seeing artists, musicians, dancers and athletes contributing their

crafts to the work of Viva con Agua.

Over the last few years, I have enjoyed not only co-founding, but also building up Viva con Agua in Uganda from scratch. Together with an amazing team of Ugandans, we have learnt and continue to improve processes and systems that have created organisational structure and developed a strong WASH programming for Viva con Agua in Uganda with investments of more than €4.5m between 2017 and 2023.

“We have developed a Universal Languages Approach (ULA) programme in Uganda; and also shared lessons and supported the development of the same in South Africa, India and Ethiopia. Going forward, I see Viva con Agua strategically positioning itself using creative means of sports, arts, music and bringing together a network of creatives and activists to advance the WASH agenda in Uganda”.

Mugoya Francis,
Executive Director, Team Lead.
Viva con Agua Uganda



ULA (Universal Languages Approach): Bringing Joyful Learning on WASH

Joining Viva Con Agua in May 2022 was an exciting opportunity, especially with the organization's fun ways of implementation. As a member of the Universal Languages Approach (ULA) department, I was thrilled to teach the different languages of sports, art, and music to young people. Going to schools and communities and witnessing the happy faces of children learning about water, sanitation, and hygiene through their creativity was more than satisfying. The Football for WASH approach was particularly fun, combining the transformative potential of football with WASH messaging to enhance behavioral change around Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene (WASH) practices in schools and communities.

The Universal Languages Approach (ULA) of sports, music, and arts promotes awareness of WASH in Uganda. Football 4 WASH uses football-based training to teach effective hygiene practices in a

playful way, while Rosie's World MHM education guide by WASH United addresses menstrual hygiene management (MHM) for girls. Viva Con Agua appeals to other WASH organizations to adopt the ULA form of behavioral change promotion to implement their projects and is willing to train and support them in this cause. With the universal languages, VCA has been able to reach thousands of men, women, and children in both schools and communities through its various WASH programs implemented with partners like GIZ, WHH, Malteser International, BMZ, among others. Through its programs, VCA brings access to WASH services to beneficiaries through WASH facilities such as toilets, water facilities, handwashing tanks, water filters, and MHM kits in selected schools and communities through their active participation.

Birungi Daphine,
ULA officer
Viva con Agua Uganda



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