Kiryajjobyo primary school was founded over 15 years ago through the effort of the community and government aid. The government currently supports the school with paying teachers’ salaries, scholastic materials and together with the community constructed 3 blocks of 7 classrooms and one office. The school has a population of 342 with 184 girls and 158 boys; these are taught by a total of 9 teachers with 4 women and 5 men. The school teaches subjects including Mathematics, science/Agriculture, Social Studies and Religious studies, English, Music, Dance and Drama, Physical education, Art and Craft.
Sanitation challenge before the project

The long serving government aided school’s toilet facility in the past one and a half years developed a sink in soil at the back of the facility. Because of this pupils were told not to use it again. The pupils depended on a 4 stance latrine facility for the teachers which filled up soon since its usage exceeded its intended capacity. It also exposed the pupils and especially girls to hygiene and sanitation related diseases since it was built for a smaller number of people. In many ways hygiene and sanitation was compromised.

The intervention

The school was supported with improved pit latrines of 8 stances - four for girls and four for boys. The school pupils were also trained in better hygiene and sanitation practices and a school health club was established. Pictorial messages of proper hygiene and sanitation practices were drawn on the wall curtains of the latrines to continually remind the pupils and all the users of the facilities to practice them. The school management, pupils and parents were actively involved in the construction process which helped in enhancing ownership of the project.

The pupils especially the boys took the process. In addition to the water pupils collected for the construction, some of the boys stayed behind after school hours to participate in the construction. With the permission of their parents and the school authorities, the boys used to stay for about an hour and then head back home.

Nankya Annette is 15 year old pupil in Primary six. “We both boys and girls used the same latrine facilities of only 4 stances. This was morally perturbing as boys could easily peep at us the girls. The latrines were also highly congested and at times especially break and lunch times when we were out of class, we had to line up to use them. I am so happy that we now have more latrine stances to ensure privacy between us and the boys. I am also glad that we have these pictorial hygiene messages on our latrine to always remind to have good hygiene practices”, said Annette.
Community voices

Mr Emmanuel Orom is the local council three chairperson of Gayaza Sub County. “We greatly appreciate our development partner, ARUWE for supporting our school Kiryajjobbyo primary school not only with an 8-stance well ventilated improved pit latrine and training our children in proper hygiene and sanitation practices but also contributing towards increasing latrine coverage in our sub county and hence improving the general health of the community. As a leader, I was aware of the poor sanitation situation in Kiryajjobbyo primary school but due to the limited funds, we had been unable to attend to it. Hadn’t it been for the support from Action Water and ARUWE, our children would still be faced be with the poor sanitation situation. To make matters worse, most of the pupils don’t come to school with shoes since their parents cannot afford to buy them. They therefore had to step in the latrines with bare feet which exposed them to poor hygiene related illnesses. With this facility and the trainings our pupils have received, we believe that behavioral change towards fostering proper hygiene and sanitation for better school environment and health among our pupils will be registered. We also know that our schools will be able to accommodate more pupils with the improved latrine facilities and this will give our children in the community an opportunity to go to school. Thank you ARUWE and Action Water for bringing a positive change in our communities”, said Mr Orom.

Mr Edward Mwesigwa is the head master of Kiryajjobbyo primary school. “The condition of the latrine used by our pupils was appalling. We were constantly concerned about the safety of our pupils especially the one in pre primary as the facility was in its worst condition. As a government aided school, we have a very limited budget and we were constrained to construct any latrine. We could not even solicit funds from the parents of the pupils since they could not afford to do so. We appealed to community leaders but the situation remained the same. We are so grateful for the support given to our school. Privacy will be ensured for both the boys and girls since each have their own wing separated by a wall. We believe that better hygiene and sanitation behaviours will be registered among our pupils. Our school will be able to accommodate more pupils. We will keep our sanitation facilities clean to ensure a proper school environment for our pupils. We also need more educational programs still in Water, hygiene and sanitation, interactive debates in HIV/AIDS and reproductive health among pupils. We are grateful to our partner ARUWE and Action Water for supporting us to enhance a better learning environment for our pupils”, said the Mr Mwesigwa.