Butambuka primary school is found in Butambuka village in Gayaza Sub County. It was established in 1987 by the Anglican Church and the community. It became government aid in 2003. Like the Kirrjobbyo primary school, the government supports the school with paying teachers’ salaries, scholastic materials. The total number of pupils is 382 with 200 girls and 182 boys; there are 12 teachers with 7 women and 5 men. The school teaches subjects including English, Mathematics, science/ Agriculture, Social Studies/ Civics, Physical education and Religious studies.
Sanitation challenge

The school had a four stance latrine that had served for over 8 years and was full. In addition, the doors were broken which compromised privacy especially for the girls. The school matron informed us that when girls were in their initial days of menstruation, they did not attend school because they had no facilities for privacy to freshen up. This in turn affected their performance in class.

At times the pupils especially the boys used the surrounding bushes for urination which compromised the school hygiene.

Nanky Mary one the members of the school management team said that the issue of poor latrines had become an increasing concern both by the school and the parents of the pupils. A total of 382 pupils and 13 teaching and non teaching staff were all four-stance facilities. “You can image a teacher sharing a latrine facility which has no proper doors with pupils! This was worsened by the fact that it was already filled up which greatly compromised our hygiene and health. We as a school could also not afford to construct a latrine”, said Mary.

Pupils actively participating in the construction during their after class period; they are bringing bricks closer to the construction site. Engaging pupils in the project was one of the ways of fostering ownership.

The drainage system (soak pit) was made. The former latrine facilities did not have it.

Pictorial messages of proper hygiene and sanitation being drawn on the latrine wall curtain.
Human interest stories

Namusisi Rehemah is a 13 year old pupil of primary five at Butambuka Primary school and is one of the members of the school health club. “Our school had a very old latrine which had almost filled up and we were so many pupils. This compromised our hygiene and health standards because sometimes the younger pupils used to defecate on top of the pit. We have got a new latrine facility and we are going to stop using the old one. The new latrine facility offers us privacy especially the girls which makes us comfortable to use them. We have also been trained in proper hygiene practices which I am sure we will adopt because we will be always reminded by the picture messages on our latrine wall. The younger pupils will also be able to use the facilities well. In addition, we will keep our facilities clean by assigning each class a day for cleaning. Thank you ARUWE and Action Water UK for supporting us a new pit latrine and the beautiful hygiene messages on our latrine”, said Rehemah

Polly Aida Naluyange a parent at Butambuka primary school and woman councilor in the area had this to say. “The toilet facility was in a poor condition as an area councilor I had presented the issue in several Sub County council meetings but due to the limited funds, it was not attended to. With the new latrine facility, the school now offers a better study environment for our children. The girl children are especially assured of their privacy and clean place to refresh themselves during their menstrual periods. Much we still have challenges of lack of school quarters which delays our teachers reaching school in time for classes; we want to appreciate ARUWE and Action Water UK for hearing our cry and coming to our rescue by supporting us with latrine facilities and training our children in good hygiene practices. We ask God to bless you and look forward to more partnership”, said Aida

Nankya Mary one of the members of the management committee said, “The hygiene and sanitation situation in our school has greatly improved. The community especially the school parents are happy about the new development. In the coming year, we believe that more pupils will enroll in our school because our sanitation facilities will be able to support a bigger number compared to before. I must admit though that we still have challenges such as the water problem since the old school tank is no longer functioning and limited teaching aids and text books. However, we are very grateful for the support Action Water and ARUWE have given us of the improved pit latrines. Our pupils can now safely use the facilities”. 