

W4EE success stories: Youth activation

KEY SUCCESSSES

- + Establishment of a youth-run commerical car washing bay and enhancing the relationship between youth and municipality
- + Training and mentoring of youth groups in vegetable production and sales and other income-generating activities
- + Establishment of functional youth health clubs in 47 schools
- + Training of youth as community-led total sanitation (CLTS) facilitators
- + Setting up and training the Sanitation Marketing Group in Torit for youth to make and market sanitation products
- + Active involvement of youth in water management committees
- + Pastoralist youth are driving Kapoeta's livestock fattening initiative

Helping youth reach their potential and see a future in South Sudan

Although youth activation was not a core component of W4EE, when war broke out again in 2016, quick impact interventions were needed to improve food security and help people generate an income. Considering their share of the population, young people were an important target. W4EE used sports to reach and engage youths with little-to-no education who were considered role models among their peers. The aim was to support them in pursuing potential entrepreneurship opportunities and work with them to identify others who might have the interest and drive to obtain more skills through hands-on training.

One group of about 20 young people have turned to vegetable production to raise funds to support their local football club. Torit Town provided some land next to the Kenneti River and – following W4EE training and inputs such as seeds and a treadle pump – they began cultivating tomatoes and kale to sell in the market. Malakia Football Club chairman Gabriel Lubata explains, “We are trying to encourage the club to do something by themselves. Whenever they win a match and want to go to Juba, they need transport, accommodation, and supplies. That’s not free, and getting funds is difficult so we have to do it by ourselves.” Following mentoring from the project, the group also helps others along the waterfront with crop cultivation, advice, and irrigation.

17 years

Median age of the total population

75%

Share of South Sudan's population under the age of 30 years

“By working with young people and helping them to earn their own livelihood whether it be car washing or farming you are providing new services and jobs and keeping people out of trouble. A redundant mind is the devil's house!”

Dr Margaret Itto, Deputy Governor Torit State, farmer and businesswoman



Supporters of the Malakia Football Club who are growing vegetables to raise funds so their team can travel to Juba for tournaments. W4EE supported with seeds and a treadle pump to provide irrigation from the Kenneti River. Local business development consultants, Premium Agro Consult, mentored the group on crop management.



Kingdom of the Netherlands



NIRAS





"If you engage young people with sport and use the opportunity to raise awareness about protecting the environment, how clean drinking water has a cost ... if you catch them while they are doing what they love, you have a better chance of making them understand."

**Alier B. Ngong Oka, Undersecretary,
National Ministry of Water Resources & Irrigation**

Young people had been making money in Torit by washing cars in the Kenneti River, releasing pollutants like oil and detergent at the point where a majority of the town's residents draw water. A decision was taken to construct a car washing bay to prevent continued erosion of the riverbank and degradation of water quality while creating jobs for the youth. With support from W4EE, a commercial bay was built, which Torit Municipal Council and Torit State Youth League jointly manage.

Youth's role in promoting sanitation and hygiene

The youth play an important part in changing attitudes and cultural norms as they can influence their peers, families, and communities. Working with its implementation partners – Rural Water and Sanitation Support Agency (RUWASSA), Hope for Children and Women Foundation, and Moon Light Development Organisation – W4EE applied the children's hygiene sanitation training (CHST) approach, which teaches young children about personal hygiene and health through games and interactive activities.

As a means of creating awareness about menstrual hygiene, the project established youth health clubs in schools. These groups were supported with material and sewing machines and trained to make reusable sanitary pads. At Longiro Basic Primary in Lopit West County, the club – which was also trained in CHST methodology – produced reusable pads for every girl in the school and even sold some to the local community.

RUWASSA also formed and trained the SanMark youth group in Torit to meet a demand for sanitation platforms ('SanPlats' or concrete slabs to cover pit latrines) and 'Tippy Taps' (a simple device for hand washing with running water). Moulds for the SanPlats were sourced in Uganda and W4EE's Business Development Adviser Unzima Justine Scopass assisted with their business plan. The 32-member group produced 50 SanPlats, which were offered for sale at 2,000 SSP (\$8), but they could not compete with the SanPlats distributed for free by the donor community.



Galdo Okwachima Angelo is a young community-led total sanitation (CLTS) facilitator in Habironge Village. RUWASSA trained him to mobilise his community to dig pit latrines. On the day celebrating the village's achievement of becoming open-defecation-free, Galdo said, "The environment of the village is very clean today and this makes me very happy. I would encourage those in neighbouring villages who have not yet dug a pit latrine to do so because we know the benefits. It helps keep us from getting diseases and makes our community become healthy."