



Development and Relief Initiative (DRI) Uganda

Annual Report 2025

Theme: Partnering to Improve School WASH Facilities

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Message from the Executive Director

The year 2025 marked a remarkable milestone for Development and Relief Initiative (DRI) Uganda. Guided by our commitment to promote dignity, education, and holistic well-being among children and young people, we partnered with **Islamic Relief Netherlands, the District Education Office of Wakiso, and Nansana Municipal Council** to strengthen access to **Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene (WASH)** facilities and menstrual health management in public primary schools.

Under the theme “*Partnering to Improve School WASH Facilities,*” DRI Uganda implemented a life-changing project — *Empowering Girls to Stay in School through Providing Menstrual Hygiene Support.*

This initiative reached **3,464 pupils** (1,746 girls and 1,718 boys) in five government-aided primary schools in Wakiso District. Through collaboration, innovation, and community participation, we improved sanitation facilities, installed underground wells and rainwater harvesting systems, refurbished safe spaces for girls, and equipped them with menstrual hygiene products and psychosocial support.

As we look ahead to 2026, DRI Uganda remains steadfast in creating more partnerships and coalitions to scale up WASH interventions, promote menstrual health, and empower communities to create safe, inclusive learning environments for every child.



Denis Asiimwe Baka
Chief Executive Officer
Development and Relief Initiative (DRI) Uganda.

About DRI Uganda

Development and Relief Initiative (DRI) Uganda is a local non-governmental organization dedicated to improving the lives of marginalized communities through sustainable development and humanitarian action.

Vision:

A transformed society where every person lives with dignity, opportunity, and hope.

Mission:

To empower communities through development and relief programs that enhance livelihoods, education, and health.

Core Values:

- Integrity and accountability
- Partnership and collaboration
- Gender equity and inclusion
- Innovation and excellence
- Service with compassion

2025 briefly

Focus Area	Key Achievements
School WASH Improvement	3 underground wells constructed; 4 rainwater harvesting systems installed; 5 handwashing facilities built; 4 bathrooms constructed; 5 safe rooms refurbished and stocked with sanitary materials.
Menstrual Hygiene Management (MHM)	1,500 adolescent girls received reusable pads and menstrual beads; 31 mentors (10 teachers and 21 pupils) trained; 2,069 girls received psychosocial support.
Health & Hygiene Education	10 school health talks conducted across 5 schools, reaching over 1,100 pupils directly.
Community & Stakeholder Engagement	Partnerships strengthened with Wakiso DEO, Nansana Municipal Council, and local religious and community leaders.
Media & Advocacy	The project featured on Bukedde TV and <i>New Vision</i> (August 20, 2025, Page 24), amplifying awareness about menstrual hygiene and WASH.

Project Highlight: Empowering Girls to Stay in School

In partnership with **Islamic Relief Netherlands**, DRI Uganda implemented a comprehensive WASH and Menstrual Hygiene Management project from **January to August 2025** in five government-aided primary schools in **Wakiso Town Council, Mende Subcounty, and Nansana Division**.

Project Goal

To empower adolescent girls to stay in school by providing menstrual hygiene support and improving access to safe and sustainable WASH facilities.

Key Interventions

- Refurbishment of girls' sanitation facilities and construction of new bathrooms
- Installation of underground wells and rainwater harvesting systems
- Distribution of reusable menstrual pads and menstrual beads

- Training of **10 Senior Women Teachers (SWTs)** and **21 peer educators** in menstrual health management
- Health talks promoting hygiene, sanitation, and mutual gender support
- Psychosocial counseling for girls facing menstrual challenges
- Monitoring and evaluation systems established to track progress and outcomes

Reach and Impact

- **3,464 pupils reached directly** (1,746 girls, 1,718 boys)
- **11,261 community members reached indirectly**
- Improved school attendance and confidence among adolescent girls
- Reduced stigma around menstruation through inclusion of boys in health talks
- Strengthened community awareness on menstrual hygiene and gender sensitivity

Partnerships and Collaboration

DRI Uganda believes in the power of partnership to deliver sustainable change. In 2025, the organization worked closely with:

- **IRN** – Funding and technical partner
- **Wakiso District Education Office** – Oversight and coordination
- **Nansana Municipal Council** – Community mobilization and monitoring
- **School Management Committees and Senior Women Teachers** – Local ownership and implementation
- **Peer Educators and Pupils** – Champions of change within schools

Additional collaborations were established with **DREEMS-Uganda** and **Paradigm for Social Development (PSD)**, promoting coordination and synergy in school-based menstrual hygiene programs.

Challenges and Lessons Learned

Challenges

- High cost of underground water drilling due to low water tables in some areas.
- Limited funding restricted full-scale infrastructure development in all targeted schools.
- Overcrowded classrooms and poor school hygiene conditions.
- Language barriers during training and health talks.
- Limited access to scholastic materials for vulnerable pupils.

Lessons Learned

- School and community engagement is critical for sustainability.

- Inclusion of boys in menstrual hygiene education reduces stigma.
- Psycho-social support enhances confidence and participation among girls.
- There's need for increased investment in school WASH infrastructure by government and partners.
- Strengthening maintenance committees at school level ensures longevity of facilities.

Financial Summary 2025

DRI Uganda maintained strict financial accountability, guided by its internal financial management policies and donor compliance standards.

Impact in Numbers





Acknowledgements

DRI Uganda extends heartfelt gratitude to:

- **IRN** for funding and continuous partnership;
- **Wakiso District Education Office** and **Nansana Municipal Council** for their guidance;
- **School Management Committees, Senior Women Teachers, and Peer Educators** for dedication and collaboration;
- **Parents, pupils, and community leaders** for embracing and sustaining the program;
- And finally, **the DRI Uganda staff** for their unwavering commitment to service.

Together, we have restored dignity, improved education access, and built stronger foundations for girls' futures in Uganda.