

Adjumani gets lifeline as sh60b water project transforms lives

For years, residents of Adjumani district in West Nile endured chronic water shortages that forced women and children to walk long distances in search of water, especially during the dry season.

However, a major government-backed water infrastructure project is now changing lives across the district and nearby refugee settlements after the completion of the sh60b Adjumani Water Supply and Sanitation Project.

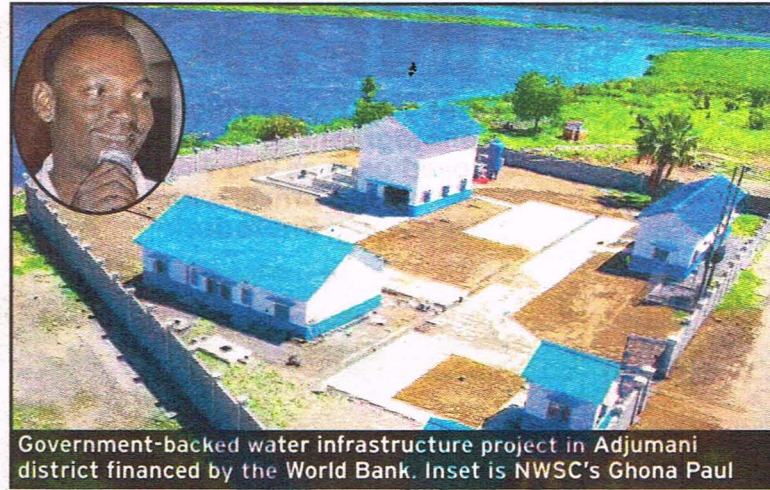
Implemented by China Communications Construction Company Limited (CCCC) under the supervision of the National Water and Sewerage Corporation (NWSC), the project was financed by the World Bank and officially handed over after completion in April this year.

EXTENDING CLEAN WATER SERVICES

The project now supplies clean and safe water to residents of Adjumani town, Pakele, Ciforo, Dzaipi and surrounding refugee-hosting communities.

Speaking during the handover, NWSC Adjumani district manager Ghona Paul described the project as a major milestone in the Government's efforts to extend clean water services to underserved areas.

"The Government remains committed to ensuring that all Ugandans, regardless of where they live, have access to clean and safe water," Ghona



said, adding that residents should responsibly use the water and protect the infrastructure.

The project draws water from the White Nile, through an advanced intake system constructed at Arra village. Raw water is then transported through a nine-kilometre ductile iron pipeline to a modern water treatment plant at Pachara village.

After purification, the water is stored in a 655 cubic metre Main Balance Reservoir before being distributed through pipeline networks to Adjumani town, Ciforo and Pakele-Dzaipi areas.

According to project engineers, one of the most unique aspects of the project was the use of Micro-Tunnelling Technology (MTT) to install pipelines beneath the White Nile without interfering with the environment.

CHINESE MODERN TECHNOLOGY

Adjumani district engineer Afayo Nick said the technology was being used in Uganda for the first time.

"We are proud that CCCC introduced a modern technology that enabled the extraction of water without damaging

the environment," Afayo said.

Beyond serving host communities, the project also targeted refugee settlements that have put pressure on existing water resources in the district.

CCCC constructed decentralised water supply systems in Pagirinya, Nyumanzi and Olua refugee settlements through the Logowanga, Melijo and Ajugopi networks.

The systems include boreholes, storage tanks, pipelines and dedicated public water points aimed at reducing congestion and the burden on women and children who previously waited for long hours at water collection centres.

"Accessing water has always been a painful challenge for us and this intervention by the Government and CCCC is a blessing to our people," Muroga Syliver, the local chairperson of Arro Central, said.

FAECAL SLUDGE TREATMENT

The project also introduced a faecal sludge treatment plant in Adjumani district to improve sanitation and public health management.

According to Chandiga Godfrey, a sociologist attached to CCCC, the facility will help residents and institutions avoid the high cost of transporting sludge to Kampala for treatment. "This is the first facility of its kind in the district. It will improve

sanitation and reduce the cost of waste management for households and institutions," Chandiga said.

INCOME OPPORTUNITIES

During the two-year construction period, the project also created employment opportunities for more than 260 local workers.

"I gained practical engineering knowledge from Chinese experts which improved my professional skills and the exposure I received will help me contribute to future infrastructure projects in Uganda," Kenneth Nuwamanya, a Ugandan engineer and surveyor who worked with CCCC, said. The project boosted local businesses around construction sites.

Asienzo Annet, a food vendor in Mijale village, said: "The workers used to buy food from us daily and business improved greatly, the project helped many families earn income."

Under its corporate social responsibility programme, CCCC also constructed seven public sanitation facilities in markets, trading centres and taxi parks across Adjumani district to improve hygiene and reduce open defecation. As clean water now flows through taps across Adjumani, local leaders believe the project will improve sanitation and economic productivity in the fast-growing district of Adjumani.