

WEYONJE campaign to improve sanitation in communities

By Juliet Walswa

The recent citywide sanitation mapping revealed there is still much to do to achieve citywide access to improved sanitation

The mapping reveals that only two out of 10 residents in the city access safely managed sanitation, while only three out of 10 households have emptied their toilets safely.

This means the bulk of our faecal waste does not leave our communities, resulting into public health and environmental problems.

It is against this background that KCCA is managing faecal waste in the communities, the project manager Kampala faecal sludge, Allan Nkurunziza says.

He says KCCA has made big steps towards citywide access to sanitation services.

Nkurunziza says the collection rate for solid waste is over 50% (from 7.5% in 2016) while faecal sludge collection has improved from 43% in 2016 to 50%.

These achievements are as a result

Tracking system

The citywide integrated approach is based on the principles of a universal (citywide), whole value chain. He says through this framework, KCCA in collaboration with development partners has invested in key sanitation improvement priority areas since 2012.

These include solid waste collection, transport, safe disposal and treatment.

Using the Geographical Information System (GIS) technology, KCCA tracks sanitation progress in the city, including toilet emptying, transporting and managing.

of the citywide integrated approach that KCCA adopted to improve sanitation in the city. It aims at preventing

environmental pollution, mitigating disease outbreaks and reducing child mortality.

Other achievements are an economically productive population, improving on cost of healthcare on preventable Water And Sanitation Hygiene diseases and increasing city attractiveness and ambience.

How it works

As a part of the Weyonje campaign, KCCA has partnered with Water for People.

Meanwhile, the World Food Programme (WFP) has identified model villages in Katwe (Kampala central), Mutungo (Nakawa), Kamwokya II (Kawempe), Busega (Rubaga) and Kanyanya (Kawempe), where solid waste is collected at a minimal fee.

The solid waste which was initially dumped in drainages and ended up in water bodies can now be collected, however narrow the path to the slums.

WFP sanitation engineer, Martin Nyanzi, says they use gulgpers to



A mobile solid waste collector stationed in Katwe, a Kampala city slum

draw the solid waste out of pit latrines. They then load it into a mobile transfer truck which is usually at the site.

Nyanzi says residents used to complain that heavy trucks could not reach their latrines but not anymore. If latrines are not emptied, they over flow, leading to diseases such as cholera.

Before the mobile transfer system was introduced the communities complained that the gulgpers were expensive and the people could not afford sh30,000 per drum of solid waste collected.

With the method of mobile transfer the residents pay sh20,000 per drum.

This is the gist of a new collaborative approach that

KCCA is implementing known as "Weyonje" to raise the involvement and participation of communities in determining, implementing and monitoring the status of their environmental health for citywide access to improved sanitation.

"The on-going cholera outbreak has reminded us that we individually have a responsibility for the good health of our homes and community, and that this responsibility or behaviour should start with the individual," Nkuruziza emphasises.

It is this message that will be coming to our homes, community halls, schools, places of work and public places rallying us to play our individual roles to improve sanitation for the benefit of our families, communities and the city.

