

... schools and especially among teachers.

Primary School, said poor challenges they face.

KITGUM

By Arnest Tumwesige

Kitgum Technical Institute (KITI) students working with the Rotary Club of Kitgum are to promote handwashing in the villages through construction of micro flush toilets.

Under the new hygienic toilet technology, toilets that can flush with just half a litre of water will be constructed as opposed to the traditional flush toilets that use about nine litres of water.

Geoffrey Wokorach, an instructor plumbing department, said inside the toilet is a tap. He said the tap is designed in such a way that when a person finishes using the toilet, they wash their hands and the water is enough to flush the faecal matter.

"After realising that people do not want to wash their hands after using the toilet, we now want to entice them using this technology. It uses little water which every home in the village can afford," Wokorach told *New Vision*.

Kitgum institute, Rotary Club promote handwashing

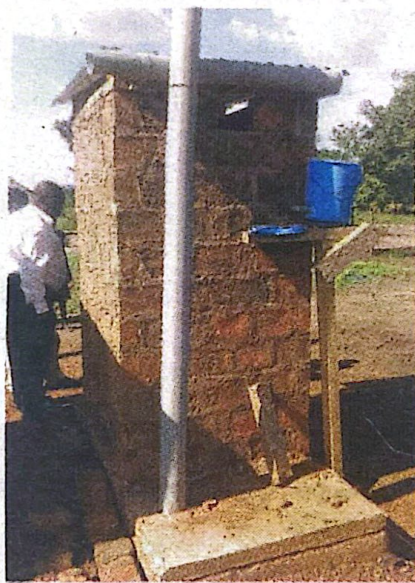
He also explained that the facility is designed in such a way that the faecal matter separates from any form of water, making it hard to smell and attract flies.

After seven days of use, Wokorach said earthworms can be introduced into the faecal matter to digest it thus turning it into garden manure.

Peter Ogenga Abwola, the president of the Rotary Club of Kitgum, said handwashing in Kitgum stands at only 56%. Most of the diseases related to poor hygiene and sanitation are transmitted due to lack of washing hands.

Abwola said this kind of technology is the first of its kind in Uganda and it has been tested in Ghana, Kenya and Tanzania.

Under the project, eight students from the plumbing course were trained in October by Kenyan experts on how to construct the toilets.



A toilet that is near completion.
Photo by Arnest Tumwesige

The flush toilet uses about half a litre of water. Over sh30m is to be spent on the project

Kitgum Rotary Club is set to spend more than sh30m on constructing 30 toilets as samples in Lagoro, Mucwini and Orom sub-counties. Construction of an individual toilet costs about sh1.2m.

"The students we have trained will construct these toilets in model homes where people congregate most, so that they can learn from there," Abwola added.

Johnson Mwijukye, the principal of the institution, commended Rotary for the partnership, saying the project will help in prevention of waterborne and sanitation-related illnesses.

Safinah Kisu Museene, the commissioner for Business, Technical, Vocational Education and Training (BTJET) at the Ministry of Education and Sports, said the ability demonstrated by the students of Kitgum Technical Institute is sufficient to earn them a living after completing their course.

Kisu added that plans are underway to establish a BTJET council that will aim at forming a regulatory framework and soliciting a skills development fund from various sources, including the private sector.

"The Skilling Uganda strategy is about creating employable skills and competencies relevant to the labour market for all Ugandans," she added.