



Figure 1: The unprotected water source at Okoldyang village before LTP intervention.

## “Community of Okoldyang Village, Aleka Sub County celebrates the gift of safe water”

### Introduction:

With the baseline study conducted by Link to progress (LTP) in August 2018, 19% of the families in Aleka sub county Oyam district confirmed to have had someone in their family suffering from diarrhea at that time, the most affected age group were those above 60yrs with children under 5 years scoring the lowest cases. 16% of those infected had died the previous month.

This was due to the fact that, most of the people used unprotected water sources that were also

being shared with animals. *“I and one of my children suffered severely from diarrhea that made us urinate blood, I spent to a tune of UGX 1,200, 000/= for treating the diarrhea which was later confirmed through laboratory tests to be Bilhazia and some other stomach complication said Mr. Oyugi Tom a resident at Okoldyang village in Aleka sub county.”*

In August 2018 Link to Progress (LTP) with support from the Medicor and FEMI foundations facilitated the construction of 10 boreholes and rehabilitation of 24 broken down boreholes in Aleka and Otwal sub counties with the aim of improving access to safe water and improving the sanitation and hygiene of the beneficiary communities through community led total sanitation approach (CLTS). This has helped to improve the sanitation and hygiene of the communities, says Mr Oyugi. Link to progress (LTP) provided the community of Okoldyang with one borehole and the water source committees were then trained on operation and maintenance and sanitation and hygiene, in addition to that, the community members were triggered on community led total sanitation (CLTS) and were also sensitized on hygiene and sanitation promotion both at the water source and at household level. The community embraced the initiative and they started adopting good hygiene and sanitation practices. From September 2018 to date, the Water sources committee and community members are being supported by Link to Progress (LTP) staff and the sub county extension staff who visit them monthly to check on how they are progressing.

As a result of the project, Mr. Oyugi and the entire community is now accessing clean and safe water which has greatly reduced the cases of diarrheal cases reported at Abela health centre, this is what he said *“As a family we are very happy now, there are no more diarrhea cases, washing clothes is countless and we drink safe water stored in the pots. We thank Link To Progress and the donor partners for the Borehole rehabilitation, training on borehole management and sanitation and hygiene improvement. The water is very clean, no longer changes color, our homes have sanitary facilities and we have stayed for long without going to hospital. Since August 2018, only one member of my family has visited the hospital and tested positive of malaria. My children now go to school because we have enough clean water”.*



Figure 2: The newly constructed borehole and other sanitation facilities as a result of the project at Okoldyang village.

As result of community led total sanitation approach (CLTS) that was used to improve on the hygiene and sanitation status in the village, community members of Okoldyang started digging latrines and construction other sanitation facilities like bath shelters, drying racks, rubbish pits and others and this has enabled the village to become 100% latrine coverage. Safe water chain management is also practiced in the community and the environment around the water sources is properly maintained.

Throughout the implementation of the project, Link to progress learnt that, the involvement and continuous monitoring of the community from the inception of the project increased the participation and ownership of the project by the beneficiary communities, this has made them responsible for their boreholes and this is key for operation and maintenance of their water source. The engagement of the sub-county extension, staff and community leaders has increased the level of follow up and monitoring. This has improved the operation and maintenance of boreholes in the area and the general household sanitation, hygiene and cleanliness of the water points.

With this, we recommend that, there should be regular follow up by the district and sub county authorities to these communities so that their level of sanitation and hygiene is increased. Other water and sanitation implementing partners, especially those doing sanitation marketing approaches would be very helpful in these communities as the community members are ready to improve on the sanitation facilities like having slabs and other improved latrines.

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