



HOME IMPROVEMENT CAMPAIGNS (HIC)

Busoga Trust uses 'Home Improvement Campaigns' which aim to educate people in hygiene and sanitation.

In a total population of almost 7500 people in almost 1200 homesteads there has been a remarkable **46%** reduction in **Malaria** cases, **80%** drop in occurrence of **Diarrhoea**, and a staggering **91%** fall in **Typhoid** infection.

The process starts by teaching people about how diseases spread, which can be challenging as there are often many cultural beliefs and taboos that must be tackled sensitively. Following this initial sensitisation, people are shown how to make certain improvements to their homes which will act to reduce the transmission of disease. This two stage approach means that people can understand why the changes are necessary instead of just making arbitrary changes against their will.

The crucial element of the HIC is that it is focused at a community level. An HIC is not considered to be complete until every homestead within a community has made the necessary improvements. Such an approach is vital in tackling disease reduction effectively. Flies and other disease vectors are no respecters of dwelling boundaries. If one homestead has made improvements yet their neighbour is still defecating in the bush they will all still suffer!

Some of the topics covered in the sensitisation process include:

- Refuse management
- Vector control
- Water source protection
- Importance of the safe water chain
- Benefits of an energy efficient raised fire place
- Immunisation
- Excreta disposal management
- Waste water management
- Air, light, ventilation

The methods used to reduce disease are straightforward

- Malaria – communities are taught to remove areas of stagnant water and bushes from around the homestead and to plant certain shrubs which contain a natural mosquito repellent
- Diarrhoea – communities are taught to construct hygienic pit latrines and hand washing facilities. This prevents the transmission of faecal bacteria to their domestic water and food
- Jiglossis – Jiggers thrive in dusty, sandy environments. Consequently, communities are taught to smear their buildings. This acts as a good alternative to a concrete floor and can be swept easily
- Skin Infections – the provision of a safe water source in turn enables people to use more water for washing and general bodily hygiene. Furthermore, schools are encouraged to carry out checks on students to identify any infection at an early stage.
- Fungal Infections – these are prevented in the same way as skin infections but people are also instructed not to share clothing
- Airborne Diseases – communities are taught about the importance of adequate ventilation in the house through the use of gaps and windows.

**The Impact of HIC**

Here are example results from 2 villages in Kidera, a remote area of northern Busoga close to Lake Kyoga. The results were published in July 2008. Particularly striking was a near halving of the incidence of Malaria without the use of bed nets, Jiggers were almost eliminated and the incidence of Diarrhoea and Typhoid was greatly reduced

Homesteads	Population	Pre-Intervention Sanitation Coverage	Post-Intervention Sanitation Coverage
859	5620	27%	94%

Average disease prevalence Pre and Post the HIC intervention

Disease	Pre HIC %	Post HIC %
Malaria	89	49
Diarrhoea	79	25
Typhoid	55	8
Jiglosis	25	0.5
Worms	50	20
Skin Infections	47	20
Fungal Diseases	39	14
Airborne Diseases	48	16

Results from a HIC in Bupala, in Namalembe sub-county, carried out in early 2007 show a similar trend

Homesteads	Population
330	1860

Disease	Pre HIC %	Post HIC %
Malaria	95	50
Diarrhoea	87	9
Typhoid	57	2
Worms	85	10
Skin Infections	56	25
Trachoma	54	20



Sanitation and Hygiene Campaigns in 2008

Number	Source type	Donor	Site	Sub-county	County
1	HIC	4 Acres	Ntaala	Kidera	Budiope
2	HIC	BT	Butyabule	Buyanga	Bugweri
3	HIC	BT	Gendwa	Bumanya	Bulamogi
4	HIC	BT	Buwolomera (180 H/H)	Bulamagi	Kigulu
5	HIC	BT	Lwambogo (603 H/H)	Buwenge	Kagoma
6	HIC	Church of Christ	Bulinda (133 H/H)	Bugaya	Budiope
7	HIC	Church of Christ	Bukabaka	Buwenge	Kagoma



Hygiene enhancement has seen communities in Ndudu in Kidera, Lwambogo in Buwenge and others improve on the superstructures of the pit latrines to promote usage and maintenance

Environmental Conservation campaign

The Busoga Trust makes a deliberate effort to conserve the environment through encouraging the local communities to plant trees and also use energy saving cooking fire places/stoves. Demonstrations were done in widows' homes and the most under privileged community members say orphans. These involved men, women and children who later transferred practical skills into their homes. During our follow up actions, over 78% of the households had constructed mud

stoves in Bukabala, Ndudu, Buwolomera, Gendwa, Butyabule, Ntaala, Nsasa, Nasilalo, Namayiga, Kalagala and Bulembo villages.

Strategy of vegetable gardens in every homestead

In our bid to contribute towards poverty eradication, Busoga Trust staff have continued to advocate for vegetable gardens in every household and for every household to have an income generating activity, easily available nutrients, available sauces and compete favourably in the village improvement competition.

The focus discussion involved both women and girls of above 12 years old in communities of Nsasa, Bulembo, Kiwumu B and Kigo. Tangible outputs were realized during home to home visits with at least over 80% of the targeted homes planting the gardens

Radio Programme

The Trust entered a partnership with radio Victoria FM, Buwama FM, Kitara radio and Bamboo FM to air communal social messages to promote personal and environmental hygiene at house hold level. Village hygiene campaigns have been very successful because of the continued interaction between the Busoga Trust staff and the community on radio every Monday. Community members are encouraged to call in during the live transmission and ask questions about the topic of the day. Successful communities i.e. those that have performed well are recorded and aired which is used to encourage others to learn and also do the same. Through this initiative, we have managed to encourage home improvement in the villages listed in the table for HIC above.

Community Capacity building

Sociology activities were carried out by Busoga Trust Social workers networking with area Health Assistants, Sub-county development officials and Assistants and Sub-county leaders. Communities were trained in preparation for implementing health education and on all aspects of operation and maintenance to foster a sense of ownership that breeds effective utilization of the facilities constructed.

Achievements

- 55 water users committees were established and trained
- 06 Local hand pump mechanics
- 164 village meetings for health and sanitation project were conducted
- 10 school health clubs have been formed
- 04 school exchange visits have been carried out for schools in Buwama
- 84 project management teams/communities on Health and Sanitation were established and are yet to be trained

The Busoga Trust

St Margaret Pattens Church, Rood Lane, Eastcheap, London EC3M 1HS

www.busogatrusted.co.uk

Tel: +44 (0)20 7283 2304 Fax: +44 (0)20 7283 2304 Email: ukhq@busogatrusted.co.uk