

HANDOVER OF WATER SYSTEMS FROM UNHCR TO NWSC



RWAMWANJA REFUGEE SETTLEMENT, KAMWENGE



Background

In line with the Global Compact for Refugees and the Comprehensive Refugee Response Framework (CRRF) UNHCR Uganda and the Ministry of Water and Environment (MWE) aim to integrate water service delivery into national systems. In the Joint Sector Review of September, it was decided that it is an undertaking for 2020 that all refugee settlements will be gazetted under National Water and Sewerage Corporation (NWSC) or Umbrella Authorities, meaning the water delivery systems will be gradually handed over from UNHCR and partners to utilities. Rwamwanja refugee settlement in Kamwenge District is gazetted under National Water and Sewerage Corporation and is currently at development stage. Therefore it is desirable that for improved synergies and performance, NWSC owing to its expertise, takes over the management, ownership and control of the water supply assets in the settlement. Rwamwanja is the first settlement to be handed over in Uganda.

MoU UNHCR—NWSC signed

As of the 16th of October 2019 the MoU is signed by UNHCR and National Water and Sewerage Corporation (NWSC) to handover the water delivery systems in Rwamwanja.

The addendum includes agreements on the responsibilities of all parties between the official signing of the MoU and the takeover by NWSC of the operations of the water systems. UNHCR (with implementing partner LWF) will continue to manage day to day operations while NWSC undertakes the required updates (including increasing the amount of Public Service Points (PSPs)). There will be a 3-month grace period for users to pay the water bill starting from the day of signing the MoU.



Joint technical assessment

NWSC, UNHCR, OPM, DLG, LWF and OXFAM conducted a joint technical assessment between the 4th and 7th of November 2019. The objective was to get an overview of the current infrastructure of UNHCR and partners and NWSC and which improvements are required to reach the desired service levels, including locations of PSP's. The outcomes will be presented in the next update.



Institutions connected:

7, of which: 1 health center,
4 schools and 2 churches

Institutions applied for connection: 6

Pipeline extended by NWSC:

9.3 KM (out of first 11 KMs planned)

Next update includes: NWSC water bill modalities of payment
& plans for increased service levels in Rwamwanja