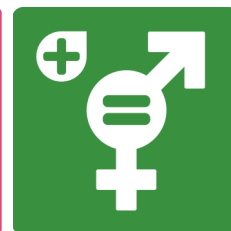


# Sexual Health and Reproductive Education (SHARE)



## Introduction to SHARE

WaterAid is implementing the Sexual Health and Reproductive Education (SHARE) project in Ghana, Mozambique, and Uganda, with support from the Government of Canada through Global Affairs Canada. The five-year SHARE project is being implemented by a consortium led by Right to Play International, in collaboration with WaterAid, the Forum for African Women Educationalists, and technical partner FHI 360. The project will advance gender equality and increase the enjoyment of health-related human rights by the most marginalized and vulnerable right-holders in the three project countries, particularly adolescent girls and young women.

## WASH-FIT and SHARE

Throughout SHARE, WaterAid will train healthcare workers on the Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene Facilities Improvement Tool (WASH FIT), developed by the World Health Organization, to improve the overall quality of care in 211 healthcare facilities across the three project countries. To complement this

initiative, WaterAid will undertake the rehabilitation and/or construction of the water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH) infrastructure in healthcare facilities across all three countries (facility selection is underway).

WASH FIT provides a framework for healthcare workers to create an ongoing improvement plan for their healthcare facility by approaching quality healthcare holistically, looking at multiple components: water, sanitation, medical waste, hand hygiene, cleaning and disinfection, environmental management, and facility management. As part of SHARE, WaterAid is also including climate change resilience and gender considerations in their WASH FIT training.

The first WASH FIT training in Uganda was conducted in November, 2022 for 60 healthcare workers, 24 of whom were women, from both project districts, Buyende and Adjumani. From these trainings, a total of 20 healthcare facilities have created WASH improvement plans using integrated lifecycle costing (LCC) approaches to take into account all foreseeable costs associated with different areas of care, such as the cost of operating and maintaining WASH structures, and the cost of ensuring a sufficient stock of quality personal protective equipment (PPE).



WaterAid/ James Kyimba

Esther Achom, nurse, attended the WASH-FIT training in Uganda. She is pictured outside the Buyende Health Centre III.



## Delivering quality healthcare



Esther Achom is a Registered Nurse at Buyende Health Centre III in Uganda. Esther attended the WASH FIT training in November, 2022, alongside her centre's Facility In-Charge. Together, Esther and the Facility In-Charge developed a long-term facility improvement plan for the Buyende Health Centre III. Since then, they have begun working to implement the changes outlined in the plan, in order to improve the quality of care provided to patients. For example, they have installed handwashing stations throughout the centre for both patients and staff, and have installed drinking water stations in exam rooms for patients.

**“We never used to give water for drinking to patients taking medicine here in our presence. For example, we have some medicine [anti-malarial medication] we give to expectant mothers, but we would give them the medicine to take at their home and many expectant mothers never used to take this medicine.”**

Following the WASH FIT training, a drinking water station was installed in the maternity exam room to provide clean water to patients. Now, patients are required to take their medicine at the center, in the presence of a nurse or doctor. For pregnant woman, this has made a big difference.

**“Now there is a decrease in the number of pregnant women coming to the hospital when they are sick, particularly with diseases like malaria. ”**

Other initiatives that have been implemented include the proper disposal of medical waste using a colour-coded system based on the potential level of infectious materials in the waste, and the consistent use of personal protective equipment (PPE).

Following the WASH FIT training, WaterAid supplied Buyende Health Centre III with PPE, including gum boots, surgical and

examination gloves, plastic reusable aprons, and face masks. The supply of PPE is addressed in the centre's improvement plans, which will be closely monitored through SHARE.



**“[PPE] are very crucial in prevention and control, or cross infections when working from one patient to another.”**

- Esther Achom, on the use of the PPE received as part of the WASH-FIT training.

**Above, Esther completes a physical exam for a 2 year old boy and his mother wearing PPE.**