



## Case studies of provision for water and sanitation in urban centres with less than 20,000 inhabitants

### Kumi (Uganda)

Kumi town is a district capital and has a population estimated at 17,000 inhabitants in 2000. The town council is responsible for water and sanitation services. The town's water supply comes from boreholes and pumps, plus overhead tanks feeding a piped distribution network with public kiosks (at the time of the study there were 15 kiosks but two were closed from lack of operation) and a few household connections. In February 2000, water was available for two hours a day. Lakes that are 10 and 16 kilometres away could be tapped but this would require external funding. In Kumi, virtually all households are reliant on water kiosks or water vendors. A family with an income equivalent to the average daily wage and consuming 24 litres per person per day would be spending 15 per cent of their income on water; if they relied on vendors, it would be 45 per cent of their income. Around 60 per cent of households have pit latrines and there are two public pit latrines in the town, one near the bus-park, the other near the market, and these are free. They should be available during daylight hours but the latrine near the market was locked when visited by a study in 2000. According to the market traders, the keyholder is often absent. A third public toilet with a septic tank was built beside the new market but construction was never completed and the water had not been connected. Men collecting water are mostly vendors and they bully women and children to obtain priority access, even when women have been queuing as long as two hours. Children have lower priority in the queues than the women.

### Kyotera Town (Uganda)

The busiest centre in its district in Uganda, this is on one of the main roads leading to Tanzania. There are around 10,000 inhabitants and the population is growing rapidly. There is no public water supply and the town relies mainly on piped water supplied by a local church project, although the water is of poor quality, not adequately treated and supply is frequently interrupted due to power failures. Other water sources are boreholes, wells and rainwater (although most

households lack the funds to be able to afford collecting and storing rainwater). A groundwater supply system is being developed. There are no sewers. Around two thirds of the population have pit latrines, around 20 per cent use four public toilets. There is no domestic solid waste collection service and the storm drain system is very inadequate. The few drains that do exist are clogged with solid waste.

### La Ligua (Chile)

This small market town in central Chile has a population of 12,000 people. It is the administrative centre of Petorca Province. The economic activities in Petorca Province include small-scale mining, a vibrant woolen textiles industry and a booming export agriculture industry, based on the production of fresh fruit (avocados, citrus fruits and nuts) for export. The town's water and sewerage is provided by the former state and now private utility (ESVAL) that covers all urban centres in the Valparaíso region, based on full pressure piped water with multi-tap household connections and a trunk sewerage system. The town is in the process of installing a waste-water treatment plant in order to reduce pollution into the River Ligua.

### Mandiana (Guinea)

This is an administrative centre of 7640 inhabitants, close to the borders with Mali and the Ivory Coast. Rural activities dominate, with nearly half of heads of households working in agriculture. The local administration run by the prefect includes decentralized forms of all national services and provides basic infrastructure (for instance schools, hospitals and credit institutions). Water provision comes from two boreholes with solar pumps managed by the national water company (SEEG), which supply a water tower, from which an 8 kilometre long network serves 12 active standpipes (with two taps each); there are also three inactive standpipes. Each standpipe serves an average of 50 people. Standpipe maintenance is by 'fontainiers' (standpipe operators) who are paid per volume of water sold; three quarters of these are women. Most operators live primarily from their salaries. These standpipes are regularly used by 85 per cent of households during the dry season (when traditional wells have dried up) and 55 per cent of households during the winter period. The high cost of water from the standpipes means that it is used primarily for cooking/drinking, rather than washing, which is carried out either





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MEETING DEVELOPMENT GOALS IN SMALL URBAN CENTRES



at the river or at home. The Service National d'Aménagement des Points d'Eau (SNAPE), the institution that develops water provision in rural areas, has also built various boreholes managed by water point committees elected by users, and these must collect the necessary fee from each family to ensure the upkeep of each water point. There are also numerous traditional seasonal wells, managed by their owners and well owners tend to provide water free of charge to their neighbours. Finally, the river Sankarani offers another source for 23 per cent of the population in winter, but only 10 per cent in the dry season. Individual private connections are possible for a small number of 'subscribers' given the limited production (for a subscription fee of 60,000FG), but there were none in 1997 (having been three in 1996). Access to water at the standpipes should follow the official opening times (5.30 a.m. to 10 p.m.h), but in reality they only open between 8 a.m. and 6 p.m., with the busiest time around 9 a.m., and a long average waiting time of around 50 minutes. It is women and children who are the most frequent transporters, using basins, buckets or cans.

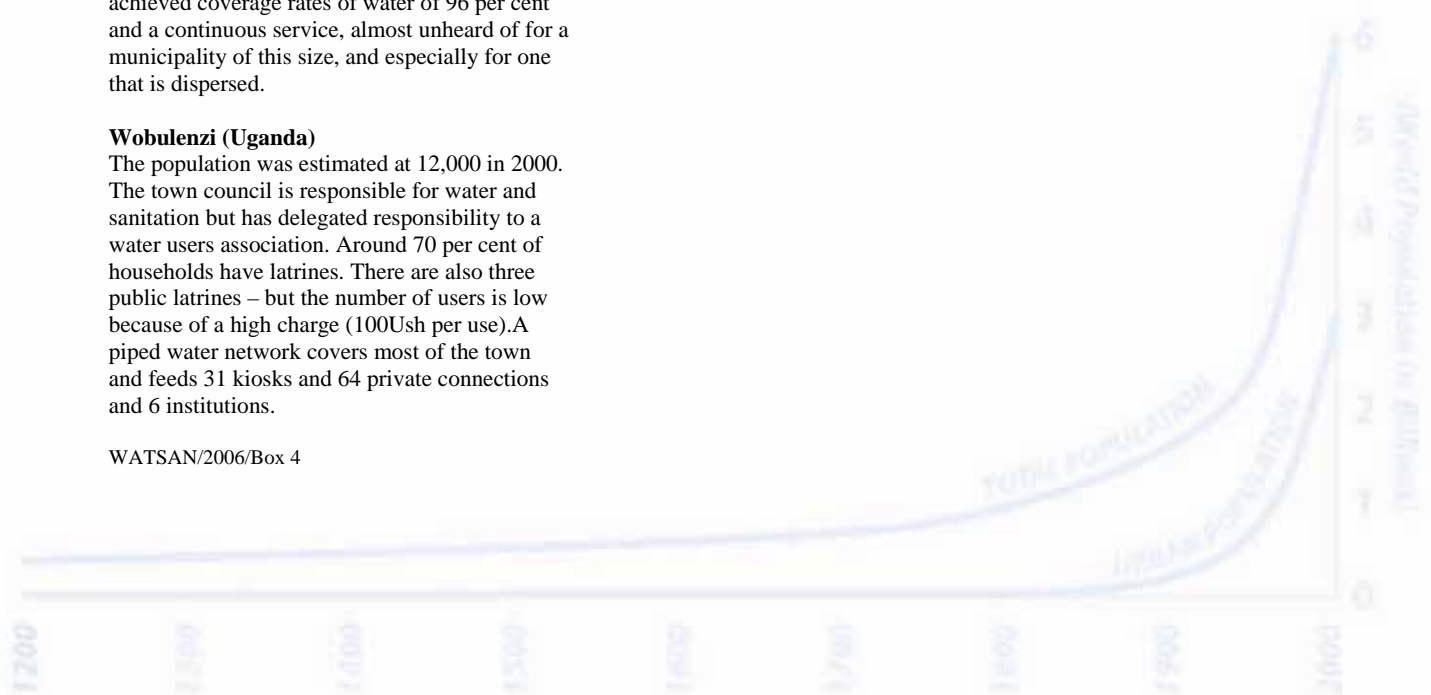
## San Julián (El Salvador)

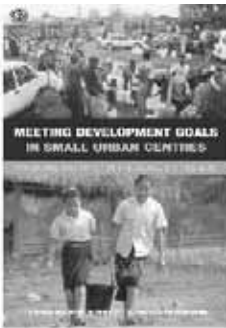
A small urban centre of 5200 people within a municipality of 22,700 inhabitants. The principal economic activity in the municipality is agriculture, and the area produces a combination of cash crops (for example, coffee, sugar) and subsistence crops (for example, maize, beans). Under a project supported by USAID, San Julián obtained the first municipal-operated water and sanitation company in El Salvador. The new provider has achieved coverage rates of water of 96 per cent and a continuous service, almost unheard of for a municipality of this size, and especially for one that is dispersed.

## Wobulenzi (Uganda)

The population was estimated at 12,000 in 2000. The town council is responsible for water and sanitation but has delegated responsibility to a water users association. Around 70 per cent of households have latrines. There are also three public latrines – but the number of users is low because of a high charge (100Ush per use). A piped water network covers most of the town and feeds 31 kiosks and 64 private connections and 6 institutions.

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