

# Project report

July - November 2023

Borås Elhandel in collaboration with Solvatten



*"I make passion fruit juice with the water from my Solvatten, which I sell on the local market. This boost the income to my family "*  
- Rose



## Project summary

With your help, we will deploy **72 Solvatten units**, profoundly impacting the lives of **331 individuals** across various communities in Uganda. This project will not only provide a lifeline to these communities but will also make a significant contribution to environmental sustainability and public health.

Through the use of Solvatten, we will treat an astonishing **3.0 million liters** of water, making it safe and accessible for drinking and other household needs. This will have a direct impact on public health, resulting in **22.7 thousand fewer sick days**, thereby improving the quality of life and economic productivity within these communities.

Our commitment to environmental sustainability will be equally impactful. The project will save **3,600 trees** from being cut down for firewood, a common practice in many areas where clean water is not readily available. This will have a ripple effect on the environment, preventing the emission of **3.0 tons of CO2** into the atmosphere.



Want help to communicate your initiative?  
Let us know and we'll happily help you!

### Your project in numbers

Number of  
Solvatten

72

Tons of CO2 saved  
from being released

3

Million litres of  
water treated

3

Thousands of  
school days

22.7

Thousands of  
trees left to grow

3.6

# Uganda - Providing protection

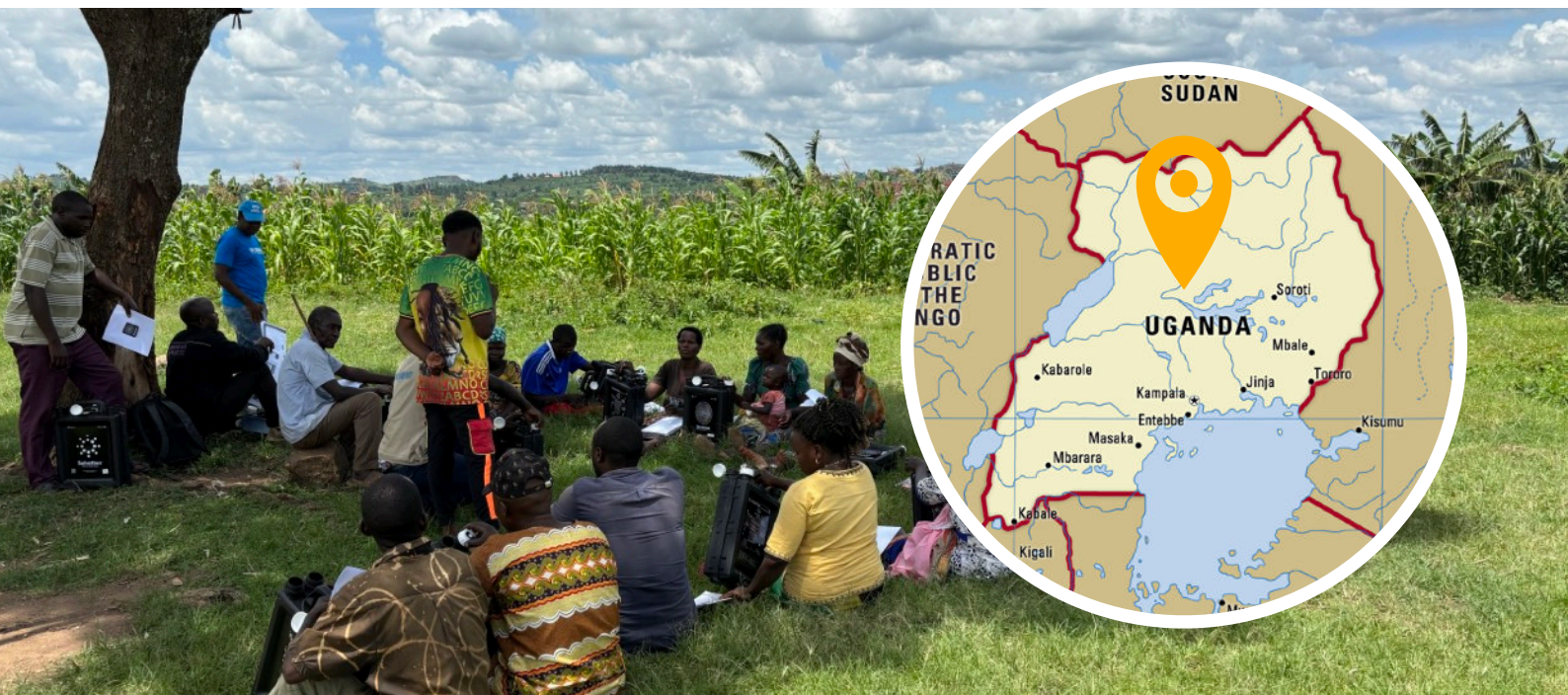
Uganda, located in East Africa, is a country with a diverse landscape and rich cultural heritage. In recent years, Uganda has experienced both economic growth and social development, but it still faces various issues that impact its progress.

Over the years, Solvatten have partnered with several organisations in Uganda to reach the communities and families that need Solvatten the most. Today we work with UNHCR, International Aid Services, ChildFund and Pelum Uganda as our main partners. Through their respective areas of expertise, we reach refugee settlements, host communities and villages in Pader, Nebbi, Kyankwanzi, BidiBidi, Moyo, Adjumani, Lamwo and others.

Uganda is host to more than 1.5 million refugees and asylum seekers, the largest population of refugees in Africa. The primary source countries for refugees in Uganda are South Sudan, the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC), Somalia, Burundi, Rwanda. The majority of refugees reside in settlements within twelve rural districts, alongside their host populations. The constant movement of refugees fleeing into Uganda is caused by violent conflict, civil unrest, and collapsing economies in South Sudan and DRC.

Women and girls make up the majority of the registered population and 57% of the refugee population are children. The highly vulnerable large child population continues to need uninterrupted access to lifesaving protection and assistance as well as access to good quality social services (i.e., water, sanitation, and hygiene; healthcare; education), markets, and financial services. UNHCR works together with governments regarding these issues.

A Solvatten training session being executed at Kyaka II Refugee Settlement in November 2023





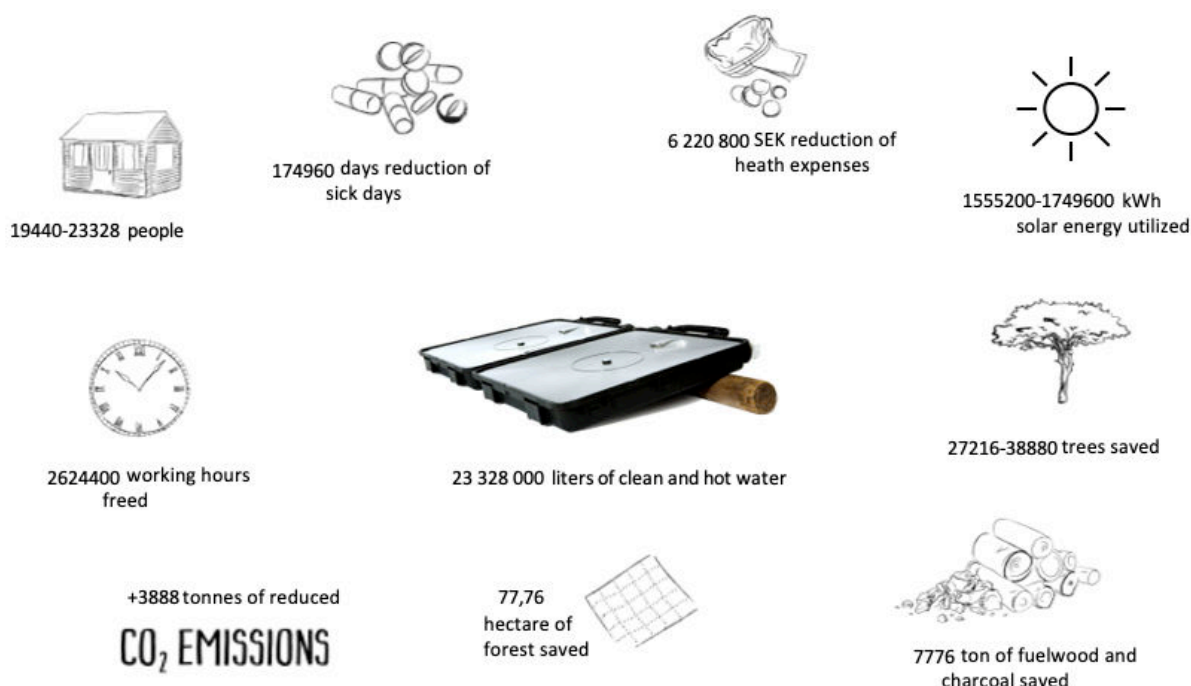
# The impact of Solvatten in Uganda 2023

The follow-ups of Solvatten shows an incredibly positive change in the lives of the families. According to interviews with our partner organisations and local health volunteers, families use their Solvatten between 1 and 3 times a day. Each time a family uses Solvatten, they save a bundle of firewood. For those who cannot afford to pay for firewood, the savings come at the right time, especially for women and children who would otherwise have to cut down nearby bushes and other vegetation themselves. Apart from the obvious environmental problems, this puts them at high risk of violence and assault on the long journeys, which can now be avoided. The women and girls can now devote their time to education, farming or other income-generating activities.

Most households interviewed confirmed that they now have fewer cases of stomach ailments, eye infections, skin infections, lung problems and malnutrition due to stomach worms. Hygiene habits and water storage have improved. In order to be able to use the hot water later, 85% of the families report that they store some of the Solvatten water in a thermos flask. Just as many use the hot water for hygiene purposes, such as washing their hands or taking a safe and hot shower.

What is particularly interesting is that almost half of the households also use the hot water to mix porridge and formula for their babies. Solvatten's hot water is the perfect temperature for this, as it makes it easy to mix the powder without the risk of breaking down the essential nutrients, which is a risk if the temperature is too high. It is also completely safe from harmful micro-organisms.

## The impact in Uganda 2023 in numbers:







## Travel report - Uganda trip November 2023

In November 2023, part of the Solvatten team visited various project sites in Uganda in collaboration with UNHCR and ChildFund. During this visit, we met families who had great benefit and enjoyment from their Solvattens.

We saw first-hand the importance of access to clean water and good hygiene practices, and the added benefit of having hot water. Not only does this help save money and time, but it also improves overall wellbeing. In addition, we were deeply moved by the stories we heard - stories of lives shattered, possessions lost, family members murdered, homes burned and people forced to flee. We met traumatised people facing a journey to regain some semblance of normalcy in their lives.

However, despite the challenges, we were grateful that through our collective efforts, Solvatten was playing a role in easing some of the hardships faced by these communities.



Colleagues at UNHCR and a happy family that has received a Solvatten in UNHCR's refugee settlement.



*"The kit is excellent. I've been using it for a week now since I received it. I use it regularly for preparing tea, bathing water, and drinking water."*

## Sunshine story – Rose's story

Rose Maneno, 46-year-old widow, lives in UNHCR's Bidibidi refugee settlement in northern Uganda. Rose admirably shoulders the responsibility of caring for her extended family of six children currently enrolled at the local primary schools in the settlement. In addition to her role as a caregiver, Rose manages a modest roadside fish-selling business, generating income to support her children's education.

Rose recounted the hardships her family had endured since their displacement from Morubu County, South Sudan, in 2016 due to the ongoing conflict. Their sufferings included a significant prevalence of malaria and frequent bouts of diarrheal diseases, particularly among the younger children. She went on to highlight the positive impact of using the Solvatten kit, noting that since its introduction, none of her family members had complained of stomachaches or related illnesses.

*"Leaving your homeland is a difficult ordeal. We left everything behind and had to begin our lives anew. My children endured constant stomachaches, malaria, and diarrhea. I found myself at the health center regularly, seeking treatment for one child or another. Since we started using the kit a week ago, none of us has experienced these issues again."*

The Solvatten kit, with its simple yet transformative technology, has made a meaningful difference in Rose's life, offering a ray of hope in the midst of adversity.

*Some case story pictures have been substituted for pictures of other people due to integrity reasons, however the selected images represent well the reality described in the text.*





*"I can say with confidence  
that the kit has been of  
tremendous help to us."*  
- Hellen

## Sunshine story - Hellen's story

Hellen Akita, a 52-year-old widow, has made Uganda her home for seven years, fleeing South Sudan's unrest.

*"Ever since we were forced to leave our home because of the war, life as we knew it has never been the same for our family. We have endured immense suffering, but I'm grateful we are still alive."*

A mother to three, with two in primary school, Hellen also cares for her eldest in Senior 4, who faces severe mental illness. She struggles with accessing clean water, limited cultivation land, and distant schools. The Solvatten kit has significantly eased her life.

Hellen emphasized the kit's role in making water purification easier, eliminating the need for firewood and costly charcoal.

*"I can say with confidence that the kit has been of tremendous help to us. I no longer have to worry about scouring the bush for firewood or spending a significant amount on charcoal at the market, where it costs 500 shillings per package. Even buying firewood is no simple task. Now, I simply place my kit and water in the sun to purify it."*

Hellen, smiling, shared how the kit helps in making tea, heating bath water, and purifying drinking water. Her story, hopeful and resilient, shows how a simple water purification kit can significantly impact challenging situations.



*After treating the water, I mainly use it for bathing, especially considering my health condition."*

## Sunshine story - Mary's story

Mary Buse, a 47-year-old South Sudanese refugee, resides in Village 1 of Zone 3 in Bidibidi Refugee Settlement in Yumbe District. She is both a mother and a grandmother. Mary's journey to Uganda began when conflict erupted in South Sudan. She, along with her extended family, sought refuge in Uganda and was welcomed at the Bidibidi Refugee Settlement.

*"I left South Sudan because the war was escalating and I witnessed many people being killed, which still traumatizes me up to now."*

Mary and her family primarily depend on agriculture for their livelihood and survival. She mentioned,

*"Back in South Sudan, I used to engage in both business and farming, but due to my battle with cancer, I can no longer continue these activities. Even if I wanted to restart my fish-selling business, I lack the requisite capital."*

Mary is a diligent water user, regularly paying a monthly fee of UGX 2,000 to access Tapstand 75, located approximately 200 meters from her residence. She explained,

*"I always collect water from there and pour it into this jerrycan. After treating it, I mainly use it for bathing, especially considering my health condition due to cancer. There are times when I need warm water for bathing, and I also use this treated water for drinking."*

While challenges persist, the impact of these kits in enhancing water quality, reducing expenses, and improving overall well-being is undeniable.



# Together we can #StopGlobalBoiling

Everyday women and children around the world use charcoal & firewood to care for the needs of their families. As much as 99% of rural households in sub-Saharan Africa lack well functioning energy infrastructure and water quality is unfit for consumption (WHO, 2020). The advice is that water needs to be boiled before household use, but that requires firewood and charcoal sourced from disappearing forests. It also lead to respiratory disease and burn injuries.

The loss of forests, soil erosion, and loss of biodiversity contribute to global warming. So what are the solutions? And how can we build a better more robust and sustainable society?

## You make all the difference!

Thank you for helping to make Solvatten a reality in places where the need is great, both socially and environmentally. It really does make a difference.

Solvatten is now available in over 40 countries, with approximately 600,000 users. Without the partnerships we have with our donors, customers and local partner organisations, this would not be possible. We value this and appreciate your long-term commitment to the combination of water, environment and climate.



## FOLLOW US

On our website, you can easily subscribe to our newsletter for more frequent updates.

You can also find @Solvatten on Facebook, Instagram and LinkedIn.

For questions or requests, feel free to contact us at [hello@solvatten.se](mailto:hello@solvatten.se)