UGANDA NATIONAL WOMEN'S FISH ORGANIZATION (UNWFO)

IUCN BRIDGE

THE WOMEN ARTISANS SAFEGUARDING HEALTH AND ECOSYSTEMS (WASHE) PROJECT

FINAL PROJECT REPORT

December 2025 to July 2026 | Sio-Malaba-Malakisi Basin, Busia District, Uganda

Contract Reference Number	PBO01978
Grantee reference	12 UNWFO
Project Number	PA03944.FE / DR03944.42
Award Number	AVCH-01038
Coverage	Sio-Malaba-Malakisi Basin, Busia District (Uganda)
Landing sites	Nalyoba, Maduwa A and Majanji A
Grant Recipient	Uganda National Women Fish Organization (UNWFO)
Granting Authority	International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN)
BRIDGE Grant Type	Women Leadership Grant
Project Duration	December 2025 to July 2026 (8 months)
Reporting Period	Full project period, December 2025 to July 2026
Project Lead / Coordinator	Maurice Ssebisubi, UNWFO
Implementing Partners	UNWFO, IUCN-BRIDGE, Busia District Local Government, CuratEast
District Focal Officer	Jimmy Ngobe, District Environment Officer, Busia District
Report Date	July 2026



Certified Women Water Champions at Majanji landing site, Busia District, April 2026

Contents

Contents 2
Foreword 3
Acknowledgements 4
Disclaimer and Citation 5
Disclaimer 5
Suggested citation 5
Limitations of the data 5
Consent, images and data protection 5
Acronyms and Abbreviations 6
1. Project Information 7
1.1 Goal and objectives 7
2. Executive Summary 8
3. Project Sites 10
4. Status of Activities 12
5. Implementation Narrative 14
5.1 Inception and stakeholder engagement, December 2025 to February 2026 14
5.2 Baseline study, February to March 2026 14
5.3 Training of the thirty Champions, 13 to 17 April 2026 14
5.3.1 The one material shortfall against the plan 15
5.4 The cascade and its verification, April to May 2026 16
5.5 Mentorship, the June lapse and the July recovery 16
5.6 Community water quality monitoring, July 2026 17
6. Results at a Glance 18
7. Reporting Metrics 18
8. Governance, Institutional Linkage and Reporting 20
8.1 The link that now exists 20
8.2 Structures created 20
9. Water Quality Findings 22
9.1 The laboratory baseline, March 2026 22
9.2 The community record, July 2026 22
9.3 What the two records together demonstrate 22
10. Gender Equality and Social Inclusion 24
10.1 Inclusion measures applied 24
11. Knowledge Products Delivered 25
12. Communications and Visibility 26
13. Challenges, Limitations and Lessons 28
13.1 The principal limitation the project leaves behind 28
13.2 Challenges encountered and how they were handled 28
13.3 Lessons 29
14. Sustainability and Exit 30
15. The August 2026 Endline 31
15.1 The instrument set 31
15.2 The comparability rule 31
15.3 What the endline adds 32
16. Recommendations 33
17. Events and Participation 34
18. Expenditures Overview 34
19. Conclusion 35

Foreword

For as long as anyone at Nalyoba, Maduwa and Majanji can remember, the women of these landing sites have known the water better than anyone. They know when it turns, when it smells, when the fish spoil faster than they should and when a child falls sick after a bath. What they have never had is a way to prove it, or anyone whose job it was to listen.

That is what this project set out to change, and I am proud of what these thirty women have done with the opportunity. They learned to test the water they have used all their lives. They went back to their villages and taught three hundred more women, and they brought back signed forms to prove that they had. They elected their own committees. And across twenty-three days in July, they produced the first continuous record of water quality these landing sites have ever held, at ninety-four per cent completeness, and caught a pollution event that had passed unmeasured only weeks before.

I want to draw attention to one finding in particular, because it says something about the women themselves that our organisation has long argued and can now evidence. When the Champions wrote down what they saw and what they smelled, and we compared it against the readings from the water quality test strips, the two agreed. A woman who has run out of strips, or who never had the chance to finish school, is still a reliable monitor of her own water. Two thirds of the women in our baseline did not go beyond primary school. Their knowledge was never the problem. The absence of a route for that knowledge to travel was the problem, and that route now exists, with a name and a telephone number at the end of it.

This report also records what did not go to plan. Monitoring was slow at two of our three sites for six weeks due to challenges in availability of test strips. The training handbook produced at the close of this grant exists because of those difficulties, and any organisation that picks it up will start where we finished rather than where we began.

To the thirty Champions: this organisation exists for you and because of you. To the communities of Nalyoba, Maduwa A and Majanji A: thank you for choosing well, and for opening your landing sites to us. The work now belongs to you.

Lovin Kobusingye
President, Uganda National Women Fish Organization
July 2026

Acknowledgements

The Uganda National Women Fish Organization records its thanks to the International Union for Conservation of Nature and to the Building River Dialogue and Governance Programme for the Women Leadership Grant that made this work possible, and for the manner in which it was administered.

Two things deserve particular mention. The first is that the grant was designed to reach an organisation of our size at all. A facility that places women's leadership in freshwater governance at the centre of its purpose, and that is willing to fund a national women's fisheries organisation to work directly with thirty women at three landing sites, is not common, and we are conscious of it. The second is the flexibility the IUCN-BRIDGE team extended when the water testing kits proved unavailable in the market and the training had to move from February to April. That decision was taken quickly and without penalty, and it is the reason the training was delivered properly rather than delivered on time with the wrong equipment.

We thank the IUCN team for the documentation partnership with CuratEast, which produced three feature stories on the IUCN Water Knowledge Platform, one for each of our landing sites. Those pieces put Margaret Nansubuga, Anyango Betty, Nabwire Goretti and Asina Siraji on the record in their own words, alongside their own knowledge of the lake. For women who had rarely been asked to speak in a village meeting, being published on an international platform is not a communications output. It is a change in standing, and it will outlast this grant.

We record our thanks to Busia District Local Government: to the District Environment Officer, who addressed the training and countersigned the Champions' certificates; to the Assistant Fisheries Officer, who gave the training its fisheries content and told us plainly what the district would require before it acted on community reports; to the Community Development, Water and Production offices; and to the sub-county chiefs of Busime and Majanji.

Above all we thank the thirty Water Quality Champions, the roughly three hundred women they trained, and the communities of Nalyoba, Maduwa A and Majanji A, who gave their time in a working day that has none to spare.

Disclaimer and Citation

Disclaimer

This report has been produced by the Uganda National Women Fish Organization with the financial support of the International Union for Conservation of Nature under the BRIDGE Women Leadership Grant. The views expressed are those of UNWFO and of the communities who took part, and do not necessarily reflect the views or policies of IUCN, of the BRIDGE Programme, of its donors, or of Busia District Local Government.

The designation of geographical entities in this report, and the presentation of the material, do not imply the expression of any opinion on the part of UNWFO or IUCN concerning the legal status of any country, territory or area, or of its authorities, or concerning the delimitation of its frontiers or boundaries. On the map at Figure 2, the site positions are recorded readings; the shoreline, the course of the River Sio and the international boundary are indicative and are drawn for orientation only.

Suggested citation

Uganda National Women Fish Organization (2026). Women Artisans Safeguarding Health and Ecosystems (WASHE) in the Sio-Malaba-Malakisi Basin: Final Project Report, December 2025 to July 2026. Kampala: UNWFO, with the support of IUCN-BRIDGE.

Reproduction of this publication for educational or other non-commercial purposes is authorised without prior written permission from the copyright holder, provided the source is fully acknowledged. Reproduction for resale or other commercial purposes is prohibited without prior written permission.

Limitations of the data

Readers using the technical findings in this report should note the following.

- The baseline laboratory analysis was a single evening sampling run at two abstraction points per site. It characterises those points at that time and should not be read as a description of the water body across a season. The community series at Section 9.2 is the reason this distinction matters.
- The values in the community monitoring series are ordinal colour blocks read from six-parameter test strips, not laboratory measurements. They step 0, 10, 25, 50 and 100. They are reported as medians and as counts above a threshold, and should not be averaged.
- The chlorine readings in the series are implausible for open lake water, are likely to reflect strip cross-sensitivity, are excluded from this report, and should be verified against a district laboratory before any external use.
- Sampling times were not standardised and ranged from 07:00 to 19:00, and no fixed sampling point was recorded. Both are addressed in the training handbook and at Section 16.
- The figure of approximately three hundred women reached is the verified total from forms counted on site; an exact count from the archives is recommended at Section 16. The youth figure at Section 7 is derived rather than counted, and its derivation and verified minimum are stated there.

Consent, images and data protection

Every participant gave individual, informed consent before taking part, in her own language, after being told what would be recorded and what risk the work might carry, and consent could be withdrawn at any point without consequence. A thumbprint was offered throughout as an equivalent to a signature. Separate consent was sought before any identifiable photograph and any recording, and the photographs reproduced here are

used under those consents. No individual is named in connection with a complaint about any other person. Personal data collected during the project is held by UNWFO under its data protection and community agreement arrangements and is not reproduced here.

Acronyms and Abbreviations

Acronym	Meaning
BMU	Beach Management Unit
BRIDGE	Building River Dialogue and Governance Programme
CHF	Swiss Francs
DEO	District Environment Officer
DFO	District Fisheries Officer
DWO	District Water Officer
ESMS	Environmental and Social Management System
FGD	Focus group discussion
FPIC	Free, Prior and Informed Consent
GESI	Gender equality and social inclusion
IEC	Information, education and communication
IUCN	International Union for Conservation of Nature
KAP	Knowledge, attitudes and practices
KII	Key informant interview
NIN	National Identification Number
NTU	Nephelometric turbidity unit
PWD	Person with disability
SMM	Sio-Malaba-Malakisi
SO	Specific Objective
UGX	Uganda Shillings
UNWFO	Uganda National Women Fish Organization
WASHE	Women Artisans Safeguarding Health and Ecosystems
WUA	Water Users Association

1. Project Information

Item	Detail
Project title	Women Artisans Safeguarding Health and Ecosystems (WASHE) in the Sio-Malaba-Malakisi Basin
Reporting period	Full project period, December 2025 to July 2026
Project lead and coordinator	Maurice Ssebisubi, Uganda National Women Fish Organization, +256 709 950 256
Implementing partners	UNWFO, IUCN-BRIDGE, Busia District Local Government, CuratEast (documentation partner)
Field sites	Nalyoba (Busime Sub-county), Maduwa A and Majanji A (Majanji Sub-county), Busia District
District focal officer	Jimmy Ngobe, District Environment Officer, Busia District Local Government, +256 772 476 284
Date of submission	July 2026

1.1 Goal and objectives

The goal of the project was to empower women in the Sio-Malaba-Malakisi basin as recognised stewards of freshwater resources, driving community-led water quality improvements and inclusive governance for sustainable fisheries and community well-being. Three specific objectives carried the goal.

	Specific Objective	Principal deliverable
SO1	Build the capacity of women champions to monitor water quality and identify practical, community-led solutions to pollution and poor sanitation at landing sites	Thirty certified Champions, thirty testing kits, and the first continuous water quality record held for these landing sites
SO2	Increase community awareness of the link between water quality, fish safety and livelihoods, promoting best practice in fish handling and waste management	A verified cascade reaching roughly three hundred women, and three village action plans owned by the communities
SO3	Advocate for women's formal inclusion in local water, sanitation and hygiene and fisheries management planning	Three elected village committees where none existed, and a named, working reporting line into the district

2. Executive Summary

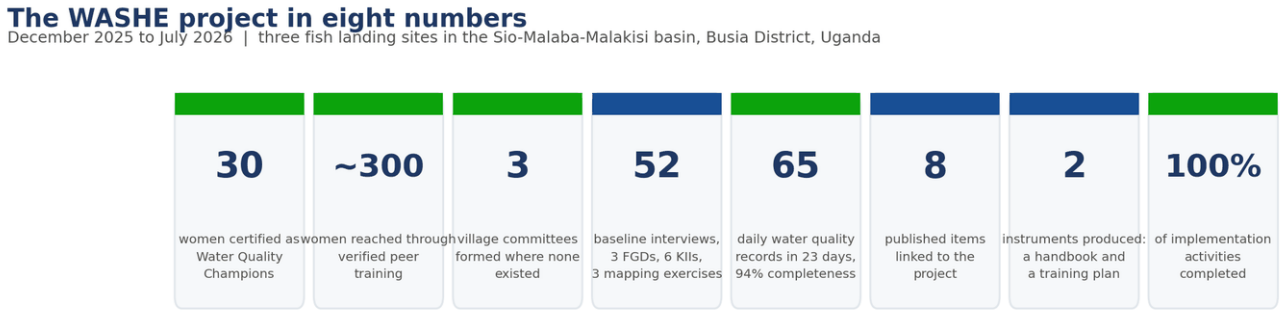


Figure 1: The WASHE project in eight numbers, December 2025 to July 2026.

The WASHE project set out to answer a narrow question with a wide consequence. The people who process and trade fish at three landing sites on the Ugandan shore of Lake Victoria draw the water they work with from the lake itself. Across the baseline sample, ninety-two per cent apply no treatment to it and eighty-one per cent report illness in the household that they attribute to it; among the women alone the figures are eighty-nine and seventy-five per cent. They are not uninformed: ninety-eight per cent know that water can look clean and still be unsafe, and ninety-four per cent can explain that poor water spoils fish faster. What did not exist was any means of measuring the water, any knowledge of the rules protecting it, and any person to tell.

All implementation activities are complete, and one closure activity, the endline assessment, is scheduled for August 2026 with its instruments already produced. Thirty women were selected by their own communities, trained over five days in April 2026, assessed, certified and equipped. Each undertook to train ten further women, and the cascade was verified in person against signed registration forms during a five-day mission in May, confirming that roughly three hundred women were reached. Three village action plans were drafted by the groups themselves and three leadership committees were elected. No water users association existed at any of the three sites, and the Beach Management Units that had previously managed landing site affairs had been dissolved, so these are the first standing water structures the three communities hold. A baseline study of 52 interviews, three focus groups, six key informant interviews and three participatory mapping exercises was completed in March, and a full instrument set for the August endline has been produced and is ready for use.

The most consequential result was not planned. Across twenty-three days in July the Champions produced sixty-five of sixty-nine scheduled daily water quality records, a completeness of ninety-four per cent, and in doing so created the first continuous water quality record ever held for these landing sites. That record overturned the picture the laboratory had given. In March a single evening sampling run found Maduwa the cleanest of the three sites, at 4 NTU turbidity at both sampling points, described by the technician as clear. Twenty-three consecutive days of community observation found Maduwa discoloured on every day and malodorous on every day, and on 6 and 7 July the Champions captured a bloom with nitrate at 100 mg/l and pH at 8.4, the highest values in the series. The laboratory was not in error. It sampled once, in the evening, and caught a water body that changes over days on a quiet day. This is the project's central evidentiary finding and the strongest argument it can make for community monitoring.

A second finding gives that argument durability. What the Champions saw and smelled tracked what the test strips read. On days a Champion recorded no odour the median nitrate reading was 10 mg/l; on days she recorded a mild odour, 25; on days she recorded a strong odour, 50. Rank correlations between the sensory descriptions and the instrument values run from +0.51 to +0.69. A Champion who has run out of consumables, or who cannot read a number, remains a working alarm. That matters because sixty-five per cent of the

baseline sample, and sixty-six per cent of the women in it, did not go beyond primary school, and because the supply of test strips after the project is the clearest limitation the project leaves behind.

The project also leaves behind something the baseline said was missing. Seventy-four per cent of respondents who had never reported a water problem gave a single reason: they did not know whom to tell. There is now a named District Environment Officer receiving data every month, a named project coordinator alongside him, and three village committees with the standing to use both.



Champions in session, April 2026



Sorting good and poor practice



Working with the printed materials

3. Project Sites

The project worked at three fish landing sites in Busia District, Uganda, at the point where the Sio-Malaba-Malakisi basin discharges into Lake Victoria. All three sit within about six kilometres of one another along the shore, and all three receive the inflow of the River Sio, which rises south-west of Bungoma in Kenya and runs along the common border before discharging into the lake. The Malakisi and Lwakhakha rivers, which rise on Mount Elgon, feed the same system upstream.

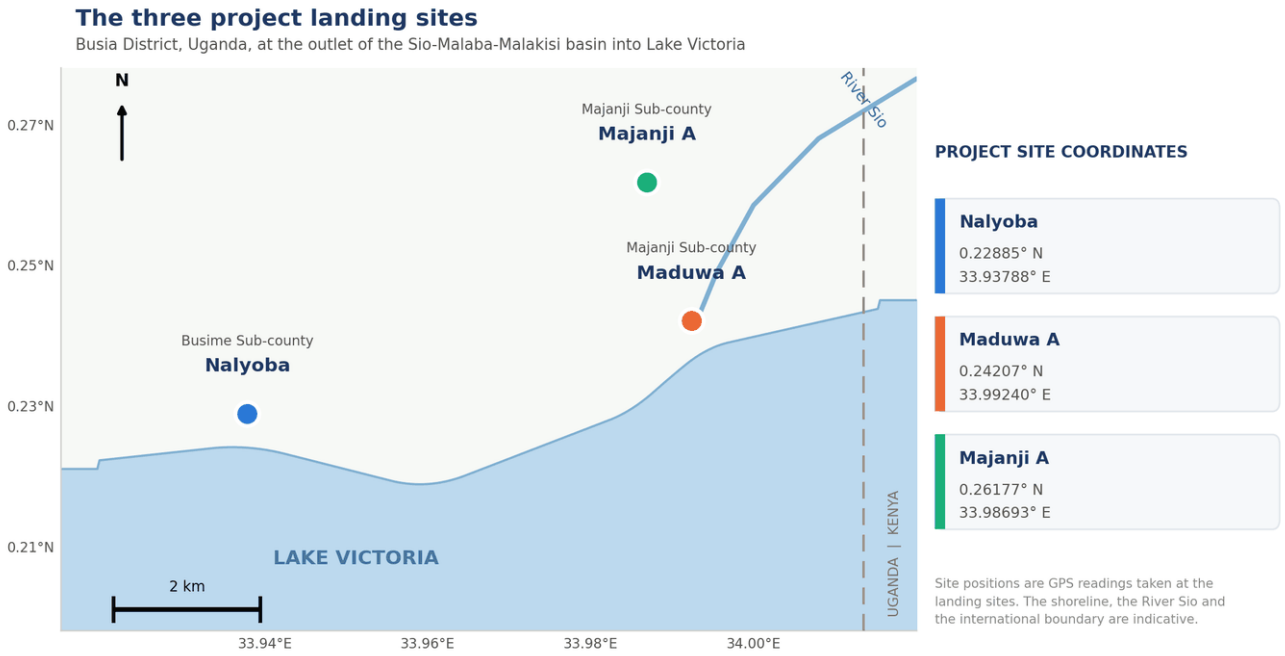


Figure 2: Location and coordinates of the three project landing sites.

Landing site	Latitude	Longitude	Sub-county
Maduwa A	0.24206541758485356° N	33.9923993080316 65° E	Majanji Sub-county
Majanji A	0.2617715826446944° N	33.9869349686364° E	Majanji Sub-county
Nalyoba	0.22884769030025406° N	33.93787972856233° E	Busime Sub-county

Maduwa A is the site closest to the mouth of the River Sio and receives its inflow most directly, which is consistent with the July monitoring record showing it to be the most affected of the three. Majanji A retains the strongest record of collective action of the three, including regular landing site clean-ups, and was the only site still testing at the June follow-up. Nalyoba is the westernmost site and the one with no alternative water source of its own, and its name translates from Samia as something that flows.



Livestock grazing and watering in a channel adjoining a project landing site. Community respondents named soil erosion, human waste and livestock among the pollution sources they can see; district officers identified upstream gold mining using mercury and cage aquaculture among those they cannot.

4. Status of Activities

Every implementation activity in the inception workplan is complete. The endline assessment, activities B1 and B2, is the single remaining item: the instruments are produced and fieldwork is scheduled for August 2026. The timeline column below gives delivered dates rather than planned ones. Two activities moved: the Champion training from February to April, following the delay in obtaining testing kits, and the endline from June to August, following the rescheduling of the training and the advocacy forum. Both shifts were agreed with IUCN-BRIDGE.

Output	Activity	Timeline	Status	Remarks
Inception	A0.1: Project inception and workplan finalisation with IUCN-BRIDGE	Dec 2025 to Feb 2026	Completed	Eight district and sub-county departments engaged. Inception report submitted January 2026.
Baseline	A0.2: KAP survey and governance mapping	Feb to Mar 2026	Completed	52 KAP surveys, 3 FGDs, 6 KIIs, 3 participatory mapping exercises. Baseline Study Report finalised April 2026.
Baseline	A1.2: Initial water quality testing	Mar 2026	Completed	Conducted with Buikwe Water Authority at two abstraction points per site. E. coli, turbidity and chemical parameters.
Output 1	A1.1: Train 30 women Water Quality Champions	Apr 2026	Completed	Five-day programme delivered 13 to 17 April. Thirty women, ten per site, each group including a PWD representative.
Output 1 and 2	A1.3: Participatory pollution mapping and community validation	Mar to Apr 2026	Completed	Maps and transect walk findings validated with Champions during the April training. Kits distributed in May. Fixing a single marked sampling point per site, so that the monitoring series can be tied to the mapped points, is a recommendation at Section 16.
Output 2	Cascade peer training, Champion-led	Apr to May 2026	Completed and verified	Roughly 300 women reached. Signed registration forms verified on site 4 to 8 May. Certificates and payment incentives released against verified forms only.
Output 3	A2.1: Develop and disseminate IEC materials	Apr to Jun 2026	Completed	Samia-language pictorial materials and a project banner produced and deployed at the landing sites; nine illustrated teaching aids developed for the training and the cascade.
Output 3	A2.2: Conduct community dialogues	May to Jun 2026	Completed	Six sessions, two per landing site, led by the Champions with the validated maps and the IEC materials.
Output 4	A3.1: Develop evidence-based policy brief	May to Jun 2026	Completed	Drawing on the baseline water quality results, the participatory maps, the KAP findings and the verified cascade records.
Output 4	A3.2: Convene multi-stakeholder advocacy forum	Jun 2026	Completed	Convened with Busia District Local Government, with Champions presenting.
Closure	Community monitoring and mentorship	May to Jul 2026	Completed	Follow-up mission 22 to 23 June; continuous daily monitoring 1 to 23 July, 65 of 69 scheduled records.
Closure	B1 and B2: Endline KAP survey and water quality testing	Aug 2026	Instruments ready	Full instrument set and data entry workbook produced. Fieldwork scheduled for August 2026. See Section 15.
Closure	B3: Final narrative and financial report	Jul 2026	Completed	This report.

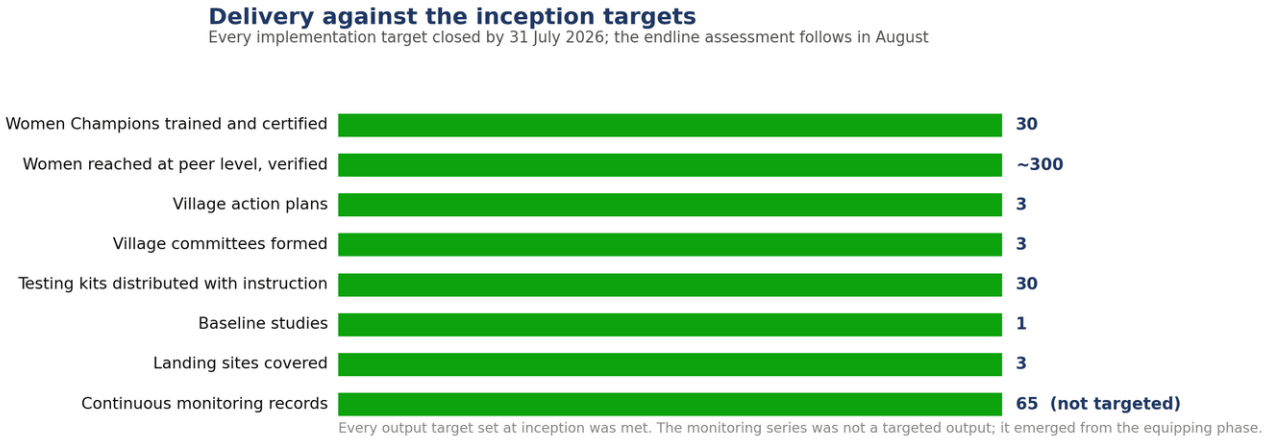


Figure 3: Delivery against the output targets set in the inception workplan.

5. Implementation Narrative

5.1 Inception and stakeholder engagement, December 2025 to February 2026

The project mobilised in the immediate post-election period of January 2026, a timing that allowed community gatherings to proceed safely and communication channels to remain open. Rather than spend the budget on a single inception workshop, the team briefed eight district and sub-county departments individually, securing buy-in from the District Speaker and the Fisheries, Water, Environment and Community Development offices, and from the Busime and Majanji sub-county chiefs. That approach established the political cover the project needed and cost a fraction of a formal event.

Inception meetings were then held at each of the three landing sites, and thirty Water Quality Champions were selected, ten per site, by the communities themselves. Each group of ten includes a representative of persons with disabilities, addressing a GESI barrier the basin-wide analysis had identified. Meeting times were moved to two o'clock in the afternoon to fit around the women's trading hours, a small adjustment that materially reduced the time-poverty barrier to attendance. Participants remarked that a focus on water governance rather than on fisheries alone was novel to them.

5.2 Baseline study, February to March 2026

The baseline combined a knowledge, attitudes and practices survey with qualitative and technical work: 52 KAP interviews of which 49 were analysed, three focus group discussions with 29 women, six key informant interviews with district and sub-county officials, three participatory mapping exercises, transect walks, and laboratory water quality testing conducted with Buikwe Water Authority at two abstraction points per site.

The survey established the values against which the August endline will be measured. It also produced the finding that shaped every subsequent decision. Women and men in the sample were indistinguishable on knowledge, attitudes and daily practice. They diverged at the threshold of the meeting room: fifty-six per cent of women had never attended a meeting on water, sanitation or fisheries, against not one of the thirteen men in the sample; every man who had attended felt comfortable speaking, against fifty-six per cent of women; and sixty-two per cent of men had reported a water problem against twenty-eight per cent of women. The intervention required was therefore narrower and more tractable than a general campaign: move women across the threshold of a forum they were already competent to enter.

The laboratory results were severe. Escherichia coli was too numerous to count in four of the six samples, with at least one such sample at every site, against a standard of zero per hundred millilitres. Four of six samples exceeded the five NTU turbidity limit. Electrical conductivity was low throughout, between 151.8 and 199.4 microsiemens per centimetre, establishing that the salinity problem affecting district boreholes is a groundwater phenomenon and is not present in the lake water. That finding matters, because communities decline treated piped water on the belief that it carries the salinity (taste) they associate with the lake, while accepting borehole water that carries the salinity in fact.

5.3 Training of the thirty Champions, 13 to 17 April 2026



Participants sorting practice cards during the April training. Delivery relied on pictures, objects and demonstration rather than text, in response to the education profile recorded at baseline.

The training was delivered over five days rather than the two the plan proposed: one day of direct mobilisation across the three communities, a central training day at Majanji on 14 and 15 April, and three community action-planning days at Nalyoba on 16 April, Maduwa on 17 April and Majanji on 18 April. The curriculum was widened beyond water quality and advocacy to include leadership, group dynamics and fish handling, in response to requests the women had made during the baseline. Every departure from the plan enlarged the intervention rather than reducing it, with one exception recorded at 5.3.1 below.

The mobilisation day earned its place immediately. On reaching Maduwa the team discovered that earlier messages about the training had never reached the intended participants. The group was rebuilt on the spot through telephone calls and door-to-door contact, and Maduwa went on to record the most committed attendance of the week, with participants arriving at eight in the morning, four hours ahead of the scheduled start, and helping to prepare the venue. Maduwa also produced the most complete monitoring record of the three sites in July.

The District Environment Officer addressed the central session on ecosystem conservation and the protection of water bodies, and the Assistant Fisheries Officer covered fish handling and the water quality considerations that bear on it. Their presence converted verbal commitments secured during inception into visible institutional attendance at community level. Delivery leaned on pictures, flashcards, video and a live water testing demonstration, with an interpreter supporting the full session, a choice dictated by the mix of Samia, Lusoga, Luganda and English in the room and by the education profile recorded at baseline. The strongest engagement of the day came from an afternoon sorting exercise in which participants classified good and poor practice in water use and fish handling, because every card connected to their own income.

On each of the three village days the ten Champions of that site drafted their own action plan with minimal facilitation, agreed a two-week implementation window, elected a leadership structure, and received the registration forms that would record their peer training. The plans converged on landing site sanitation, tree planting and the protection of shoreline vegetation and papyrus, and diverged in ways that reflect each site accurately: Nalyoba, which has no alternative source, committed to boiling, disinfection and rainwater harvesting; Majanji, which enforces landing site rules in practice, added fisheries regulation and the cleaning of the health centre and market; Maduwa framed its plan almost entirely as a set of things to be fought, naming wetland cultivation, poisoning, burning and sand mining.

5.3.1 The one material shortfall against the plan

The District Water Officer was named in the training plan as the facilitator for the legal frameworks and grievance redress modules and did not attend. The District Environment Officer and the Assistant Fisheries Officer covered the ground they could, and the District Environment Officer subsequently became the

standing district contact set out at Section 8. Three of the six outcome indicators in the training plan are affected and are reported here rather than passed over.

Training plan outcome indicator	Target	Position at close
Champions can identify three or more pollution sources	90%	Achieved on observation during the training and the verification questioning. The pictorial pre and post test specified in the plan was not administered, so the figure is not measured. The instrument now exists in the training handbook.
Champions demonstrate correct use of the kit	100%	Achieved. Verified by structured competency questioning at each site during the May mission.
Champions can name district officer contact numbers	80%	Not measured. The spot quiz specified in the plan was not administered. The instrument now exists in the training handbook and the district contact card has been established since.
Champions train other women	3 village trainings within one month	Achieved and verified. Roughly 300 women reached, evidenced by signed registration forms counted on site 4 to 8 May.
Active citizen science data flow	10 reports per month	The July series of 65 records exists, for monthly submission to the district office but this is before the reporting line described at Section 8 was established.
Grievance redress functional	2 issues acknowledged by the district within a week	No acknowledged grievance was recorded during the period.

The last two indicators now exist, in the training handbook and in the endline instrument set, and both will be administered at the August endline. They concern the flow of data rather than the capability of the Champions, and the response to them is the reporting line at Section 8 and the monthly transmission it carries.

5.4 The cascade and its verification, April to May 2026

In the fortnight after the training each Champion trained ten further women. The content of the peer sessions mirrored the action plans: safe water handling and the boiling of drinking water, avoiding the washing of clothes and motorcycles in the lake, hygiene at fish landing and processing points, disposal of fish waste away from the shoreline, and the income logic that links cleaner water to lower spoilage and better prices. The elected committees handled scheduling and mobilisation, which gave the new structures an immediate operational task.

A five-day mission from 4 to 8 May closed the accountability loop. Certificates were countersigned at the District Environment Officer's office on 5 May. The team then visited Nalyoba on 5 May, Maduwa on 6 May and Majanji on 7 May, following the same protocol at each: practical instruction on the testing kits, structured competency questioning, collection and cross-checking of the completed registration forms bearing the name, national identification number, contact and signature of every woman trained, award of the certificate, and disbursement of performance-based payment against signed acknowledgement. Payments, attendance sheets and consent records were reconciled on 8 May and archived.

The verification discipline distinguishes this outreach from most community sensitisation in the basin. No certificate and no payment was released on a promise. Each was released against a countable document held in the hand of the woman who had collected it. The Majanji group drew specific commendation for the completeness of its records. Champions across all sites demonstrated retention of the training content, including the limitation that the kits assess aquatic ecosystem health and fish breeding suitability rather than the safety of drinking water, which the project treated as a safeguarding priority throughout.

5.5 Mentorship, the June lapse and the July recovery

A follow-up during the week of 22 and 23 June found that no water testing had been done at Nalyoba or at Maduwa since May. The Champions gave two reasons: low motivation and fear of finishing the test strips. Only Majanji had tested, once, and was conducting fortnightly clean-ups. During the same interval Maduwa had experienced a thick green algal bloom, a whitish surface layer and fish deaths along the shore, and no measurement had been taken and no report made.

The visit itself restarted the work. Refresher demonstrations were conducted at each site, additional materials were supplied, and the Champions were encouraged to test at least twice weekly. Across the twenty-three days from 1 to 23 July the three sites then completed sixty-five of sixty-nine scheduled records.

5.6 Community water quality monitoring, July 2026

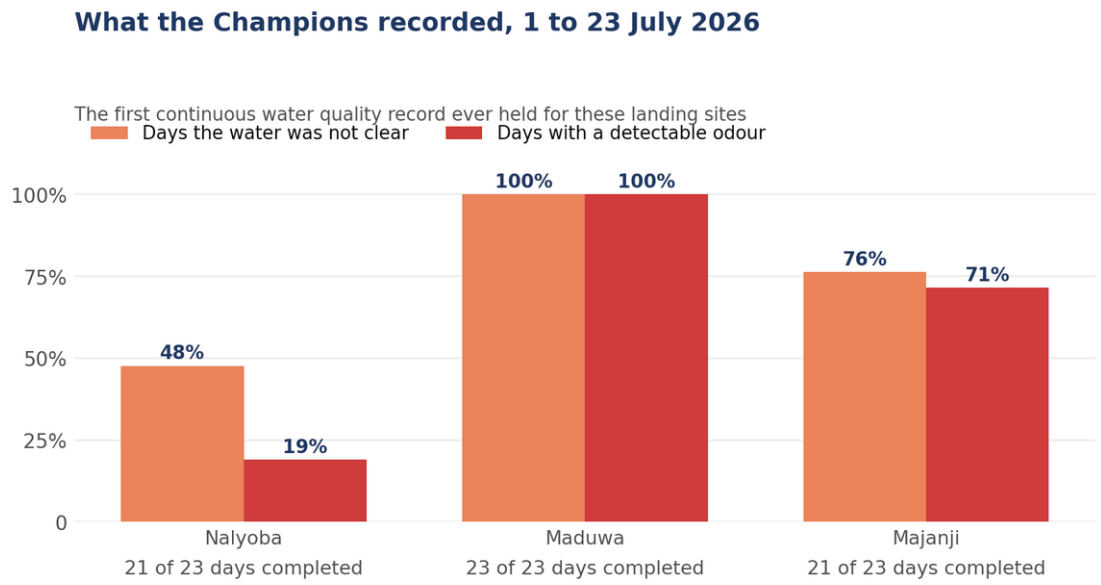


Figure 4: What the Champions recorded across twenty-three consecutive days at the three landing sites.

The July series is the project's principal technical output. Sixty-five records across three sites, ninety-four per cent of those scheduled, each capturing the appearance and odour of the water alongside six strip parameters. The findings are set out in Section 9.

One structural weakness in the series should be recorded. At each site the monitoring was carried by two women working together, and all of them were elected officers of their committees. A record that depends on a single person is a record that stops when that person is unwell, travelling or discouraged, which is what happened in June. The training handbook produced at the close of the project introduces a rota that distributes the task across all ten Champions at each site, with a named reserve for every day.

6. Results at a Glance

Indicator	Result	Verification
Water Quality Champions trained and certified	30	Ten per landing site; each group includes a representative of persons with disabilities. Five-day programme, 13 to 17 April 2026. Attendance register and certificate register archived.
Women reached through verified peer training	~300	Registration forms bearing name, national identification number, contact and signature, collected and cross-checked on site, 4 to 8 May 2026.
Community action plans developed	3	Drafted within each Champion group with minimal facilitation; two-week implementation windows.
Village leadership committees established	3	Chairperson, secretary, treasurer and mobiliser elected at each site, except one site which did not fill its treasurer post. No structure with a water mandate existed at any site before the project.
Certificates issued	30	Countersigned at the District Environment Officer's office, 5 May 2026.
Water testing kits distributed with instruction	13	Calibrated for aquatic ecosystem health and fish breeding suitability; the limitation was communicated explicitly and retention was verified.
Baseline studies completed	1	52 KAP interviews of which 49 were analysed, 3 FGDs with 29 women, 6 KIIs, 3 participatory mapping exercises, laboratory testing at six points.
Continuous water quality records produced	65	1 to 23 July 2026, 94 per cent of scheduled records across three sites. First continuous record held for these sites.
Guidelines and training instruments produced	2	A training plan and a trainer handbook. A baseline report, a training report and a full endline instrument set were also produced.
Published items linked to the project	8	Three feature stories on the IUCN Water Knowledge Platform, one long-form article and four posts on LinkedIn.
District and sub-county departments engaged	8	Eight departments briefed at inception, including the District Speaker and the Fisheries, Water, Environment and Community Development offices, and the Busime and Majanji sub-county chiefs. Six were interviewed as key informants at baseline. Four officers took part in delivery: the District Environment Officer and the Assistant Fisheries Officer and the Majanji Sub-county Chief.

7. Reporting Metrics

The following figures are provided in the format requested. Where a figure rests on an estimate rather than a count, the basis is stated so that the reader can see what is evidenced and what is inferred.

	Metric	Figure	Basis
i	Social media and published items	8	Three feature stories published on the IUCN Water Knowledge Platform (21 May, 26 May and 10 June 2026), one long-form article on LinkedIn, and four LinkedIn posts (9 February, 8 April, 14 May and 21 May 2026). Full list at Section 12.

	Metric	Figure	Basis
ii	Workshops and training sessions conducted	21 facilitated, 51 including the cascade	Facilitated by the project: 3 community inception meetings (January to February), 1 mobilisation day and 1 central training session and 3 village action-planning sessions (April), 3 verification and equipping sessions (May), 3 follow-up refresher sessions (June), 6 community dialogue sessions and 1 multi-stakeholder advocacy forum (May to June). A further 30 peer-training sessions were led by the Champions themselves and verified against signed registration forms, giving 51 in total.
iii	Locations reached	4	Busia District Local Government, plus the landing sites of Maduwa A, Majanji A and Nalyoba. Coordinates at Section 3.
iv	Guidelines and training handbooks produced	2	One Training Plan for Champions and one Water Champions Training Handbook. Three further knowledge products were produced and are listed at Section 11.
v	Baseline studies and diagnostics conducted	1	WASHE Baseline Study Report, March 2026 fieldwork, 49 records analysed of 52 administered.
vi	Water Users Associations collaborated with	0 at entry, 3 formed at exit	No water users association existed at any of the three sites at the start, and the Beach Management Units that had previously managed landing site affairs had been dissolved. Each village formed a committee through the project, with a chairperson, secretary, treasurer and mobiliser elected by the group. Two sites filled all four posts and one did not fill its treasurer post.
vii	Women direct beneficiaries	30	The certified Champions. All are women.
viii	Youth direct beneficiaries, aged 35 or under	10 (estimated); 6 verified	Age was not collected as a variable for the cohort, so the figure is derived. Twenty of the thirty Champions have a national identification number recorded on the training register, of which eighteen are in the format that encodes a year of birth. Six of those eighteen were 35 or under at the time of the training. Applied to the full cohort of thirty this gives approximately ten. The decoding was checked against four Champions who also answered the baseline survey and stated their age: three match the encoded year within one year and the fourth within four years. Six is the verified minimum and ten is the working estimate.
ix	Indirect beneficiaries	~300, plus the landing site populations	Roughly three hundred women reached through the verified cascade, evidenced by signed registration forms. Beyond that, the community dialogues, the IEC materials and the Champions' continuing presence reach the wider populations of the three landing sites, which are not separately counted.

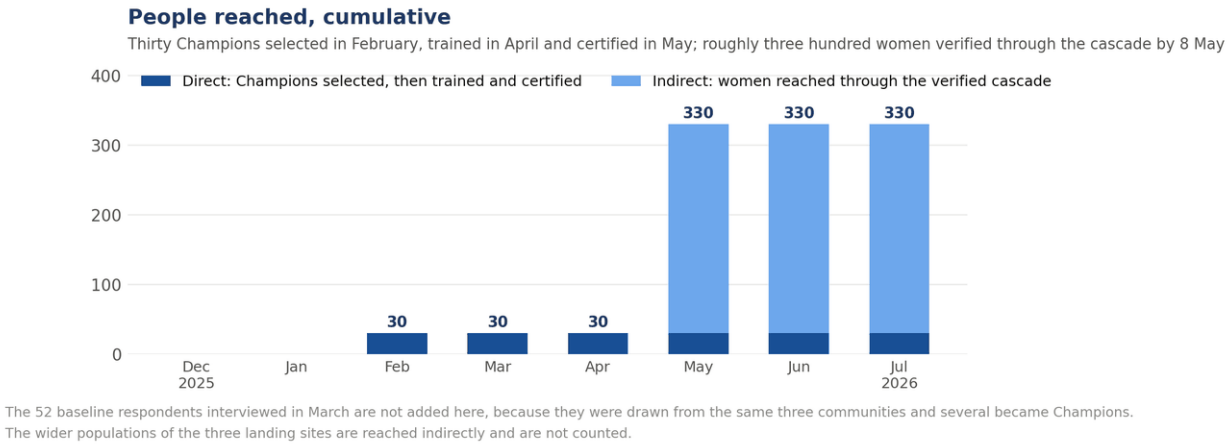


Figure 5: Cumulative reach across the project period.

8. Governance, Institutional Linkage and Reporting

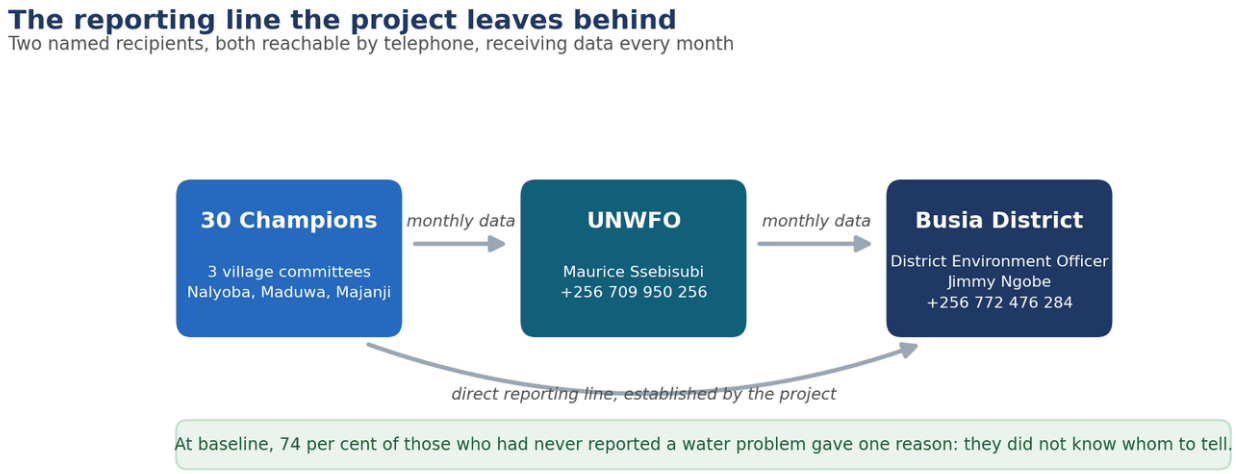


Figure 6: The reporting line established by the project.

8.1 The link that now exists

The single clearest gap the baseline found was not knowledge and not willingness. It was the absence of an addressee. Seventy-four per cent of respondents who had never reported a water problem gave one reason: they did not know whom to report to. Forty per cent could name any rule protecting water quality, and not one of the three landing sites had a monitoring programme of any kind.

The project closed that gap with two named people rather than with an institution in the abstract. The district linkage runs to the District Environment Officer, and the Champions report to the project coordinator in parallel, who also carries the data to the district.

Role	Name and contact	Function in the reporting line
District Environment Officer, Busia District Local Government	Jimmy Ngobe, +256 772 476 284	Receives community reports and the monthly data from the landing sites. Countersigned the Champion certificates, which is what gives a Champion standing when she approaches an office.
Project Lead and Coordinator, UNWFO	Maurice Ssebisubi, +256 709 950 256	Receives the same reports in parallel and carries the consolidated data to the district. The redundancy is deliberate: a single channel is a channel that fails.
Village committees, three sites	Chairperson, secretary, treasurer and mobiliser at each	Hold the records, make the report on behalf of the group where a Champion does not wish her name to travel, and represent the group at meetings.

Monthly data sharing is the operating rhythm. The Champions record daily, the committee secretary holds the sheets, and the chairperson transmits the month's record to both recipients. The pattern was established during the project and is the mechanism by which the Assistant Fisheries Officer's condition is met: he stated at baseline that community observation would be acted upon only where the observers carry recognition from the district. The certificates provide the recognition and the monthly transmission provides the evidence.

8.2 Structures created

No water users association existed at any of the three landing sites when the project began. The Beach Management Units that had managed landing site affairs had been dissolved, and the successor Fisheries Beach Management Committee, of seven members with two seats reserved for women, was being constituted under a verbal directive with no written instrument in place. Awareness of a committee of some kind stood at 84

per cent, but no site held a structure with a water mandate. Against that background the project created three elected committees, and did so in the form the Majanji Sub-county Chief had advised at baseline would be absorbed into district processes: community-generated rather than externally appointed.

The women elected as chairpersons were the three the community already trusted, which is a favourable indicator for durability. One site did not fill its treasurer post, a gap noted here so that it can be closed at the next refresher.



District Environment and Natural Resource Officer addressed the central training session in person, converting inception commitments into presence at community level.

9. Water Quality Findings

9.1 The laboratory baseline, March 2026

Testing was conducted with Buikwe Water Authority at two abstraction points per site during a single evening run.

Parameter	Result
Escherichia coli	Too numerous to count in 4 of 6 samples, with at least one such sample at every site. The standard is zero per hundred millilitres.
Faecal coliforms	Maduwa 15 and 10, Nalyoba 2, Majanji 0.
Turbidity	Maduwa 4 and 4 NTU, within the 5 NTU limit. Nalyoba 22 and 26 NTU. Majanji 28 and 18 NTU. Four of six samples exceeded the limit.
Electrical conductivity	151.8 to 199.4 microsiemens per centimetre across all six samples. The lake water is not saline; the salinity problem affecting district boreholes is a groundwater phenomenon.
Nitrates	Highest at Nalyoba, 30 and 80. The reporting unit is stated inconsistently on the laboratory log and the values require verification before external citation.
Not measured	pH, dissolved oxygen, GPS coordinates of the sampling points and the date of testing were absent from the log.

9.2 The community record, July 2026

Sixty-five records across twenty-three days. Values are medians of ordinal colour blocks and are reported as medians and as counts above a threshold, never as means.

	Nalyoba	Maduwa	Majanji
Records completed	21 of 23	23 of 23	21 of 23
Median nitrate, mg/l	10	25	25
Median nitrite, mg/l	1	5	5
Median pH	7.2	7.6	7.6
Days nitrate at or above 50	5%	35%	43%
Days nitrite at or above 5	14%	87%	71%
Days pH at or above 8.0	0%	39%	40%
Days the water was not clear	48%	100%	76%
Days with a detectable odour	19%	100%	71%

9.3 What the two records together demonstrate

The March laboratory run found Maduwa the cleanest of the three sites. The July community record found it the most degraded, discoloured and malodorous on every one of twenty-three days, and captured a bloom on 6 and 7 July with nitrate at 100 mg/l and pH at 8.4. Both are accurate. A single evening sample cannot characterise a water body that changes over days, and quarterly institutional sampling cannot either. That is the argument for community monitoring, and the project is now able to make it with its own data rather than by assertion.

The second demonstration concerns the durability of the method. Sensory observation tracks the instrument: median nitrate of 10, 25 and 50 mg/l on days recorded as having no, mild and strong odour respectively, with rank correlations of +0.51 to +0.69 between the sensory descriptions and the strip values, the strongest being

odour against nitrite. A Champion without consumables, or unable to read a numeral, still generates a reliable alarm. Given the education profile of the cohort and the strip supply constraint set out in Section 13, this is the finding on which the sustainability of community monitoring at these sites rests.

Data quality notes for any onward use of the July series. Strip values are ordinal colour blocks, not measurements, and step 0, 10, 25, 50 and 100. Chlorine readings of 0.8 to 3 mg/l in open lake water are implausible and are likely to reflect strip cross-sensitivity; they should be verified against a district laboratory before external citation. Sampling times were not standardised and ranged from 07:00 to 19:00, no sampling point was recorded, and the remarks column was left empty throughout. Each of these has a corresponding rule in the training handbook.

10. Gender Equality and Social Inclusion

The project was designed on the premise that women in the fish value chain hold the knowledge and bear the consequences of poor water quality while being absent from the decisions about it. The baseline tested that premise and refined it.

Baseline indicator	Women	Men	What it shows
Clean fish at the water's edge or in the lake	53%	54%	Practice is identical
Have heard of water quality monitoring	49%	31%	Women are better informed, not worse
Very concerned about water quality	89%	85%	Concern is shared
Never attended a meeting on water or fisheries	56%	0%	The divergence begins here
Very comfortable speaking at meetings, among attenders	56%	100%	And continues here
Have ever reported a water quality problem	28%	62%	And ends in the reporting gap
Believe women's voices are always heard	26%	62%	Most men do not perceive the gap
Median reported weekly income from fish	UGX 40,000	UGX 200,000	A factor of five

The programmatic consequence was direct. Community dialogue was opened with observed participation figures rather than with an assertion of exclusion, because sixty-two per cent of men in the sample believed women's voices were already always heard and would have disputed the assertion in good faith. Men were not found to be opposed in principle: every man in the sample wanted greater community involvement in water decisions.

10.1 Inclusion measures applied

- Each group of ten Champions includes a representative of persons with disabilities, selected by the group. Busia District records a disability prevalence of 22.3 per cent and the baseline instrument did not capture disability status; the endline adds the Washington Group Short Set so that all indicators can be disaggregated.
- Meeting times were set at two o'clock in the afternoon, and later adjusted around the arrival of fishing boats, so that attendance did not cost a trading day.
- Transport was reimbursed and meals provided at every session, treated as a condition of attendance rather than as hospitality, in line with the GESI Action Plan.
- All delivery was visual and oral. No participant was required to read aloud, write in front of others or complete a form unaided, and a thumbprint was offered as a normal alternative to a signature throughout.
- Consent was sought individually, in the participant's own language, with the risk of retaliation stated before agreement, and could be withdrawn at any point without consequence to anything else received.
- Participants who attended with young children were accommodated within the sessions; a designated space and structured breaks are built into the handbook for future cohorts.

11. Knowledge Products Delivered

Product	Extent	Description and use
Training Plan for Champions	n/a	The contractual training design: philosophy, ESMS and GESI principles, module content, roles, materials, follow-up plan, outcome indicators and risk register.
WASHE Baseline Study Report	55 pp	The evidence base. KAP analysis of 49 records with full sex disaggregation, qualitative findings from 3 FGDs and 6 KIIs, laboratory water quality results, governance mapping and recommendations.
WASHE Water Champions Training Report	41 pp	The record of delivery: training, action planning, cascade verification, the June follow-up and the July monitoring series, with the analysis of that series.
WASHE Water Champions Training Handbook	81 pp	The replication instrument. Five days, twenty-two sessions with facilitator scripts, a low-literacy method chapter applied to every session, safeguarding protocols, a ninety-day follow-up schedule and thirteen printable tools including a pictorial tally sheet, a monitoring rota, an action plan template and three assessment instruments.
WASHE Endline Survey Tool	40 pp	Seven instruments: a KAP questionnaire repeating 55 baseline items unaltered, a Champion competency assessment, a cascade verification module, an FGD guide, a KII guide, a water quality protocol and a forum commitment tracker.
WASHE Endline Data Entry Workbook	10 sheets	One sheet per landing site in the baseline layout with coded dropdowns, plus tool sheets and a live analysis sheet computing endline values against fixed baseline values as data is entered.
Illustrated teaching aids	9	Healthy against polluted lake, the four-step testing sequence, pollution sort cards, a governance power map, nature-based solutions, a safe reporting flowchart, a telephone group guide, the water web and a fish handling poster.
Community monitoring database	65 records	The July 2026 daily series, three sites, six strip parameters plus appearance and odour.

Two of the nine illustrated aids carry captions that were generated with corrupted text and require resetting before any reprint or handover, and the district contact card was printed blank and must be populated with names, photographs and telephone numbers before it is issued. Specifications for all nine, with the corrections required, are annexed to the training handbook.

12. Communications and Visibility

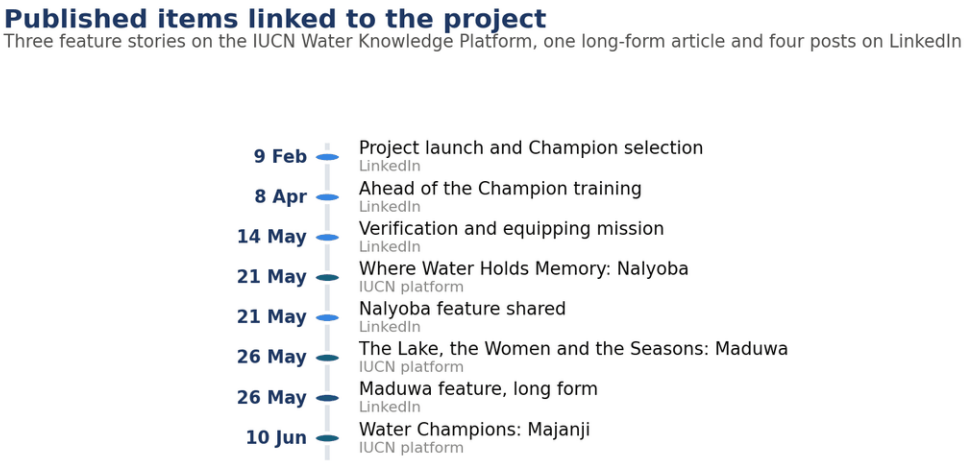


Figure 7: Published items linked to the project.

Eight items linked to the project were published across the period. Three are full feature stories on the IUCN Water Knowledge Platform, one per landing site, produced with the documentation partner CuratEast, whose crew accompanied the May verification mission under a Grantee Engagement Pack and captured interviews, portraits and environmental footage across all three sites without disrupting a single training or verification session.



Project information material in Samia, produced under the information, education and communication output and deployed at the landing sites.

Date	Channel	Title or subject	Link
9 Feb 2026	LinkedIn	Project launch and Champion selection	linkedin.com/feed/update/urn:li:activity:7426594848884899842
8 Apr 2026	LinkedIn	Ahead of the Champion training	linkedin.com/feed/update/urn:li:activity:7447554491429822464
14 May 2026	LinkedIn	Verification and equipping mission	linkedin.com/feed/update/urn:li:activity:7460678750616125440
21 May 2026	IUCN Water Knowledge Platform	Where Water Holds Memory: Nalyoba Landing Site, Uganda	waterandnature.org/where-water-holds-memory-nalyoba/
21 May 2026	LinkedIn	Nalyoba feature shared	linkedin.com/feed/update/urn:li:activity:7463120362122391553
26 May 2026	IUCN Water Knowledge Platform	The Lake, the Women, and the Seasons: Maduwa Landing Site, Uganda	waterandnature.org/lake-women-and-seasons-maduwa/

Date	Channel	Title or subject	Link
26 May 2026	LinkedIn	The Lake, the Women and the Seasons: Maduwa, long form	linkedin.com/pulse/maduwa-landing-site-lake-women-seasons-curateast-cue-qzg8f
10 Jun 2026	IUCN Water Knowledge Platform	Water Champions: Women Protecting the Waters, Majanji Landing Site	waterandnature.org/water-champions-women-protecting-water-majanji-landing-site/

The three platform features name individual Champions and give them the authorship of their own account: Margaret Nansubuga of Nalyoba, who recalls the fish species the lake once held; Anyango Betty of Maduwa, the first woman fish trader at that site in 1986 and now a Beach Management Unit member, alongside Nabwire Goretti; and Asina Siraji of Majanji, whose account of the training is quoted in the third piece. That is a form of visibility the project values above reach figures, because it places the women rather than the implementing organisation at the centre of the record.

Field documentation from the April training and the May mission supplements the professional footage. All material is governed by the consent records collected before each interview, and the sensitivities around photography at Nalyoba, rooted in longstanding fisheries-related concerns, were managed through transparent consent procedures and adjusted filming approaches.

> Engagement figures for the four LinkedIn posts and the long-form article should be read from the account analytics and added before submission. They could not be retrieved for this report.

13. Challenges, Limitations and Lessons

13.1 The principal limitation the project leaves behind

Test strip supply. The six-parameter strips on which community monitoring depends are consumables, they are not reliably available in local markets, and their unavailability delayed the equipping phase from the first quarter into the second. No arrangement is in place to resupply them after the project closes. Without strips the numeric series stops. The mitigation available, and the reason the project can state this limitation without treating it as fatal, is the finding at Section 9.3: sensory observation tracks the instrument closely enough that a Champion can continue to raise a reliable alarm on appearance and odour alone. The recommendation at Section 16 is that the district or a successor grant carry a small standing consumables line, and that the sensory record be treated as the primary series with the strip series as its confirmation rather than the reverse.

13.2 Challenges encountered and how they were handled

Challenge	What happened	Response
Mobilisation through a single channel	Information about the April training never reached the intended participants at Maduwa, the second such incident involving one relayed contact.	Urgent on-the-spot mobilisation by telephone and door-to-door contact. All subsequent activities are mobilised by physical visit through multiple focal persons. Maduwa then produced the strongest attendance and the most complete monitoring record.
Language and literacy	Content delivered in Luganda was difficult for some participants; the Samia, Lusoga, Luganda and English mix slowed delivery, and sixty-five per cent of the baseline sample had not gone beyond primary school.	An interpreter supported every session. Delivery was carried by flashcards, pictures, objects and demonstration. The same method is codified in the training handbook and applied to every session in it.
Test kit market availability	Kits were not available in the market when first sought, delaying the equipping phase into the second quarter.	IUCN-BRIDGE granted timeline flexibility; the kits arrived and were distributed with hands-on instruction in May. Advance procurement is now a four-week item on the preparation timetable.
Monitoring lapsed after equipping	No testing at Nalyoba or Maduwa between May and the June follow-up; a bloom with fish deaths at Maduwa passed unmeasured and unreported.	Refresher demonstrations and resupply at each site in June, followed by ninety-four per cent completeness in July. A distributed rota with named reserves is built into the handbook to remove the single-person dependency.
Competing livelihood schedules	Sessions were shortened where women needed to meet returning boats; some left early to trade.	Sessions timed around the two o'clock window agreed at inception and kept tight. The two-week cascade window allowed Champions to train peers at hours that fitted trading rhythms.
Childcare	Several participants attended with young children, producing intermittent disruption.	Managed within sessions. A designated space and structured breaks are specified for future cohorts.
Teaching material defects	Two of the nine illustrated aids carry corrupted captions and the district contact card was printed blank.	Fit for facilitated use, where the trainer speaks every caption. Full specifications and corrections are annexed to the training handbook and must be applied before reprint or handover.

13.3 Lessons

1. Verification changes behaviour on both sides. Releasing certificates and payments only against signed, identity-referenced registration forms protected project funds, gave the Champions a record-keeping discipline that the Majanji group has made its own, and produced an auditable outreach trail of a kind community sensitisation in this basin has historically lacked.
2. The training was not the weak point; the weeks after it were. What restarted two dead sites was not better content but a person arriving. Follow-up must be booked and budgeted before the training is scheduled.
3. Livelihood framing carries the message. Across the training, the cascade and the verification interviews, the topics that held attention were those tied to income: spoilage, handling hygiene and the price consequences of contaminated landing sites. Conservation presented as income protection was heard; conservation presented as stewardship was not.
4. The kit limitation is a safeguarding line, not a footnote. Champions were told at every site, and demonstrated retention of, the fact that the strips assess ecosystem health rather than drinking water safety. Given that households abstract drinking water directly from the lake, the boil-water message must accompany every kit, every time.
5. Community observation is diagnostically reliable. The convergence of the Champions' sensory record with the strip values, and of the community account of seasonal water colour change with the Assistant Fisheries Officer's technical diagnosis of the 2025 fish kill, both support the central premise of the project's theory of change.

14. Sustainability and Exit

What remains in place	Condition at project close
Thirty certified Champions	Assessed against the training outcomes and certified with district countersignature, which is what gives a Champion standing when she approaches an office.
Three elected village committees	Chairperson, secretary, treasurer and mobiliser at each site, holding the monitoring records and the registration forms. One treasurer post remains unfilled and should be closed at the next contact.
A named reporting line	Two named recipients with telephone numbers, receiving data monthly. See Section 8.
Thirteen testing kits	Distributed with hands-on instruction and verified competency. Consumable resupply is the open risk. See Section 13.1.
A sensory monitoring capability	Independent of consumables and of literacy, and validated against the instrument series.
A complete replication instrument	The training handbook allows a trainer with no prior involvement to deliver the full course, and includes the ninety-day follow-up schedule whose absence caused the June lapse.
A measured baseline and a ready endline	Fifty-five baseline items repeated unaltered in the endline instrument, with a data entry workbook that computes change as data is entered.
Three published community narratives	On the IUCN Water Knowledge Platform, naming the women themselves.

The open institutional opportunity at project close is the constitution of the Fisheries Beach Management Committees, which carry seven members with two seats reserved for women. The Champion groups are elected, certified, and hold verifiable outreach and monitoring records. Seating Champions in those reserved places costs nothing and would convert a project structure into a statutory one. It remains the single highest-value action available to the district.

15. The August 2026 Endline

The endline was scheduled for August 2026 and the full instrument set is complete and ready for use. This section records what will be measured and against what, so that the measurement design is on the record at the close of the implementation period rather than assembled afterwards.

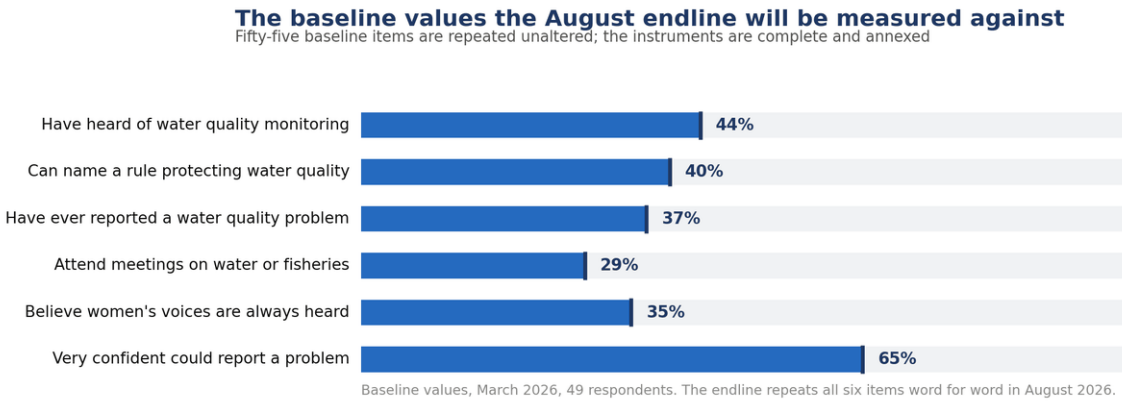


Figure 8: Six of the baseline values the endline repeats. Fifty-five items in total are repeated unaltered.

15.1 The instrument set

Tool	Instrument	Respondent	Target
1	Endline KAP questionnaire	Champions, community women and community men	~73
2	Champion competency assessment	The 30 certified Champions	30
3	Cascade verification module	A random sample of the women reached at peer level	~30
4	Focus group discussion guide	8 to 10 women per site	3 groups
5	Key informant interview guide	District and sub-county officials	6
6	Water quality endline protocol	Laboratory sampling plus the Champion strip series	6 samples
7	Forum commitment tracker	Commitments made at the advocacy forum	All

15.2 The comparability rule

Fifty-five baseline items are repeated in Sections A to G of the KAP questionnaire: five in Section A, ten in B, nine in C, nine in D, eleven in E, seven in F and four in G. Every stem and every numbered response option is reproduced as printed at baseline, in the printed order and with the same option numbers. No baseline item has been removed, reworded, reordered or given a new response option. Where the endline requires a category the baseline did not offer, the answer is written under Other rather than added as a numbered option, so that the option codes of the two rounds remain identical.

Sections A to G are administered before any mention of the WASHE project, the training, the Champions or the testing kits. Asking a respondent whether she has heard of water quality monitoring after telling her that the project trained women in water quality monitoring measures the interview rather than the intervention.

15.3 What the endline adds

Twenty-four additions are made, none of which displaces a baseline item. Sex is retained as recorded at baseline. Disability status is added using the Washington Group Short Set, which the GESI Action Plan requires and the baseline instrument did not support. Exposure status is recorded from the roster rather than asked, distinguishing certified Champions, women trained during the cascade, and neither, and it is the primary basis for attributing change. Corrections to the income and spoilage items are appended after the original questions rather than replacing them, so that the imperfect baseline measure and the improved one are both available.

A data entry workbook accompanies the instruments, laid out one sheet per landing site in the baseline format with coded dropdowns, and computing the endline value, the sample size and the change in percentage points against fixed baseline values as data is entered.

16. Recommendations

1. Seat the Champions in the reserved women's places on the Fisheries Beach Management Committees. The groups are elected, certified and hold verifiable records, and the committees are being constituted now. This costs nothing and is the action with the highest return available.
2. Establish a standing consumables line for test strips, held by the district or by a successor grant. Community monitoring stops silently when strips run out and nobody reports the shortage. Count remaining stock at every contact and resupply before it reaches ten.
3. Treat the sensory record as the primary series. Appearance and odour track the instrument closely, cost nothing and require neither consumables nor literacy. The strip series confirms the sensory series rather than the other way round.
4. Distribute monitoring across a rota. Two of the three sites depended on one woman each and both stopped when she did. Three days a month for each of the ten Champions, with a named reserve for every day, is set out in the training handbook.
5. Formalise the monthly data transmission with a receipt. A record of an unanswered report is evidence, not a failure. Recording whether the district responded, and when, is what will make the next advocacy case.
6. Complete the cascade arithmetic from the archived forms.
7. Correct the two defective teaching aids and populate the district contact card before any reprint or handover. In a facilitated session the defects do not stop the work; as posters left at a landing site they are unusable.
8. Verify the chlorine readings against a district laboratory before citing them externally, and standardise the sampling time and point for any continuation of the series.
9. Budget the follow-up before the training. Nine contacts across ninety days, fully costed at the outset.

17. Events and Participation

Men recorded at the training and coordination events are the project lead and participating district officers. The thirty Champions appear in several rows because the same women progress through mobilisation, training, action planning and verification, so the column does not sum to a headcount. The peer-training figure is the verified total from the registration forms. The monitoring row records the number of women who actually collected data, which is five: one at Nalyoba, one at Maduwa and two working together at Majanji, with one further Champion contributing on a single day. That concentration is the reason a distributed rota is recommended at Section 16.

Event	Date	Location	Men	Women	Total
District stakeholder briefing	Jan 2026	Busia District offices	4	1	5
Sub-county inception meetings	Jan 2026	Busime and Majanji	2	0	2
Community inception and Champion selection	Jan to Feb 2026	All three landing sites	31	82	113
Baseline KAP survey	Feb to Mar 2026	All three landing sites	13	39	52
Baseline focus groups and participatory mapping	Feb to Mar 2026	All three landing sites	0	29	29
Baseline key informant interviews	Mar 2026	Busia District and sub-counties	6	1	7
Mobilisation and preparatory visits	13 Apr 2026	All three landing sites	2	25	27
Water Champion training, main session	14 and 15 Apr 2026	Majanji, host venue	3	30	33
Action planning, Nalyoba	16 Apr 2026	Nalyoba	0	10	10
Action planning, Maduwa	17 Apr 2026	Maduwa A	0	10	10
Action planning, Majanji	18 Apr 2026	Majanji	0	10	10
Champion-led peer training, cascade	Apr to May 2026	All three landing sites	0	~300	~300
Certification coordination	5 May 2026	Busia District offices	2	0	2
Verification, certification and kit distribution	5 May 2026	Nalyoba	0	10	10
Verification, certification and kit distribution	6 May 2026	Maduwa A	0	10	10
Verification, certification and kit distribution	7 May 2026	Majanji	0	10	10
Community dialogue sessions, two per site	May to Jun 2026	All three landing sites	0	6	6
Follow-up and refresher visits	22 to 23 Jun 2026	All three landing sites	0	6	6
Community water quality monitoring	1 to 23 Jul 2026	All three landing sites	0	6	6

Attendance figures for the community dialogue sessions and the multi-stakeholder advocacy forum are held in the project activity file and should be entered in the three rows marked before submission.

18. Expenditures Overview

The approved budget was CHF 10,000 was fully utilised. Expenditure reported for January to March was CHF 2,384.00. April to July figures are reconciled against the payment sheets, signed incentive acknowledgements and supplier invoices collected during the May and June missions, and the consolidated financial statement accompanies this report as a separate submission.

19. Conclusion

The WASHE project completed every implementation activity in its workplan and met or exceeded every output target. Thirty women were trained, assessed and certified; roughly three hundred more were reached through a cascade verified in person against signed forms; three committees were elected at sites that had none; and a reporting line now runs from those committees to a named officer in the district and to the project coordinator, carrying data every month.

What the project demonstrated, however, exceeds what it delivered. Over twenty-three days in July a group of women with a median of primary schooling produced a continuous water quality record for three landing sites at ninety-four per cent completeness, captured a pollution event that institutional sampling had missed five weeks earlier, and overturned a laboratory characterisation of which site was cleanest. They did so with a set of colour-block test strips and their own eyes and noses, and the two agreed.

The finding that will outlast the grant is that the agreement holds without the strips. A Champion who has run out of consumables, or who cannot read a numeral, still generates a reliable signal from appearance and odour alone. That is what makes this model affordable to sustain, and it is what the project would ask the district and IUCN-BRIDGE to build on.

> *"The government cannot be everywhere. So we become the cameras."*
> Said by the project lead to the Champions during the April training, Majanji



Nalyoba landing site during the March baseline fieldwork. The three sites now hold the first continuous water quality record in their history.