

**SOROPTIMIST INTERNATIONAL (SI) LIRA UGANDA**  
**MID TERM REVIEW REPORT OF BARLONYO SOLVATTEN PROJECT**  
**SUPPORTED BY SI SWEDEN**

## **1.0 Introduction**

In November 2021, a total of 72 Solvatten was received by SI Lira. Out of the total received, 66 Solvatten were distributed to the 66 beneficiaries who were identified at project inception level. Other beneficiaries included Ngetta Babies home as a trial project who received 6 Solvatten and then the remaining 2 were taken by Lucy and Josephine, both members of SI Lira.

The Local Council Chairman 1, Mr Odongo Kennedy, mobilized 65 beneficiaries. Only one beneficiary was absent due to unavoidable circumstances. Mr Odongo Kennedy in his welcome remarks moved a vote of thanks to Members of SI Lira, and requested SI Lira members to convey his appreciation to members of SI Sweden for the support of women of Barlonyo and especially those under his jurisdiction.

Mr. Odongo Kennedy informed SI Lira that he has got positive reports from the beneficiaries and that the benefits of clean water provided through the use of Solvatten cannot be underscored. He noted that water from the wells have remained unclean and often infested with worms which is harmful to the people who drink such water taken directly without any form of purification. Mr. Odongo also noted that he has received requests from other women in the community around his area to be considered in the next project phase.



**Above, Women assembled for the mid-term review meeting**

## **2.0 Uses of Solvatten water**

Some of the uses of Solvatten water registered by beneficiaries included:

### **2.1 Clean water for drinking**

As highlighted above in the Chairman's remarks, water from the unprotected wells have remained unclean and often infested with worms which is harmful to the people who drink such water taken directly without any form of purification. Solvatten has to a large extent solved that problem especially in the households using Solvatten.

### **2.2 Hot water for tea**

It becomes difficult to have water ready for tea sometimes due to challenges of lack of fire wood so that households that can afford to have tea often heat the water using solvatten, and keep in hot water flasks for tea.

### **2.3 Warm water for bathing**

Despite its small size, Solvatten has provided warm water for adults, children, new born babies, and mothers both at home and in the hospital.

There is one outstanding testimony of a mother, Evalyn, who was admitted in hospital while in labour. Knowing the benefit of Solvatten, she carried it to hospital. She actually said in her own words that it was the time she appreciated the use of Solvatten most.

Evalyn and other women in the labour ward needed hot water for tea frequently to warm up themselves and ease labour pains while they waited to deliver their babies. they needed water for bathing as well. She shared the solvatten water with fellow women who were in need. The Challenge is that it could not meet all the needs due to its capacity. Evalyn gave birth to a healthy baby and herself has remained healthy.

### **3.0 Benefits of Solvatten clean water**

Beneficiaries registered some very interesting benefits derived from the Solvatten clean water as highlighted below:

#### **3.1 Easing pressure on the need for firewood**

There is scarcity of firewood in the villages. Women and girls have got to walk far away into the bushes to gather firewood. This exposes them to many risks such as snake bites, young girls in particular are exposed to abusers when they are in the wild gathering firewood. Fire wood is scarce because

people in the communities cut down trees for firewood and charcoal as a source of income. While it helped, it created a bigger problem of scarcity and contributing to the bigger problem of climate change.

### **3.2 Time saving**

Women also save time which would have otherwise been spent looking for firewood.

### **3.3 Health of households**

Families of beneficiaries of Solvatten has reported good health of the household especially children who are not suffering from common diseases like diarrhea and worms. Ms. Alwedo Esther said, “Clean water from the Solvatten is good for the health of my children because they have not suffered from rashes on their bodies as it was in the past and they have not suffered any illness in a long time.

### **3.4 Source of admiration and inspiration**

Families that have Solvatten are admired in the communities, because the Solvatten is a rare equipment that was never seen in the Communities. How it works is a source of amazement, and especially when the beneficiaries share the benefits people admire them and are inspired to have one so that they can also access clean water and improve on their health. It has now turned out that everyone in the community is seeking to have one of their own.

## **4.0 Testimonies about Solvatten**

Ms. Cecilia Ayo said, “My family is happy about the clean drinking water in our pot. My husband no longer complains about drinking water smelling or

having any particles in the drinking water. This makes me happy as a mother and a wife”

Ms. Akoko Betty who lives close by the near the road side said, “people passing by often ask me about what Solvatten is because they had never seen it before. They admire how it works and often ask me to let them drink the water which they say tastes good and this make me feel proud”.



**Above, the Chairman, Members of SI Lira and women pose for a group photograph after the meeting**

## **5.0 Solvatten use in Ngetta Babies Home**

At the time of the Visit, there were only six babies in the babies' home. Most of the Children were reunited with their families and some were adopted. The Sister in charge reported that the Solvatten was mainly used for preparing drinking water for the Children which has made life very easy for them as they have adequate clean water for drinking. The home has running water and heaters in the bathrooms and it's the reason why are not using Solvatten water for bathing.



## 6.0 Safety of the Solvatten

The women have continued to jealously guard the Solvatten. They all agreed that given the fact that many people have picked interest in it, they keep the Solvatten in the house when not in use and never leave them out when they are not home.

## **7.0 Maintenance of the Solvatten**

The beneficiaries reported that they have not experienced any challenge with the Solvatten which require any repairs. They have therefore remained in good working condition.

## **8.0 Challenges**

The challenges included the small capacity continued to be highlighted and that Solvatten does not work well during cold days which is true given te fact that it uses solar energy.

## **9.0 Conclusion**

The Chairperson Local Council 1 and the women appreciated the Soroptimist of Sweden and SI Lira for the good gesture to Barlonyo community, who have made a contribution to access to clean water in the community. The women have therefore requested for more Solvatten estimated to be 100 for their colleagues who have not benefited yet. The babies' home has also requested for more Solvatten up to about 10 pieces for use next year as they plan to open a nursery school section in the babies' home.