



# Empowering a 10 year-old Hygiene Ambassador

*Enhancing sustainable handwashing with tippy taps and school programming*



By **Tetra Tech International Development**

IN WATER, SANITATION, AND HYGIENE

FEBRUARY 16<sup>TH</sup>, 2021

Cheerful and light spirited Sumaya Namugamba is a ten year-old girl who studies at Kangulumira Church of Uganda primary school, one of ten schools in Kayunga district supported by USAID's Uganda Sanitation for Health Activity (USHA) to improve positive school water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) services and behavior.

Working through grantee organizations, USHA supports schools to attain a WASH friendly status, which involves promoting of handwashing with soap, proper menstrual hygiene management, and operation and maintenance of sanitation and water facilities. The USHA team also helps revive and institute school health clubs, encourage key hygiene behaviors, construct improved segregated toilets for boys and girls, and provide access to safe drinking water.

Sumaya is a self-appointed 'handwashing ambassador.' She has taken it upon herself to apply handwashing lessons from school, in her home and community by assembling tippy taps, a simple device for hand washing with running water whereby a three-five-liter container with a small hole near the cap is filled with water and tipped with a stick and rope tied through a hole in the cap.

Sumaya learned how to make and install tippy taps from USHA's training at Kangulumira Church of Uganda, Primary School and she was eager to teach her friends and family.



“My daughter Sumaya Namugomba, is a handwashing advocate in this village. She helps install handwashing facilities and teaches us how to properly wash our hands during these COVID-19 times. Thanks to USAID Uganda Sanitation for Health Activity for training her at school!”.

Kasifa Tibiwa,  
Kayunga District, Uganda

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“When they taught us how to make tippy taps at school, I shared with my mother, siblings and friends at home because I don't want them to fall sick.”

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– Sumaya Namugomba, 10 year-old hygiene ambassador

Back home, Sumaya collected small stick poles and asked her

mother to buy her a jerrycan. She then made and installed a tippy tap just next to the latrine like they were advised at school. The ten year-old also took charge to ensure that the device is operated and maintained with water and soap always available for washing hands after toilet use.

Sumaya has not only changed her family but has taught her playmates how to make tippy taps and many of them have followed her example. Today, all Sumaya's neighbors have well maintained tippy taps. **"I and my friends compete about whose home has the best tippy tap, this helps us to keep each other in check and because of that, we all have clean and firm tippy taps,"** Sumaya said.



Thanks to Sumaya's efforts, handwashing with soap has become a norm in her community. Kasifa Tibiwa, Sumaya's mother, says with pride:

*“Quite frankly, prior to Sumaya’s efforts, many of us were not consistent with the handwashing practice. It is not the case now ever since Sumaya installed the tippy tap. My daughter is now a handwashing advocate in this village. She helps install handwashing facilities and teaches us how to properly wash our hands during these COVID-19 times, thanks to you people for training her at school.”*







## **Kayunga, Uganda**

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