

Lonza Water Treatment South Africa – Continue to Clean the Path to a Healthier Future

In 2014 the Lonza Corporate Charitable Sponsorship team challenged business units to propose a major, long-term charitable project that would draw on Lonza technologies to enhance the quality of life in an area of desperate need. Ideas began circulating; and after much thought and deliberation, approval was given to Lonza Water Treatment South Africa to address an urgent health threat and concern in Uganda.

One of the poorest countries in the world, Uganda is in dire need of sanitary improvements. Under a three-year project known as Sanitation for Africa, Lonza Water Treatment is teaming up with the non-governmental organization Clean Habitat Uganda to provide our HTH Scientific® sanitizer tablets for use in pit latrines in that poor African nation. Clean Habitat Uganda will distribute our sanitizing tablets to communities serving 5,000 homes.

Pit latrines, also known as outhouses or long drops, serve as household or even community toilets and are an ideal breeding ground for disease and virus-bearing mosquitoes, flies, cockroaches and other insects. Comprised of dry calcium hypochlorite, one or two of our sanitizing tablets are placed into each latrine (depending on the pit size), where they help combat bacteria, foul odors and insect growth, which in turn helps to control diseases that can be carried by the insects.

In December 2015 a kick-off summit was held in Kampala, Uganda. In attendance were key persons from the Ugandan Ministry of Health, the Ugandan Ministry of Water, Clean Habitat Uganda and Lonza.

Project Update

Since the kick-off summit, the sponsored product has arrived in Uganda and is currently being distributed in key identified areas. A community events day was held in Kabasanda, Uganda, to further educate the community on sanitation, how the HTH Scientific® Pit Latrine Sanitizer Tablets work and the benefits of the tablets. The event was a fun-filled day loaded with educational presentations by Clean Habitat Uganda and Lonza representatives, along with guest speeches from the District CAO (Chief Administrative Officer), District Health Official and a community leader. It also included dance acts, a performance from a local musician, the distribution of balloons and other toys to the children in the community and the unveiling of a local storefront painting, land-marking the project in the area. Another highlight was a soccer game, with one team formed by Lonza and Clean Habitat Uganda and the other team, a local community team, with the district CAO also making his star appearance.

As Ruaan Reyneke, Project Leader said; “It’s about bringing education, sanitation and water treatment to the community. And that is what’s most important for development.”