About
In Uganda more than a third of rural water sources are non-functional, and another third are not adequately functional. Whave is a Ugandan non-profit social-enterprise that was founded to address this problem by providing preventative maintenance to assure reliable functionality of safe water sources. Over the past three decades there has been heavy investment in the drilling of boreholes, which are left with no reliable maintenance plan. The pumps break quickly, but due to a lack of trustworthy and reliable maintenance, communities are hesitant to pay for repairs. As a result there are long down times. Substandard parts are also common, which lead to more breakages and partial functionality. This forces communities to resort to unsafe water sources. Whave forms public-private partnerships with local government, professionalizing services through upskilling and performance-payment of local technicians. Water sources maintained by Whave have consistently experienced greater than 98% full-functionality over the past seven years. Since its inception in 2011, Whave has established service agreements in over 400 communities, guaranteeing reliable water access to over 100,000 people. It has built a staff of 60 full-time employees, of which 57 are Ugandan nationals.

Modes of Operation
Whave works in two capacities, as a demonstrative model of reliable rural water service provision and as an advocacy body.

As a service provider Whave demonstrates and benchmarks preventive maintenance service delivery, using a sustainable model financed by tariff revenue collected from consumers.

As an advocacy body Whave generates awareness of the absence of maintenance structures causing more than half the rural population to lack access to reliable safe water, despite investment in improved technologies. Whave works with the aid community and government to establish and implement performance contracts for maintenance service providers which assure rural communities of consistent and professionalized water service delivery, regulated by government.

Service Areas

Whave has signed with government public-private partnerships in four districts: Kamuli, Nakaseke, Kumi, and Mityana. New partnerships are being developed in further districts.
Wash Leadership

Whave is a Vice-Chair of the Ugandan Water and Sanitation Network (UWASNET), Chair of UWASNET’s Good Governance task group, and is Vice-Chair of the Technology task group. Whave takes an active part in national government meetings such as the MWE Joint Sector Review, and the Operation & Maintenance (O&M) NGO Forum. It takes a leading role in collaborative discussions on development of a national O&M framework, and publishes cost and performance data derived from its work as a pilot Area Service Provider.

Management Team

Adam Harvey, Managing Director, lives in Uganda and holds a Sociology and Economics MA and Engineering PhD. He brings 30 years of experience with public-private partnership advisory roles for governments in Africa and Asia. He has experience in results-based development financing for rural electrification, fuel-efficient cooking and WASH.
Frédéric Bergeron, General Manager, has four years of experience in technical and human resource management in the Canadian aerospace industry, and an advanced degree from University of Montreal in Mechanical Engineering.
Joel Mukanga, Program Coordinator, has extensive experience in local governance and social work in several districts of Uganda, including Mityana and Kamuli prior to joining Whave’s leadership team in 2013.

Partners

Whave appreciates funding and support from USAID, UNICEF, BMZ, Siemens, Mercy Corps and the University of Colorado at Boulder.
Past Partners include Austrian Development Aid and Climate and Development Knowledge Network (CKDN)