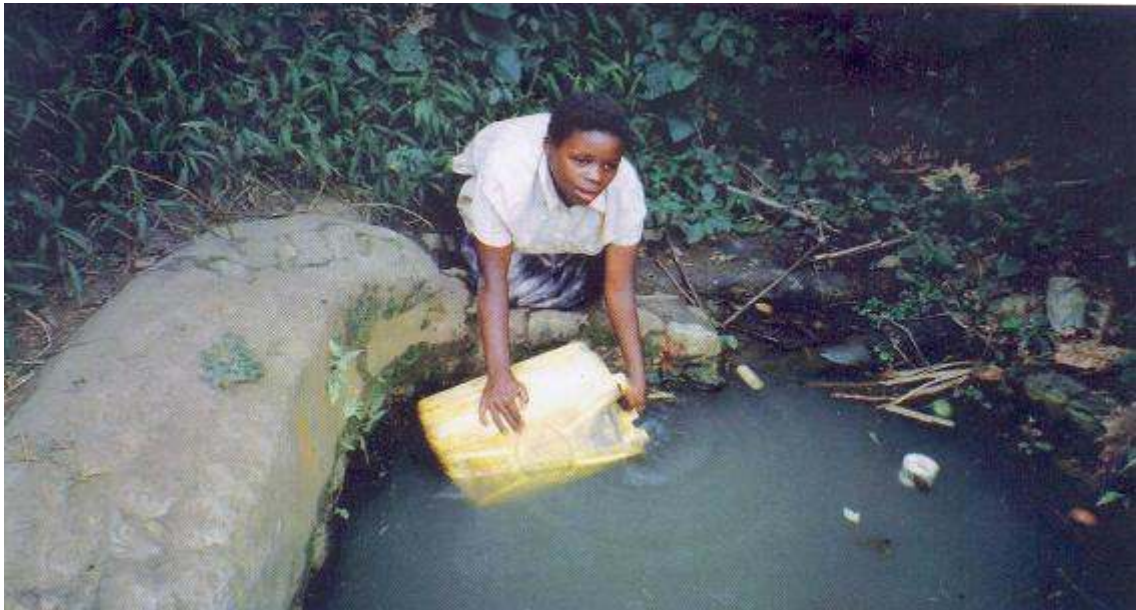


## **A RAY OF HOPE IN THE GLOOM OF WATER STRESS.**

**By Prossy Sebunya**

Namayumba is one of the sub-counties on the boundaries of Wakiso district. The boundary is made by river Mayanja. This is an area experiencing two rainy seasons and a long dry spell. However, the climatic conditions have drastically changed to be predictable yet this is an area habited by people majority of which are farmers who rely on rainwater for agriculture.



**A woman Collecting water from an unprotected well in Namayumba Sub-county**

As far as domestic water is concerned, this is collected from different water sources ranging from ponds to protected spring wells, boreholes and shallow wells. Nonetheless, many of these boreholes and shallow wells are not functional at times due to being over used leading to water scarcity.

Very few homes have been privileged to become recipients of water tanks and piped water from some projects. This has left the majority facing such water stress as moving long distances to collect water and at times crossing to other water sources in the neighboring villages when their water sources dry out. Though hygiene and sanitation practices have been promoted in the area by some organizations, it has not taken root. This has resulted into the outbreak of poor hygiene and sanitation related diseases such as Cholera, Typhoid, Dysentry, and Diarrhoea among others.

Owing to this situation, IRDI has partnered with Macknight and UWASNET to promote a project in Luguzi and Kyampisi parishes in Namayumba sub counties, on building capacity of women groups in the construction of rainwater harvesting Jars and solar disinfection of water (SODIS). This project aims at providing safe adequate water supply at household level there by reducing walking distances, water stress and incidences of water related diseases.

Women groups are going to be equipped with skills in the construction of rainwater harvesting jars as a sustainable strategy for the project. They will further be provided with a set of equipment and tools such as moulds, wheelbarrows and spades among others to enable them construct the 150 rainwater-harvesting jars as well as train others.

The SODIS project is going to demonstrate the use of solar to disinfect water for drinking through setting solar water disinfection units in 50 households. Alongside, it is going to ensure that beneficiaries observe recommended hygiene and sanitation practices through raising community awareness. It should be noted that safe water chains will be put as one of the priority practices for homes to qualify to receive rainwater-harvesting jars, as well as SODIS demonstration units.

IRDI will implement this project with the support of the district and sub-county leadership and community members from the 10 villages with in Kyampisi and Luguzi parishes.