

Exemplary leadership promotes  
community sanitation, improves water  
safety: *the case of Kijura Town Council*

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# Introduction

- This case study demonstrates the critical role that leaders can play in improving household sanitation, leading to improved water quality.
- It's based on a 2018 campaign in Kijura Town Council, Kabarole District dubbed “Good Sanitation Starts with Leaders”.
- The objective of this case study is to share experiences about water safety planning and to reaffirm that leadership is a key factor in improving household sanitation and water safety.

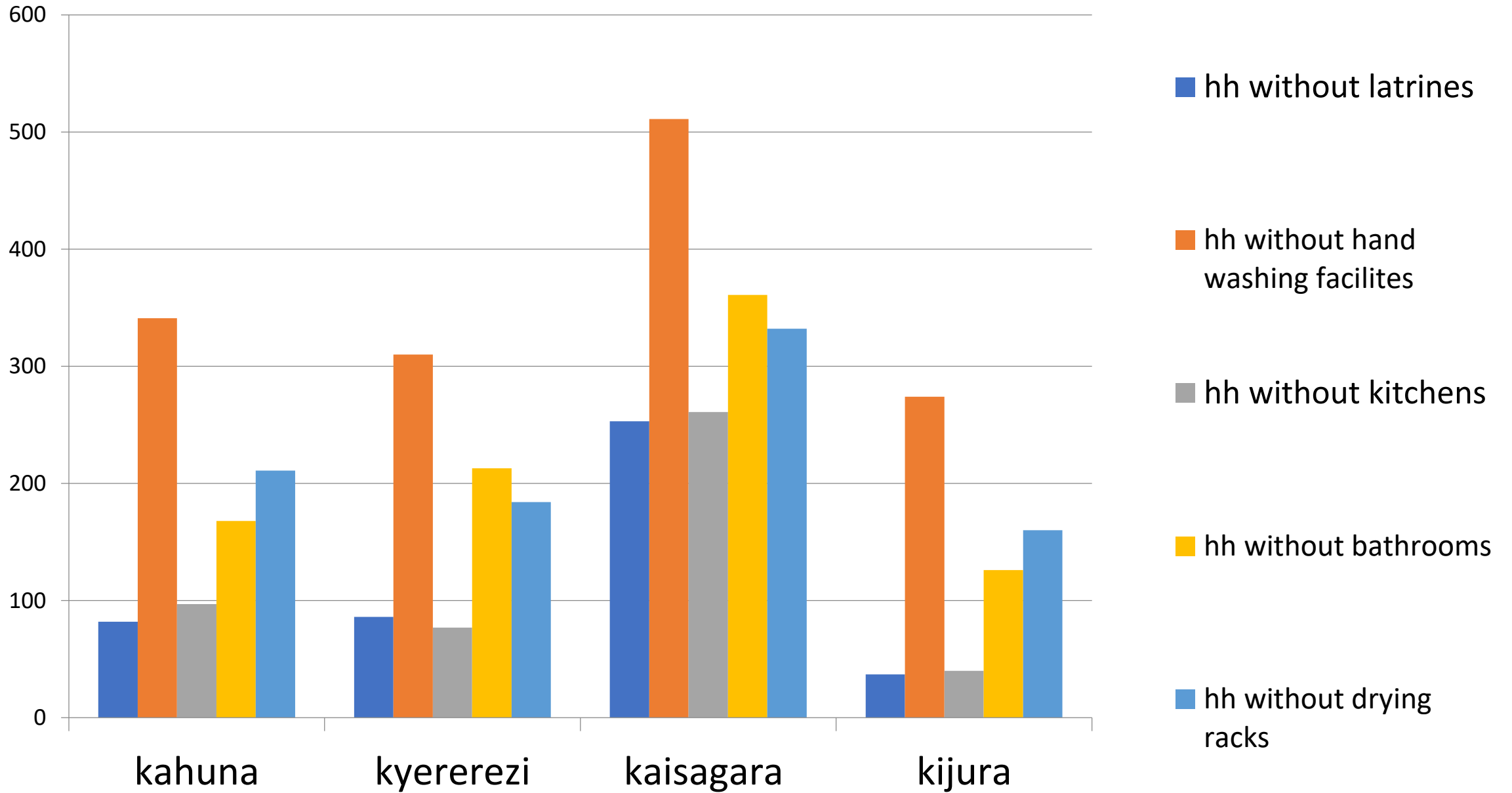
# Background

- A rapid water quality assessment on 116 water sources in Kabarole district was carried in 2017.
- Findings showed that 64% of the water sources across the district were contaminated with E-coli.
- Kijura Town Council was one of the areas affected by the high levels of E-coli contamination.
- Inadequate sanitation levels was cited as a key factor to contamination during the Water safety planning meetings.
- Ironically several political leaders from LCI-LCIII level were found without standard sanitation facilities in their households.

# Process of the Sanitation Campaign

- Involved the Kijura Town Council Executive on Water Safety planning for 5 water sources.
- Data was categorized to identify individual challenges of sanitation for each household, village, and institutions. E.g tea estate workers
- Town Council Executive resolved to take action to reduce water contamination by improving household sanitation.
- It was resolved that leaders should first address sanitation in their own households- Exemplary leadership
- This marked the beginning of a campaign dubbed: **“Sanitation: Start with your leaders”**. – Link to the video

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KsRBXc152KU>



- Sanitation Campaign involved a number of stages;
- First was Sanitation sensitization and health education of the Leaders.
- Home Visits of the leaders by all councillors to address gaps in each leader's homestead.
- Waste safety Planning meetings with communities
- Household sanitation campaigns using the leaders as front runners- Hygiene and Sanitation sensitization using community groups.
- Lastly sanitation improvement campaign in Institutions ( Schools and Health Centres) and direct engagement with Tea estate managers to provide proper sanitation to their workers.

# Results of the Sanitation Campaign

- Household sanitation has improved – 218 new latrines were constructed in 6 months
- Political leaders have constructed sanitation facilities and inspired their constituents to do the same- all 65 leaders improved household sanitation
- Political leaders have quickly turned into sanitation champions supporting the technical staff to enforce proper sanitation
- Town Council leaders engaged tea estate owners and compelled them to construct sanitation facilities for laborers- Kijura Tea Estate Constructed 15 new latrine blocks
- Sanitation byelaw has been drafted enforcing sanitation-related laws and ordinances to ensure that all residents comply with stipulated standards



# Before and after the Sanitation Campaign





# Before and During the Campaign in Kijura Tea Estate



# Results for Water Safety Planning

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- water source contamination has reduced, all the six water sources tested with zero ecoli after one year
- Water safety plans have also been developed and are being implemented by Communities for water sources that were found contaminated with E-coli





# Key lessons

- Leaders need reliable, valid, timely and applicable evidence to take appropriate action. The water quality survey provided the evidence that triggered action in Kijura Town Council
- Contextualize, interpret evidence, involving most crucial stakeholders i.e political and technical leaders
- Exemplary leadership is necessary to influence sanitation and hygiene behavior change in communities
- Water Safety Planning is an effective community intervention for both water quality and sanitation Improvement

# Conclusion

- Leadership play a very important role in improving community sanitation
- Community and Leaders are awakened by data evidence to action. It is important that the data is packaged with understanding of the local context if it is to be useful
- In Kijura TC and Kabarole, we hope that sanitation campaign started by the Leaders will provide useful lessons for scaling up in the district and Uganda at large.

“With Sanitation; Start with the Leaders”