



## The Global Water Initiative

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# With Water Fees Collected, Akodokodoi Village Invests

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There are good reasons to pay for water in Akodokodoi Village. First of all, the rates are fair: each household in this village in Orum District, Uganda pays 1000 shillings per month (about 0.5 USD) and these rates were jointly agreed on by community members. The fees are reasonable enough that even the elderly and disabled heads of households pay regularly and sometimes early. According to the Water User Committee members, any delinquents tend to be youth that spend their money on drink.

Secondly, there are consequences for not paying. In case of non-payment, the committee takes corrective action, in one case seizing a man's hoe, in another a chicken. One committee member reports during an

interview with GWI staff that the man who had his chicken taken is among one of the first to pay now.



Members of Akodokodoi Village

The consistency of payment didn't happen overnight but rather improved over time, according to the committee, composed of chairperson, secretary and caretaker. They have been doing this for long enough that community members know what to expect. They congregate under a specific tree on a proposed day for collecting money. They keep records that include the date, the name, and how much the individual paid. After collecting everything, the book is rolled, the money counted and taken to the treasury.

Wanting to be enterprising, the committee also called another community meeting to decide on how the funds collected could be invested. They reasoned that investing the money would be better than holding it in cash for a repair of the system that might occur well in the future. With the fees levied from the March and April 2010 collection, a total of 90,000 Ugandan Shillings (about 41 USD), the community bought two improved breed goats that are now in the custody of the secretary. Committee members explain that they plan to maintain the pump well so that instead of having to pay for maintenance early on, they can multiply the goats and sell 2 or 3 should the need for repairs come up.