



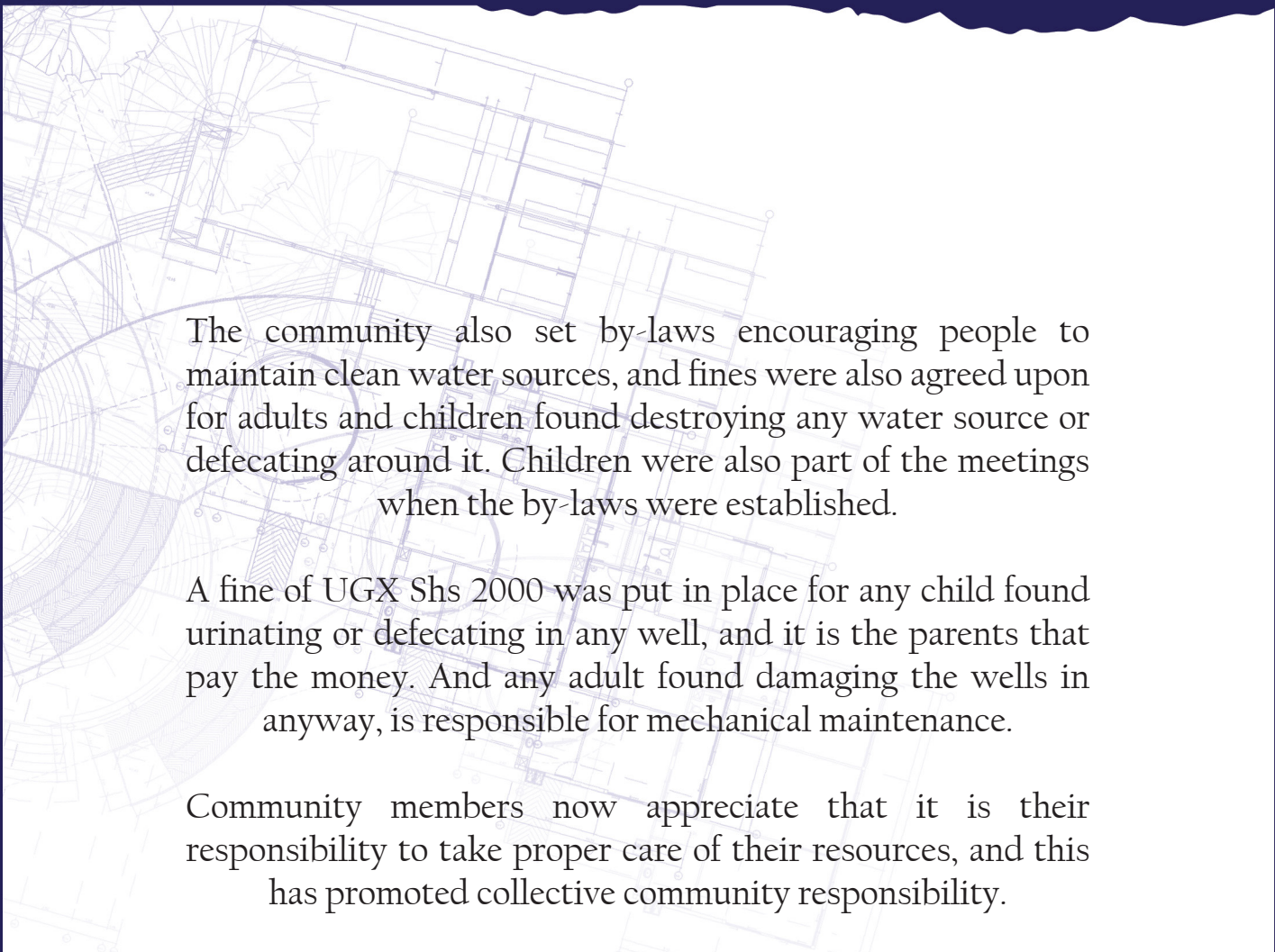
COMMUNITY GIVING TOWARDS CLEAN WATER: BWEGYERERE COMMUNITY NOW BENEFITS FROM CHANGED MINDSET

The idea of giving towards our own development needs was introduced to my community in 2021 through community dialogues, but before this, we would wait for their local leaders to fix every societal problem, including small ones like; clearing bushes or removing sand washed down into the wells because of floods from the hills. During rainy seasons, the wells would be blocked with sand and dirt, and people would first push in sticks to create space to draw water. While fetching water, some children would also defecate around the wells, making the water unsafe for home use.

Ever since we learnt about how powerful our giving can be, the community appreciates the importance of keeping their water sources clean, because they know such resources belong to them, and not government.

Before the community dialogues, the community used to wait for local leaders to pay someone to clear the bushes around the wells, and remove the sand. But this has since changed. Once a month, community members now come together and clean the wells. This has given them access to clean water, minimizing the outbreak of water-borne diseases such as cholera and typhoid.





The community also set by-laws encouraging people to maintain clean water sources, and fines were also agreed upon for adults and children found destroying any water source or defecating around it. Children were also part of the meetings when the by-laws were established.

A fine of UGX Shs 2000 was put in place for any child found urinating or defecating in any well, and it is the parents that pay the money. And any adult found damaging the wells in anyway, is responsible for mechanical maintenance.

Community members now appreciate that it is their responsibility to take proper care of their resources, and this has promoted collective community responsibility.

As told by

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