Pre-paid Meters: Bringing Affordable Water To The Slums Of Kampala

washfunders.org. April7, 2014. Editor's Note: This guest post was authored by Libby Plumb, Senior Communications Advisor for WaterAid America, who has recently returned from visiting WaterAid's water, sanitation and hygiene programs in the slums of Kampala, Uganda.

Mariam is the only child of 22-year-old single mom Rehema. On the way to and from the local spring, near the Rubaga slum in Uganda's capital city, Kampala, she toddles behind her mother. It's a journey they make four times a day to bring home enough water for drinking, cooking and washing.
Even little Mariam carries a jerry can of water: while Mom struggles under the weight of two 22 pound (10-liter) yellow jerry cans, Mariam follows behind carrying a bright red 11 pound (five-liter) jerry can – quite a feat for such a young child.

Rehema knows the quality of the spring water is questionable and could be risky for her daughter's health. Kampala's poorly constructed pit latrines and a high water table are a lethal combination as feces can easily contaminate the water supply. It's not just water quality that is an issue. Accessibility is also a major challenge. With hundreds of people relying on the spring for water, crowds build up, with long waits common in the morning and evening when the heat of the sun is not so fierce.
Rehema commented: "It's very difficult to collect water from there. At 8 or 9 p.m. it is so crowded that it can take more than 30 minutes."

See more at: http://www.washfunders.org/affordable-water-to-the-slums-of-kampala