

## **UGANDA RAINWATER ASSOCIATIONS PROFILE**

The Uganda Rainwater Association (URWA) is a national membership organisation, which was formed in 1997 and registered in 1999 with a main purpose of raising the profile of rainwater management and utilization among all development sectors in Uganda. URWA is part of the Greater Horn of Africa Rainwater Partnership (GHARP), whose aim is to improve food security in the Greater Horn of Africa region through promotion of rainwater management activities and the Southern and Eastern Africa Rainwater Network (SEARNET), a regional coordination body, which seeks to strengthen coordination and information sharing among national associations in rainwater harvesting. URWA is also part of the Green Water Harvesting Partnership (GWP) that links SEARNET and the South Asia Rainwater Network.

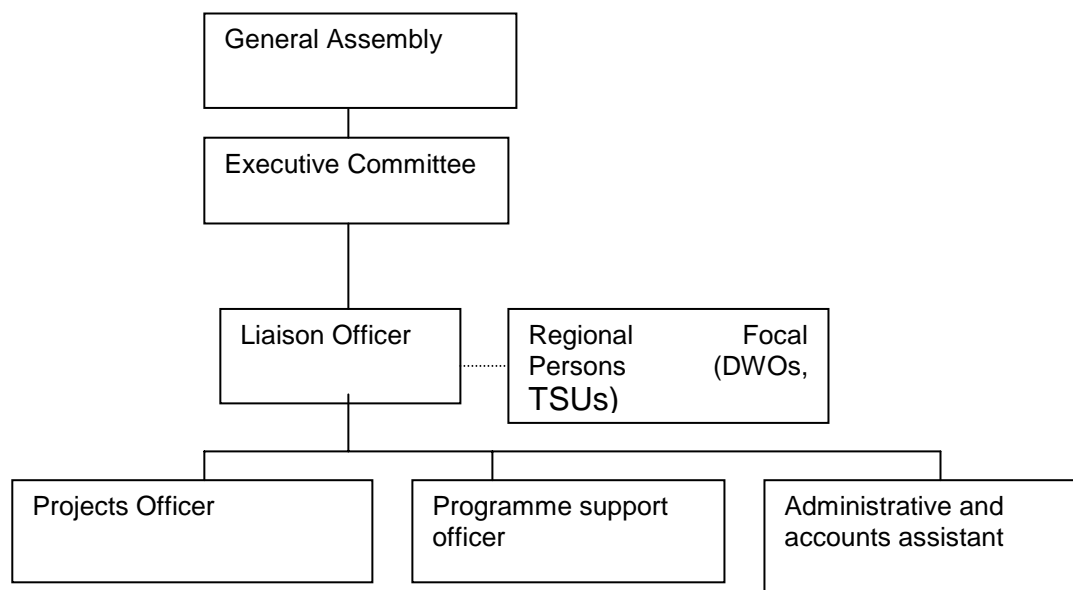
URWA's activities support communities to improve their socio-economic situation through mobilization, information, skills and experience sharing and works closely with the Directorate of Water Development (DWD), for policy guidance and direction.. The Association has a fully established secretariat managed by a Liaison Officer responsible for coordinating the association's activities and has a comprehensive five year strategic plan (2002-2007) to guide its activities and investments. URWA performs its functions through its members contributing in their respective areas of competence.

### **OBJECTIVES:**

- Promote networking and collaboration between actors in rainwater harvesting (RWH) in Uganda.
- Develop strategic partnership with key sector actors to ensure successful promotion of the appropriate Rainwater management systems being developed,
- Advocate for stronger commitment of RWH in water, agriculture and environment sectors,
- Strengthen the capacity of members to deliver services (implement RWH activities), and
- Mobilize resources for rainwater harvesting activities.

## THE ASSOCIATIONS STRUCTURE

URWA is headed by a general assembly, which comprises of the entire membership. The general assembly convenes an annual general meeting and elects an executive committee of nine members every two years. The executive committee directs the day-to-day activities of the association on behalf of the general assembly. The association also has a fully established secretariat of four, for coordination of its activities. At the same level with the secretariat are collaborators who include the regional focal persons of Technical Support Units (TSUs) and District Water Officers



### EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE:

<b>Chairperson</b>	Nicholas Kiggundu
<b>Vice Chair person</b>	Gertrude Ngabirano Sempira
<b>General secretary</b>	Paito Obote
<b>Treasurer</b>	William Kaleega
<b>Committee members</b>	Isaac Mutenyo
	Sarah Ossiya
	Robert Okello
	Alex Lwakuba
	Patrick Okuni

## **CURRENT ACTIVITIES**

- Mainstreaming RWH activities into local government plans and budgets
- Sensitise district and sub-county officers on RWH through regional and district meetings.
- Training resource persons at district and Sub-county levels in RWH.
- Capacity building for Community Based Organisations
- Research and development on appropriate low cost technologies.
- Conducting Exposure visits
- Networking and Collaboration with other stakeholder in rainwater harvesting both national and international.
- Monitoring and Evaluation of the piloting of the NGO delivery mode of domestic water supply using RWH in Mbarara and Bushenyi Districts

## **ACHIEVEMENTS**

- Establishment of a fully functional secretariat in 2001
- Development of a five-year strategic plan in 2002
- Initiation and development of the Pilot RWH project in Mbarara and Bushenyi District
- Policy Study on constraints to uptake of Domestic Rainwater Harvesting (DRWH) in Uganda.
- Working with Government in shaping the Strategy of RWH in Uganda.
- Awareness creation at Districts
- Holding regional Interdistrict meetings for water officers and development partners
- Production of the URWA Newsletter
- Establishment of URWA Resource Centre.

## **FUTURE DEVELOPMENTS**

### **Rain centre:**

Uganda has been chosen as the first location for the piloting a rain center concept. The rain center concept originates from Chennai-India (2002) and will feature different aspects and techniques of traditional and modern RWH. The main objective is to promote water literacy and help people rediscover rain.

### **Rainwater research and development reference centre:**

URWA is working with the government of Uganda through the Directorate of water development to set up a rainwater research and development reference centre, to carry out research, experimentation, and testing of various rainwater harvesting model technologies, before dissemination to end users.

### **Water for production**

As a pertinent issue raised at the last Annual General Meeting, Water for Production will be URWA's major focus in the future. Several proposals have been written to tackle the above. The strategic plan is also under review so as to strongly incorporate this venture.

### **CHALLENGES AND CONSTRAINTS**

- A lot of sacrifice is needed from members
- No functioning secretariat
- Documenting the various RWH technologies in Uganda
- Low affordability of RWH technologies by the communities.

### **CONCLUSION**

In the past, Rainwater Harvesting technologies were relegated to the background in Uganda. They were looked at as an inferior source of water supply and this affected the promotion and expansion of RWH. Today, the situation is gradually changing particularly due to the awareness creation and advocacy by URWA. The government now recognizes RWH as one of the sustainable options for raising safe water coverage in the country and to help in achieving the millennium development goals. This is seen through the support of the RWH pilot project in Mbarara and Bushenyi Districts. Government has also put in place a strategy for the development of domestic rainwater harvesting in Uganda, which is yet to be implemented.

RWH is gradually gaining recognition as a viable water supply source among the policy makers and URWA continues to push it forward!

**CONTACTS: BOTH ADDRESS AND PHYSICAL CONTACTS.**

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