



NORTHERN UMBRELLA OF WATER AND SANITATION

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Background:

Northern Umbrella of water and sanitation is an association comprising of water and sewerage boards of piped water schemes in Northern Uganda. It was registered as a government limited company (by guarantee) on the 3rd February 2011 and it is currently operational with technical staff at the secretariat running its day to day functions. It currently enjoys membership of up to 161 schemes (86 supported and 76 directly managed) pipe water schemes spread across west Nile, Acholi and Lango sub regions of Northern Uganda. The secretariat office is located on plot 14/16 Maruzi road in Lira Municipality.

Area of coverage:

nUws operates in 26 districts of Nebbi, Pakwach, Zombo, Arua, Maracha, Koboko, Yumbe, Moyo, Adjumani, Amuru, Nwoya, Omoro, Kitgum, Lamwo, Agago, Pader, Lira, Otuke, Alebtong, Oyam, Apac, Kole, Dokolo, Alebtong and Kwania.

Funding

Northern Umbrella of water and Sanitation gets funding from the following sources

- Government of Uganda(GOU) through Ministry of Water and Environment.
- Joint Partnership fund (JPF) through Ministry of Water and Environment.
- Local collections from water user fees

Vision

“To be a leading Water and Sanitation Utility in Uganda”

Mission

To sustainably provide quality and affordable water and sanitation services to the people of Northern Uganda

Management structures

nUws uses three organs to undertake its activities. These include General assembly, executive committee and the secretariat

- The general assembly is composed of representatives from each of the member schemes. The general assembly is the top

most organ responsible for formulating and reviewing policies of the organization, electing members of the executive committee, approving work plans and accountabilities prepared by the executive committees amongst other things

- The executive committee comprises of 11 members drawn from the General Assembly charged with a responsibility of supervising the running of nUws activities and ensure that implemented are in line with those approved by the general assembly
- The secretariat comprises of professionals, technical personnel for day to day running of the organization. These include Manager, Technical officer, Water quality analyst, Social Mobiliser, Accountant /Administrator, Engineering assistant, Stores Assistant, Office secretary and drivers

Mandate and services that Northern Umbrella of water and sanitation

- Offer member schemes with services like leak detection, water quality testing and treatment, reinstallation of equipment and other services beyond easy reach of individual water and sanitation boards.
- Encourage, support and organize capacity development training programs and facilitate instruction of managerial, financial and technical fields.
- Offers legal and organizational advice to member schemes and to monitor compliance to set policy guidelines by member schemes.
- Aid water and sanitation boards procure spare parts and equipment which they may not afford by themselves.
- Clearly and fairly represent interest of its member schemes.
- Acts as an information desk for water authorities and seek to organize regular meetings to review performance and come up with new plans of action.
- Helps to guide member boards on tariff rates.

Achievements registered from the transformation to direct management of pipe water schemes in Northern Uganda

- nUws is fully operational in 43 out of the 76 gazetted schemes under direct management.
- Installed billing software and employed Use of a cashless system in the collection of water user fees in all towns under direct management.
- 18.6kms of extensions have been carried out to increase water coverage in some towns (kuru, Singla, Pakele, Namukora, Mucwini and Oyam Water systems).
- Repaired 04 out of the 75 gazetted schemes which were under key and lock.
- Recruited field based staff that includes scheme managers, plumbers and cashiers.
- Acquired more office space for schemes directly managed.
- Carried out visibility branding and installation of visibility signposts in towns under direct management.
- Community sensitization and trainings have been conducted which is instrumental for the communities to embrace the pay as you fetch strategy to enhance sustainability in the long run.
- Monthly water quality testing and analysis in all our towns to ensure

supply of safe and clean water to communities in all our service areas.

- Reinstallation of water meters in towns that were previously unmetered to ease user fee collection.
- Achieved 24 hours water supply in towns where nUws is directly managing.



Restocking of pipes and assorted fittings at the secretariat office in Lira town



Building capacities of management team and stakeholders at scheme level



Timely electro mechanical repair works in schemes



Monthly water quality monitoring in schemes is key to providing clean and safe water to the community