



Ministry of Water and Environment

Umbrella of Water and Sanitation - Karamoja

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OPERATION AND MAINTANANCE OF PIPED WATER SUPPLY AND SANITATION SYSTEMS IN KARAMOJA REGION

The Government of Uganda through the Ministry of Water and Environment (MWE) envisages the sound management and sustainable utilization of the water and environmental resources in the country for the betterment of the people of Uganda. To achieve this, it has embarked on a mission to promote and ensure rational and sustainable development, utilization and effective management of water and environment resources to promote socio-economic development of the country. The constitution of Uganda, Water Act and the Local Government Act empower the ministry to initiate legislation, formulate policies, set standards, inspect, monitor, coordinate and backup technical support in relation to water and environment sub sectors.

Ministry of Water and Environment established deconcentrated, Operation and Maintenance (O&M) structures in six regions of Uganda (Eastern, Central, Mid-west, South west, North and Karamoja) in a bid to decentralize the implementation of the service delivery in the sector. In the period 2003-2008, the ministry piloted and established Umbrella organizations (UOs) to support Operations and maintenance of piped water systems in small towns and rural growth centers. (*ref; Regional umbrella organizations for sustainable management of rural piped water supply systems; Uganda's experience and expectations by Eng. Felix Twinomucunguzi and Ronald Nyakana*)

Umbrella of Water Sanitation-Karamoja (UWS-K) was the last UO to be established in Uganda in the year 2014 (breaking away from Eastern Umbrella of water and sanitation based in Mbale). It was established to Operate and manage piped water supply systems and sanitation facilities in Small Towns and Rural Growth enters in Karamoja region. A region coming out of conflict and facing unique water and sanitation challenges from the other regions of the country.

Governance

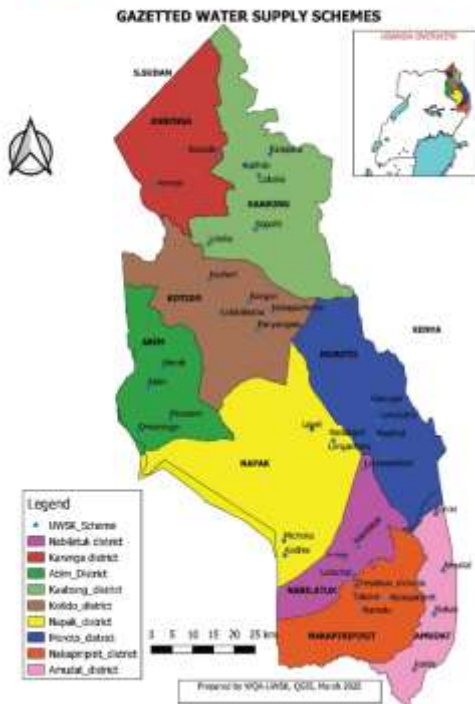
UWS-K is governed by a board comprises of seven members; Three (3) members drawn from the districts of operation and four (4) members from Ministry of Water and Environment. The Governing board ensures that the Umbrella running activities conform to the approved policies of the organization.

The day to day operations is carried out by the Secretariat headed by the Manager and supported by technical staff and at scheme level by the scheme managers

UWS-k currently has 37 water supply systems gazetted to it for Operations and Management. In addition to operating these gazetted schemes, it continues with its responsibility of providing training, technical advice and other support services to its 12 schemes not gazetted to it.



UMBRELLA OF WATER AND SANITATION - KARAMOJA



The Districts covered include;

Amudat, Nakapiripirit, Nabilatuk, Moroto, Napak, Abim, Kotido, Kaabong and Karenga

Towns/Piped Water supply systems (schemes) gazetted to the UWS-K

- Amudat district- Karita, Alakas, Amudat TC, and Loroo.
- Nakapiripirit district- Namalu, Tokora, Nakapiripirit TC, and Chesabun Moruita.
- Nabilatuk district- Nabilatuk TC, Lolachat, Lorukumo and Lorengedwat.
- Moroto district- Nadunget, Nadiket, Kakingol, and Lorukumo.
- Napak district- Longariama, Lopei, Michoko, Lorengecora and Kodike.
- Abim district- Abim TC, Morulem, Alerek and Orwamuge.
- Kotido district- Panyangara, Lokitalaebu, Nakapelimoru, Rengen and Kacheri.
- Kaabong district- Kopoth, Lolelia, Lokolia, Kathile and Kalapata.
- Karenga district- Karenga TC, Kapedo

Piped Water supply systems supported by the UWS-K include;

Morulem TB and Leprosy HC, Kathile HCIII, Nataparakocuc, Loputuk HCIII, Karinga GFS, Lokodiokodioi P/S, Acherer HCIII, Lokeriaut, Namigmig, Lotome HCIII, Naceele HCIII, Amudat Hospital.

Vision, Mission and Values of UWS-K

The vision of UWS-K is: ***To be the lead provider of safe, reliable and sustainable water and sanitation services***

in Uganda.

MISSION: *To provide quality and affordable water and sanitation services with Utmost customer satisfaction .*

Slogan: *“Safe water for all”*

The values of UWS-K are: Responsiveness

- Integrity
- Innovation
- Community Focus
- Empathy

Achievements of Umbrella of Water and Sanitation Karamoja

- Introduced a WEB based billing and customer management system. This has led to improvement in the monthly billing from 11million shillings in 2017 to 37million shillings in 2021

- Instituted flexible and cashless payment system through mobile money, online payment, Ezeemoney and through banks. This has improved transparency and revenue collection efficiency from 36% to 79%.
- Additional 130,000 persons now have access to safe water in the region from 2017 to March 2021. Also villages served by with safe water have increased from 99 villages in 2017 to 221 villages as of March 2021.
- More sanitation facilities have been realized due to our policy that the applicant for new water connection must have basic sanitation facilities at the premises to acquire a water connection.
- Improved functionality as schemes operated are now repaired timely and Ten (10) previously broken down systems of (Kopoth in Kaabong, Orwamuge in Abim, Lopei in Napak district, Nadunget and Rupa in Moroto District, Loroo and Alakas in Amudat District, Nabilatuk in Nabilatuk and Moruita in Nakapiripirit District) have been restored.
- Non-revenue water in July 2017 was at 72% in the operated water supply systems. Through investment into leakage reduction measures it stands at 24% in 2021.
- 100km of distribution pipe network have been laid, increasing safe water coverage.
- 1,500 additional water connections have been made
- Water sales have increased from 7 million in July 2017 to 40 million in March 2021

Major challenges faced by the UWS-K

- Low ground water potential and limited surface water sources in the region as sources of safe water supply to the people
- Limited; electricity, internet, telephone network and banking penetration in the region greatly causes operational inefficiencies.
- The negative attitude and unwillingness to pay for water service. This is occasioned by dependency syndrome, free distribution of food stuff and household items by development partners.
- The pastoralist way of life is being replaced with permanent settlement patterns and this has come with high demand for piped water services in the region. However the settlement patterns are still far apart which levies a high cost on system expansions.
- Low non-cost recovery tariff. Which is always insufficient to cover especially capital maintenance expenditure.

Targets for the next five years

- Increase the number of water sources and alternative energy sources in the water supply systems.
- Develop a strategy of implementing water resource sustainability plan to support climate resilience, water safety and continuity in gazette water supply systems.
- Making expansion to managed water supply systems through increasing service connections and extending to unserved areas.
- Ensure rehabilitation of broken down gazette water supply systems.
- Improve compliance to statutory and regulatory requirements as stipulated by National and regional policies and standards.

Sources of funding

- Collection from water user fees
- Government of Uganda
- Grants and donations

Development partners and donors who have supported UWS-K

- Austrian Development Agency (ADA) supported umbrella activities in 2017 and 2018 through the JPF fund which targeted Capital investments and extensions in water supply systems.
- GIZ through the ERKP (Enhancing Resilience in Karamoja Programme) project in 2019 bolstered capacity at the regional office in Moroto with an assortment of office equipment.
- GIZ supported the development of the strategic Business plan for UWS-Karamoja in 2018.
- Currently UWS-K does not have any development partners supporting its activities

PHOTO GALLERY



MWE regional Office block under construction in Moroto district



Community stakeholder engagement in Rupa sub county Moroto district



Capacity building to scheme operators in water treatment and water quality monitoring.



Manager UWS-K planting trees in one of the schemes



WSSB meeting in Abim TC



WSSB meeting in Morulem water supply -Abim district



New water connection made in Orwamuge water supply



Technical visit to Lokolia water supply with a team from Kaabong district