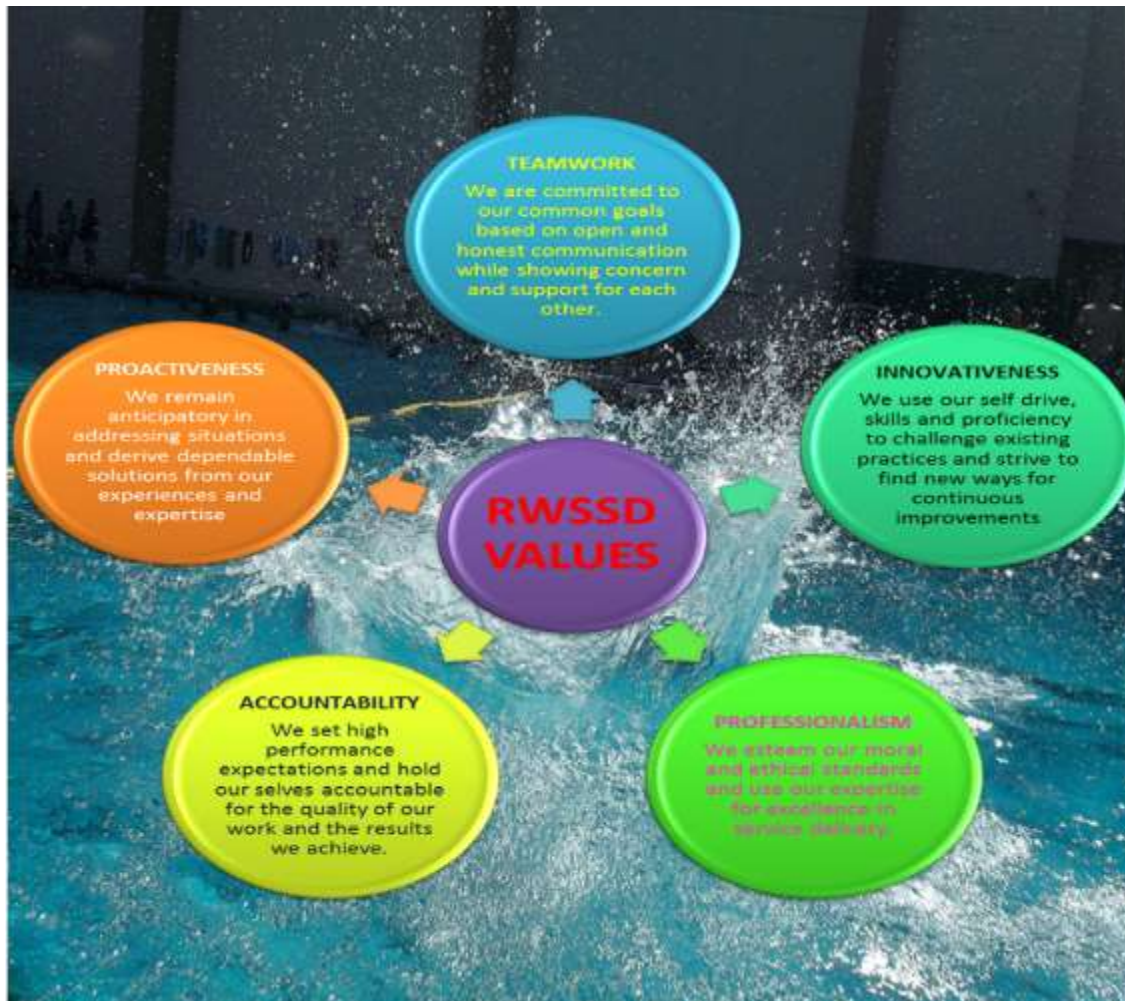


# THE RURAL WATER SUPPLY AND SANITATION DEPARTMENT

The Rural Water Supply and Sanitation Department (RWSSD) under the Directorate of Water Development in the Ministry of Water and Environment is responsible for the provision of safe water and sanitation services in rural areas across the country. The department coordinates the utilization of the District Water and Sanitation Conditional Grant (DWSCG) to District Local Governments (DLGs), providing support to the planning and development of water supply and sanitation projects (large gravity flow schemes, large motorized piped water schemes and solar powered mini-piped water systems) and the promotion of appropriate technologies and sanitation practices in rural areas.

## Department Values



Rural Water supply provision covers communities or villages (LC1) with scattered population settlements up to 1,500 and Rural Growth Centres (RGCs) with populations between 1,500 and 5,000. Groundwater is the predominant water supply resource for rural areas in Uganda, harnessed majorly through Hand pumped boreholes. The main technologies of accessing safe water for the rural population include; deep boreholes, shallow wells, protected springs, piped water schemes (gravity fed) and piped water schemes (pumped), valley tanks and rainwater tanks. The table below shows the distribution of the main technology options in rural areas;

<b>Water technology</b>	<b>Rate (%)</b>
Deep boreholes	42%
Shallow wells	25%
Protected springs	21%
Public stand posts	6%
Yard taps for public use	6%
Kiosks	1%
Rainwater harvest tanks	1%

## **Water and Sanitation Status**

As of June 2017, the access to safe water within 1.0 km in the rural areas was estimated at 70%, while the functionality of rural water facilities is at 85%. Additionally, 80% of the households in rural areas have access to safe and effective sanitation with 37% accessing hand washing facilities with soap.

## **RWSSD Departmental Structure**

To ensure quality service delivery, the department comprises of three divisions, as shown below, that are supported by the Sanitation Unit and Groundwater Development Unit.



### ❖ **Technical Support Division**

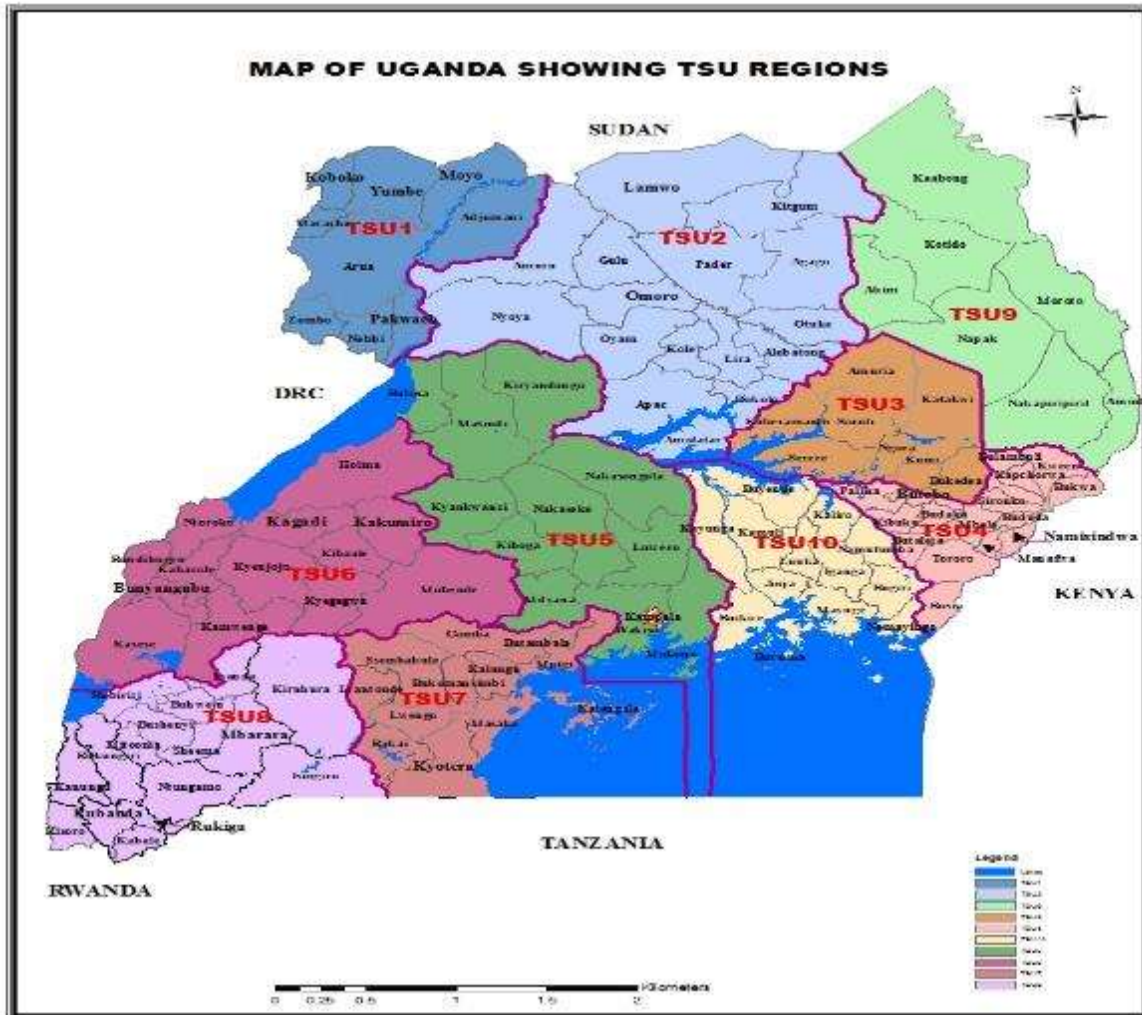
The division is primarily mandated to provide specialized support to the District Local Governments in the utilization of the District Water and Sanitation Conditional Grant (DWSCG) and overall implementation of water and sanitation activities. In an effort to ensure efficiency and effectiveness, ten (10) Technical Support Units (TSUs) were established as decentralized structures regionally across the country whose vision is “*effective, efficient and strategic support to sector players for improved water and sanitation service delivery.*” Each TSU comprises of a team of specialists i.e. Water and Sanitation Specialist (WSS), Community Development Specialist (CDS) and Public Health Specialist (PHS) who provide support in the following areas:

- Planning, budgeting and accountability
- Strengthening team building and coordination among all stakeholders in the local governments
- Support procurement and Contract Management
- Carryout trainings designed to improve Operation and Maintenance of water and sanitation facilities
- Carry out verification of water and sanitation activities being implemented by the local governments
- Provide post construction supervision and verification.

The establishment of the TSUs has greatly improved performance of the Rural water and sanitation department especially in the utilization of the District Water and Sanitation Conditional Grant (DWSCG) to districts with significant

outputs being registered that are aimed at improving the livelihood of the rural communities in the country. This has directly translated into improved performance of the DLGs in provision of safe water and sanitation services through the constant monitoring and supervisory roles of the TSUs.

**Map of Uganda showing the TSU region**



***Planning and Development Division***

The Planning and Development Division is responsible for ensuring that access to safe and clean water as well as sanitation facilities is increased in rural areas. The Division coordinates the larger National Development Plan with the water and sanitation sub sector Strategic Investment Plan (SIP). Additionally, it identifies water source potentials, plans, designs and develops water supply schemes to benefit the rural local communities while

providing guidance in all activities related to development of rural water supply investments in the country.

❖ ***Infrastructure, Operation and Maintenance Division (IOM)***

The IOM Division was created as a deliberate effort to reinforce the function of functionality of rural water facilities. This Division is responsible for ensuring that appropriate management, backup, technical support and timely intervention for augmentation and rehabilitation of water facilities is in place. The division also undertakes to carryout routine monitoring and support supervision on the operation and maintenance of rural water facilities which include piped water systems and point water supply facilities such as boreholes.

❖ ***Ground Water Development Unit***

The Ground Water Development Unit is in charge of sitting, developing and drilling of boreholes including hand pumps, emergency water supply, production wells and large diameter wells which target areas that have poor ground water potential. Given that groundwater is the predominant water resource in rural areas, the Unit plays an integral role in the attainment of the department's objectives and mandate.

❖ ***Sanitation Unit***

Sanitation coordination unit carries out National level advocacy, capacity building, knowledge management, planning, review and development of policies related to sanitation and hygiene promotion across the country. The unit also harmonizes all stakeholders promoting sanitation in rural and peri-urban areas. It liaises with other WASH sector stakeholders including line ministries, NGOs and Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) to effectively execute the mandate of sanitation and hygiene promotion.

## **Programs and projects in the RWSSD Department**

The major programmes and initiatives under Rural Water Supply Department are;

- (a) The District Water and Sanitation Development Conditional Grant (DWSDCG).** This programme is implemented through District Local Governments based on work plans and budgets approved by MWE. The DWSDCG finances construction of water supply and sanitation facilities, community sensitization and mobilization in rural areas
  
- (b) Centrally implemented projects;** The central government through RWSSD coordinates use of the DWSDCG including (resource mobilisation and allocation, setting standards, technical support, and monitoring compliance), promotes appropriate technology through action research, development and up-scaling, plans and develops water schemes that traverse local government boundaries i.e. (large gravity flow schemes and large motorised piped water schemes), strengthens improved sanitation hygiene service delivery in the District Local Governments (DLGs) through capacity building programmes and carries out quality assurance of water supply designs developed by DLGs.
  
- (c) The District Sanitation and Hygiene Conditional Grant (DSHCG).** This Programme is also implemented through District Local Governments based on work plans and budgets approved by MWE. The DSHCG finances sanitation and hygiene promotion activities in Districts across the country.

## **Our Achievements during FY 2016/17**

The Department has constructed and completed a number of projects serving a total population of 931,800 persons in rural areas.

*(a) District Water and Sanitation Development Conditional Grant*

Type of water source	2016/17		persons/source	Persons served
	Planned	Achieved		
Protected springs	214	208	200	41,600
Shallow wells	44	26	300	7,800
Boreholes	904	859	300	257,700
Piped schemes/ GFS	70	55	150	101,400
Rainwater Harvesting Tanks	152	143	6	858
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,384</b>	<b>1,291</b>		<b>409,358</b>
Rehabilitation – different sources including valley tanks	1,418	1,495		
<b>Total</b>	<b>2,802</b>	<b>2,786</b>	<b>99%</b>	

*(b) MWE centrally implemented development projects*

Description	Target	Achieved FY 2016/17	Population served
Nyarwodho GFS in Nebbi district	100%	100%	85,582
Bududa – Nabweya GFS in Bududa District	100%	96%	63,000
Bukwo GFS in Bukwo District	100%	98%	54,000
Butebo water supply in Pallisa District	100%	100%	21,236
Buwoya-Buboko Water Supply System in Namayingo District	100%	100%	17,000
Rwebisengo Kanara GFS	10%	5%	67,649
Nyabuhikye- Kikyenkya GFS in Ibanda District	10%	2%	45,105
Bukwo GFS in Bukwo District	40%	50%	54,000
Bududa – Nabweya GFS in Bududa District	50%	50%	63,000
Lirima GFS in Manafwa District	20%	5%	179,000
Bukedea GFS in Bukedea District	10%	-	262,343
Nyarwodho GFS in Nebbi district	100%	100%	85,582
Solar Powered mini piped systems	35	35	21,000
New Boreholes with hand pumps and production wells	270	289	Drilled 249 boreholes with hand pumps and 40 production wells in water stressed areas serving 86,700 persons.
<b>Rehabilitation of Chronically Broken down boreholes</b>	450	349	104,700 persons served

<b>Construction of Climate Resilient Institutional and Public Sanitation facilities in flood prone peri urban areas in districts of Budaka, Butaleja, Pallisa, Kumi, Bukedea and Soroti</b>	132	132	Approx. 54,000 persons
---	-----	-----	------------------------