



2017

RURAL WOMEN AND YOUTH
EMPOWERMENT CENTRE
(RWAYEC)
ORGANIZATIONAL PROFILE

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PAJWENDA-MULANDA SUB-COUNTY

TORORO DISTRICT

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1.0 BACKGROUND:

1.1 ABOUT US

Rural Women and Youth Empowerment Centre (RWAYEC) is a Non Profit Organization focusing on many practical broad areas of support for example promoting economic entrepreneurial skills development among the youth and women, charitable educational programs and agricultural transformation. RWAYEC specifically deals in the promotion of: Agri-business, Entrepreneurship Promotion, HIV and AIDs prevention and care, Business Mentoring and Education scholarships to vulnerable children. We are a community based organization with our headquarters in Pajwenda village Lwala parish in Mulanda sub-county Tororo district - Eastern Uganda. RWAYEC has also now established a coordination office in Mukono district along Bukerere road Seeta on 3rd floor Flossie Estates. Rural Women and Youth Empowerment Centre was formed on 28th June 2012 to carry on with community based activities in line of health, agricultural transformation and environmental protection in its geographical area of operation. Rural Women and Youth Empowerment Centre has done a lot of work in community sensitisation and skills trainings for purposes of poverty alleviation.

. The founders of Rural Women and Youth Empowerment Centre are basically community members (Women) who have grown up in Mulanda sub-county watching the devastating effects of poverty and HIV/ AIDS including other socio-economic challenges that prompted them to think of an organization through which they would reach their community members and offer support in their areas of work. RWAYEC is composed of 1243 members constituting 820 females, 321 youths and 102 males.

1.2 WHERE WE WORK

Currently RWAYEC operates in the eastern part of Uganda with most of its activities concentrated in Tororo district with the sub-counties of Mulanda, Nabuyoga and Kisoko having had more impact. We also intend to extend to other parts of Uganda in the near future when funds are available.

1.3 Mission:

“An economically self sustaining community”

1.4 Vision:

To eradicate poverty, hunger and promote good health in our community

2.0 Our approach

- Networking, partnership and collaboration.
- Research and capacity building.
- Lobbying and advocacy.

2.1 Our core values

- Creativity
- Accountability
- Integrity
- Collaboration

3.0 RWAYEC'S OBJECTIVES

1. To establish, operate and promote Livelihood and Food Security agenda within the community
2. To promote economic and Entrepreneurial Skills Development among the Youth and Women
3. To train the community in innovative development management
4. To establish, operate and promote Charitable and Educational Institutions within Tororo district and nationally
5. To Promote self-sufficiency through micro enterprises
6. Sensitize and empower the stake holders and the general community in HIV prevention and treatment

4.0 RWAYEC's PRIORITY PROGRAM AREAS:

4.1 Community economic empowerment

This program basically targets the women and the youth. Since women and the youth comprise the majority of the population below the poverty line and are very often in situations of extreme poverty and social discrimination, RWAYEC's efforts under this program are focused on mobilization of poor women and youth along with the convergence of services and capacity building in entrepreneurship skills and sustainable agricultural practices.

4.2 Health

The health status of women, children and young people in our country is poor and characterized by persistent high maternal mortality rates associated with a high fertility rate, limited contraceptive use, limited access to quality health facilities and increasing HIV/AIDS prevalence rates among women and children. Improving the status of health is a priority for RWAYEC in the community it operates.

4.3 Natural Resource Management

The level and mode of interaction of man with nature has important implications for nature's roles in society and at home, as well as the community's well being. The majority of Ugandans have limited access, if any; to the national water supply system. Women and girls walk long distances in search of clean water leading to an increased burden on the already heavy workload of women and less time to engage in productive activities such as education for the girls. Clean water along with good sanitation and hygiene practices will help to reduce the disease burden in our communities. Lastly, energy conservation will not only help to preserve the forests and environment but it will also lessen the financial and work burdens for the household. RWAYEC seeks to address these issues by conducting research, raising awareness, increasing the capacity of communities to make their voices heard and to adapt to changes in climatic patterns as well as advocacy. We also develop and implement activities that increases access to clean and safe water and empower communities to be involved in the management of natural resources.

4.4 Human Rights

All of RWAYEC's programs address human rights issues particularly those that impact on marginalised communities as well as vulnerable groups such as women, girls, people with disability and the youth. We empower community to be able to advocate for their social, economic and environmental rights.

5.0 RWAYEC'S ACTIVITIES

5.1 CAPACITY BUILDING OF WOMEN AND YOUTH IN ENTREPRENEURSHIP SKILLS

Since women and the youth comprise the majority of the population below the poverty line and are very often in situations of extreme poverty and social discrimination, RWAYEC's efforts under this program are focused on mobilization of poor women and the youth along with the convergence of services and capacity building in entrepreneurship skills. Below is Eva Manjeri Kiduma a widow and a member of RWAYEC in Nabuyoga branch and beneficiary of entrepreneurial skills development happily making a mat commonly known as Mukeka which she sells for income generation. Besides her are some of the products (bags) that Eva makes. She also received food containers for her grand children.



Elderly women are supported to earn a living

RWAYEC with financial help from Akifra has supported women and youth groups to start up economic activities such as catering, poultry keeping and animal rearing, soap making, sewing and knitting among other activities. We have also built their capacity in financial management such as saving, marketing and customer care skills for their small scale businesses which skills they have put in practice and seen their businesses flourish.



Above are some of the products locally made by the women groups ready for sale. These have helped a great deal in improving the livelihood of the community and the fight against poverty among our members.

5.1.1 Youth Skills Empowerment



Youths particularly the girls undergo hair dressing skills. Through this RWAYEC has empowered many girls mostly those who dropped out school to acquire skills that have enabled them start up their own livelihoods hence contributing to their economic empowerment.

The male youths are equally given skills in carpentry, tailoring among others as evidenced above.

5.2 CONTRIBUTIONS IN HEALTH

Under health, RWAYEC has made several contributions through community sensitization and counseling of the sick. Among them are:

- Training local leaders to promote community care of people infected with HIV and lead the effort to reduce stigma associated with the virus. Community mobilization also promoted prevention of the spread of HIV.
- Supporting family and community members, as well as community health workers and their supervisors, to provide care and support for people living with HIV and AIDS in their homes.
- Training community groups to identify and support children affected by HIV and AIDS, provide counseling etcetera.
- Building community-based support systems for individuals and families affected by HIV and AIDS through training in business skills, micro-credit activities, community and child counseling; establishing local paralegal services that address inheritance issues and other legal matters that frequently inhibit families affected by HIV and AIDS; and facilitating small agricultural and food security initiatives.
- Provided guidance and counseling to people affected by the Lakwena war and other instabilities



Trainees participating in drama sensitization during community HIV and Aids sensitization. RWAYEC uses her own skills trainees to perform drama during community sensitization

5.3 VILLAGE SAVING AND LOANS ASSOCIATION-VSLA

Below is RWAYEC team conducting community sensitization on VSLA in Pajwenda Parish Mulanda Sub-county Tororo district at the head quarter grounds. It's in our programming that frequent rural community sensitization are conducted in all RWAYECs operational areas in regard to Village Saving and Loans Association. This encourages them to appreciate and eventually join and also encourage those who are already enrolled.



VSLA - Chairman Loan committee sensitizing the group in Pajwenda

5.4 EDUCATIONAL SUPPORT

RWAYEC also offers educational support and to this effect it has started an ECD at its head quarters, helping children of the needy and orphans. RWAYEC team distributed donations from Akfra Germany (Food containers for school going children). This donation helps to improve on children school attendance since they have containers that help them for packing food.

It has equally reduced on the school dropout rate. As government of Uganda grapples with the challenge of Universal Primary Education high school dropout rate especially in the rural areas, where we operate this trend has tremendously reduced because children are able to go with packed food yet lack of lunch at school has been the main challenge.



Above are Pupils of Joy Learning Centre Nabuyoga Sub-county supported by RWAYEC with scholastic materials and games equipments



Pajwenda Primary School Pupils



Scovia hair dressing trainee receiving a food container

Distribution of the food containers to the beneficiaries who are school going children in progress. Inset is the Executive Director and her team. RWAYEC also believes in a none discrimination policy and thus has skills trainings offered to the disabled. Scovia after acquiring skills from RWAYEC, She was trained in hair dressing and she now runs a saloon in Musukire Rubongi sub-county Tororo district. She serves as one of the products of our skilling programs of the youth in our program areas. Even with disability she proves the fact that disability is not inability because she now takes care of her own livelihood.

5.5 AGRICULTURAL TRANSFORMATION

RWAYEC provides best agricultural practice trainings to its members and the community at large since we are rural based. We have established food stores where our farmers are able to keep their produce after harvest and can sell at a time when prices are high during food scarcity which earns them income and thus changing their livelihood.



Mr. Alex drying maize and besides is a food store. We acquired this store to ensure all our food produce for the members are kept safe and in this way we contribute to food security. We store in times of plenty and get it back in the market in times of food scarcity.

5.6 PROMOTION OF CLIMATE CHANGE ADAPTATIONS AND MITIGATION

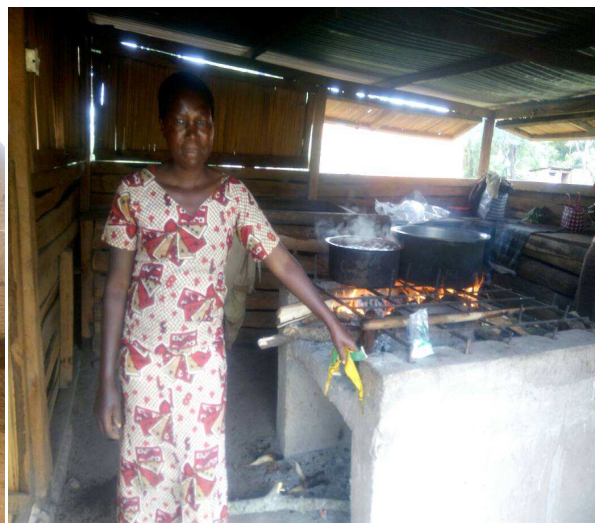
We support group members with tree seedlings in order to promote tree planting as a climatic change mitigation measure. Seedlings which included eucalyptus, pines and fruit trees like oranges and mangoes are given to each of the members. While these groups adapt to climate change and conserve the environment through tree planting, they in turn benefit from the grown fruits by selling them in the long run and use the money for their other essentials.



Sample of the tree seedlings distributed to the women groups and besides are the grown up trees

6.0 DEVELOPMENTS AT THE SECRETARIAT

- Runs a Face book page (www.rwayec/facebook)
- Vibrant and professional young staff joined the organization
- Ongoing construction of offices, food store and conference facilities at RWAYEC head offices in Pajwenda Sub-county.



Above is RWAYEC complex. It consists of a conference hall, Administrative offices and a store. Constructed with funds from Akifra Foundation in Germany. Besides is the energy saving cooking system constructed by Ralf one of RWAYEC volunteers from Germany.

7.0 CORE SKILLS TRAINING COURSES

- Soap making-both bar and liquid
- Tailoring
- Shoe making
- Hairdressing
- Bricklaying
- Mushroom growing
- Carpentry
- Cake making
- Agriculture
- Making of local arts and crafts specifically mats, beads, necklaces and knitting
- Candle making
- Making of re-usable pads

RWAYEC PARTNERS

- Akifra Foundation-Germany
- UGANET- Uganda Network on Law Ethics and HIV
- MARUDO- Mityana Rural Development Organization (Uganda)
- Need Support Centre (Uganda)

HUMAN RESOURCES

Rural Women and Youth Empowerment Centre (RWAYEC) is a woman led organization that boasts of varied human resource personnel in different disciplines of engagement of whom 60% are women. We have professional and widely experienced project officers, managers and field officers including volunteers who are flexible and are used to working in challenging environment

ADMINISTRATION

No	NAME	POSITION	QUALIFICATION
1	AMALI SALOME rwayecwothigidongo@gmail.com +256 782674712	EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR	B.Social Work and Social Administration and Certificate in Paralegal services
	OSINDE AGGREY STEVEN +256 771071967 Osindeaggrey@gmail.com	PROGRAMES DIRECTOR	Bachelor of Social Work and Social Administration, Dip. Education
2	OWORI PETER +256 772565540 oworpeter@gmail.com rwayecwothigidongo@gmail.com	PROJECTS COORDINATOR	Masters of Human Resource Management, B.A Education, Post Graduate Certificate Project Planning and Management, Post Graduate Certificate in M&E
3	KADOKECH SEBS +256 772624032 rwayecwothigidongo@gmail.com	MONITORING AND EVALUATION MANAGER	Master of Arts in Demography. Bachelor of Adult and Community Education. Health Service Planning and Management, Project Planning and Management; Monitoring and Evaluation (Post graduate). Corporate Governance and Strategic Management; International Development; Global health management (professional)
4	OKOTH JOSELINE rwayecwothigidongo@gmail.com	HUMAN RESOURCE SPECIALIST	Masters of Human Resource Management, B.A Education, Post Graduate Certificate Project Planning and Management, Post Graduate Certificate in M&E
5	EUPHRESIA CATHY NYAFWONO rwayecwothigidongo@gmail.com	PROJECT CORDINATOR	Msc Public Health, BA. Dev Studies, Cert, Dev Studies and Cert. Social Mobilization and Development
6	OKELLO MOSES +256 776121857	ACCOUNTANT	CPA, B.COM Accounting, Dip Business Admin and Certificate in Business Admin
4	ANYANGO LUCY rwayecwothigidongo@gmail.com	CASHIER	B.COM Accounting, Dip Business Admin and Certificate in Business Admin
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6	OLWENY MOSES +256 0758 458369	PROJECT OFFICER	B.A Development studies

RECORD OF WORKING WITH VOLUTEERS

RWAYEC has continued to work with volunteers from within Uganda and outside the country. Many of our foreign volunteers have been from German and have been

working with RWAYEC for a period between 3 to 9 months. Below are some of the volunteers who have worked with us.

FOREIGN VOLUNTEERS



Inset of the first photograph is Lynn one of our volunteers from Germany while on her voluntary work with RWAYEC. Here she was for a field visit to the women groups of Nabuyoga Sub-county. Besides is the Executive Director RWAYEC and Mr. Florian our third Volunteer also from Germany who worked with RWAYEC for three months. Our first foreign Volunteer from Germany was Doris followed by Lynn, Bettina, Florian, Ralf then Miriam.

LOCAL VOLUNTEERS



The Executive Director (ED) Amali Salome and the Programs Coordinator (PC) meeting with the locally based volunteers. Both the ED and the PC occasionally give motivational talks to the volunteers