Expertise in WASH:

Rukungiri Women Integrated Development Foundation has a firm background in WASH Projects from its inception in 2002. We have an experience of more than 10 years in implementing WASH activities in rural communities western Uganda.

The organization in the last 8 years has constructed 118 water tanks, 2 deep wells and14 VIP latrines in the districts of Mitooma and Rukungiri district funded by Ryan's Well Foundation. Also, the organization has created massive awareness in the communities on water and sanitation issues. RWIDF has also built the capacity of the local stakeholders in wash activities.

Our Programs:

Education;

Girls' Education program works on improving lives and providing opportunities for girls and women through increased participation in formal and alternative education systems. The program builds on innovative pilot projects and strategic partnerships developed by RWIDF over the last decade. RWIDF has worked closely with government-run schools, which the vast majority of side-lined students attend. We place special focus on older girls who have either dropped out or have never been enrolled and thus require a planned strategy so that they can catch up with other students. We encourage government to work on strategies, which would be useful in addressing the needs of these girls.

Water, Sanitation and Hygiene:

Most of parts of South Western Uganda are poised to significantly improve access to safe water Health and Sanitation facilities. Strong support, movement toward integration and system strengthening through Ryan's Well Foundation and increased resources create a unique opportunity for progress. In this context, the WASH Initiative in South western Uganda , with support from the Ryan's Well Foundation catalyses a dynamic process of developing, testing, and scaling-up innovative solutions that transform frontline and first level water facility, family health services, dramatically increasing coverage and quality of life-saving water interventions, improving survival and health for women, new-borns and children throughout the region.

Livelihoods:

RWIDF believes in helping individuals live a life of dignity. To achieve this, our livelihood programmes focuses on generating sustainable livelihoods. This is done through capacity building, fostering community links and promoting small businesses. RWIDF puts special focus on entrepreneurial ventures, which are owned by women. RWIDF believes Education and Economic Development as two complementary part of the whole project – each seeking to fight endemic poverty for poor communities especially during the time of weather disasters and market downturn. This project also understands the need to provide accessible and quality Education to improve children's opportunities for the future.

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RUKUNGIRI WOMEN INTEGRATED DEVELOPMENT FOUNDATION UGANDA (RWIDF UGANDA)

"Building Together"

With Support from;

UWASNET

AIM

Ryan's Well FOUNDATION

About RWIDF

Back ground

Formed in 2002, Rukungiri Women Integrated Development Foundation (RWIDF) is a Non-Governmental Organisation based in Rukungiri District Uganda with a mandate to enhance the skills, livelihoods and well-being of women and youth in order to mobilise communities and increase awareness of water, sanitation and hygienic standards, income promotion/credit scheme, reproductive health, food security, education, good governance and human rights advocacy. The organization which started way back by a group of women as a small community based organisation under the name of Ruhinda Women Integrated Development Foundation with its head offices in Ruhinda Sub County in Rukungiri District, has seen it grow over years and transiting from a Community Based Organization to a Non-Government organization registered and fully established to undertake the big scope of work that the organization is currently having on its shoulders. The organization has been identified by the District local governments of Rukungiri, Mitooma-Bushenyi districts in their 5 year development plans as a partner in providing water and sanitation services.

Vision: RWIDF's vision is "To eradicate poverty and raise the living standards of the rural population of Uganda".

Mission: RWIDF's mission is "To create livelihoods for the rural population and capacity for the women through income generating projects aimed at building sustainable community development".

Our Objectives:

- To work for the uplifting the status of women in the society and the communities in which they live.
- To help and generate training programme for self-employment of women and educate unemployed people and to work for adult education.
- To work for uplifting poor rural/village people for their overall development.
- To create awareness among the people regarding AIDS etc.
- To create training/ Sensitization on Water Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH) Projects in the community.
- To propagate the need for tree plantation/pollution control and environmental awareness.
- To provide help under health and nutrition services for women and children.
- To establish library and reading rooms in rural communities.
- To provide help/ shelter/facilities for old people, children and disabled persons for their welfare.
- To organise forums, seminars, camps etc. for spreading good living habits and moral values.
- To undertake any other work or assignment which may be for the general welfare of the people.

What we do:

Strategic Intervention areas: RWIDF key intervention areas include;

- Empowerment of girl child and women.
- Community development.
- Water and Sanitation, Hygiene.
- Poverty eluviation
- HIV/AIDS
- Uplifting the status of Women.
- Income promotion/credit scheme
- Reproductive health,
- Food security,
- Education,
- Good governance and human rights advocacy.

The crisis: Women living in rural Uganda areas are vulnerable to many challenging issues. In a keen look at the subject amongst them are discrimination, unfavourable gender roles, Reproductive and Maternal Health, Marriage and divorce and domestic violence. Without safe water or sanitation, women are trapped in the circle of poverty and disease. Across Uganda, millions of Women are wasting precious time collecting dirty water, children are dying from preventable diarrhoeal diseases and communities have no latrines. RWIDF values the needs and contributions of women in society today. We are committed to empowerment of women groups and girls through awareness rising on their rights, roles and responsibilities to enable them get actively involved in decision making process for improved livelihoods.

Methodology: We work with the local communities for the uplifting of a girl child, women and to help them improve their standards of living, access safe water, sanitation and basic health facilities. We use a range of experts and make sure the right skills exist in the community so they can keep them working along into the future. By working with the local communities we're able to invest in the future of local communities so that they can continue the excellent work. The incredible generosity and commitment of our supporters and donors is behind everything we are doing.

We are currently operating in the districts of Rukungiri and Mitooma South Western Uganda, Sub counties of Ruhinda, Buhunga, Bugangari, Nyakagyeme, Rukungiri municipality, Kabira and Rurehe. Plans are under way to expand the scope of operation to Sheema, Kanungu, Greater Bushenyi and Kabale Districts.