



# One Health transdisciplinary collaborations for safe water in Uganda

***Ms. Aisha Nankanja***

Executive Director

Rural Water Initiative for Climate Action

RWICA

Future Africa - 1HOPE Webinar

December 2, 2020

# One Health Initiatives in Uganda

## Key Partner: Ms. Betty Mbolanyi

- One Health Focal Point Officer
- Ministry of Water & Environment

## National One Health Efforts

- Joint outbreak investigations with Ministries of Health, Agriculture, Animal Husbandry and Fisheries
- Joint assessment at points of border entry, animal abattoirs for public health standard measures
- Surveillance of prioritized zoonotic disease



# RWICA and One Health Social Science

## Mission

To empower rural communities to take informed action to improve human, animal, and ecosystem health through equitable access to safe water and resilience to climate change.

## Vision

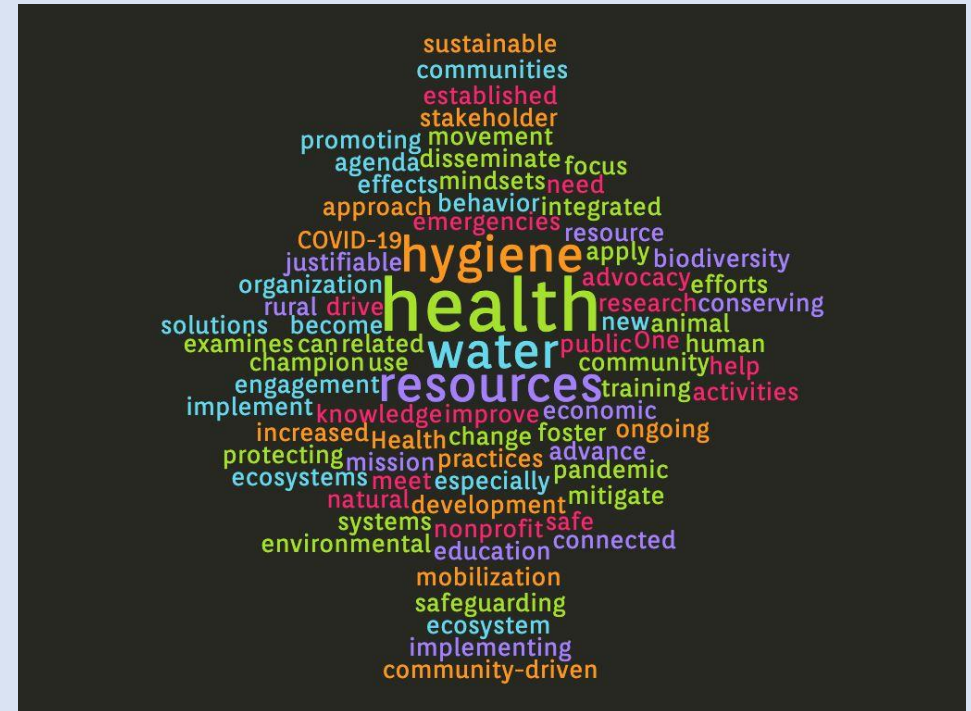
A world where rural communities live and prosper in harmony with nature to meet their water needs.



*Rethinking how we live with nature.*

# RWICA Objectives

1. To help rural communities meet the increased need for safe water and hygiene resources to mitigate the effects of the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic.
2. To apply an integrated approach that examines how human, animal, and ecosystem health systems are connected to all activities.
3. To focus environmental efforts on protecting ecosystems, conserving biodiversity, and implementing sustainable solutions.
4. To implement a community-driven agenda for safeguarding natural resources, while promoting justifiable economic and community development.
5. To disseminate knowledge to foster new mindsets and drive behavior change to improve health and hygiene practices related to water use, especially during public health emergencies.
6. To become an established nonprofit organization that can advance its mission through resource mobilization and stakeholder engagement.
7. To champion the One Health movement through research, education, training, and advocacy.



Word cloud of RWICA objectives



## *Empowering Communities to Live in Harmony with Nature*

# Community Teach-up One Health Lessons and Leadership Training

6 October 2020

St. Peter's Secondary School, Naalya,  
Kampala, Uganda



*“For us to live in harmony with nature and the ecosystem, we need to have a healthy respect for natural boundaries between people and animals.”*

*--Naalya Local Council Chairman*

**Goals for the event:**

1. To transform the mindset of youth and the community at large to conserve and live in harmony with nature.
2. To create awareness about One Health and its role in preventing COVID-19 and future pandemics.

**Teaching Topics:**

- COVID-19
- One Health and nature balance
- Water and sanitation management
- Environmental education
- Life and personal development skills
- Leadership skills

**Partners:**

- Ministry of Water & Environment
- Local Council Leadership
- Youth Council Leadership
- Young African Leadership Initiative
- REMI East Africa
- Naalya Women Entrepreneurs Association
- St. Peter’s Secondary School Naalya
- Media
- Traditional dance troupe

**Participants (70):**

- 85% Youths 18-35 years
- 10% Adults >35 years
- 5% Children 11-17 years

# Leverage Resources with Key Partners



## *One Health Lessons*

- <http://www.onehealthlessons.com/>

*To get every child on the planet caring about One Health*

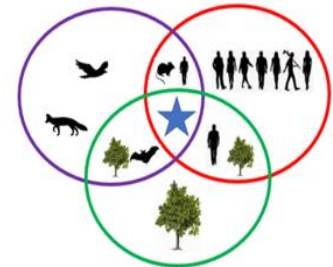
- Lessons in English and native Luganda language
- Trained instructors
  
- Other languages available
- For more information, contact: Dr. Deborah Thomson
- [OneHealthLessons@gmail.com](mailto:OneHealthLessons@gmail.com)

**Outbreak:**  
**One World - One Health**



© 2020 Deborah Thomson  
All Rights Reserved

**Okubaluka wo:**  
**Ensi Emu - Obulamu Bumu**

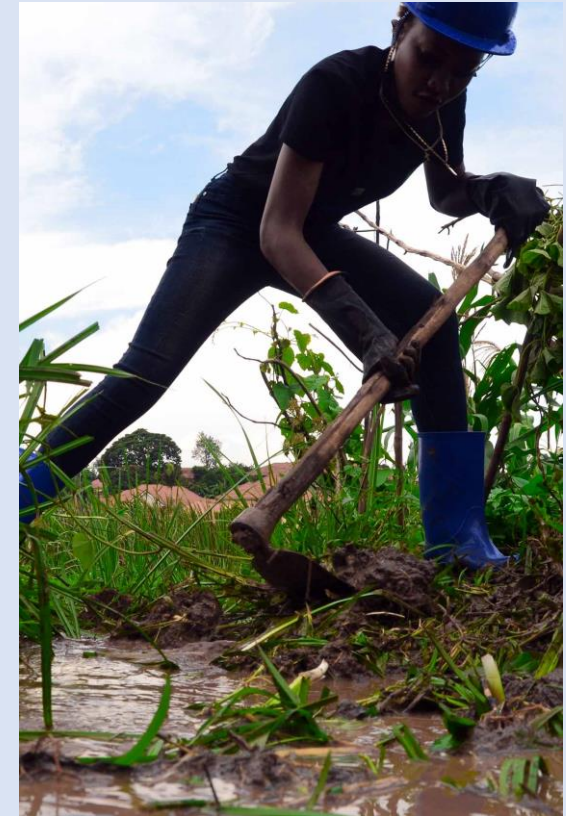


Omunyuzi ye Asha Namanya  
Amateka n'obuwakuzo bigendera

# RWICA Next Steps

## Projects

- Community Teach-ups across major regions in Uganda about living in harmony with nature
- Wellspring renovation and development
- Environmental restoration with tree planting campaign
- Fundraising for project support!



**Need for a One Health Summit in Uganda! Let's work together!**



## General Questions to panelist

1. What impacts is covid19 having on your organization and how are these being addressed ?

### Answers

- Exposure to health and social consequences that cannot be addressed without harnessing the diversity and energy from Social Sciences .
- Accelerated gender-based inequality .

### How we have addressed the impacts

- Final catalyst for us to launch our work
- Opportunity to pilot projects in training communities about zoonotic diseases transmission and the need

To live in harmony with nature .

- Developed project proposals about safe water for people and animals using a One Health Approach
- Facilitated collaborations for programs implementation in the One Health umbrella

QN.2

How might your organization contribute to the future of 1HOPE TD research initiatives and how could TD outcomes contribute to your organization ?

Answer

- Develop relevant Social Science activities that can be connected to address complex covid-19 research questions in the immediate future with longer term broader applications in the long term
  - Develop and share research proposal in the humanities that promote safe water for rural development and ecosystem restoration to reduce diverse effects of climate change .
- 
- ✓ Through Mentorship programs
  - ✓ Networking for effective collaborations to promote One Health Approach across Africa .

# Thank you!

Ms. Aisha Nankanja

RWICA

Executive Director

[ashafaith16@gmail.com](mailto:ashafaith16@gmail.com)



*Rethinking how we live with nature.*