



RWENZORI YOUTH EMPOWERMENT ARK (RYEA)

Empowered Youth, Unstoppable Future

1. ORGANIZATIONAL OVERVIEW

1.1 Name of the Organization

Rwenzori Youth Empowerment Ark (RYEA)

1.2 Legal Status

Rwenzori Youth Empowerment Ark (RYEA) is a registered Community-Based Organization (CBO) founded to advance youth empowerment in Uganda, with an initial strategic focus on Kabarole District and Fort Portal City.

Registration No: FPCC/CBO/009

Established: 2025

Head Office: Kitumba Binanata, Fort Portal City.

1.3 Tagline : Empowered Youth, Unstoppable Future

1.4 Geographic Scope

RYEA currently operates within Kabarole District and Fort Portal City, targeting youth from both rural and urban communities. While the organization aspires to expand across the Rwenzori sub-region in the future, the current focus ensures deepened impact within its initial jurisdiction as a registered CBO.

2. BACKGROUND AND CONTEXT

The Rwenzori region is home to a large and vibrant youth population, yet many face persistent barriers such as unemployment, low access to practical skills, limited civic engagement, gender inequalities, and minimal exposure to innovation ecosystems.

Without inclusive platforms for skill development and leadership, young people remain marginalized from the region's economic and social progress.

Rwenzori Youth Empowerment Ark (RYEA) was established to respond to these pressing challenges by creating a holistic, inclusive, and community-rooted environment where young people are supported to realize their full potential. The organization recognizes youth as critical agents of change and works to provide them with the skills, platforms, mentorship, and networks they need to lead, innovate, and thrive.

3. VISION, MISSION, AND CORE VALUES

3.1 Vision Statement

A vibrant generation of empowered youth driving sustainable development and transformation across the Rwenzori region and beyond.

3.2 Mission Statement

To equip and support youth in the Rwenzori region through skills training, entrepreneurship, leadership development, and civic participation for inclusive, resilient, and progressive communities.

3.3 Core Values

- **Inclusivity:** We ensure every young person, regardless of gender, background, or ability, has access to opportunity.
- **Empowerment:** We believe in building the agency, confidence, and capacity of youth to transform their lives and communities.
- **Innovation:** We promote creativity, adaptability, and forward-thinking solutions to youth challenges.
- **Integrity:** We uphold transparency, accountability, and ethical leadership in all our engagements.
- **Collaboration:** We foster partnerships that multiply impact and ensure sustainability.

4. STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES AND FOCUS AREAS

4.1 Strategic Objectives

1. To provide practical, market-relevant vocational and digital skills for youth employment and entrepreneurship.
2. To enhance youth participation in local governance, civic life, and leadership structures.
3. To promote gender equity and empower young women through targeted programs and safe spaces.
4. To support youth-led enterprises and cooperatives through financial literacy, startup incubation, and access to markets.
5. To establish strategic partnerships with public, private, and development stakeholders to scale youth empowerment efforts.

4.2 Key Focus Areas

- Skills Development & Digital Literacy
- Youth Entrepreneurship & Economic Empowerment
- Civic Engagement & Leadership Development
- Gender Equality & Girls' Empowerment
- Climate Action & Agri-innovation
- Creative Arts, Sports, and Talent Development
- Youth Mental Health & Life Skills

5. TARGET GROUPS

RYEA targets youth aged 15–30 years, with special attention to:

- Out-of-school and unemployed youth
- Adolescent girls and young women

- Youth with disabilities
- Rural and underserved communities
- Youth interested in innovation, leadership, or business development
- Youth-led groups, associations, and cooperatives

Our approach is youth-centered and rights-based, empowering both individuals and communities.

6. PROGRAMS AND SERVICES

6.1 Current and Flagship Programs

- Empowerment Skills Lab: Hands-on training in vocational trades, ICT, agribusiness and digital tools.
- Youth Leadership Hubs: Platforms for leadership training, civic engagement, and policy advocacy.
- StartSmart Enterprise Program: Business incubation, cooperative support, and market linkage initiatives.
- RYEA Girls Rise Project: Promoting gender equity, menstrual hygiene, SRHR education, and mentorship.
- Green Ark Initiative: Youth-led climate awareness, smart farming, and community greening activities.
- RYEA Creatives Corner: Supporting artistic, musical, and sporting talents for expression and income generation.
- Life Skills & Mental Wellness Forums: Resilience training, peer counselling, and personal development sessions.

7. GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT

RYEA is governed and managed by a committed team of professionals and youth leaders:

- Board of Directors – Strategic oversight, policy guidance, and fiduciary accountability.
- Founder Director & CEO – Provides vision, direction, and overall leadership. (Currently held by Mrs Josephine Mwebesa)
- Co-Directors – Lead specific program areas and support organizational growth.
- Program Officers & Field Coordinators – Activity implementation and community outreach.
- Volunteer Network & Youth Ambassadors – Mobilization, peer learning, and advocacy.

The organization promotes youth representation and leadership within its governance structures to ensure that decisions reflect the voices and aspirations of its primary beneficiaries.

An organogram illustrates the relationship between the Board of Directors, Founder Director & CEO, Co-Directors, staff, and volunteers. (To be inserted as a visual chart.)

8. FINANCING FRAMEWORK

To ensure sustainability, RYEA employs a multi-phased financing strategy:

- Short-Term (1–2 years): Initial funding from Board of Directors' contributions, membership fees, local fundraising events, and small community grants. Resources will be invested in organizational formation, mobilization, marketing, networking, and collaboration.
- Medium-Term (3–5 years): Partnerships with local governments, NGOs, private sector CSR programs, establishment of a RYEA SACCO/Youth Cooperative, and fee-based training models.
- Long-Term (5+ years): International donor funding, endowment funds, large-scale grants, and income-generating projects such as social enterprises and innovation hubs.

9. MONITORING, EVALUATION, AND LEARNING (MEL)

RYEA employs a participatory and data-driven MEL system to track progress, ensure accountability, and improve program delivery. Key tools and practices include:

- Baseline and endline surveys
- Quarterly progress reports and dashboards
- Beneficiary feedback loops
- Outcome harvesting and case studies
- Annual impact evaluation and stakeholder reflection meetings.

This learning culture helps refine strategies and inform policy influence across the region.

10. PARTNERSHIPS AND COLLABORATIONS

RYEA works collaboratively with:

- Local Governments and Youth Councils
- Technical and Vocational Education Training (TVET) Institutes
- Community-Based and Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs)
- Private Sector Actors and Innovation Hubs
- Donors and International Development Partners
- Media Houses and Arts Institutions
- Cultural and Community Leaders

We value strategic alliances that strengthen youth systems and create lasting impact.

11. SUSTAINABILITY STRATEGY

RYEA is committed to long-term impact through:

- Community ownership and local leadership development

- Income-generating initiatives and social enterprises
- Youth cooperative and SACCO formation
- Donor diversification and grant writing
- Fee-based training models and resource mobilization events
- Digital fundraising and crowd sourcing
- Incorporation of environmental sustainability in all programs

Our sustainability plan ensures that programs are youth-led, self-sustaining, and scalable.

12. CONTACT INFORMATION

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