

# UGANDA WATER UMBRELLAS PARTNERSHIP PROJECT

An Ugandan – Austrian partnership for

## Strengthening Regional Umbrella Organizations for Sustainable Piped Water Services



*“Operation & Maintenance (O&M) is challenging on a technical level, financial level and organisational level”*

*“Management and difficulties of O&M must be understood on the local level to be sustainable. Uncontrolled outsourcing to private operators is no solution.”*

### The Project

The **UWUPP** project aims at strengthening the Umbrella Organisations through a partnership with 5 different Austrian sector institutions by a mutual exchange of experiences and know-how.

The Austrian partners represent various approaches for sustainable **O&M** of water supply schemes and include a private operator (**Salzburg AG**), an umbrella organization (**Upper Austria Water**), a national association (**OVGW**), an international association of water works (**IAWD**, lead partner) and a large city water work (**Vienna Water**). UWUPP is funded by the **EU** through the Africa-EU Water Facility.

### Umbrella Organizations

An Umbrella Organisation (UO) is an association of Water Supply & Sewerage Boards in a particular region on a voluntary basis, installed to pool resources and ideas for achieving sustainable water & sanitation services. Typical UO activities offered to their members are training, advice, support, services.

An UOs is an entity registered under the company act of Uganda. It is governed by a General Assembly of its members and an Executive Committee (including representatives from Ministry for Water and Environment). The operating unit is a secretariat headed by an Umbrella Manager.

The five Ugandan UOs (North, East, Centre, South-West, Mid-West) are supported by MWE on the basis of a Memorandum of Understanding and are coordinating their activities closely with the respective Water & Sanitation Development Facilities.



*“A large share of the population lives in small towns & rural growth centres”*

*“Capacity development and support structures are key to ensure sustainable O&M”*

### UO Achievements

- Enhanced management and technical capacities
- Raised effectiveness and functionality of member schemes
- Increased female involvement in decision making
- Strengthened financial viability of member schemes
- Enhanced water quality monitoring
- Improved communication and exchange

### The Ugandan Concept

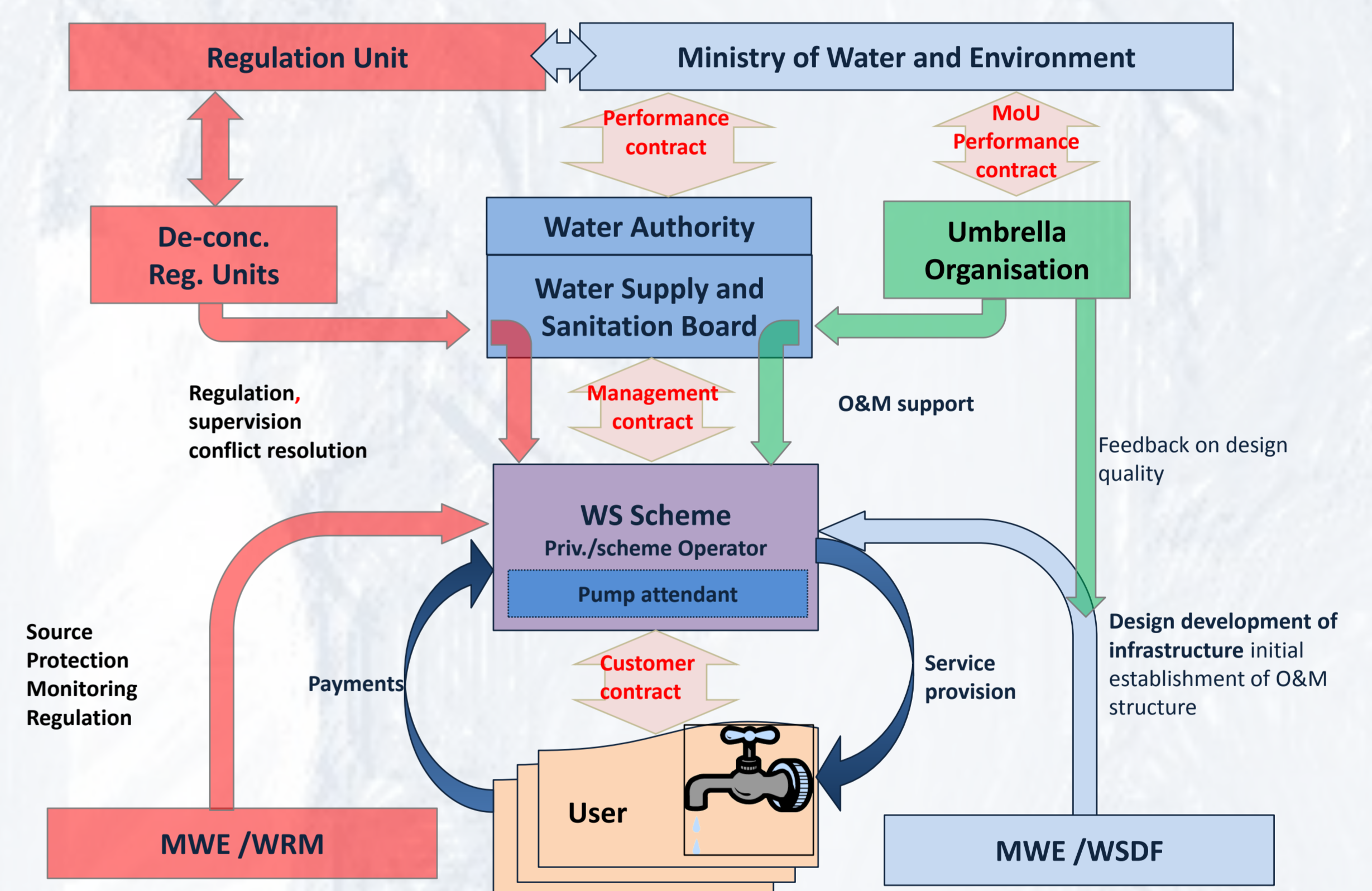
**Investments** in infrastructure are managed decentralised through 4 Water and Sanitation Development Facilities (WSDF).

For **Operation & Maintenance (O&M)** of this infrastructure a contractual framework is employed. Responsibility for the sustainable use of infrastructure is transferred to a gazetted Water Supply & Sewerage Authority (WSSA) through a **Performance Contract** between Government of Uganda and the WSSA. Responsibility for technical operation and management of the scheme is normally delegated to a Private Operator through a **Management Contract** between the WSSA and a licensed company. Water Supply & Sanitation Boards (WSSB) including water user representatives are installed for management oversight.

For strengthening and developing the WSSA's and WSSB's capacities 5 Umbrella Organisations (UO) for Water & Sanitation have been founded to support sustainable O&M throughout Uganda.

#### Operation & Maintenance Concept

*Good O&M is key for sustaining good coverage levels and safeguarding Water Safety – a possible perspective for a comprehensive framework:*



### Challenges for the UO approach

- Continuously increasing numbers of UO members raise the need for adapted operational structures.
- Innovative approaches must be introduced to reach all members in large regions with many remote areas.
- Standardized training and educational systems are the basis for sustainable capacity development and will need to be established.
- Responsibilities of stakeholders within the wider formal framework and the respective links between them need to be clearly defined and agreed upon.
- Sustainable UO services require a sustainable financial basis and suitable capacities (staff, transport, equipment)

*“Sustainable O&M is the basis for Water Safety”*

*“Uganda must be prepared to run several hundred piped schemes in the near future, further along the road even going up to a few thousands”*



Project funded by the European Union

