

Rainwater harvesting: Ugandan citizens' experiences

This brief explores the issue of water supplies, with a particular focus on rainwater harvesting, in the experience of Ugandan citizens. The data comes from Twaweza's *Sauti za Wananchi* survey, a nationally-representative, high-frequency mobile phone panel survey of public opinion and citizens' experiences. Further details are available from www.twaweza.org/sauti.

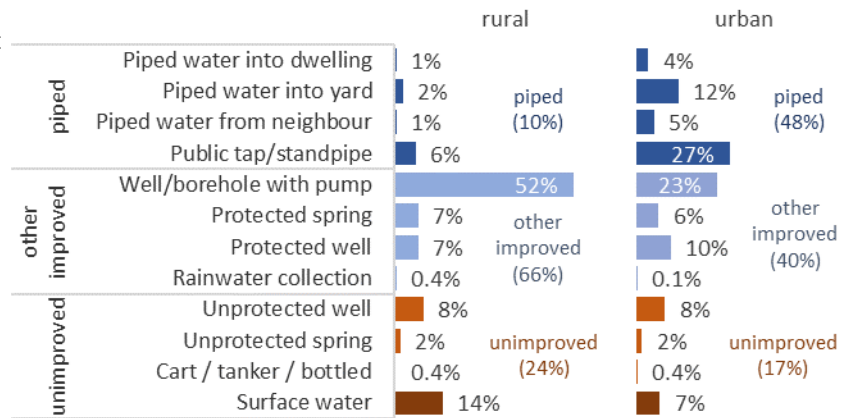
Insight 1. 2 out of 10 households access drinking water from an unsafe source

One out of four households (24%) in rural areas collect their drinking water either from a surface source such as a river or dam (14%) or from another unimproved source such as an unprotected well or spring (10%).

Together with those who depend on unimproved sources in urban areas (17%), this is equivalent to more than nine million Ugandan citizens accessing their drinking water from an unsafe source.

Very few households (under 1%) depend on rainwater collection as their main source of drinking water.

What is the main source of drinking-water for members of your household?



Source: Sauti za Wananchi panel 2 round 3, Sep-Oct 2022

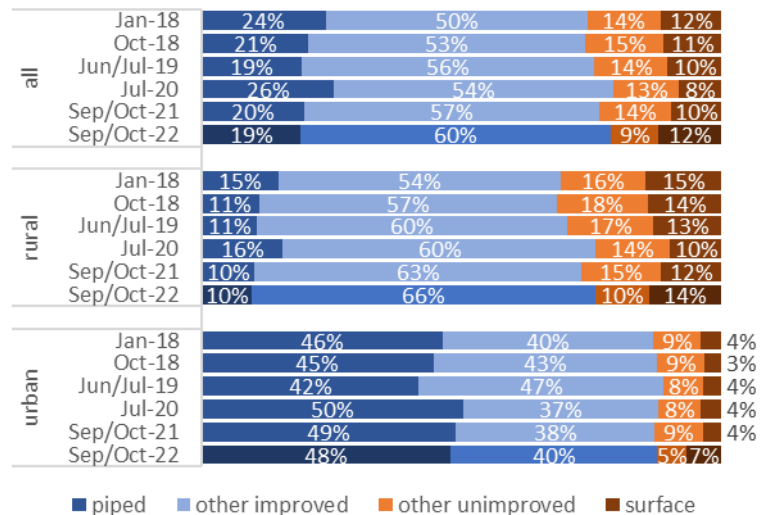
Insight 2. Some progress can be seen in improving access to safe drinking water

Over the last five years, some progress has been made at improving access to safe drinking water.

Across the country as a whole, the proportion of households that access drinking water from a piped or other improved source has risen from 74% in 2018 to 79% in 2022.

Most of this improvement has been seen in rural areas (69% to 76% over the same period), while in urban areas there is little observable change (86% to 88%).

What is the main source of drinking-water for members of your household?



Source: Sauti za Wananchi panel 2 round 3, Sep-Oct 2022

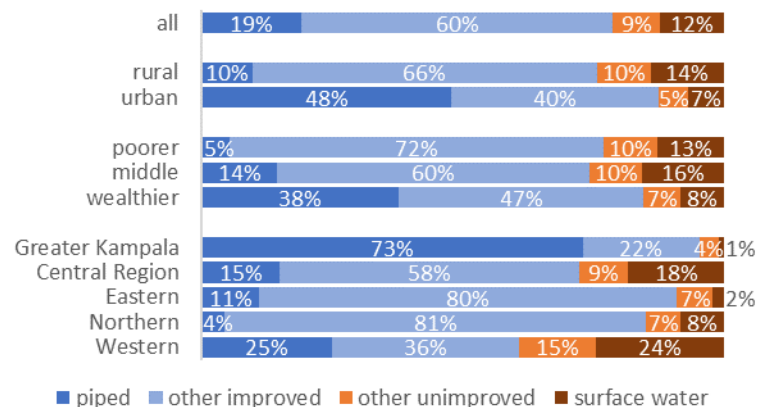
Insight 3. Disparities in access to improved water sources are substantial

Disparities in access to piped and other improved water sources are substantial.

Wealthier households as well as those in Greater Kampala or urban areas generally are more likely to access water from a piped source.

Those in Central and Western regions are most likely to access water from a surface or unimproved source.

What is the main source of drinking-water for members of your household?



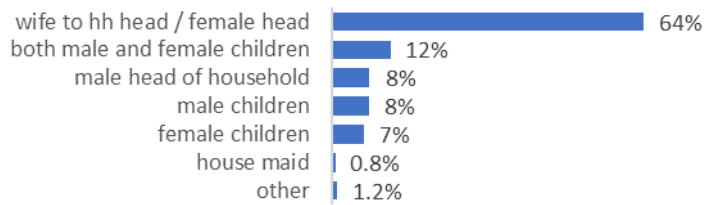
Source: Sauti za Wananchi panel 2 round 3, Sep-Oct 2022

Insight 4. In most households, women carry the greatest burden of water collection

In the majority of households (64%) the responsibility for collecting water is borne by either a female head of household or the wife of a male head of household. This may include households where an adult woman has responsibility for water collection but in practice delegates this to other household members, such as children.

In other households, the responsibility is borne by children (27%), either male (8%), female (7%) or both (12%), or by the male head of households (8%).

Who in your household is responsible for collecting water?



Source: Sauti za Wananchi panel 2 round 3, Sep-Oct 2022

Insight 5. 3 out of 4 households collect rain water, mainly from rooftops

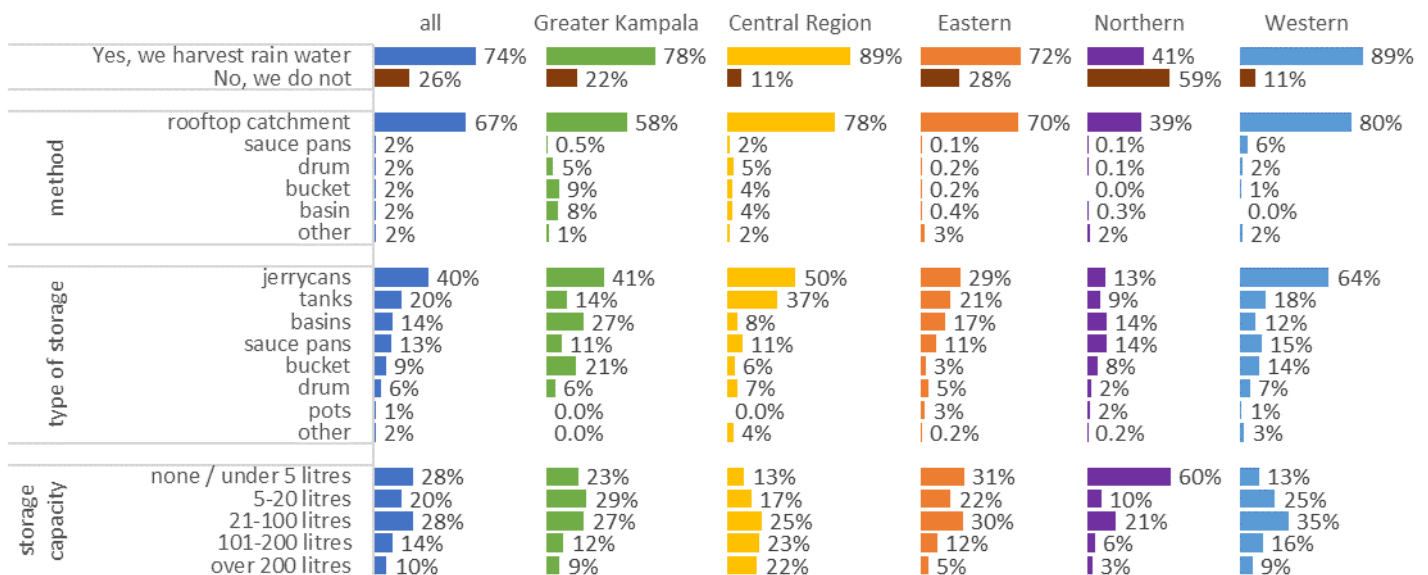
Nationally, three out of four households (74%) collect rainwater, though the figure is higher in Central Region (89%) and Western Region (89%) and lower in Northern Region (41%). In all regions, the vast majority of rainwater collection is via rooftop catchment.

The most common forms of storage for this water are jerrycans (40%), though others use a variety of vessels including tanks (20%), basins (14%), saucepans (13%) and buckets (9%). There are some variations in this pattern in different regions.

Half of all households (48%) either do not harvest rainwater or are able to store only 20 litres or less.

One out of ten households (10%) can store over 200 litres, rising to two out of ten households (22%) in Central Region. Very few households in Northern Region (3%) or Eastern Region (5%) are able to store over 200 litres of rainwater.

Do you harvest rain water? If so, how? And what type of storage do you use?



Source: Sauti za Wananchi panel 2 round 3, Sep-Oct 2022

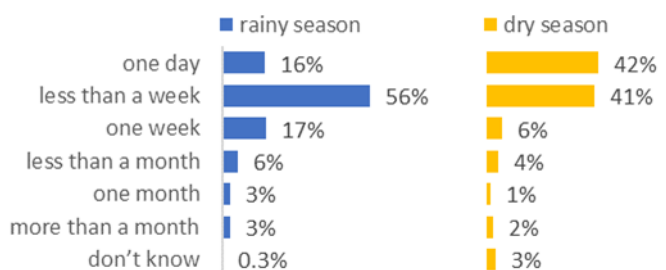
Insight 6. In most cases, household rainwater storage provides only a short-term supply

In general, household rainwater storage provides only a short-term supply of drinking water.

For most households, stored rain water lasts for less than a week (72% in rainy season, 83% in dry season).

For a small number of households, stored rain water lasts for one month or more (6% in rainy season, 3% in dry season).

How long does that rain water you collect last?



Source: Sauti za Wananchi panel 2 round 3, Sep-Oct 2022