

All systems go

Africa

Bridging the gap in Uganda's WASH service delivery through improved systems strengthening

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PRESENTATION OUTLINE



Background

Aim of the Assessment

Approach

National SWOT Analysis

District SWOT Analysis

Action Plan

BACKGROUND

The water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) sector in Uganda is guided by the Vision 2040 and the National Development Plan III (2020/21-2024/25).

Key priority is on achieving universal access to water and sanitation services by 2030.

However, SDG 6 (clean water and sanitation) is seemingly off track in Uganda

There are high chances of Uganda not achieving universal access to even basic levels of service within the remaining 8 years to 2030

National safe water coverage stands at 69.8 percent, with coverage in rural areas at 68 percent and 71.6 percent in urban areas.



BACKGROUND...C'TD

- The sector continues to face inadequate funding and human resources
- Staffing level for Environmental Health Workers stands at 52% and that of District Water Officers at 60% countrywide
- Data quality issues hamper proper planning for WASH interventions
- There're discrepancies in standardizing performance indicators for in country specific and JMP of UNICEF and WHO
- There's difficulty in tracking WASH financing due to its being scattered in different Ministries of Water & Environment, Health and Education as well as other country programmes.

AIM OF THE ASSESSMENT

Under the Agenda for Change (A4C), a WASH Alliance (IRC, Water for People, UWASNET and Water Aid Uganda), conducted a National level WASH systems assessment in Uganda (2021) with the following specific objectives.

To support a collaborative approach to system strengthening and a common understanding of the National WASH systems.

To develop a collective action plan with clear roles and responsibilities for all actors

To build consensus among A4C partners on how to promote the systems approach and practice.

APPROACH



9 building blocks were used as thematic areas of enquiry for the status of the WASH System in the country.

APPROACH...C'TD



Relevant literature was reviewed to inform the analysis.

Field visits were made to Ministry of Water and Environment (MWE) Regional Centres in the Eastern (Mbale) and Western (Fort Portal)

Key Informant Interviews were held with Staff from, MWE, Uganda Water and Sanitation Network (UWASNET), Water and Sanitation Development Facility (WSDF), Umbrella Organizations, Rural Water and Supply Regional Centres (RWSRCS) and Water Management Zones .

Focus Group Discussions were held with District Planners, Community Development Officers, District Water Officers, District Engineers, and District Environment Officers.

Results were presented and discussed at the 11th annual WASH CSO Forum (2021) and later validated by selected key stakeholders in the sector.

SWOT ANALYSIS AT NATIONAL LEVEL



Strengths

- Strong legal provisions for access to water, sanitation, and protection of natural resources.
- Established structures for water resources management.
- Operation of grant structures by Ministries of Water and Local Government to finance WASH programmes.
- Demand driven plans at MWE's regional structures
- Adoption of Integrated Water Resources Management (IWRM) approaches and roll-out of Catchment Management structures at regional and local level.

SWOT ANALYSIS AT NATIONAL LEVEL..C'TD



Weaknesses

- Additional funding for WASH sector is not updated in sector investment plan.
 - Low levels of resourcing for Umbrella Authorities and other deconcentrated structures.
 - The Utility Performance Monitoring & Information System (UPMIS), whilst useful as a utility database only has data from Umbrella Authority operations and is not linked to the main national utility (National Water and Sewerage Corporation) database.
 - Weak regulation of rural water supply undermines functionality, water safety and source protection.
 - Financing for sanitation remains far lower than what is needed.
 - Weak enforcement of standards.
 - CSOs' reporting to UWASNET has improved but still low.

SWOT ANALYSIS AT NATIONAL LEVEL...C'TD



Opportunities

- WASH CSOs ability to raise funds to support programme implementation.
- Improved policy and practices through advocacy e.g., shift from sector to programme-based implementation as required by NDP III.
- Increased concern about climate change.
- The Water and Environment Sector Working Group and the National Sanitation Working Group provide a linkage between water, sanitation and the wider environmental issues through influencing policy and practice.
- Significant investments planned in urban and rural water supply, water for production and sanitation, totaling up to USD 943 Million for the period 2018-2023
- Solar powered water supply and faecal sludge management offer prospects for new employment opportunities and markets.

SWOT ANALYSIS AT NATIONAL LEVEL...C'TD



Opportunities...C'td

- The introduction and roll out of the Community Based Maintenance System Plus (CBMS+) and associated manuals, provide an opportunity to improve O&M for rural water supplies.
- Ongoing efforts to integrate WASH sector databases will improve access to valid and reliable sector performance data for informed key decisions.
- The Climate Change Act, 2021 offers the opportunity to develop effective responses to Climate Change
- MWE's Water Resources Institute (WRI) provides a platform for research and learning.
- UWASNET is an important mechanism for WASH CSOs to share experience and best practices.
- Multistakeholder engagement through joint technical reviews is an important mechanism for learning and dialogue amongst key stakeholders (government, private sector, and civil society).

SWOT ANALYSIS AT NATIONAL LEVEL..C'TD



Threats

- Growing number of skills required in the sector, for which there are severe shortages (plumbers, solar PV technicians, sewerage technicians, electromechanical technicians etc.)
- There is a thin line between the regulatory and operational functions. These need to be carefully managed and monitored.
- Meagre government resource allocations to the WASH sector (2-3% of the total budget).
- Data integrity issues.
- Population growth and demands from the development of industries, including the oil and gas sector, pose significant potential threats in the medium to long term to sustainable and safe water supply and sanitation.

SWOT ANALYSIS AT DISTRICT LEVEL



Strengths:

- WASH Planning at district level is highly inclusive, in some cases with community contributions.

Weaknesses:

- High demand for technical support from the District Water Office
 - Some CSOs don't disclose their plans to districts of programme implementation.
 - The District Water Office reports to Works Department, which does not feature in water and environment sector issues.
 - Low resourcing and limited focus on sanitation in districts where Uganda Sanitation Fund has not been active.
 - Limited CSO coordination at the district level
 - Growth in WASH infrastructure not matching O&M capacity especially in newly created districts.
 - Disjointed relationship between the District Water Office, and Natural Resources Department.
 - Resource provision remains dominated by the conditional grants with little fiscal flexibility.

SWOT ANALYSIS AT DISTRICT LEVEL...C'TD



Opportunities.

- District Water Supply and Sanitation Coordination Committee (DWSSCC) provides an important platform for lesson learning and exchange at district level.
- The roll-out of Integrated Water Resources Management (IWRM) offers great opportunity for creating synergies with wider Natural Resource Management and lesson learning.

Threats

- Programme approaches under the NDP III require the district planner to engage with the district engineer for WASH issues, and the district natural resources officer, for programme implementation.
- However, the DWO lacks both the capacity and status within district to ensure that sector priorities receive adequate attention.
- Current DWO establishment is inadequate. Auxiliary technical functions from community development or environment office are not well integrated.
- The CDO and Natural Resources Officer are hierarchically higher than the DWO.
- Limited CSO coordination could undermine O&M as well as community participation, if not checked.
- In most cases, Development partners and CSOs with specific interests finance the attendance of national events by district stakeholders, this is neither consistent nor sustainable in the long term.

COLLECTIVE ACTION PLAN



No	Building Block	Funding Opportunity	Advocacy Opportunity	Coordination Opportunity
1.	Institutional Arrangement and Coordination.	Support resource mobilization efforts (National Level)	Raising the profile of the District Water Officer (National Level).	Improve CSO coordination (District Level).
		Provision of long term technical and logistical support to deconcentrated Ministry units (National Level)	Support the Ministry to transition to programme approach in line with NDP III. (National Level)	
			Engagement with MWE- Sector Liaison Department. (National Level)	

COLLECTIVE ACTION...C'TD



No	Building Block	Funding Opportunity	Advocacy Opportunity	Coordination Opportunity
2.	Service Infrastructure	Delivery Support CBMS+ rollout and development of value chains and markets around use of technologies such as solar (National Level)	Highlight and champion the importance of addressing O&M issues. (National Level) Ensuring that lessons learned are documented and disseminated. (National/District Levels)	Improve CSO coordination at the district level to ensure that the DWO is not overburdened. (District Level)

COLLECTIVE ACTION...C'TD

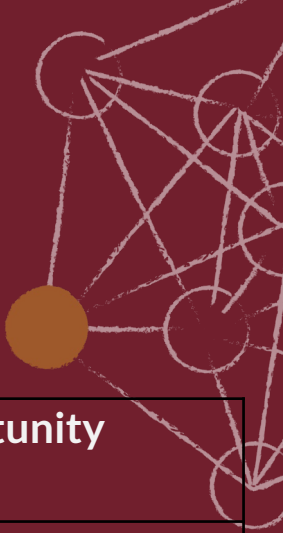
NO	BUILDING BLOCK	FUNDING OPPORTUNITY	ADVOCACY OPPORTUNITY	COORDINATION OPPORTUNITY
3.	Regulation and Accountability	Explore funding provision for improving regulation capacity in the regions. (National Level)	Raising voices of user groups to enable them to better engage on issues related to service provision and accountability. (National Level)	Improve CSO coordination at the district level, particularly on issues of information sharing both with District Local Government and between CSO's themselves. (District Level).
		Support UA capacity development. (National Level)	Engage in tariff setting processes at the region to improve regulation policy. (National/District Levels).	

Weaknesses...C'td

No	Building Block	Funding Opportunity	Advocacy Opportunity	Coordination Opportunity
4.	Inclusive Planning	Operationalizing existing plans, including funding for water supply and sanitation infrastructure for which engineering designs have been completed. (National/District Levels).	<p>Raising the profile of the District Water Officer, from U4 to U1E and staffing capacity to improve effectiveness. (National Level)</p> <p>Support the Ministry to effectively transition to programme planning, implementation, monitoring and reporting as required by the NDP III. (National Level).</p> <p>Specific issues in discussion with the MWE- Sector Liaison Department. (National Level).</p> <p>Mainstream the use of the Sector Investment Model. (National Level).</p>	Improve CSO coordination at district level to align better with Government Planning systems. (District Level)



COLLECTIVE ACTION...C'TD



No	Building Block	Funding Opportunity	Advocacy Opportunity	Coordination Opportunity
5.	Finance		Redoubling of efforts to gather and disseminate evidence of the impact of WASH. (National/District Levels)	Ensure effective working relationship between WASH CSOs and the GoU.
			Consider supporting un-funded priorities. (National Level).	This requires a functional and adequately funded UWASNET secretariat. (National Level)

COLLECTIVE ACTION...C'TD



No	Building Block	Funding Opportunity	Advocacy Opportunity	Coordination Opportunity
6.	Monitoring	Collection of relevant WASH Data, and clear definition of relevant key performance indicators for tracking. (District Level).	Ensure that sufficient time and resources are provided from the central level to support Districts with the roll out of Sector Investment Model (SIM) and the introduction of new indicators. (National Level).	Ensure that UWASNET Secretariat and national WASH CSOs keep their members informed about the roll out and strengthening of SIM. (National Level)

COLLECTIVE ACTION...C'TD



No	Building Block	Funding Opportunity	Advocacy Opportunity	Coordination Opportunity
7.	Water Resources and Environment	Consider support on a case-by-case basis to specific CMO structures and assessments as they develop integrated plans. (National Level).	Sensitisation of key stakeholders on the importance of protection and sustainable management of water resources and preparedness for, and the mitigation of impacts of climate change. (National/District Level).	Establishment of better links between WASH actors and Environmental CSOs at both local and regional levels to maximise potential impact and efforts. (National/District Levels).

COLLECTIVE ACTION...C'TD



No	Building Block	Funding Opportunity	Advocacy Opportunity	Coordination Opportunity
8.	Learning and Adaptation	Identification of options for sustainable resourcing of UWASNET learning and secretariat functions. (National Level).	Concerted efforts to ensure lessons learned influence policy and decision making. (National Level).	Efforts to further strengthen linkages and joint working between CSOs active in WASH & Environment. (National/District Levels). Support and strengthen the WRI in strategies to grow the market, competitiveness, and resource mobilization. (National Level).
9.	Demand, Behaviour and Political Will.	Explore options for collective action and platform for sharing on selected issues between WASH and ENR actors, including action-based research, support to policy dialogues and platforms. (National/District Levels).		

We shall not defeat any of the infectious diseases that plague the developing world until we have also won the battle for safe drinking water, sanitation, and basic health care.



Kofi Annan-Ghanaian diplomat who served as the seventh Secretary-General of the United Nations (UN) from 1997 to 2006

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