

Ethiopia Country Statement for Sanitation and Water for All High Level Meeting, 23 April 2010 Washington, DC

Ethiopia Overview:

Whilst Ethiopia faces great challenges ahead to achieve the Sanitation MDG and its own ambitious Universal Access Plan (UAP) targets for water supply and sanitation, considerable progress has been made in the past several years. The Government of Ethiopia (GoE) and its partners have invested heavily in innovative, at-scale efforts in community approaches to total sanitation and hygiene; community water “self supply”; and have piloted the Community Development Fund (which channels community water supply funding through local microfinance institutions). These approaches build on existing local capacity and the GoE Health Extension Programme with its 33,000 female Health Extension Workers, as well as the National WASH Programme.

The GoE is also working hard to harmonize the WASH sector. A WASH Sector-Wide Approach (SWAP) is now emerging, and a second-generation WASH Programme Implementation Manual (WASH PIM) is under development. The new WASH PIM will not only promote common programme approaches, but also will further strengthen integration and cooperation between the Water Resources, Health and Education ministries under their existing March 2006 Memorandum of Understanding.

Meeting the MDGs and GoE’s UAP targets will not only be technically challenging, but financially as well. In spite of its impressive GDP growth of 7 percent in 2009, per capita income in Ethiopia is still only US\$280 and local government agencies’ capacity and budget is still fairly limited, especially at the local (District) level where most of the work takes place. The estimated cost of meeting the UAP hygiene and sanitation goals (not including urban sewerage) will be US\$644 million¹. These costs may escalate further due to inflation and devaluation of the Ethiopian Birr. Funds so far secured for H&S amount only to around US\$50 million.

Finally, Ethiopia’s vulnerability to climate change will impact the availability of the water resources needed to ensure health and hygiene. This impact will be especially felt by the country’s rural population, which is the second largest in Africa. The Government and its partners are already engaged in a number of environmental protection and restoration efforts in some of the most arid parts of the country, but these adaptation and mitigation efforts must be analysed, refined and scaled up.

A. Political prioritisation:

Ethiopia will:

1. Attend future *Sanitation and Water for All* High Level Meetings
2. Join the *Sanitation and Water for All* movement and agrees to the Guiding Principles
3. Increase its budget allocations to hygiene and sanitation to 0.5 percent of GDP
4. Continue to improve sector coordination efforts as described above.

¹ Needs Assessment to Achieve Universal Access to Improved Hygiene and Sanitation by 2012, Final Draft. Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia Ministries of Health, Water Resources, Education and Urban Development, and the European Union Water Initiative; 2007.

B. Evidence-based decision-making:

Ethiopia will:

1. Respond to future Global Assessment of Sanitation and Drinking Water (GLAAS) surveys
2. Continue to target and reach unserved populations, especially the most vulnerable, using access & coverage data to guide budgetary allocations and geographic focus.
3. Continue to improve national monitoring and information management systems, including:
 - WASH Inventory, which will be scaled up nationally during the coming year
 - Continue to roll out and strengthen the National Health MIS and Water Resources MIS and ensure they are both robust and accessible

C. National planning process:

Ethiopia will:

1. Assess and continually improve the performance of its WASH planning and coordination processes, which include:
 - Promote and strengthen the **WASH Sector Wide Approach** through the WASH PIM, Joint Technical Reviews, and Multi-Stakeholder Forums
 - Development Assistance Group's **Water Technical Working Group** (strengthening its focus on S & H)
 - National **WASH Programme Strategy** and the Second Plan for Accelerated and Sustained Development to End Poverty (PASDEP 2).
 - Fourth **Health Sector Development Plan** (HSDP IV) which clearly identifies hygiene and sanitation as health sector priorities.
 - Revised national **WASH Programme Implementation Manual**
 - Strengthen the national **Hygiene & Sanitation Task Force** at Federal level and establish Regional counterparts to enhance WASH harmonization and coordination
 - Other mechanisms, including the **Water and Sanitation Forum** (a civil society umbrella group), the National WASH Movement, and others.
2. Assess and improve as needed the performance of the “accountable institution” for Hygiene and Sanitation, which is the **Federal Ministry of Health** and its Regional Bureaus.
 - Continue to monitor progress against targets set by the Ethiopia Universal Access Plan and to **finalize the Ethiopia Country Plan** for meeting its **eThekwini Declaration commitments**
3. Continue to address WASH human resource capacity needs through:
 - Supportive supervision and in-service training for the **33,000 Health Extension Programme workers**, and ensuring adequate capacity at the local government level
 - **Strengthening Woreda WASH Teams** and promoting better coordination at the local level
 - Further strengthening of the **Urban Health Extension Programme**

- Building **private sector well drilling capacity**
 - Scaling up **community water ‘self-supply’ approaches**; and building capacity of sanitation entrepreneurs and suppliers
4. Provide continued leadership to WASH sector planning and strategy development (as described in No. 1 above).
 5. Continue to support other initiatives which further the achievement of the Sanitation (and other) MDGs as well as the Ethiopia UAP, including:
 - Publish **School WASH Guidelines** and mobilize more resources for school WASH
 - Scale-up of Community Led Total Sanitation and Hygiene (CLTSH) and publishing an **Ethiopian CLTSH Guidelines and Training Manual**
 - Develop a national **Hand Washing Communications Strategy** aimed at school children
 - Engage with international partners on adaptation and mitigation of **climate change** through the **Africa Adaptation Programme** and other initiatives that include significant environmental health components
 - Develop a **responsive supply chain system** that will improve the sustainability of schemes under operation.
 - **Mobilize more resources generally**, for the WASH sector