

Mozambique Statement for High Level Meeting

Washington, 22-23 April 2010

Sanitation and drinking water supply continue to be one of the main priorities for the Government of Mozambique and its development cooperation partners. Fifty four percent¹ of the population, from 20.5 million (National Census, 2007) live below the national poverty line and the under-five mortality rate is approximately 138 (per 1,000 live births)². Diarrhoeal diseases, including cholera, are the third largest killer of children under five (8%),³ after malaria (46%) and HIV/AIDS (13%), with cholera having been endemic in Mozambique since 1973. There are major disparities in these indices, and also in water supply and sanitation services, between the different regions, provinces and municipalities in the country.

The Government and sector partners note that by investing in sustainable sanitation and safe drinking water the following socio-economic and public health gains would be made; (i) improved health condition of the population; (ii) reduced health care costs; (iii) increased domestic economic productivity; and (iv) an increase on the return on investments in education. To this effect, Mozambique is highly committed to achieving universal and sustainable access to sanitation and drinking water with an immediate focus on achieving Goal 7 of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). The Sanitation and Water for All (SWA) provides a mechanism to support Mozambique's efforts to accelerate its progress towards reaching its national targets for sanitation and drinking water. Mozambique believes that through SWA, the country could strengthen its planning, investment and accountability mechanisms, improve resource allocation and targeting, increase political prioritisation and reinforce effective decision making and mutual accountability.

Although, the country is *off-track* to achieve the MDG targets for both sanitation and drinking water, recent initiatives have enhanced the progressive enabling environment. These initiatives include (i) development and review of sector policies and strategic plans, (ii) establishment of Sector Wide-Approach and Common Fund for rural water supply and sanitation, (iii) review and operationalisation of a legal and management framework for urban water supply and sanitation, (iv) establishment of sector coordination and joint planning and review mechanisms; (v) development of a harmonised monitoring and Information Management System; (vi) establishment of a legal framework for participation of private sector implementing partners and (vi) implementation of a decentralization process.

The water and sanitation sector is highly dependent on the external funding that accounts for about 90 percent of the sector budget. Recent analysis indicates that the percentage of the state budget currently allocated to the WES sector is less than the five percent stated in the PARPA⁴. Within the context of the global economic crisis, this dependency places the Mozambique water sector in a highly vulnerable position. The Government is therefore

¹ Living Standard Survey 2003

² MICS 2008, INE

³ National Infant Mortality Study 2009, MISAU

⁴ Action Plan for the Reduction of Absolute Poverty

committed to establishing a specific public sector budget allocation for sanitation and hygiene equivalent to at least 0.5 % of Gross Domestic Product (GDP)⁵ .

While progress has been achieved on sector policy and institutional development, leadership on sanitation and hygiene remains a major challenge with limited clarity on the roles and responsibilities of the various institutions and line Ministries (Ministry of Public Works and Housing, Ministry of Health, Ministry for Coordination of Environmental Affairs, Municipalities, and District Governments). The lack of single leadership on sanitation results in poor accountability, resource allocation and reporting and, ultimately, poor performance.

Furthermore, sector level monitoring data remains a major challenge. The Joint Annual Review process – a coordination mechanism that brings together Government and partners on a bi-annual basis – noted that in 2010 there remain significant discrepancies between the data reported by sector agencies and data from national household surveys.

The country therefore recognises that strengthening monitoring capacities is essential to improve planning, decision-making, resource allocation and prioritisation of both investments and capacity development. In response to this challenge, Mozambique proposes to become more involved in global monitoring and evaluation initiatives such as the Global Annual Assessment of Sanitation and Drinking Water (GLAAS) and the Joint Monitoring Programme. Through this participation, the country will reinforce the National Water Sector Information Management System (SINAS) and its alignment with global M&E instruments.

At the current level of sector progress and funding allocations, the country may fail in meeting the MDG targets for water and sanitation, and the national target of universal coverage by 2025. Mozambique therefore makes five key commitments to improving the WASH sector:

- **Improve**, within the State Budget allocation framework, **the definition and budget allocation lines** for the water sector and sanitation sector.
- **Increase funding and improve reporting** by Government and its partners of both infrastructure and capacity-building, achieving alignment through sector strategic plans and harmonised funding mechanisms;
- **Strengthen sector coordination, monitoring and impact evaluation systems** to ensure reliable and accurate data on access to sanitation and drinking water, and to improve planning and decision-making process for resource allocation. This will require developing increased capacities, particularly at decentralised levels.
- **Operationalise national mechanisms** to improve the **sustainability** of sanitation and drinking water interventions.
- Make additional efforts on institutional development, particularly for sanitation, through establishment of a **clear and accountable leadership and coordinated mechanisms for improving sanitation and hygiene**.

⁵ eThekwini Declaration