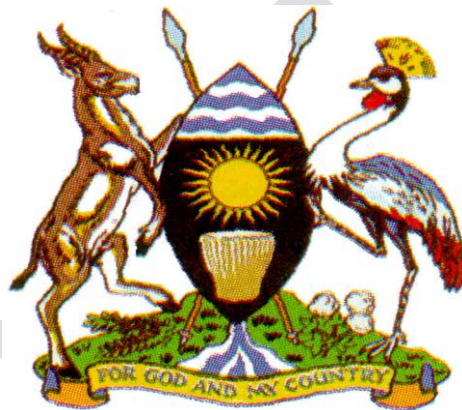


**MINISTRY OF FINANCE PLANNING AND ECONOMIC
DEVELOPMENT**

MINISTRY OF WATER AND ENVIRONMENT

MINISTRY OF HEALTH



Republic of Uganda

**SANITATION AND WATER FOR ALL: A GLOBAL FRAMEWORK
FOR ACTION**

UGANDA COUNTRY STATEMENT

APRIL 2010

Sanitation and Water for ALL: a Global Framework for Action

Uganda Country Statement

April 2010

A: Political prioritisation

1. Plans to attend future High Level Meetings

Uganda is committed to the attainment of sector MDGs and its set sector objectives and targets. It will therefore work with key sector stakeholders under the Global Framework for Action to meeting this commitment, including attending future High Level Meetings.

2. Plans to join Sanitation and Water for All and agree to the Guiding Principles

Uganda has already joined the Sanitation and Water for All partnership, and is being represented at the first High Level Meeting (HLM) by the Ministers of Finance, Planning and Economic Development (MoFPED), Water and Environment (MoWE), and Health (MoH).

3. Commitment to prioritizing sanitation and water – Specific increase in budget allocations (%)

The water and sanitation strategic sector investment plan identifies significant funding gaps to meet the investment requirements to attain the sector targets (rising from about USD 12 million in FY 2009/10 to USD 80 million in FY 2013/14). Uganda's official budget allocation to water and sanitation has declined in recent years, affected by the application of budget ceilings and the inadequate prioritisation by government. The government of Uganda has taken a deliberate decision to prioritise physical infrastructure sectors (energy, transport, ICT, trade, tourism and technology) for funding in the short term (for the next 2–3 years), for economic growth, employment and prosperity. It is therefore unlikely that the water and sanitation sector funding will increase significantly in this period. In the short run the sector focus is on increasing efficiency with the existing funding, to maximise outputs.

4. Improvement of government-led sector coordination

Sector coordination is undertaken through a Water and a Environment Sector Working Group (WESWG), which is a multi-stakeholder forum (central Government Ministries, DP and Civil Society). It has thematic sub-working groups for water and sanitation, and environment, with thematic teams which handle specific policy areas. The WESWG meets quarterly to formally agree on annual sector plans and budgets, as well as to review sector performance and to deliberate on key sector policies.

B: Evidence-based decision-making

1. Plans to respond to future GLAAS surveys

Sector performance is assessed using a Sector Performance Monitoring Framework, established after sector reforms which led to the adoption of the SWAp in 2001. Sector

performance is assessed against 11 ‘Golden Indicators’ covering key sector parameters, and documented in an annual Sector Performance Report (SPR). The framework also includes: an annual Joint Sector Review in which sector performance is assessed and undertakings are agreed; and an annual Joint Technical Review which assesses progress and performance 6 months after the JSR.

Uganda’s SPR generates data that reasonably addresses the requirements of the GLAAS surveys. The GLAAS survey for 2009 has been completed based on the water and sanitation SPR 2009. While some gaps remained, these can be addressed in subsequent surveys through improved data collection, and drawing from SPRs of the health and education sectors.. As a validation mechanism, the Uganda Bureau of Statistics (UBOS) carries out National Service Delivery Surveys, which feed into the WHO/Unicef Joint Monitoring Programme report.

2. Use of coverage data in allocation decisions to ensure targeting to the unserved

One of the golden indicators for sector performance covers equity in access to WASH services, which helps identify the least served areas. At national level, the access levels in different districts and towns are used in allocation of sector resources to the local governments. The local authorities are then guided to use the equity data within districts to focus intervention efforts on the least served areas.

One of major sector challenges at present is the increasing unit costs for service delivery in most areas with low access, mainly attributable to the more complex/expensive feasible technologies.

3. Improvement of national monitoring systems

The effectiveness of the multi-stakeholder joint review process and the reporting mechanisms in aiding sector planning continues to improve over time. From 2009 there has been a major improvement in the use of key findings and recommendation from the sector review in the annual planning and budgeting process – development of a Joint Assistance Framework which has harmonised the monitoring of sector performance and decision-making with respect to budget support.

C: National planning processes

1. Identification and cross-sectoral analysis of key bottlenecks

Water and Environment: In view of the close inter-linkages between water and sanitation with the environment, these two sectors have been combined into one. Thus these areas can now better be planned, monitored and evaluated in a holistic manner within the context of integrated water resources and environmental management.

National Development Framework: Since 1997, water and sanitation sector planning and development has been conducted under the auspices of the Poverty Eradication Action Plan (PEAP), revised in 2004. The national framework for development is undergoing the final stages of transition to the 5-year National Development Plan 2010/11 – 2014/15 (NDP), within which water and sanitation appears under four themes: Agriculture, Environment and Natural Resources, Health and Nutrition and Physical Infrastructure.

Sanitation: A Memorandum of Understanding was signed between the Ministries of Water, Education, and Health, outlining the sanitation roles of each. However, there is still inadequate coordination among the various actors on sanitation. While each of the three ministries has its own budget, the under-prioritisation of sanitation under the existing water and health conditional grants to districts, makes the expenditure of each ministry on sanitation unclear. To address this, we are in the process of establishing a dedicated sanitation budget line with clear implementation guidelines.

2. Creation of accountable institutions where they are lacking

There are observed major differences in per capita costs of service delivery in different districts, and cases of non-transparency in tendering and procurement. Over the past 5 years the MoWE in Uganda has pursued an active and explicit good governance strategy in the provision of water and sanitation services, and has developed and is implementing an action plan to improve transparency and accountability in the sector. The plan is implemented with support from the sector development partners and the Water Integrity Network (WIN).

3. Creation or strengthening of strong actionable national plans and planning frameworks

Uganda formulated a Strategic Sector Investment Plan (2008 – 2035) for the water and sanitation sector, based on the sector objectives, targets and progress scenario. It brings together all the currently foreseen financial resource inflows from a variety of sources – government, donor, NGO and private sector, and estimates the funding gap. A Joint Water and Sanitation Sector Programme 2008 – 2012 (JWSSP) was formulated to operationalise the plan. The JWSSP further harmonises and aligns the donor support to the sector.

4. Addressing of human resource capacity gaps

There is a shortage of appropriate human resources to meet the sector needs, with inadequate remuneration to retaining competently qualified staff. Major progress has been made in filling in vacant positions at central and local government levels. The MoWE has also established regionally based Technical Support Units to build and strengthen district capacity. However, a further challenge is the big number of district local governments (currently 80 in total).

5. Leadership on bringing coherence to the sector's plans and strategies

The Ministry of Water and Environment is the lead government agency in water and sanitation, responsible for overall sector planning, policy and standards setting, and coordination. The MoWE also chairs the WESWG and the Water Policy Committee.