



The Republic of Uganda

Ministry of Water and Environment

**THE WATER AND ENVIRONMENT SECTOR ISSUES FOR LGBFP REGIONAL
WORKSHOPS FY 2016-2017**

August 17, 2015

Presentation Outline

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1.0 Introduction

1.1 The sustainability of the key economic drivers of our economy such as agriculture, industry, infrastructure, tourism and energy plus the achievement of socio-economic transformation largely depend on the sustainable utilization and management of water and environment resources. Without water and environment, crop production and modernization of agriculture as well as food security would not happen. Similarly without water hydropower generation would be impossible and the same is true for industrialization and tourism industry. In view of the above, the Ministry of Water and Environment (MWE) is committed to promote and ensure the rational and sustainable utilization, development and effective management of water and environment for socio-economic development. This entails;

- ✓ Development of adequate water infrastructure facilities built for rural and urban water supply,
- ✓ Bulk water storage facilities for multi-purpose use as well as management and
- ✓ Sustainable utilization of surface and underground water resources.
- ✓ Engage in massive tree planting to the tune 200,000,000 trees annually and restoration of fragile ecosystems through demarcation and gazettement of major wetlands is of critical importance in addressing livelihood challenges and sustainable environment management including reversing climate change effects.

1.2 The Government policy of decentralization, implementation of W&E including sanitation and environment management is the responsibility of Local Governments (LGs) while the role of the Ministry is strategic planning, supervision, capacity development and policy guidance. In order to achieve the above, The Water and Environment Sector has now four (4) Conditional Grants that are directly sent to the Districts for agreed upon activities. These are namely;

- i. District Water Development Grant for rural water facilities with an allocation of US\$ 60bn
- ii. District Sanitation and Hygiene Grant for district sanitation with an allocation of US\$ 2.5 bn
- iii. Urban Water Supply O&M Conditional Grant to support system expansions improves on sustainability increased to US\$ 2.5bn and,
- iv. Environment and Natural Resources Conditional Grant provided for Wetlands Management in LGs with an allocation of US\$ 1bn.

2.0 Progress of Implementation of Recommendations agreed in the LG Consultations for FY 2015/16

2.1 **Promotion of Rain Water Harvesting (RWH):** Local Governments noted that the Ministry of Water Environment has halted the implementation of RWH using District Water and Sanitation Conditional Grant at household level following a directive from H.E the President. However, LGs were advised to continue implementing RWH at community level and institutions and has been reflected in policy guidelines for District to include in their Bills of Quantities (BOQs). The district should promote self-supply initiatives at household levels.

Progress:

- The MWE communicated to all districts as a reminder not to construct water tanks to individual households apart from carrying out promotional and awareness campaigns in respect of RWH. In addition, the MWE is considering piloting self-help water supply initiatives, where the public funds will be given as grant to NGOs to be managed as revolving funds

2.2 Construction of water facilities without seeking approval from the Ministry of Water and Environment: It was noted that several Local Governments are implementing construction of water facilities especially piped water & WFP systems without seeking approval of the designs from the ministry as required from the statute. Local Governments were requested to ensure that all designs for water facilities should be submitted to MWE for approval before any construction can be undertaken.

Progress

- LGs have complied and the MWE has constituted a design review committee to review and approve all designs for the water facilities. A number of districts have submitted their designs for review and have already been approved.
- The quality of the project designs in some districts is not adequate. In addition some districts implement projects before approval by the ministry.
- It is recommended that implementation of the infrastructure projects should be undertaken after obtaining the required land titles and water abstraction permits for large systems.
- In addition, project designs should be prepared in an integrated and holistic approach to include catchment protection management plans, EIAs tree planting, sanitation aspects, and waste water management among others.

2.3 Staffing of District Water Offices:- The Ministry of Water and Environment have over time seconded engineers to a number of districts; however these engineers have not been welcomed in some districts due to various reasons. In some cases, the officers in acting capacity failed to handover and this has affected absorption of funds. Districts were advised to recruit water Engineers at LGs level through Ministry of Public Service.

Progress

- The MWE has engaged the CAOs to make sure that the recruited officers are received in the districts.
- The MWE boosted the staffing status in LGs by seconding engineers to 16 districts that had failed to attract qualified and competent staff to district water offices. Especially in Namayigo, Soroti, Amuria and Kibaale districts.
- MWE will continue seconding staff.

2.4 Water Quality Testing not done in most Local Governments :-Water quality testing was either not done or done on isolated incidents on case by case basis in most Local Governments. In some cases was done after occurrence of an emergency and is not even reported on under their quarterly performance reports. The Local Governments were encouraged to conduct regular water quality tests in the existing water points with support from the Water Management Zones and should form part of the quarterly reports.

Progress

- The Local Governments were encouraged to conduct regular water quality tests in the existing water points with support from the Water Management Zones and should form part of the quarterly reports.

2.5 **Creation of the Environment and Natural Resources Grant (ENRG).** The Conditional grant to LGs is very inadequate, providing only for the District leaving out the Municipal Councils. The MWE should continue to follow up with MFPED on the need to increase on the ENR Grant and should provide feedback to the Local Governments. MWE should follow up the operationalization of the tree fund with MFPED.

Progress

- The MWE held inter-ministerial meeting with MFPED on key unfunded priorities including operationalization of the Tree fund but without approval from MFPED.
- MWE and NFA will reallocate internally part of its resources towards start-up tree fund begging from FY 2016/2017.
- MWE will reallocate internally part of its funds towards the establishment of the Forestry conditional grant.

3.0 Implementation Challenges to Service Delivery

3.1 Staffing in District Water/ District Environment and Natural Resources Management Officers:- Maintaining the required staff in district water offices remains a challenge to most LGs. The ministry boosted the staffing status in LGs by seconding engineers' districts. However these engineers have not been welcomed in some districts due to political reasons such as Bulisa, Bundibugyo while in some others the officers acting refused to hand over offices like Agago and consequently this has affected the utilization and the absorption of the grants in the above Districts.

On the issue of bonding, LGs are having challenges bonding staffs who undertake further training and on return their skills are not relevant at the LGs level. Some return when over qualified to work at the LGs and yet the LGs are not allowed to replace these staff. Hence a LG retains a staff that not providing the required service and yet is on the Payroll which has impacted in service delivery.

Under ENR, the Ministry still notes that not all LGs have recruited ENR (DFOs, DNRO and DEO) required staff and there is an urgent need to fill these vacant positions as a means of increased environment management in LGs including monitoring and enforcement of environmental laws and regulations to ensure sustainable development and social transformation.

3.2 High cost technology options:- Cheaper and naturally occurring options such as springs, shallow wells have now been exhausted countrywide. The sector is now forced to resort to high cost technology options to extract water for rural communities including deep wells, small piped/pumped systems in RGCs and water stressed areas as well as Gravity Flow Schemes. These facilities require major support for O&M largely constituted by the cost of electricity (most of the RGCs are not on the national electricity grid), electro-mechanical repairs and expansion of the systems.

3.3 Sanitation:- This is a cross-cutting issue which requires harmonized coordination and implementation with other relevant sectors (Ministry of Local Government, Gender, Labour and Social Development, Education and Sports as well as Health). The OPM has come in to undertake the coordination and harmonization role. The sector has provided a Conditional Grant for promotion of Improved Sanitation and Hygiene (ISH) to all districts but there are coordination challenges including faecal sludge management; poor maintenance of facilities; low rates of hand washing with soap; lack of enforcement of sanitation ordinances and bye-laws; poor menstrual hygiene management in schools and lack of water supply coupled with inadequate sanitation facilities in schools at national and district levels.

4.0 Key Policy and Administrative Issues

This issues paper is prepared on the basis of the agreed actions/commitments between the Water and Environment sector and the LGs as well as the emerging policy issues outlined in the Technical Joint Review (JTR) held in April 2015.

Environment and Natural Resource Grant

Sector Issue	Required Action during planning and budgeting process
<p>Cancellation of Titles in Wetlands on Public Lands</p> <p>Cabinet directive on the cancellation of land titles issued in wetland on public land acquired unlawfully after the 1995 Constitution to stop further rampant degradation of wetlands and enhance the effective enforcement</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> To that effect the procedure and guideline for the cancellation of titles in wetland were approved beginning with Kampala, Mukono, and Wakiso and other parts of the Country. Cancellation will focus initially at 17,450 titles in wetlands issued after the 1995 Constitution MWE, NEMA, KCCA, LGs and EPPU have set up a joint compliance monitoring and enforcement team to stop further degradation of wetlands. MWE, NEMA, MING and LGs prepared a communication plan for the mobilization of stakeholders throughout the cancellation process to prepare the stakeholders. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Land title cancellation criteria for plots within wetland and a total of 17,575 plots are due for cancelled pending recommendation from MJCA. MWE is awaiting response from MoJCA and PCE to begin the process of cancellation by LGs will be consulted during the validation and preparation of more titles in wetland for cancellation country wide. MWE is fast tracking the preparation and launching of the National Wetlands Atlas and shape files maps by 30th September 2015 to support the cancellation process country wide. LGs will, be consulted during the preparation of the Shape file maps, cadastral maps and ground trothing MLHUD to fast track the computerization of the regional land Information System country wide to provide cadastral maps for superimposition with the wetland shape file maps by 2015-2018. All relevant institutions including LGs should budget for the implementation of actions beginning with within the FY budget 2015-2016.
<p>Allocation of Forest Reserves</p> <p>The MWE has noted with great concern the allocation of FRs for development by LGs such as Luwero, Mpigi, Wakiso, Bududa, Nwoya, Kibaale, Kyegegwa, Kyenjojo, Hoima without following legal procedure.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The allocation of FRs by LGs is illegal and contravenes legal regimes governing FRs management in Uganda. The degazettement of FRs is sanctioned by Parliament. LGs are urged to seek advice from MoWE on Forest management issues
<p>Rampant forest degradation country wide</p> <p>MWE has noted the wide spread encroachment and degradation of forest reserves through timber harvesting and charcoal burning.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Management of LFRs is the responsibility of LGs. MWE has developed the forestry regulations and timber harvesting guideline which will be disseminated in November, 2015. The guideline is to improve tracking of forest products and highlights standard procedure for movement, harvesting plans and inventory. LGs are urged to disseminate the guideline and make use of it to regulate forestry products transaction and movement using the EPPU and DFS.

Sector Issue	Required Action during planning and budgeting process
<p>Greening the Economy through Massive tree planting movement.</p> <p>MWE has developed a National framework for the Greening of the Economy through massive tree planting movement. The framework highlights the need for mobilization of all stakeholders to plan and participate in tree planting.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Create awareness, set tree nurseries at sub-county level and funds to implement the framework.
<p>Ban on the importation, manufacturing of Polythene bags.</p> <p>Environment Management is decentralized functions of LGs. The LGs are urged to join NEMA to stop using of polythene carrier bags because they are non-biodegradable materials that take over 400 years to completely decompose, leading to soil infertility, blockage of drainage, disease spread, and death of animals.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • LGs with support from Police are requested to plan and enforce the ban. • The starting point is all supermarkets, retail shops and other market outlets in your district. • NEMA urges all LGs to submit reports on the enforcement of the BAN on polythene carrier bags including amount collected from the above outlets to enable the Authority to provide further guidance on method of disposal.
<p>Climate Change</p> <p>Uganda like the rest of the region is affected by climate change and climate variability. The effects are reflected in extreme dry seasons, reduced productivity, floods, diseases, destruction of infrastructure, pollution, reduced water levels, displacement of people and animals etc...</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prioritize the National Climate Change Policy (NCCP) in all LGs actions and activities. • Mainstream adaptation priorities into the District Development Plans that will rise out of the National Development Plan II including tree plating, promotion of and water harvesting and water for production in water stressed areas, protection of wetlands and river banks etc.. • Ensure that implementation of all action is monitored and enforced.
<p>Vandalization of Meteorology equipment in districts.</p> <p>The rampant vandalization of its meteorological equipment's in the LGs is still a concern by MWE/Uganda National Meteorology Authority (UNMA). There is a draft MoU between the MWE and LGs for protection of Meteorology field equipment located in LGs as reported earlier. The transformation DoM to UNMA delayed the follow up on the MoU.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • LGs have not responded and need to provide their input to guide MWE on the content of MoU. • LGs will be consulted on the content of the MoU. • In the meantime the LGs are urged to protect the equipment whose investment to up-grade them to standards remain high yet they contribute to accuracy and reliable data to improve on te effectiveness of other sector of the economy.

Rural Water Supply and Sanitation

<p>Best practices for Operations and Maintenance of Rural water supplies.</p> <p>The Community Based Maintenance System (CBMS) of hand pumps is not leading to the required high functionality rates of rural water supplies. Due to</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • LGs should provide management support and collection of O&M funds at sub-counties level through sub-county water supply boards, district hand pump mechanic associations. • Create and O&M data collection center at the su-county level
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Sector Issue	Required Action during planning and budgeting process
weak WUCs and hand pump mechanics resulting on high dependence on NGOs, CSO, and politicians.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Monitor functionality and carry out maintenance • Strengthen preventive hand pump maintenance under the Conditional Grant • The MWE should implement promotion of new policy shift from point water sources to piped and solar-powered pumped water supplies.
<p>Promotion of Rain Water Harvesting</p> <p>Ministry has halted the implementation of rainwater harvesting activities using the DWSCDG at household level. However, Districts can continue the implementation (not using the DWSCG) of the rainwater harvesting technology at community level and institutions</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • LGs should continue to incorporate rain water harvesting in accordance with the letter issued by MWE, in their planning, designing and construction of institutional buildings (schools, health facilities, community/training centres, offices, worshipping places, traditional leaders' premises, etc.). • The Local Governments should promote self-supply initiatives at household level.
<p>Protection of Water Sources</p> <p>MWE has developed Water Source Protection Guidelines to help water users identify the risk to their water source and to put in place measures to protect the quality and quantity of these sources for Piped water supplies; (ii) Point water supplies (iii) Multipurpose reservoirs and valley tanks.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Districts should integrate these guidelines in implementation of water development projects so that water sources can continue to provide adequate and good quality water. • The district plans and reports should demonstrate how protection of water sources has been addressed. • Local Governments can always contact the Water Management Zonal offices for assistance in all the above areas.
Sanitation and Hygiene	
<p>Fecal sludge management challenges at Local Government Level and in schools (low levels of awareness about the service, lack transparency costing/charges and unsatisfactory pit emptying methods)</p> <p>MWE reported that 81 Districts are funded directly by the grant but still inadequate (2bn annually) and MOH had committed to provide additional funds which haven't yet been done.</p> <p>Non adherence to the Grant planning and reporting guidelines</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • MWE shall expedite the setting up of lagoons in all regions for disposal of septic tank effluent and pit latrines waste where the plans and funds have been earmarked. • MWE is in process of procuring emptying and desludging equipment for small towns and schools within vicinity can use these facilities. • MWE and LGs should prioritize placing water sources closer to schools. • For Municipal and town councils the MOWE is setting up regional water lagoons which will help them to empty their latrines. • However the MOH's grant funds only 30 Districts through the Uganda Sanitation Fund-USF • The Ministry will continue to lobby other key sector Ministries (MOH, MEST&S) to allocate funds for sanitation budget line of 2009. • The Ministry will ensure strict adherence to the revised planning and reporting guidelines (Output based) and institute sanctions for non-adherence. • In future Grant allocations shall be based on district performance.

Sector Issue	Required Action during planning and budgeting process
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Urban Water Supply Operation and Maintenance (O&M)

It has been realized that Umbrella Organizations come with massive synergized benefits. For O&M support to be extended to all small towns, registering with an Umbrella Organization as subscribing as it's member should be a prerequisite	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The umbrellas are tasked with responsibility of rendering technical backstopping in area of operation and maintenance to registered water supply schemes.
<p>Continuous capacity building for Urban Water and Sewerage Board members.</p> <p>It has been noted that more efforts are still needed to build the capacities of water supply and sewerage board members especially in the area of Operation and Maintenance.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> MWE in collaboration with Umbrella Organizations continues to provide training to Water Supply and Sewerage Board Members as and when funding is available.

5.0 Grant Allocation Formula

The proposed grant allocation variables are outlined in the table below.

a. Water Supply and Sanitation

Variable	Weighting	Justification
Population (district)	40	Main indicator of need.
Safe water coverage	10	Demand
Average Investment Cost	40	Cost indicator due to variations in technological options
<i>Functionality of point water sources</i>	<i>10</i>	<i>To cater for O&M of existing point water sources</i>

Comment [CA1]: The in the table below is the proposed allocation. Please ensure that the formulae takes into account of the sectors parameters for the Rural Subsector

b. Natural Resources & Environment

Variable	Weighting	Justification
Population (district)	40	An indicator of need
Wetland Area (district)	60	Cost indicator

The allocation formula will be phased in over the next two financial years, and be completely applied by FY 2017/18.

6.0 Conclusion and Recommendations

The Sector is committed from Financial Year 2016/17 to ensuring quality and efficiency in service delivery under the sector through access to clean and sufficient water and a healthy environment. It should be noted that the district safe water coverage has stagnated at 64%. Therefore effective resources utilization is required from the actors including the LGs to ensure increased service delivery if the sector is to achieve her development plan targets as stated in the NDPII.

High priority should be given to addressing the staffing requirements in the districts, policy shift from point water facilities to piped and solar powered schemes, promotion of rain water harvesting and WFP facilities especially in water stressed areas, promotion of best practices for O&M of rural water supplies among others. On Environment and Natural Resources, the sector will continue to focus on environment integrity by scaling up demarcation of fragile ecosystems boundaries and restoration of the degraded sections. In addition there will be deliberate cancellation of land titles in wetlands and other fragile areas, intensify compliance monitoring and enforcement of legal regimes, promote climate change mitigation and adaptation practices leading to climate resilient communities and social-economic transformation.