

# WaterAid Contributions to the Uganda Water and Environment Joint Sector Review (JSR) 2009

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Tim Fowler CR –WAU, 2<sup>nd</sup> from the left chats with the State Minister of Water and Environment in the middle, extreme right is the Executive Director of UWASNET – informal influencing at a cocktail held at the end of the JSR.

Under the auspices of the Ministry of Water and Environment, every financial year government and development partners in the water and environment sector meet to examine their performance for the previous year and also set out clear opportunities for further improvement. This year the meeting was held October 14<sup>th</sup> – 16<sup>th</sup> 2009 at Speke Resort Munyonyo on the shores of Lake Victoria under the theme: “Sector Preparedness to Mitigate



Environmental Challenges”, for the first time bringing together the Water and Environment sub-sectors. Before and during the three day meeting, WaterAid

actively contributed with the aim of influencing a number of deliberations and action points as shown below.

### National Learning Forum shares at the Joint Sector Review

Before the JSR, the Sanitation and Water Learning Alliance (SAWA)<sup>1</sup> had an opportunity for effective dialogue and learning on key WASH sector issues from the National Learning Forum (NLF) which took place in the two days preceding the JSR and which brought together government, donor and civil society stakeholders. While presenting the NLF outcomes during the JSR, WaterAid staff told participants from government, private sector and the donor world that there is need to provide a sustainable national learning platform for sharing and analysing best practices and innovations among the sector actors. The discussions of the presentation were structured around four themes: Integrated Water Resources Management (IWRM), O&M of rural water supply, household sanitation and WASH at schools.



WaterAid Uganda staff presenting on NLF during the JSR.

<sup>1</sup> The Sanitation and Water Learning Alliance is comprised of four organization including; WaterAid, NETWAS Uganda, UWASNET and Uganda Rain Waters Association with support from IRC and SNV.

### Key Lessons from the NLF

Several initiatives and good practices are going on in the sector unshared yet they can be replicated. The drivers of success identified by the forum include; community participation and empowerment to own and take initiatives, collaborating with local leadership, improvement of governance (accountability and transparency in actions) formation and enforcement of bye laws and strengthening of O&M through partnerships and collaboration amongst water user committees.

### WaterAid and the Ugandan NGO Performance Report

In contribution to the annual Sector Performance Report, WaterAid Uganda facilitated Uganda Water and Sanitation NGO Network (UWASNET - a national umbrella organization with 165 active members) to produce the NGO group performance report. With technical support from WaterAid, UWASNET was able to carry out consultations with members, organise data sharing and validate findings at regional level that greatly enriched the NGO report. Due to the support rendered to UWASNET, 88 UWASNET and WASH Cluster members submitted their data compared to 62 members in the previous year. The report was one of the key documents circulated to government and development partners during the Joint Sector Review.

Usually WaterAid funds UWASNET to produce the NGO performance report with the help of external consultants; this time WaterAid staff worked hand in hand with the UWASNET secretariat to produce the report with the aim of

building in-house capacity at the secretariat. “Never before has UWASNET produced a good report like this,” was a repeated comment by JSR delegates. Key report highlights include the acknowledgement of the need for NGOs to be more transparent and accountable to their actions and resources in their mandate, as well as the need to increase avenues for coordination and information sharing at different levels of operation. Further, there is need to emphasise equity and inclusion (particularly of people living with HIV/AIDS, people living with disabilities and orphans), an issue generally neglected within the WASH sub-sector. The report not only served as the NGOs’ contribution to the Sector Performance Monitoring Framework but it demonstrated their contribution to the WASH sector in Uganda.

### Impact: Contribution to Sector Undertakings

A document detailing proposed undertakings was produced and circulated during the meeting. The proposed undertakings are a contribution by NGOs to the improvement of sector performance geared towards increasing access to safe water, hygiene and adequate sanitation, particularly for the poor, vulnerable and marginalized groups Uganda. WaterAid was very instrumental in drafting and smartening of the UWASNET and WASH Cluster members’ draft of undertaking recommendations to the JSR 2009. These contributed to policy dialogue, debate and eventually enriching and guiding discussions for the agreed sector undertakings.

### The proposed NGO Undertakings were:

1. **Sector Finance:** enhancing accountability and efficiency of sector institutions to improve sector funding.
2. **Urban Water and Sanitation:** scaling up appropriate pro-poor approaches in the delivery of urban water and sanitation.
3. **Water Stressed Areas:** formulation of a strategy to address water scarcity in the context of climate change.
4. **Rural Water Supply:** strengthening Management Information Systems and monitoring to improve functionality.
5. **Sanitation:** enactment and enforcement of sanitation byelaws in all districts.

### Influence on the Joint Sector 2009 Undertakings

Since the NGO draft of undertakings was circulated earlier, it had an impact while drafting the JSR 2009 undertakings. An example is the inclusion of “pro-poor” language in the Urban Water Supply undertaking. The key achievement was in the adoption of “pro-poor” in general, and the additional push by the WAU country representative in the plenary and in the side meetings to make the pro-poor aspect stronger within the JSR 2009 undertaking. The Germany ambassador representing the Lead Development Partners, in his speech talked more of sector issues highlighted in the NGO report and draft undertakings. Other issues from the NGO draft undertakings embedded in the JSR 2009 undertakings include enforcement of bye laws and compliance monitoring. And in regard to rural water supplies- revitalizing community based maintenance systems and updating of MIS all of which proposed in the NGO draft.