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## January 2010 News Updates

### Twenty– Ten (2010): A year of Opportunities for Africa, writes Kiyimba James

#### From the Editor

This news letter gives you high lights of activities taking place in WaterAid in Uganda. If there is a story of more interest to you, do not hesitate to contact the country office for details.

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Friday evening, 18th December 2009 WaterAid Uganda (WAU) held her end of year team building party at Beijing Restaurant in Kampala. Looking back in 2009, WAU registered a number of achievements including: great influencing at the Joint Sector Review (JSR), steps to build up UWASNET (a WASH umbrella organisation with 165 members) and other partners, development of the urban strategy, putting in place a modern information Technology (IT) system, and above all WAU was able to support a significant number of partners to improve access to WASH among the poor and vulnerable communities in Uganda despite the global economic downturn.

The year 2010 is an opportune year for Africa in general and Uganda in particular. Come January Angola is hosting the Africa cup of nations – the apogee of African soccer.



Water, hygiene & sanitation must be a priority at all levels for the bright future of the African Child.

Also in June 2010, South Africa is hosting the Soccer world cup, we see a lot of media and global interest in what is happening in the Africa continent.

Other international fora that offer golden opportunities of tabling African issues

on global agenda include the African ministerial meeting to be held in Senegal in March, come April we have a high level Meeting on WASH in Washington (USA), G8 and G20 summits in Canada and the UN-MDG summit in New York. Back home 15<sup>th</sup> to 18<sup>th</sup> March Uganda is to host the African International Water Congress meeting and exhibition, June/July 2010 the country is also hosting the African Union summit among others.

Of course there may be a number of things that did not go well the previous year. But judging from the opportunities it is suffice to say that 2010 is a golden year for us in the WASH sector to strategise and see how best we can exploit the opportunities it offers. As a recommendation, WASH sector actors should package their advocacy messages to suit the different media needs and high level meetings. Let us seize these opportunities the year offers with our open hands to end water poverty on the continent.

**Happy New Year to You All.**

### Launch of the ECOSAN Knowledge Node

As part of activities to commemorate World Toilet Day, WAU participated in the launch of the Ecosan Knowledge Node on the 17<sup>th</sup> October 2009 at St. James Biina Primary School in Kampala. The Ecosan node (resource centre) is hosted by Network for Water and Sanitation (NETWAS) Uganda and it aims at closing the knowledge gap, influencing attitudes, research and demonstrates sustainable sanitation promotion approaches and technology options in the country.



Left picture in the middle, State Minister of Water and Environment launching the Ecosan Resource centre—Right WA staff demonstrating how ecological sanitation works

## CR's Field Visits



The CR inspecting works done by partners . Below a truck drilling a bore hole in Amuria District.



November 2009 was a busy time for the WaterAid country representative (CR) in Uganda. Tim Fowler the WaterAid CR in the country visited a number of partner CSOs and local governments in the North East and Central districts of Uganda. The field visit aimed at evaluating the work done by WaterAid partners and also hearing from the community how the WASH work done by partners is impacting on their lives.

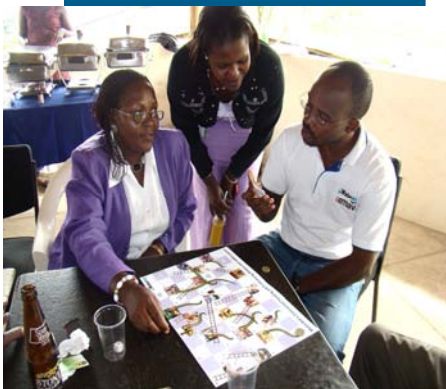
In the North East the CR met with the Amuria district local government officials and WEDA a local partner NGO.

The CR applauded the partners for the good work they have done in improving water and sanitation coverage. He visited a number of villages which had attained 100% (or almost 100%) total sanitation. He also visited sites where bore-hole drilling and pump testing was in action and took the opportunity to train some technicians in

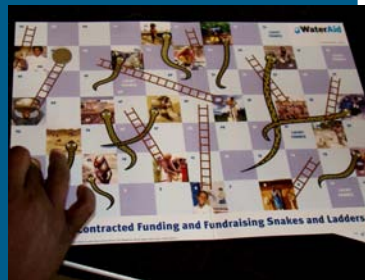
better pump testing techniques.

In the central region, the CR visited works done by partners including Busoga Trust (local NGO) and the Mpigi district local government authorities. Here he noted that partners have done well in improving access to safe water although more work is needed for sanitation especially in landing sites on the shores of Lake Victoria.

## Info Day- Rolling out Children's Rights in WASH



Info day was a day of fun and relaxation- Staff enjoyed playing the WA Fund raising snakes & ladders



Friday 20<sup>th</sup> November 2009 was World Child's Day and it was Info day in WaterAid Uganda – a day for acquisition of knowledge, building relationships and relaxation from work.

A guest speaker from Action for Rights of Children (a national NGO) talked to all staff about children's rights in the context of WASH and how best the promotion and realization of such rights can be integrated in the delivery of WASH services. It was noted that in most of the rural schools the most common form of punishment given to pupils is fetching water, cleaning the school compound and latrines. Such punishments are very bad for the promotion of WASH among the young stars because they portray having a clean environment, latrines and fetching water as bad things equivalent to punishments.

Where such punishments are used, WaterAid and partners should vehemently oppose them. Having a clean

environment should never be a punishment. It was also agreed that the starting point of streamlining children's rights in the WASH sector is to have in mind "the best interest of the child" as the guiding principle in the delivery of WASH services. While on the other hand, children's voices must also be listened to in the delivery of water, hygiene and sanitation services.



WAU staff learning how to integrate children's rights in the implementation of WASH projects.

## Governance and Transparency Fund (GTF) Regional Meeting



Participants for the regional GTF meeting held in Kampala

October 24-26 2009, WaterAid Uganda hosted the East African GTF regional meeting in Kampala. Participants came from Kenya, Malawi, Zambia, Ethiopia and Uganda the host. The meeting aimed at reflecting on the regional GTF programme after one year of implementation by partners, share experiences and lessons - thereby improving programme delivery, developing learning mechanisms and preparing for the big meeting of all GTF country pro-

grammes to be held early 2010.

The governance and transparency fund aims at increasing the capacity of civil society organizations and citizens to effectively participate in dialogue with decision-makers and service providers in the WASH sector, leading to better accountability and responsiveness of actions.

### Successes

After one year of implementing GTF in the region several successes have been registered including increased community engagement and dialogue with WASH service providers & policy makers, improved coordination & information sharing among WASH stakeholders. While on the other hand a number of local NGOs have acquired more policy advocacy skills to influence and engage with government on sector issues. In addition, service providers are getting more responsive and providing platforms for engagement with service beneficiaries.

As the meeting came to the end, participants reviewed their activity plans and aligned them to match their country specific sector challenges identified. More efforts however were directed towards having in place clear and realistic change objectives, M&E strategy for GTF engagements/ influencing and above all targeting the right audience, timely reporting and effective docu-

## WaterAid in Uganda Staff and PACT Meetings

**Staff Meeting:** A WAU staff meeting was held on 4<sup>th</sup> November 2009. Among other issues, the meeting discussed the need for all staff to have a better understanding of the Equity & Inclusion principles and the Child Protection Policy ahead of partners. Focal persons to spearhead this issue were also selected.

**PACT Meeting:** On Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> December 2009 the WAU Programmes and Advocacy Coordination Team (PACT) meeting was held. Issues discussed included:

- Updates from all programme units
- the urgent need for fundraising, since several Contract-Funded projects were ending this financial year
- the need to harmonize and standardize beneficiary number's count
- utilizing the SOURCE – the new intranet communication tool for WA staff.
- Having in place project work plans for the next financial year.

The PACT also discussed the need to integrate learning

processes among partners and also prioritize Joint Sector Review Undertakings in partners' interventions. Among the emerging issues was the need to help partners to mainstream equity and inclusion in their water, sanitation and hygiene work.

### Key Up Coming Events in January 2010

- WAU briefing of HR conference & performance management training 12th.
- East African Regional Management Meeting 18th—20th .
- Strategic review of WaterAid water point mapping activities in Uganda 19th– 22nd.
- Reviewing GTF partners' objectives

# WASH Stories in Ugandan Media

**Minister warns Karamoja Officials on water funds.**— The New Vision newspaper December 16, 2009

**T**HE Uganda state minister for Water and Environment Jennifer Namuyangu, warned against misappropriating funds meant for water development in the Karamoja region.

While speaking to Moroto district water officials and development partners, the minister said that the local government in the Karamoja region each year receives from government money for water development but there is nothing on the ground. "What is on ground is only work by other development partners," she said.

Karamoja is found in the north eastern part of Uganda bordering Kenya. It is one of the most under developed and water stressed regions in the country. The Karimojong (the people inhabiting the area) are cattle keepers and the majority of children in the area are illiterate; many don't go to school because they have to look for water and grass for their animals. Improving accountability for water resources and actions in this region will not only make the Karimojong access adequate quantities of safe water for their needs but their children will also be able to have an opportunity to go to school- enabling them to move out of poverty.



State minister

**Quality of Kampala Water Deteriorating.**— The New Vision newspaper December 7, 2009

**T**he quality of water supplied to Kampala city is deteriorating, a study by a team of scientists from Makerere University and the University of Bergen in Norway revealed in a four year study.

In a report titled; *Sharing water, problems, conflicts and possible solutions – the case of Kampala*, the scientists reported that a lot of heavy metals remitted by industries end up in Lake Victoria the main water source in the region, swamps and wetlands. Water samples from Nakiubo Channel were found to have high concentration of zinc, lead and nickel above acceptable international standards.

The report further reveals that only 27% of the sewerage produced is treated, pit latrine emptying services are not adequate leading to flushing of latrines in drainage channels during rainy seasons and Kampala City council collects only 25% of solid waste generated every month.

National Water and Sewerage Corporation, the body responsible for distribution of safe water in the city needs to do more. "It is only developments in science and technology to that will solve future challenges concerning the environment," the report concluded.

## Pictorial: Key staff moments in 2009



**Picture 1:** WAU staff having fun, **Picture 2:** Representatives from each WAU unit cutting the cake of success, at the End of year party. **Picture 3:** The most well dressed lady & gentleman of the day. **Picture 4:** Some of the WAU staff who have contributed enormously to the achievement of the organization in 2009.