Scaling up sanitation and hygiene in Uganda

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Background

- Institutional and governance issues and financing related issues are central to discussions regarding scaling up sanitation and hygiene in many developing countries.

- In this presentation, I will present the objectives and findings of a recently completed ESW (done through collaboration between WSP, AFTU1 and ENV) on this topic in Uganda.

- Also give you a flavor of where the policy discussion is on this topic and the kind of follow up work that is being done.
Context

- Over the past decade, the government of Uganda has taken numerous efforts to scale up sanitation and hygiene

- Kampala Declaration for Sanitation (1997), signing of the sanitation MOU (2001), setting up the National Sanitation Working Group

- Yet, improvements have been slow compared to MDG and PEAP targets (72% and 80%)
Trends in latrine coverage: 1960 - 2007

Year

%age

Context contd.

- HH Latrine coverage has improved slowly from 49% when the Kampala Declaration was signed in 1998 to 62% last year.

- In 2006/07, about 14% of households had access to and used hand washing facilities.

- It is estimated that almost 75% of Uganda’s disease burden is preventable and linked to poor hygiene and inadequate sanitation facilities and practices.

- Improvements in sanitation identified as a key factor for reducing high Infant mortality (MFPED, 2003).
Socioeconomic Differences in Health Outcomes (2007)

Wealth Quintiles

Inter-quintile Ratio

Lowest | Second | Middle | Fourth | Highest

IMR | U5MR | TFR

1.00 | 1.20 | 1.40 | 1.60 | 1.80 | 2.00 | 2.20
Objective and Methodology

- Report a response to request from Joint Sector Review for W&S

- Objective of the report:
  (i) assess institutional issues linked with sanitation MOU
  (ii) propose mechanisms for operationalizing budget line for sanitation and
  (iii) institutional issues underlying solid waste management and drainage

- Focus of this presentation:
  --excreta related sanitation and hygiene
  --focus mainly on on-site sanitation since 90% of population relies on some form of on site sanitation

- Methodology—Consultations with stakeholders, documentary and field research in selected districts and municipalities, workshops
Policy context-- Sanitation MOU

- Basically an agreement made by 3 ministries to clarify institutional responsibilities
  - Ministry of Water, Land and Environment (MWLE) - (responsible for provision of public latrines in towns and rural growth centers; works with NWSC to provide sewerage)
  - Ministry of Health (MoH) responsible for hygiene promotion at HH level)
  - Ministry of Education and Sports (MoES) - (Dept of Primary and pre-primary Ed responsible for school latrine construction and hygiene education)

- The MOU is not a legal document but is supported by other laws and regulations (e.g. Public health Act of 1964, various sanitation and waste related ordinances/by-laws prepared by local governments, etc.)

- Main Limitations:
  - Not linked with clear financing mechanism, no discussion of rural or urban issues etc.
  - Some Ministries (e.g. Local Government, Gender), local governments, that play an important role at the district and sub-county levels not included in the MOU
Institutional/political economy issues at national level

- Fragmentation of Institutional responsibilities between line Ministries

- Weak Leadership/capacity in some line Ministries, poor planning and budgeting for hygiene (e.g. Environmental health division at the Ministry of Health; only 2 staff charged with supporting school sanitation issues in Ministry of Education and Sports (MES))

- Focus on sector priorities (e.g. focus on water supply and water resources management in MWE, priority given to priority given to other issues such as improving pupil teacher ratio, pupil class room ratio in MES)

- Expectation from relevant sector ministries that MWE will pay for sanitation— this is because in the 1990s, sanitation activities were funded through water and sanitation projects where MWLE used to be the main implementing agency
Financing issues: Low prioritization for sanitation and hygiene

- Within the broader fiscal decentralization framework, LGs hold the main responsibility for planning, budgeting for service delivery

- Heavily dependent on central government transfers in the form of sector conditional grants (SCGs)

- Analysis shows that approximately
  - 4% of the District water and sanitation conditional grant
  - 2% of the Primary Health Care on-wage Conditional grant
  - 1.23% to 2.35% of the School facilities grant and
  - Approx. 0.001% of the Local Government Development Program (LGDP) grant is used for sanitation and hygiene activities.
Factors underlying low prioritization at the district level

- Very few districts have developed a strategy, budget and operational plan for meeting local or national targets

- Frontline bureaucrats often not used to competing for budgets

- Existing accountability structures: District officials report to district leaders and not to national line ministries, thus no clear accountability to line ministries in terms of meeting national level targets

- Inadequate support from local leaders
Lessons from good practice examples

- Even though national level indicators are lagging, some districts have very high latrine coverage (e.g., Rukungiri 98%, Rakai 86%, Bushenyi 91% etc)

Key Lessons—
- Strong support from political leadership
- Formation of District Water and Sanitation committees
- Collaboration between district officials in terms of planning and budgeting
- Strong enforcement of local sanitation bylaws
- Creation of incentives through rewards and public recognition
- Participatory and bottom up planning
- Information dissemination, sensitizing political leaders

Source: Case studies done in Rakai and Luwero as part of the ESW
Good hygiene practice in JeryGai camp - Gulu

A hand washing facility near a well maintained latrine in Nsumba village Rakai district

Home improvement model home in Buhumi village - Busia
Solution to financing issue--budget line for sanitation

- Broad consensus in the sector that a separate budget line is needed to address the issue of low prioritization of funds for S and H

- The ESW considers 4 options for implementing this (see financing chapter), considers tradeoffs involved and recommends one option—as a top up to the Local Government Development Program grant

- The MFPED has in principle agreed to creating this, the specific mechanisms are still being discussed
Selected recommendations

- Implement budget line as a top up to the LGDP grant
- Reform of MOU should be linked to implementation of budget line
  --Key issue is that simply implementing budget line is not sufficient,
  institutional issues also need to be addressed
- Establish reward mechanism at national and LG levels
- Establish district and town water and sanitation committees
- Sensitize local leaders, improve enforcement of sanitation bylaws
- Scale up formation of TSUs
- Improve collection and disclosure of information
Ongoing follow up includes:

- **Recommendations included in:**
  - the *agreed minutes of the 2008 JSR* directing the NSWG to follow up
  - Recommendation especially on budget included in the draft W & S contribution to the 5 year National Development Plan (which is replacing the current PEAP/PRSC which is ending this year and revised Sector Investment Plan under preparation)

- **Ownership from Key Ministries & Officials:**
  - Letter written by the PS MWE to PS/Secretary to the Treasury, MFPED using recommendations made by the ESW, requesting it to implement budget line (with cc to PS Health, Education, Local Government, Gender)
  - Agreement from PS of MoLG for implementation of Budget line
  - Rewards given to districts with highest increase in latrine coverage and which have political support, at JSR 08
  - Presentation to First lady by Chair of NSWG who has agreed to champion sanitation and hygiene
First Lady to champion Hygiene

First Lady to promote hygiene

By Gerald Tenywa

THE First Lady Janet Museveni, is set to spearhead a countrywide campaign on sanitation.

The First Lady agreed to become a sanitation advocate during a meeting with the Sanitation Working Group at State House on Monday.

"You have my assurance that I will be there for you," she said.

"We are working towards the same target, but we need to be serious and achieve measurable and tangible impacts."

Mrs. Museveni was responding to an appeal by the group to become a promoter of the National Sanitation and Hygiene Campaign.

The head of the group, Sam Mutome, said poor sanitation was one of the leading causes of infant mortality.

He said for every SH spent on proper sanitation, 93 is gained in avoided illnesses, death, medical expenses and productivity increase.

The use of latrines and washing hands with soap after using a toilet contributes to better health, he added.

"In Bukamya where the latrine coverage is 95%, households still suffer from waterborne diseases," he said, adding that this was because washing hands was not emphasised.

He said Mrs. Museveni should mobilise resources to promote the cause.

The sanitation group comprises the ministries of health, education, water and environment. It is supported by non-governmental organisations like Water Aid, Africare, United and the World Bank.

Sanitation and hygiene, which was almost 100% in the 1960s, declined to about 20% in the last two decades due to political turmoil and civil unrest in the 1970s and the early 1980s.

Good hygiene has, however, increased to about 80% where it has stagnated.

"We have to go back to the basics and teach people the risks associated with poor hygiene," said Paul Loring, the assistant commissioner of health services in the health ministry.

PWBs warned over wheelchairs

By Charles Ariko

PERSONS with disabilities (PWDs) have been cautioned against selling wheelchairs donated to them.

Trus Bagamba, the president of Kajansi Rotary Club, said some disabled people sold the wheelchairs to earn quick money, adding that the chairs cost about SH10,000.

Bagamba was handing over 50 wheelchairs to disabled persons at the Ntata Conference Centre near Kampala.

The chairs, which cost over SH1,000, were procured with the assistance of Rotary Club International.

Bagamba said the donation was aimed at supporting persons with disabilities whose relatives could not afford to buy wheelchairs.

"In case of the seriously handicapped, I will finance them to buy them," Bagamba said.

In Loving Memory

Florence Namanya Serwadda
1923 - 2008

Days and weeks have turned into months and a year, since the Lord took you to his bosom. None of you is left behind but your grief is read by Almighty God's promise that we shall meet again in heaven.

Dearly missed by your children, grand children, great grand children, brothers, sisters, cousins, in-laws, relatives, friends, nephews and nieces.

The memorial service was held yesterday
10th February 2009

(Isaiah 57:1-2: Good people die, and no one understands . . . .)

Mary God Rest Her Soul in Eternal Peace

Rains to end mid-February, say experts

By Charles Ariko

This year's rains in the Lake Basin region and other parts of the country will end by mid-February, weather experts have predicted.

Aloys Kagoro, the principal meteorologist, on Monday said the rains would be triggered off by a tropical cyclone known as "Fainoff" by the Mozambique Channel.

"The rains should not be seen as the start of the March to May rainy season," he said.

He said the meteorology department had recorded heavy rainfall in some areas such as Tororo, which had 30-cm rain in 24 hours on January 30, Soroti recorded 30-cm the next day.

Kagoro said a detailed forecast for the March-May season would be issued after a meeting with weather forecasts from the Greater Horn of Africa region, which is expected to take place at the end of this month.

He said an overall review in January indicated that many parts of the country reported rainfall above the upper limit.