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The post-2015 development agenda

Uganda stakeholder perspectives on a water goal and its implementation

Global Water Partnership

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1 Comments on recommended SD Goal and Targets for water

1.1 Conceptualization of the recommended Goal and Targets in into the local development context

The second round of Uganda National Consultation on Water in the Post-2015 Development Agenda took place on the 18 March 2014, in Kampala, Uganda. The meeting that was organized by the Uganda Ministry of Water and Environment and facilitated by Global Water Partnership (GWP) Eastern Africa, brought together representatives of governments, international organizations, civil society organizations, the private sector, and academic institutions, to discuss Uganda's priorities on water in the Post-2015 Development Agenda. The consultations aimed at bringing together a broad range of stakeholders to review progress on the MDGs and discuss options for a new sustainable development framework.

Hon Prof Ephraim KAMUNTU, Minister of Water and Environment officiating the meeting and briefing the participants

The day began with an opening session that was graced by Honorable Professor Ephraim Kamuntu, Minister of Water and Environment (Photo below). The Minister thanked the Global Water Partnership for joining efforts with the Ministry of Water and Environment to organize the second round of national consultations. He briefed the meeting about Uganda's priorities to be considered by that the national consultations. The Minister indicated that the first priority for Uganda is peace, security, law and order. He indicated that peace, security, law and order are the cornerstones of development and that no country can develop without them. He however highlighted that while security is often interpreted to refer to law and order there are three other securities that fall in this category namely Water Security, Energy Security and Food security.

The Minister discussed at length the issue of Water Security and pointed out the following issues for consideration by the participants:

- Although water is often taken for granted it is important for human well-being and goes beyond domestic use to irrigation, livestock, fisheries, health, and tourism etc. He appreciated the fact that water was being considered as a key priority for the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) but challenged the participants to discuss water within the framework of the hydrological cycle. He underscored that many Ugandans don't connect water with forests and wetlands and do not know that water is a finite resource that can get finished. There is therefore a need to look at the whole water cycle perspective and link it with forests, wetlands, climate change (floods and droughts) if the SDG for water is to achieve its intended objectives. He challenged the participants and most especially the academicians to make all efforts to articulate these linkages and get as many people as possible to understand and appreciate them

Prof Ephrem KAMUNTU pointed further that:

- Water can be a source of conflict but can be a source of cooperation. He explained that water can cause wars if not well managed well.
- Water is linked to human welfare, economic transformation environmental sustainability.

He urged that Water Security and Energy Security are interlinked as water is needed to generate energy and energy is needed to deliver water. He clarified that energy is needed to transform the economy and there is therefore a nexus between water and energy. He indicated that high population growth in Uganda is linked to lack of energy with only 15% of Ugandans having access to electricity. Such high population growth rates can be reduced by people having access to energy. The Minister further noted that Food Security is also linked to Water Security and Energy Security. He elaborated on how the three securities are linked and why these linkages should be considered during the discussions of the SDG and targets for water.

The Minister challenged the participants to critically think about how water can contribute to achievement of the national vision for Uganda which is a "Transformed society from a peasant to a middle income economy by the year 20140". He added that the overarching goal of the national vision is poverty eradication but it is difficult to achieve without rethinking the ways we are developing our policies and strategies globally, regionally and nationally. The minister thereafter requested participants to put their knowledge and experiences together to help contribute to the ongoing debates on water in the post 2015 development agenda so that water issues and priorities for Uganda are given serious consideration in the post 2015 development agenda. He requested the participants to critically look at the proposed targets and indicators and ensure that they are in line with the national targets so that our people are not provided substandard services. There is need to benchmark the proposed targets with national targets and see how best they can be achieved nationally. Finally, the Minister requested the workshop organizers to ensure that the outcomes of the consultations should be shared with Ministry of Finance, Planning and Economic Development so as to demonstrate the value of investing in water resources development and management. The available empirical information on contribution of water to economic development needs to be captured in the report so that the linkages between water security, energy security, food security and environmental security can be appreciated.

1.2 Discussion on the proposed water Goal, targets and indicators.

During the national consultations there were no changes proposed for Sustainable Development Goal and most of the targets because they were found relevant. However, some changes or additions were proposed on one target, various elements, core indicators and outcomes as indicated below.

1.3 Target A: Achieve universal access to safe drinking water, sanitation and hygiene

1.3.1 Element 1: Basic access to sanitation

Core indicators:

- Percentage reduction of population practising open defecation
- Percentage of population using dignified sanitation
- Percentage of the population using appropriate sanitation options
- Percentage of people using unimproved sanitation facilities (semi structures, very deep traditional pit latrines)
- Percentage of health centres and schools using environmentally viable sanitation facilities

1.3.2 Element 2: Access to clean and safe drinking water for households, communities, schools and health facilities

Core indicators

- Percentage of population using safe and clean drinking water
- Percentage of health facilities and schools with clean and safe drinking water

1.3.3 Element 3: Safely managed water, sanitation and hygiene services

To achieve universal access to safely managed drinking water, hygiene and sanitation services

Core indicators

- Percentage of population using safely managed drinking water
- Percentage of population with basic hygiene services
- Percentage of population with functional hand washing facilities
- Percentage of health facilities and schools with functional hygiene services

1.3.4 Element 4: To progressively ensure equitable access

Core Indicators

- Percentage of population with access to inclusive water, hygiene and sanitation facilities
- Percentage of institutions, communities and schools with inclusive WASH facilities
- Equitable distribution of inclusive WASH facilities
- The difference in rate of change for the vulnerable groups versus the general population

Desired outcome (overall)

- No one practising open defecation
- Every one uses safe water, sanitation and hygiene
- All schools, communities and health centres have safe water, sanitation and hygiene
- Sustainable and equitable access to WASH
- Water allocations decisions and water withdrawals take into account both human, agricultural, environment and industrial needs
- Sanitation targets integrated in government policies, plans and strategies for improved maternal, child survival and nutrition
- Reduced diarrheal and other WASH related diseases

1.4 Target B: Improved by (%) the sustainable use and development of water resources in all countries

1.4.1 Element 1: Bring freshwater withdrawals in line with sustainably available water resources and Climate Change

Percentage of Water infrastructure compliance to CC Adaptation principles

1.4.2 Element 2: Restore, maintain and improve ecosystem to provide water related services

- Percentage Change of threatened Species (Redlist) index and living Planet index for relevant flora and fauna
- Percentage change and Environmental water stress (based on deviation from natural flow/availability

1.4.3 Element 3. Increase water productivity for all uses

- Percentage change in unaccounted for water
- Percentage change in water reuse efficiency

1.4.4 Elements

- Water allocations and water withdraws …
- Sustainable ecosystem health and capacity to be ….
- Countries …
- Percentage reduction in unaccounted for water

1.5 Target C: All countries strengthen equitable, participatory and accountable water governance

1.5.1 Element 1: Implement integrated approaches to water management at local, basin and national levels including participatory decision making

1. Percentage of countries implementing IWRM plans in % of basins
2. Percentage of countries implementing strategic plans and participatory decision making processes
3. Percentage of transboundary basins and aquifers with cooperative management frameworks
4. Percentage of countries with national policies supporting integrated disaster risk management (including drought and flood policies), with relevant institutional frameworks in place, as part of national development plans
5. Proportion of communities which have risk strategies in place and proportion of communities which have implemented these strategies, starting with the communities most vulnerable to risk
6. Monitoring and evaluation systems should include surveys at all levels of the institutional framework on governance issues.

1.5.2 Element 2: Deliver all drinking water supply, sanitation and hygiene services in a progressively affordable, accountable, financially and environmentally sustainable manner

1. Percentage of population using water and sanitation service providers registered with a regulatory authority (disaggregate rural and urban)
2. Percentage of the population in the poorest quintile, with access to basic drinking water supply, sanitation and hygiene services, whose financial expenditure on water, sanitation and hygiene is below X% of the national poverty line (disaggregate rural and urban)
3. Ratio of annual revenue of service provider to annual expenditure on cost-effective maintenance (including operating expenditures, capital maintenance, debt servicing) (disaggregate rural and urban)
4. Ratio of annual expenditure on cost-effective maintenance (including operating expenditures, capital maintenance, debt servicing) to annualized value of capital assets (disaggregate rural and urban)
5. Percentage of population with water and service providers delivering services in an environmentally sustainable manner ensuring long term reliability, quantity and quality of water resources?

1.5.3 Element 3: Ensure regulatory frameworks are in place for water resources, infrastructure and services, and to enhance the performance of responsible public authorities and their water operators

1. Number of countries with operational regulatory frameworks and enforcement capacity
2. Proportion of responsible water authorities and water operators for which operational performance is measured and reported

1.5.4 Element 4: Strengthen knowledge transfer and skills development

1. Proportion of institutions using relevant education and training materials in local capacity building programs in water related fields.
2. Percentage of capacity building networks using multidisciplinary skills of competent members to scale up capacity building and actively support implementation programs.

1.6 Target D:

Change the term “wastewater pollution” to “pollution” to generally account for solid waste pollution and other forms of pollution

1.6.1 Elements (additional elements)

- Reducing untreated non-point source wastes/pollution
- Reducing trade waste (trade waste= waste generated from traded products e.g. batteries, computers…)
- Increase solid waste collected and treated

1.6.2 Indicators (additions)

- Proportion of storm water collected and properly treated
- Proportion of trade waste collected and treated
- Proportion of solid waste collected and treated
- Percentage of waste used as a resource (e.g. Gasification)

1.6.3 Implications (addition)

- Education to impact behavioral characteristics

1.7 Target E: Reduce mortality by (X %) and economic loss by (Y %) from natural and human induced water related disasters

1.7.1 Elements (additional)

- Build capacity of institutions to detect, monitor and respond to water related disasters.
- Increased awareness raising and sensitization to decision makers and communities on water related disasters.
- Strengthening and enforcing laws to prevent environmental degradation.

1.7.2 Proposed core Indicators (How we monitor our targets)

- Number of incidences of water related diseases (occurrence)
- Proportion of at risk communities that have been sensitized on water related disasters.

- Number of institutions that can effectively detect, monitor and respond to water related disasters.
- Proportion of communities complying with environment laws and regulations.

1.7.3 Desired out comes- additional

- Degraded environment restored and performing its services and functions

2 Key implications and means of implementation identified for achieving the Goal and Targets over the period 2015-30

2.1 Key implications and means of implementation

The key implications and means of implementation the identified Targets have been considered in terms of capacity, costs, institutions, infrastructure, monitoring and data and information. The targets set should therefore consider the available resources globally and nationally to meet them. For Uganda the following are the implications for implementing the proposed targets:

- Having in place infrastructure such as early warning systems, dams etc are needed.
- Harmonizing laws across various sectors such as water, agriculture, energy etc
- Institutional strengthening and coordination through increased skilled people, adequate equipment and finances
- Science and technology especially in relation to early warning system.
- Updated information based on baseline data and regularly collected data

2.2 Any other issues arising from the meeting related to the Water Goal, Targets and post2015 development agenda

The national consultations called for the post-2015 agenda to stress that water, sanitation and hygiene are closely inter-linked and should be addressed in a holistic framework. Whilst the national consultation was primarily focused on the issue of water, the participants found it as a good opportunity to recognize the desire to build the post-2015 framework outside of silos.

Improving access to WASH is critical to increasing the income of individuals and households living in poverty. Diarrhea and waterborne disease are associated with inadequate WASH services and contribute to high mortality of children under-five globally. Better WASH significantly reduces the burden of disease, thereby improving health at all stages of life and enabling people to be more productive. Safe drinking water, sanitation and hygiene facilities also play a crucial role in enabling good nutrition. Improving WASH in schools is vital to improving school attendance and education outcomes, particularly among adolescent girls. Reducing the time spent for collecting water improves the health, wellbeing and economic status of poor women and girls and is an essential first step towards gender equality. The multi-dimensional nature of poverty means those inequalities in access to WASH and other forms of inequality and discrimination against poor and marginalised groups must be tackled together.

The sustainability of improvements in WASH is closely linked to the effective management of upstream water resource issues and downstream wastewater and pollution issues. The MDGs include a target focused on the development of integrated water resources management plans (IWRM). While the IWRM concept is based on sound principles, it requires functional institutions with clear roles and responsibilities, which are lacking in many low and middle income countries,

especially at basin and local level. Consequently, water resources continue to go unmanaged and services are exposed to a higher risk of failure.

Management of wastewater has not been adequately considered under the MDGs. The vast majority of wastewater (90%) in developing countries is discharged untreated, leading to the contamination of water resources, increased prevalence of disease and the deterioration of of ecosystems. Inadequate management of faecal sludge from on-site sanitation facilities is becoming a critical problem in densely populated urban areas, which are growing around the world. The post-2015 framework should encourage an integrated approach to managing wastewater and maintaining water quality, and include explicit targets and indicators focused on ensuring safe management of faecal sludge.

3 Concluding comments.

The participants recommended that the post-2015 framework should promote better collaboration and coordination across sectors (energy, agriculture, health, education, ecotourism, etc) by strengthening the linkages between goals and targets that contribute towards ending poverty. Specifically, it should recognize that access to water, sanitation and hygiene is a key determinant of health and nutrition, and human wellbeing at large. It should ensure that the targets aimed at improving health, eliminating preventable child and maternal deaths, and reducing the burden of stunting and major diseases are supported by universal access targets for WASH at home and in schools and health facilities. A truly effective and integrated approach will require the adoption of appropriate progress indicators on WASH access within other development goal targets and programmes, as well as financial incentives for sector ministries and agencies to work together.

Annex 1: List of Participants

Full Name	Organisation	Position
Prof. Ephraim Kamuntu	Ministry of Water and Environment	Hon. Minister
Sarah MIrembe	GWP	Network Officer
Jenifer Williams	UWASNET/WATER AID	Consultant
Max Kigobe	Civil Engineering Department, Makerere University	Lecturer
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