



THE REPUBLIC OF UGANDA



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Gender and Equity interventions in the Water and Environment Sector: What was the performance for the Financial Year (FY) 2018/19?

Overview

Article 32 (1) of the 1995 Constitution guides the State to take affirmative action to cover the marginalised groups on the basis of gender, age, disability or any other reason. To that effect, the Uganda Gender Policy (2007) was developed to establish a clear framework for identification, implementation and coordination of interventions to achieve gender equality and women's empowerment in Uganda.

Ministries, Departments and Agencies (MDAs) are required to translate the policy into sector specific strategies and activities, build capacity, monitor, evaluate and commit resources for implementing the Gender and Equity (G&E) commitments. The Public Finance, and Accountability Act, 2015 (PFAA) requires MDAs to develop Gender and equity (G&E) responsive budgets.

The Water and Environment Sector developed a Water and Sanitation Gender Strategy 2018-2022 and the Environment and Natural Resources Gender Strategy 2016-2021; to guide the implementation of the G&E commitments.

The sector strategic objective is to promote G&E considerations. This is to be achieved through a number of interventions that improve opportunities for men, women, girls, boys and other disadvantaged groups to access and participate in water, sanitation and environment resources development and management.

This brief highlights the performance of gender and equity commitments and interventions in the sector in FY 2018/19.

Key Issues

- Less than 50% women representation on water and sanitation committees
- Delayed completion of water supply and micro irrigation systems.
- Fewer public stand pipes connections than planned
- Less budget allocation to districts with low functionality of water sources
- No capacity development was done for the female Hand Pump Mechanics

INTRODUCTION

The Water and Environment Sector gender and equity issues include:

- Long distances travelled, and waiting time at collection points in water stressed areas;
- Inequitable access to safe water and sanitation facilities in public places;
- Unfavorable water source technologies;
- High connection fees and tariffs for the urban poor;
- Limited gender disaggregated data;
- Limited empowerment of People With Disabilities (PWDs); and
- Unequitable access to employment, benefit-sharing for all disadvantaged groups.

In a bid to address the above issues, the sector committed to:

- Construction of water and sanitation facilities,
- Empowerment of women on Water Source Committees,

- Equitable allocation of finances to district local governments,
- Improving livelihoods through small scale irrigation schemes, and
- Capacity building of female Hand Pump Mechanics among others.

Five programmes and eight District Local Governments were assessed to establish performance of the sector on G&E mainstreaming.

Financial Performance

During FY 2018/19, the sector allocated Ug Shs 318.84 billion for G&E interventions. A total of Ug Shs 313.07 billion (98.2% of the interventions budget) was released and Ug Shs 309.58 billion (98.9% of the release) spent. This budget reflected a 24.2% of the overall sector budget of FY 2018/19.

Physical Performance

Water and Sanitation Committees: The sector committed to ensure 50% women representation with at least one woman holding a key position on all committees constituted. A total of 13 committees on boreholes, piped systems and small scale irrigation schemes were assessed. All of the committees had a woman in a key position but only 38.5% of the committees had 50/50 or greater women representation. Only one committee had a PWD.

Construction of piped water supply systems (WSS): Piped systems serve water stressed areas. Mini solar-powered systems distribute water to many collection points thus reducing on congestion and collection time. The completion status of piped systems assessed in the FY 2018/19 is reflected in Table 1.

Table 1: The Status of Various WSS

<i>Scheme/ District</i>	<i>% Target Completed</i>	<i>% Target Achieved</i>
<i>Rural Water Supply</i>		
<i>Kalwala (Kiryandongo)</i>	100	100
<i>Kabanda (Masaka)</i>	100	100
<i>Bududa II (Bududa)</i>	100	100
<i>Rwebisengo-Kanara (Ntoroko)</i>	80	90
<i>Nyamiyonga-Katojo (Isingiro)</i>	100	85*
<i>Shuuku-Matsyoro (Sheema)</i>	50	74
<i>Bukedea (Bukedea)</i>	65	70.3
<i>Lirima II (Manafwa)</i>	50	65.5
<i>Nyabuhikye-Kikyenkye (Ibanda)</i>	80	64.2*
<i>Urban Water Supply</i>		
<i>Bulegeni (Bulambuli)</i>	100	95*
<i>Kayunga-Busaana (Kayunga)</i>	100	82*
<i>Namwiwa (Kaliro)</i>	100	75*

Source: Authors' compilation; *Target not achieved.

Some water schemes did not attain the annual set targets thus could not address the burden of water collection.

Construction of Water Kiosks or Public Stand Posts (PSPs): This ensures the poor in urban areas access safe water at fairly subsidised rates. The Service Coverage Acceleration Project constructed 3,556 PSPs (46.8%) of the planned 7,601 PSPs in the FY. The tariff for a 20 liter jerrycan at a PSP is supposed to be Ug Shs 50. However, all PSPs visited charged Ug Shs 100 and above.

Construction of sanitation facilities: Public and institutional sanitation facilities constructed in Bududa II (Bududa district), Rwebisengo-Kanara (Ntoroko), Nyamiyonga-Katojo (Isingiro district), Bukedea district and Bulegeni (Bulambuli district) had separate stances for women, men and PWDs. Access ramps were provided but without guard rails.

Construction of the small scale irrigation schemes: This provides water for agriculture in order to guarantee food security and livelihood of farmers including the most vulnerable groups and thus address the needs of the very poor in society. The construction of 25 small scale irrigation schemes was completed out of the planned 80 under Water for Production Regional Centers North and East. Five completed small scale irrigation schemes of Awach in Gulu district, Andibo in Nebbi district, Kawo in Bukedea district, Namwendwa in Kamuli district and Limoto in Pallisa district were assessed.



Farmers of Namwendwa small scale irrigation scheme in Kamuli district



A sprinkler system of Ayweri small scale irrigation scheme in Gulu district

The five schemes had 41 farmer groups with 244 farmers benefiting, of which 44% were women. There was only one youth group and four women groups. Each scheme had a management committee of nine members of which three were women holding key positions.

The farmers used drip and sprinkler irrigation to grow cabbages, tomatoes, watermelon, and green pepper.

District budget allocation: the sector committed to ensure that least served districts and those with low functionality of water facilities get more resources. Eight districts were assessed (Table 2)

Table 2: District functionality status

District	Budget Ug Shs	Water Coverage	Functionality
Kamuli	666,481,024	91.7	76.5
Butaleja	622,104,000	62.5	96
Sheema	509,253,539	84	88
Bukedea	505,124,202	73	85
Ibanda	483,804,456	62.8	87
Bulambuli	447,634,902	73	85
Kiboga	284,749,730	74	70
Kalungu	282,041,109	78	65

Source: District Q4 performance reports

Kalungu district with the lowest functionality status had the least budget while Kamuli district with the highest coverage had the biggest budget, contrary to the commitment.

Institutional Mechanisms: The sector MDAs were assessed to determine degree of their G&E responsiveness of the internal systems.

1) Gender policy: The Ministry of Water and Environment (MWE) developed a Water and Sanitation Gender strategy and Environment and Natural Resources strategy.

2) Sexual harassment policy/guidelines: the MWE has a sexual harassment committee in place. The National Environment Management Authority, National Water and Sewerage Corporation, and National Forest Authority use the Human Resource Manuals.

3) Child care spaces: There were no breast feeding spaces for nursing mothers in the all the sector institutions.

Implementation challenges

1. Limited community participation during and after construction. There were incidences of disrespecting PSP women managers. This creates an imbalance of gender in management positions.
2. Unfavorable water source technologies. The hand pumped borehole is difficult to operate and is prone to congestion. However, the district budgets are limited and cannot facilitate construction of piped systems.
3. Low functionality of water sources estimated at 14% by June 2019. This is leading to inadequate access to safe water by the collectors who are mainly women and children.
4. Limited data to plan for the vulnerable and marginalized groups most affected by inadequate service provision. There is scanty disaggregated information on vulnerable groups.

Conclusion

The overall sector performance was rated at 71.5% given the gender and equity outputs achieved. There was at least a woman in a key position on all water source committees formed despite not achieving the 50/50 representation. The piped systems and small scale irrigation schemes were constructed to relieve water stress. Sanitation facilities in public places, provided for both male, female and PWDs. The commitment to iron out gender issues will improve gender mainstreaming in the sector

Recommendations

1. The sector should establish clear gender and equity budgets, targets and indicators.
2. The water and environment sector should enhance women's participation and employment at all levels through affirmative action.
3. The MWE should continue to guide the District Local Governments focus towards construction of mini piped systems.
4. The district and local council leadership should sensitize and encourage communities to participate in the sustainability measures of water sources.

References

1. *The Constitution of the Republic of Uganda 1995*
2. *The MWE, Ministry Policy Statement, FY 2018/19*
3. *MoFPED, Annual Gender and Equity Performance Report, FY 2016/17*
4. *The Water and Sanitation Gender Strategy 2018-2022*
5. *District Q4 Performance reports FY 2018/19 (Bukedea, Bulambuli, Butaleja, Ibanda, Kalungu, Kamuli, Kiboga, Sheema)*

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