

MINISTRY OF INFRASTRUCTURE



WATSAN SECRETARIAT

WATSAN SECTOR WORKING GROUP MINUTES ON THE NATIONAL POLICIES/STRATEGIES FOR WATER SUPPLY AND SANITATION SERVICES

- Date of the meeting** : 16th February 2016
- Venue of the meeting** : MINEDUC Conference Hall
- Participants** : Refer to the attached attendance list

Agenda Items:

1. Signing of the MoU for Watsan Sector Coordinated Support;
2. Presentation on the 1st draft documents of Sanitation and water supply policies/strategies
3. Brief on:
 - a. Ministerial High Level Meeting on SDGs implementation for Sanitation and water for All (SWA);
 - b. WASH stakeholders' mapping;
 - c. World water day due to take place in March 2016.

1. Introduction and open remarks

The Watsan Sector Working Group meeting chaired by the Permanent Secretary of MININFRA, Mr. Christian Rwakunda with Mr. Ryutaro Murotani (Senior Representative of JICA) as co-chair, was held on 16th February 2016.

It was highlighted that the policies/strategies should ensure that the challenges are tackled and the way forward devised to achieve the National Goals as per the vision 2020, EDPRS2 and even ensuring that the Government of Rwanda works towards the sustainable development goals. Much as the Signing of the Memorandum of understanding for WATSAN Sector coordinated Support was supposed to be the last item, it became the first item after the agreement between the participants.

2. Brief description of the key Agenda Items

2.1 Signing of the MoU for the Watsan Sector Coordinated Support

The First MoU for the Water and Sanitation coordinated support was signed in September 2014 and expired in December 2015 but through a unanimous agreement between the Parties; the MoU was extended to three years and is expected to expire by December 2018.

Before the signing ceremony of the MoU for the Watsan Sector Coordinated Support, the Watsan Division Manager briefed the participants the rationale of the MoU clarifying that it is aimed at linking the Government and the Development Partners for better coordination of Watsan program in Rwanda. The MoU was signed between the Chair and the Co-chair of the Sector Working Group.

Other WATSAN Sector Partners will then co-sign the MoU for the Sector Coordinated Support after the Chair and Co-Chair.

2.2 Presentation of the Watsan Policies /Strategies for water Supply and Sanitation Services.

2.2.1 Presentation on National Sanitation services Policy and Strategy

The Consultant delivered a presentation on National policy and Strategy for Sanitation services in order to solicit inputs/comments from Water and Sanitation Sector working group members. After the Consultant has delivered the presentation; the participants were gave their comments and views and thereafter, key recommendations were given.

It was highlighted that the policy /strategy needs to address the specificities of accelerated Implementation.

Recommendations

- There will be need for instrumentation of accelerated implementation of policies/strategies through political commitment and funding.
- Clear coordination at centralized & decentralized levels coupled with capacity development undertakings will be vital to accelerated policy/strategy implementation and this has to be explicit in the policy/strategy.

The Consultants presented that MININFRA should fund Storm Water Management however; this was found not to be MININFRA's direct responsibility

Recommendation

- The consultants to work more on the Institutional responsibilities on the three subsectors of Individual & collective Sanitation, Storm water and solid waste Management

Private sector engagement in the Sanitation services to be given much attention including the way how sanitation can be financed by the private sector.

Recommendation

- There is need for large towns for Sanitation Services Business to be enhanced. This would require public sector support through an enabling environment

There has been no differentiation between urban Sanitation and rural Sanitation.

Recommendation

- Since this has not been part of the Sanitation Policy/strategy document, the consultants have to include this differentiation and show how the policy addresses both rural and urban Sanitation.

Much as the National Water Supply Policy/strategy and Sanitation Services policy/strategy were developed separately, there should be a clear Link between the two.

Recommendation

- The consultants were tasked to make sure that the link between the two policies/strategies is clearly established for an accelerated implementation.

Hygiene promotion has been lacking Sustainability and the and there is no a clear write up in the policy/strategy Document. It has also been stressed that the community led Sanitation is waning and therefore losing credibility.

Recommendation

- Much as the community Led Sanitation has been there and is now losing credibility, there needs to be no strong Emphasis on this. The consultants thus agreed to make sure that they will do a more write up on the hygiene promotion with reference to national home grown concerns.

It has been highlighted that treatment of Grey Water which forms the Highest Percentage of waste water has not been tackled in the Sanitation services policy/strategy.

Recommendation

- The consultants to ensure that a more write up on Grey water is made in the Policy /Strategy for water supply and sanitation services including strategies to address the Issue.

The Policy Presents a challenge of constructing 400,000 toilets as an annual Target but does not give standards of such Latrines to be constructed.

Recommendation

- Consultants were tasked to clarify in the policy/strategy the types of latrines whether pit or other Kinds of toilets/latrines

An Issue of Subsidies to Sanitation was raised and an Emphasis on Targeted Subsidies was made other than just having a gradual increase in Subsidies

- There will be need for the subsidies to reach the unreached target within the shortest Period. This requires enhanced coordination and establishing a dedicated Finance programme to achieve that National and Sector targets.

2.2.2 Presentation on National water supply Policy and Strategy

The Consultant delivered a presentation on National policy and Strategy for water supply in order to solicit inputs/comments from Water and Sanitation Sector working group members. The consultant highlighted concerns related to Institutional roles and Responsibilities when it comes to water Quality testing. Summary of the comments and proposed measures are given in the table3.

The National Water Supply Policy/strategy to give more attention to the Functionality of water Supply systems as there is existence of faulty networks that make the Government lose huge sums of money

Recommendations:

- The Policy/strategy document should be Explicit on the Roles and responsibilities when it comes to operations and maintenance of water systems. A sustainable strategy for rural water systems should as well be devised.
- Clustering Water Supply Systems will as well be essential to create economies of scale and as well motivate professional Private operators.

It was highlighted that since the some districts have got sources of water from the neighbouring districts, it would not be feasible to have specific Districts 'master plans but Master plans at zone level should be Opted.

Recommendation:

- In the Engineering Perspective, the Master Plans should be developed at zone level but to promote ownership, districts should be Responsible for water and Sanitation Plans of which the District plans should be subsets of zone Master Plans.

Supporting the Districts through Establishment of Projects Implementation Unit (SPIU) for smooth Projects Management but should not be the same units at District Level

Recommendation:

- Consultants to make sure that the SPIU is only maintained in WASAC to work alongside the rural water Services Department but there should be no SPIU units at district Level

Institutional Roles on water Quality Surveyance and Testing was not made clear in the Policy/strategy for water Supply

Recommendations:

- Lead Institutions should be Rwanda Utilities Regulatory Authority and Ministry of Health.
- It is also a responsibility of all water Supply actors to ensure Quality of the supplied water and thereafter lead institutions to undertake independent checking.

Much as the Policy/strategy stresses the need for an Investment Plan, but there is no clear direction of how this can be done and central & Decentralized entities.

Recommendation

- The consultants to clarify in the Policies/strategies the way how the Investment Plan can be developed at both central and decentralized Levels.

3. Brief on Water, Sanitation and Hygiene Stakeholders' Mapping

Much as the Mapping for the WASH Stakeholders was presented to the Participates, it is still work in progress that needs more work for its Finalization.

Recommendation:

- Watsan Secretariat to liaise with the Remaining Districts to get more information to Finalize the Sector Stakeholders' Mapping

4. Brief on World water Day due to take place in March 2016

In the Brief on the World water Week scheduled to take place on 22nd March 2016, stakeholders were asked to be part of this planned event and a continued follow up and involvement in the Preparation of the event was recommended.

5. Key Resolutions from the SWG meeting

- The consultants Reviewing/Updating the National Policies/strategies for Water Supply and Sanitation Services were urged not to take for Granted the Comments from the Participants but ensure that comments are incorporated to have the final and Quality policies/strategies.
- Participants were tasked to read the Policies/strategies Documents very carefully and quickly to give their final comments to be incorporated by consultants in the revised versions.
- MININFRA and the Stakeholders to ensure that the rich Discussions in the Sector working Group are given much attention to be the basis of policies/strategies implementation going forward.
- The national Policies/strategies should be focused on strengthening the existing Sector Frameworks than Creating New Institutions.
- Being a complicated Sector for enhanced private Sector Investment, there is need for the continued support to private operators. These include; large companies, Small water supply Schemes operators and community Systems.
- As the consultants incorporate comments into the Draft final policies/strategies, a recommendation was that the official Data from Rwanda National Institute of Statistics should be used.
- As regards Water Surveyance and Checking, the consultants were urged to clarify based on the discussion the clear responsibilities of Actors in the Water supply.

6. Conclusion:

In his concluding Remarks, the Chair of the Sector Working Group Meeting thanked the team of consultants for the Draft policies/strategies and urged them to consider comments from participants. The chair also emphasized that those who have more written comments should submit them as soon as possible. The Support from the Sector Partners was very much appreciated and a continued support and Partnership was emphasized.

Signed by Chair and Co-Chair of the Water Supply and Sanitation Sector Working Group

Signature

Christian RWAKUNDA

Chair of the SWG

Permanent Secretary

Ministry of Infrastructure

Signature

RYUTARO MUROTANI

Co-Chair of the SWG

Senior Representative

JICA-Rwanda

7. List of Participants:

1) RWAKUNDA Christian, MININFRA, Permanent Secretary
2) RYUTARO MUROTANI, JICA, Senior Representative
3) NZARAMBA Stevenson, MININFRA, HPP
4) MUZOLA Aime, MININFRA, DM/WATSAN
5) MURTAZA Malik, UNICEF, WASH Manager
6) Amandine UMUKESHA, WASAC, Director W&S Dvpt
7) TUSINGWIRE Justine, MININFRA, M&E Specialist
8) Vénuste MPIMBAZIMANA, MININFRA, Urban Water Supply Senior Engineer
9) Nelson KUBWIMANA, MININFRA, PR Officer
10) MUGEYO Frédéric, Eastern Province, Logistics Officer
11) KANANGA Jean Damascène, Bugesera District, WATSAN Officer
12) NDAHIRO Andrew, MINISANTE, Environmental Health Officer
13) HATEGEKIMANA Emmanuel, MININFRA, Rural Water Supply Senior Engineer
14) KARURANGA Dismas, RNRA, WQ Officer
15) HABINCUTI Norbert, JICA, Program Coordinator
16) Satoshi Ishida, JICA/RWASOM, Vice Chief Advisor
17) Takeshi Yoshikawa, JICA/RWASOM Project, Chief Adviser
18) NIMUGIRE Kayihura Marthe, WASAC/RWS, Head of DWM Unit/RWS
19) NIWENSHUTI Emmanuel, WASAC, Head of Operations Rural Water Services
20) Marie José MUKANYAMWASA, WASAC, Director of Rural Water Services
21) Joseph KATABARWA, Atrica AHEAD, Country Director
22) KAMANZI Eric Joy, RUHANGO District, Water Sanitation
23) YARAMBA Albert, WASAC, PNEAR Coordinator
24) ANDREAS KNAPP, hydrophil, Managing Director
25) MARCO FORSTER, ECOPSIS, Director PARTNER
26) Aya KAGOTA, JICA, Program Manager
27) Wellars NDUTIYE, SDC, WATSAN Program Manager
28) Perpetue KAMAYUMBU, Water for People, Country Director
29) Olivier Machiels, EV Delegation to Rwanda, Program Manager
30) HURIRO N. Déphine, AQUAVIRUNGA, Monitoring & Evaluation Engineer
31) NTAKIRENDE J Marie, Living Water, Operations Manager
32) Godfrey GAKWANDI, Tearfund, Programmes Manager
33) HABINSHUTI Jean Pierre, GASABO District, Energy & Water
34) Jean Sauveur INGABIRE, MININFRA, Sector & External Link Specialist
35) Patrick NTALINDWA, MINECOFIN, Research & Evaluation Analyst
36) NIYOMUKESHA Triphine, FEPEAR, Administrative Assistant
37) BIGILIMANA Ally Albert, AVSI Rwanda, Head of Sector Family Empowerment
38) KANYANGIRA Ignace, MINALOC, Sectoral Decentralization Specialist
39) MUKASHEMA Honorée Victoire, MININFRA, Internee
40) UMUGWANEZA Sandra Ghislaine, MININFRA, Internee
41) TUYISENGE Vianney, MININFRA, Internee
42) TURAHIMANA Ferdinand, NGORORERO District, JADF

43) UWIZEYE Glorieuse, USAID, Health Promotion Specialist
44) Mary de Boer, USAID, Program Manager
45) KAGAGA Monique, MININFRA, M&E Expert WATSAN Secretariat
46) NTAKIYIMANA Jean Pierre Celestin, NYABIHU District, Infrastructure
47) NTEZIYAREMYE Fidèle, MININFRA, WATSAN SWAP Coordinator
48) NUWAMANYA Emmanuel, MININFRA, Policy Research &Development Expert