
Ruwenzori Regional Learning Forum, Kamwenge, 2017

Best of Practice: Moving towards reaching Everyone through WASH investment planning in Kamwenge district

WATER FOR PEOPLE

Abstract: *There is growing interest among WASH sector actors to explore new approaches to attain universal access to WASH services by 2030. Water For People has been supporting Kamwenge District local government in Western Uganda to introduce the Everyone Forever strategy so that it becomes a nationally accepted and approved mechanism for ensuring the provision of water and sanitation services to everyone – every community, every clinic, every school, everyone, and forever. Part of the strategy is to support the development of a WASH District Investment Plan to understand what is required to reach everyone in Kamwenge. The Ministry of Water and Environment has taken on this strategy to understand what it takes to reach 14 of the least served districts in Uganda and later on expand countrywide. This briefing paper presents findings from Kamwenge District.*

Background

As the (Millennium Development Goals) MDG phase came to a close in 2015, there was growing interest among WASH sector actors to explore new ideas and approaches to attain universal access to WASH services and to ensure that all people enjoy the right to safe water and sanitation by 2030. Apart from subscribing to the SDGs, Uganda had already adopted the National Development Plan (NDPII) and Vision 2040 which put provision of water and sanitation services at the forefront of national development. Government commits to improve water supply by ensuring there is a source per village, and greater investment in piped schemes (targeting 85%).

To further advance universal access, Water For People has been supporting local governments to introduce the Everyone Forever strategy in Uganda so that it becomes a nationally accepted and approved mechanism for ensuring the provision of water and sanitation services to everyone – every community, every clinic, every school, everyone, and forever. The focus is on ensuring 100% access and coverage for both water and sanitation in an entire district (urban, peri-urban/rural growth centres and rural). All aspects/factors that ensure full coverage, such as quality, quantity, reduced distances from/to water sources, coordination of sector actors, planning, costs and reliability of the services are given due consideration. All the other sector players in the district are encouraged to commit to the same.

Apart from the commitment to the SDGs, NDPII and Vision 2040, the Ministry of Water and Environment earlier in 2009 developed a Sector

Investment Plan (SIP), with the aim of understanding what it would take for the entire country to achieve the MDGs. One of the key recommendations from the SIP was that every district would adapt/domesticate the SIP as a way of achieving the set targets. However, that didn't really happen as there was no strict adherence to the recommendations in the SIP.

It is against that background that Water For People undertook to support Kamwenge district to pilot the development of District Investment Plans (DIP) for WASH. The process has been undertaken in 70 other districts country wide through Technical Support Units and is yet to be concluded in 44 others.

Objectives of DIPs

1. Provide a projection of is required to achieve 100% WASH coverage in any given district
2. To answer the question: If we are to reach 100% coverage, what input do we need?
3. To show the amount of financial resources required to invest in order to attain universal access.

Significance of the WASH DIP

The DIP, which considers both water and sanitation, is a projection showing what is required to achieve 100% WASH coverage in any given district. The calculations per district are based on an agreed per capital investment, estimated by the SIP (MWE, 2009). Generally the significance of the DIP is premised on the following:

1. Ability to identify the least served places and populations

2. Determining where resources should really be invested
3. Ensuring equal distribution of water points around the district
4. A good planning tool and gives a sense of direction
5. Politicians like it because it anchors their campaigns
6. DIP is a good tool for government and NGOs because they use it to mobilize resources
7. The DIP process is also an advantage to the extent that it brings different actors together and causes them to focus on a common vision, in spite of the differences in mandates.

The DIP Process / Methodology

The Process starts with baseline data collection to establish the gap in WASH services. Data is collected about water and sanitation in the community and all institutions. To be useful, the data has to be disaggregated to village level. This will ensure that planning indeed addresses the basic tenets of Everyone Forever. Sometimes such data may be available in the district planning unit. The data has to be accurate and reliable otherwise it affects the quality of the DIP.

Community Water Supply: The data that is collected is related to the population; WASH facilities available - how many sources and of what technology type are there per village; functionality status of the facilities – which facilities need to be rehabilitated or decommissioned; WASH access – which population is served and which population is not served;

Community Sanitation: On sanitation data is collected around CLTS (Community Led Total Sanitation) - How much does it cost to mobilize the community and build rapport; trigger; follow up visits on triggered villages (Post triggering); participatory action monitoring by the District, community and development agencies; Verification by the district and political leaders; Certification by District, Ministry and Political leaders per village; recognition and reward (Kar and Chambers, 2008). This is planned to take place alongside promotional activities such as drama and radio shows

Health Centre Water and Sanitation: Data on all health centres within the district despite the ownership are considered for the DIP. The average number of in-patients and out patients per day is obtained, available water facilities taking note of rain water tanks with a capacity of 20,000litres and beyond; the existing sanitation facilities taking note of the stances available for the females, then the males and stances that are built to cater for the disabled female and male patients. Under waste

management, every HC that is at level III and above is assumed to need to have an incinerator, placenta pit and waste pit to deal with the high level of wastes that are generated. Otherwise, all must have waste pits.

School Water and Sanitation: Develop a list of all the schools in the district in their respective Sub counties and for each school, obtain the total enrolment of the girls and boys, existing sanitation

“The DIP drives the Everyone Forever philosophy and invites everyone to be part and parcel of the strategy. Colleagues in the health department were surprised that their counterparts in water department could even think of incinerators in health facilities” says Micheal Byamukama, District Water Officer, Kamwenge District.

facilities taking note of the stances available for the girls, then the

boys and stances that are built to cater for the disabled female and male students. Collect data on the type of water facilities in the schools especially Rain water harvesting systems with a capacity of 20,000litres and beyond.

With all data collected, a data base is created and this data is analysed to figure out which population in the community is being served by the available water facilities. The schools and health centres are also tooth combed to identify any gaps in the facilities provided to the students that may affect the reading environment of the pupils. Using the golden indicators of the Ugandan WASH sector, the people covered and those not covered are computed. Using the per capita costs of investment provided in the Strategic Sector Investment Plan for the Water and Sanitation Sector in Uganda, the required investment needed to reach the unserved population is computed (SIP, 2009).

Sources of Funding: This is another major requirement needed to finalise the development of the DIP. After knowing the status of the district in terms of gap and needed level of funding to cover this gap, the different partners in the districts then need to sit and see what their concerted efforts would achieve. In cases where these efforts cannot meet the expected targets, advocacy and other campaigns can then begin to raise more funding for the district. The Sources of funding for Kamwenge District are shown in Table 1 below.

Key WASH stakeholders are called to sit at table. The District Water Officer (DWO), District Health Inspector (DHI), District Education Officer (DEO),

Planning Unit, District Community Development Officer (DCDO), are the key district departments that take part in the process of the data collection and DIP development.

Table 1. Sources of Annual Funding in the District of Kamwenge Financial Year 2014/2015

Funder	Amount (UGX)	Amount (USD)
Central Government	100,000,000	32,082
District LG	477,000,000	153,032
Sub County LG	45,000,000	14,437
Community	2,000,000	642
Private Sector	50,000,000	16,041
JESE, SNV, Fr. Kibira & others	100,000,000	32,082
LWF	54,000,000	17,324
World Vision	200,000,000	64,164
Water for People	800,000,000	256,657
Annually Total Funding Available	1,828,000,000	586,461

Other representatives are from sub county level that may include sub county chief, Community Development Officer (CDO), Health Assistant (HA), Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs) working in the district, Hand Pump Mechanics Associations (HPMA), water boards. In some districts, some political leaders may also be invited, especially at the time of disseminating the DIP. With all the data collected, the development process takes 2 days and the dissemination can be done on the third day.

Results

All the information that is collected and all computations made are presented in one tab, the District Summary Tab. The process has so far been completed on 3 pilot districts of Kamwenge Apac and Kotido Districts. Water for People, which has been the lead implementer of the WASH DIPs started this out in Kamwenge before SNV and ILF requested for support for the District of Apac and then later Water Aid in the District of Kotido and later on extended to Napak District. In all three pilot districts, the process of developing the DIP followed the same course, with few variations owing to localized factors and different actors. Results from Kamwenge illustrated in Table 2 show that Kamwenge District, as at 2014/2015 needs to raise about 11million USD dollars to reach the current entire population (everyone) with WASH services.

This is based on the assumption that the funding is collected in one year and invested in one year.

Implementation Path

This is the ultimate result of the investment planning. After one knows how much is needed to cover a region, then available levels of funding are brought in, targeted coverage agreed upon, time within which to reach everyone is also agreed upon. With this, available annual funding from different partners is computed, compared with the required funding in relation to the time required to serve everyone. This enables the computation of a deficit amount of funding if the agreed on targets are to be achieved.

With the available level of annual funding, Kamwenge will reach everyone in 19 years that is in FY 2034/2035 which is beyond the sector target. This implies that the district needs to lobby for more funds if it is to fill this gap by 2030. The calculation shows that the budget needs to be increased by 55.38%. This percentage can be spread out in the 14 years from now till 2030 to give an annual increment of 4.26% in funding from all levels / partners. This will call for more vigilance from the sector players to ensure everyone plays their role.

The DIP is reviewed annually to see if there has been any improvements or steps taken to cover the gap and if anything needs to be changed. The review also helps the stakeholders to know if they are on track or not.

Table 2. Table Showing Summary of Costs Required for Kamwenge District according to the respective Sub Counties

SN	Sub County	Investment Required (UGX)
1	Biguli	3,637,284,083
2	Bihanga	1,315,977,608
3	Buhanda	1,138,662,998
4	Busiriba	934,928,144
5	Bwiizi	2,302,388,825
6	Kahunge	2,999,712,637
7	Kambambiro	448,982,337
8	Kamwenge SC	2,601,083,564
9	Kamwenge TC	1,188,470,086
10	Kanara	454,430,080
11	Kicheche	590,619,747
12	Mahyoro	600,629,232
13	Nkoma	2,827,251,584
14	Ntara	1,103,564,078
15	Nyabani	899,564,162
16	All Health Centres	1,284,264,748
17	All Schools	9,697,485,720
	TOTAL	34,025,299,634

Challenges

During the successful development of the Kamwenge WASH DIPs, a few challenges have been faced and other districts might as well face these. These include:

1. Access to data. Various departments do not have all the data needed to develop the plans which necessitates a complete process of data collection
2. The Uganda Bureau of Statistics doesn't provide the Population data up to village level for security purposes. They only provide data up to Sub County Level.
3. Computer Use: Whereas this has not been a challenge in Kamwenge, it is anticipated that districts with staff who have no prior knowledge of working with Microsoft Excel might find this a difficult exercise.

4. The version of the tool used does not take into consideration population increase over the years because this was initially meant to serve for one year. However, the current version being used takes care of population increase from the current year to 2030 and this is the population that is eventually planned for.

Way forward

The Ministry of Water and Environment in January 2016 requested for a Training of Trainers for all its workers in the 9 Technical Support Units which are distributed to support the entire country in the delivery of WASH services. This training was conducted by Water for People – Uganda and the members have since started development WASH DIPs in all the districts in the Country.

Acknowledgements

The authors would like to extend thanks to the Staff of Kamwenge District Local Government for their support and concerted efforts towards Achieving Everyone Forever in Kamwenge. The development of the WASH DIP would not have been possible without all departments coming together and providing the data they have. The willingness they demonstrated to make sense out of the heaps of data they had been collecting is commendable. Special thanks to the Ministry of Water and Environment that has now taken on this process to the entire Country. SDG Goal Number is set to be achieved in Uganda!

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