

UN-Water Seminar on: “UN-Water’s Perspective on Water Supply and Sanitation and Needs for Capacity Development in Africa”

Co-organized by: UN-Water Members and Partners

Co-ordinated by: UN-Water Decade Programme on Capacity
Development (UNW-DPC)



**15 March 2010
15th African Water Association Congress
Common Wealth Munyonyo, Kampala, Uganda**



SUMMARY REPORT

On the occasion of the 15th African Water Association Congress, held from 15 to 18 March 2010 in Kampala, Uganda, attended by more than 1,000 participants, nine UN-Water Members and Programmes jointly convened a Seminar to present and discuss a “UN-Water’s Perspective on Water Supply and Sanitation and Needs for Capacity Development in Africa”. The seminar took place on Monday 15 March and gathered more than 100 participants, mainly water experts and water managers from African countries, but also from the international water community.

The UN-Water Members and Partners represented in the seminar, taking part in the panel discussions were:

- UNDP / Cap-net
- UNEP
- UNESCO-IHE
- UNESCO-IHP
- UN-HABITAT
- UNU
- IWA
- WSSCC
- UNW-DPC

The African organizations participating in the panel discussions were:

- African Water Association (AfWA)
- African Water Facility – African Development Bank (AfDB)
- African Ministerial Conference on Water (AMCOW)
- National Water and Sewerage Corporation of Uganda (NWSC)
- ONEP – Institut International de l'Eau et de l'Assainissement, Morocco
- Water and Sanitation Association of Zambia (WASAZA)
- Water Services Regulatory Board of Kenya
- Water Operators Partnership (WOP-Africa)

The UN-Water Seminar focused on the current programmes and initiatives that UN-Water Members and Partners are currently implementing in Africa in the area of water supply and sanitation and the exchange of experiences from best practices in the region. The two panel discussions explored the different approaches and perspectives in search of synergies, needs and gaps in capacity development, the first panel focusing on the state-of-the art of capacity development and the second panel following on the way forward.

Opening session

The seminar was officially opened by Dr Reza Ardakanian, Director of UNW-DPC, Dr Zafar Adeel, Chair of the UN-Water and by Hon. Jennifer Namuyangu, Minister of State for Water of Uganda, who welcomed the participants and addressed the main challenges that the water sector faces in Africa, both from the perspective of the UN-Water and from a decision-maker from the Ugandan government.



Welcoming to the Seminar
Dr Reza Ardakanian
Director, UNW-DPC



Introduction to the Seminar
Dr Zafar Adeel
Chair, UN-Water

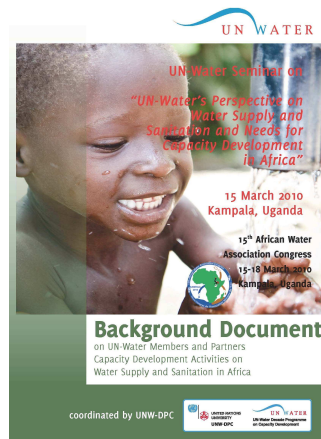


Official Opening of the Seminar
Hon. Jennifer Namuyangu
Minister of State for Water of Uganda

Overview of UN-Water Members & Partners initiatives on Capacity Development for Water Supply and Sanitation in Africa

Dr R. Ardakanian presented an overview of some of the initiatives and capacity development activities related to water management and sanitation that UN-Water Members and Partners are currently implementing in the African region. This presentation provided a summary of the reports from UN-Water Members and Partners collected and published in a “Background Document” that was generated as an input document for the seminar discussions (attached to this Summary Report). The eight Members and Partners contributing to this exercise responded to three key questions that were at the core of the structure of the Background Document. These questions were:

- How do the capacity development activities of your agency support the MDG 7 – Target 10 on water supply and sanitation?
- Which needs in capacity development and emerging issues (on water supply and sanitation) has your agency identified through its experience in the African region?
- Which capacity development activities/actions implemented by your agency have proven most successful in coping with water supply and sanitation issues? Examples of lessons learnt?



First panel discussion on the

“State of the art of capacity development on Water Supply and Sanitation in Africa”

The two panel discussions of this seminar were moderated by Prof. Abdin Salih of the University of Khartoum in Sudan, on behalf of UNW-DPC. The discussions were guided by three main questions that were addressed by the members of the panels and the participants in the audience in a dynamic manner, both groups reacting to the question posed by the moderator and generating an animated debate.

The questions proposed for the first group of panel members and audience were:

Question 1: Are there sufficient/appropriate tools for the **monitoring, evaluation and assessment** of impacts from capacity development efforts in water supply and sanitation related projects/programmes?

Question 2: How is capacity development oriented in the region to support the **economic and financing** aspects of water supply and sanitation sectors? Are there funds available for such capacity development processes?

Question 3: What are the necessary conditions for a good **institutional development** in the water supply and sanitation sectors? Which successful examples can be shown?

Some of the key messages and conclusions from the discussions in this first panel were:

- There is a lack of materials and tools for monitoring the process and to look at the outcomes. It's important to get a balance between the best you can do and what is realistic to do with the resources that you have.
- The experience in Zambia suggests that we should separate projects from programmes. There are tools to evaluate project outcomes but not for on-going water supply and sanitation programmes.
- Calls for proposals to EU from Africa are very few due to weakness in skills to write appropriate proposals; it's a skill and capacity that has not been sufficiently built in Africa. Many countries will not access these funds due to that deficiency.
- Success requires that one should be able to mobilize what is already available, build on local existing capacity to have a sustainable process of capacity development. Skilled professionals should be trained not only in water resources but in all aspects for adequate delivery of services.
- When it comes to capacity development we don't use indicators enough. Structuring capacity building in institutions should go hand in hand with building on local capacity. The institutions should be reformed from inside by working with the people inside the institutions. It needs orientation and backing of a good regulator.
- Institutional development requires strong political support, well trained professionals, mid and high level managers.



Second panel discussion on the “The Way Forward for capacity development on Water Supply and Sanitation in Africa”

The questions proposed for the second group of panel members and audience were:

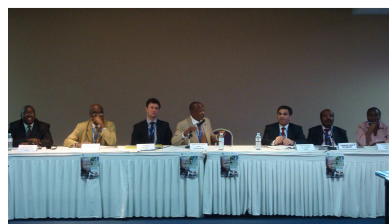
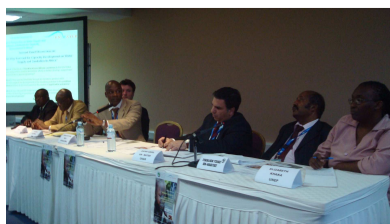
Question 1: What kinds of *feedback from African countries* do the UN-Water members and partners need to direct their efforts to further develop, support and implement initiatives and programmes?

Question 2: How can the UN-Water through its members, partners and programmes support the development of the countries potential in the *problem definition* and their direct involvement in the search of *applicable solutions*?

Question 3: How should UN-Water members and partners move from organization of training programmes to a wider and more long-term support to *institution development*?

Some of the key messages and conclusions from the discussions in this second panel were:

- What UN-Water would like to see is a holistic picture. We eliminate the term water sector, not for the policy dimension. For UN-Water members acting at country level, we look at the whole spectrum of water issues. How they see it in the largest scale. UN-Water takes lead in developing country briefs, synthesis reports by country to describe situation of water in a broader development equation. Pilot programmes could then be developed.
- To get more out of capacity development investment has to be linked to physical activities in the ground. Investing in the ground is to be applied immediately. One example is the case of UN-HABITAT, which uses tools for assessment and AfDB implements the investment that adds value to capacity development.
- UN and partners can support problem definition by properly diagnosing the capacity development gaps at national level. How big is the capacity gap? What is the quality of the gap: labours, engineers, ...? IWA develops a methodology adopted by national needs to give assessment of the size of the capacity gap.
- There is a need for long term institutional learning, more capacity development options, peer to peer communication within utilities, cluster of similar countries in Africa, and travelling trainers (wide options, push borders of innovations).
- From UN-Water perspective, we should move from a training approach towards institutions. Indigenous knowledge could give answers to many questions. Training must not be isolated from research. Many of the well trained individuals find no place to be located in their countries and this leads to brain drain. This is an area that UNW-DPC is working on through institutional development.
- In most cases education institutes and ministries do not give due importance to integrated approaches. UN system is helping educational community in developing more integrated curricula and programmes by providing balanced trainers and trainees in an integrated way. That is why the UN system is continually increasing the level of integration of their programmes. This model is currently implemented through a system policy calling for delivering at one at the country level in cooperation with the respective governments.



The final wrap-up of the seminar was made by Paul Taylor from UNDP/Cap-net who summarized the main statements and messages made during the discussions. The final report of the seminar including the main answers to the questions addressed in the panels will be published and made available through UN-Water and UNW-DPC channels.



Evaluation Questionnaires of the Seminar

UNW-DPC prepared an evaluation questionnaire for the participants in the seminar in order to have their contact details and to receive their suggestions and feedback on the discussions held during the seminar. The evaluation questionnaires that were collected will be analyzed and a summary of the most important feedback will be included in the final report of the seminar. The overall appreciation of the participants is that the seminar was useful for them to better understand the current situation and the way forward regarding capacity development for water supply and sanitation in Africa. As an example of the replies received, most of the participants agreed on identifying institutional capacity development and innovative mechanisms to build such long term capacity as the biggest needs in the African region. In addition, specific training on how to prepare projects and programmes and request financial support from international donors was another need in capacity that was emphasized in several questionnaires

Stand at the Congress Exhibition

UNW-DPC ran a stand at the Congress Exhibition where material and publications of UN-Water and its Members and Partners were largely disseminated and where information about the initiatives and programmes was provided. The stand also served for networking purposes and numerous contacts were established with water utilities and water associations from African countries.

