



WATER AND ENVIRONMENT SECTOR

**12th JOINT GOVERNMENT OF UGANDA – DEVELOPMENT PARTNERS
TECHNICAL REVIEW 2020**

AGREED MINUTES

**MINISTRY OF WATER AND ENVIRONMENT
HEADQUARTERS, KAMPALA**

1.0 Introduction

The Joint Technical Review (JTR) for Uganda's Water and Environment Sector (WES) is a forum for mid-term assessment and follow-up on implementation of the Agreed Undertakings of the Joint Sector Review (JSR). It is held approximately six months after the JSR; however due to the prevailing global health crisis (COVID-19 pandemic) and the consequent lock down, the JTR was delayed by three months.

The 12th JTR took place on 29th July 2020 for half a day from 9.00a.m -2.00p.m in order to conform to the government's Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) of keeping social distancing as well as avoiding crowds. It took place in the auditorium of the Ministry of Water and Environment (MWE) head-quarters in Kampala and had limited participation. It was attended by a total of 57 (39 males, 18 females) participants that included staff and/or members from: the Ministry of Water and Environment (MWE) headquarters, semi-autonomous agencies, Bilateral Development Partners (DPs), Multilateral Development Partners and UN Organisations, Civil Society Organisations (CSOs), the Private Sector Organisations (PSOs). The meeting was conducted both live and virtually via the zoom platform. Of the 57 participants 10 participated virtually.

Theme for the JTR was: ***"The Role of Water and Environment in the industrialisation and wealth creation agenda of Uganda"***. The aim of the 2020 JTR was, 'To assess progress and performance of the sector in relation to the 2019 JSR undertakings and share any emerging issues/ challenges affecting the sector's performance and make appropriate recommendations'.

2.0 Summary of Proceedings

The half day programme covered the opening session, presentation of progress on the JSR 2019 Undertakings by the respective Ministry Departments and Agencies (MDAs). It included discussions of pertinent issues and recommendations for fulfilling the undertakings and improving sector performance. It ended with a closing session. Minutes of the JTR will be presented and adopted at the sitting of the Water and Environment Sector Working Group (WESWG) which is scheduled to take place within a period of two weeks.

3.0 Opening ceremony of the 12th JTR

The JTR commenced at 9.00a.m with the official opening ceremony which started off with key note speeches from Mr. Alfred Okot Okidi, the Permanent Secretary (PS), Ms Juliet Abaliwano, Programme Officer, Water and Environment at Agence Francaise De Developpement (AFD) - the Lead DP for Water and Sanitation Sector; and Mr. David Githiri Njoroge, the Senior Technical Coordinator, United Nations High Commission for Refugees (UNHCR) - the Lead DP for Environment and Natural Resources and Climate Change (ENR-CC). Thereafter the JTR was officially opened by the Minister of Water and Environment, Hon. Sam Cheptoris.

Opening Remarks by Mr. Okidi Okot Alfred PS MWE

The PS-MWE welcomed all participants to the 12th GoU/DPs Joint Technical Review of the Water and Environment Sector. He noted that this year's review had a unique arrangement due to the current situation of the COVID-19 pandemic; unlike other reviews which include field visits, this year's JTR has been organized in a modified manner in adherence to the Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) issued by Ministry of Health.

He appreciated the role of sector stakeholders namely the DPs, CSO and the PSOs in supporting the Ministry to fulfil their mandate especially in response to the COVID19 pandemic. He appreciated United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) for supporting the Ministry to establish video conferencing facility in order to facilitate online meetings, starting with this JTR. Subsequently all major events and conferences will be conducted online; including the upcoming Joint Sector Review (JSR) the Uganda Water and Environment Week (UWEWK) etc.

He reiterated the importance of availability of safe and clean water to all communities as one of the crucial measures to prevent the spread of the Coronavirus, due to its role in enhancing personal hygiene by regularly washing hands. The MWE has a critical role in ensuring safe and adequate water availability especially for the vulnerable groups.

He highlighted challenges facing the sector, namely; i) Inadequate access to improved drinking water, current coverage stands at 69% and 79% for the rural and urban population respectively; while some of the water supply systems are overstretched, dilapidated in some areas as well as congestion at the water collection points, ii) Operation and maintenance (O&M) of water and sanitation facilities: functionality of water and sanitation facilities is undermined by financial as well as human resource and institutional capacity constraints; hence the need for more investments in O&M of water supply and sanitation facilities in order to meet the services gap, iii) Hygiene (hand washing with soap): the status of hand washing with soap by June 2019 was 36% in rural areas, and 40% in urban areas, the sector still has a long way to go in improving hand washing practice. iv) Solid waste management: solid waste management in public places like markets, urban centers is inadequate. This has worsened under COVID-19 lockdown. There has been a decline in waste management in urban centers with the possibility of disease outbreaks if no immediate attention is given, v) Management of the ecosystems: the WES grapples with environmental degraders and wetland polluters through human settlement, industrial development and waste discharges. This has partly resulted in the rampant floods that are exacerbating the livelihoods of people who are already stressed by the COVID-19 pandemic, vi) Forest cover reduction: the country is facing accelerated forest cover reduction and wetland degradation which is a direct consequence of unsustainable development of the country's resources which will definitely slow down achievement of the middle income status. Environmental losses can only be reversed through effective enforcement of the environmental laws and regulations however with the COVID-19 pandemic, enforcement has been hampered due to the lockdown and the need to follow the SOPs, vii) Natural disasters: during this period, the country has experienced a couple of natural disasters like: rising water levels which led to floods around Lake Victoria and river Nile, floods in the

Rwenzori region, landslides in the Elgon region. All these stretched the already limited resources available to the sector, viii) Limited funding and rampant budget cuts: the sector has a very big scope however Medium Term Expenditure Framework (MTEF) provisions remain too small, this is worsened by the budget cuts that are occasioned by other pressing needs by Government. Following the outbreak of COVID-19 the sector requested for funds to respond appropriately to its effect, however these funds have not been adequately provided and ix) Climate change: The rapid decline in the ENR is attributed to a number of drivers including industrialization, urbanization and deforestation has increased the effects of climate change especially on food security and agribusiness. Hence the need for more funding to the sector to put in mitigating measures and also adaptation mechanisms to deal with climate change and its effects.

The sector is cognizant of the urgent need to strengthen the legal framework for management of the environment. In light of this, during the FY2020/2021, the sector will finalise a number of legislations on wetlands, forests and environment management. This includes the review of the National Wetland Policy and the Wetland Bill, Review of the National Environmental Management Policy and Bill as well as the review of the Uganda Forestry Policy and Act to further improve management of the Environment and protect the fragile ecosystems.

The PS underscored the Ministry's commitment to address the emerging environmental challenges; the Ministry will continue with the process of demarcations and restoration of our critical wetlands, forests and other fragile ecosystems coupled with nation-wide tree planting activities. Furthermore various mitigation and adaptation activities to address Climate Change (CC) effects will continue to be implemented in the various development/infrastructure sectors of the economy.

Opening remarks by Ms. Juliet Abaliwo, Programme Officer Water and Environment, Agence Francaise De Developpement (AFD) Chair, Water Supply & Sanitation Development Partners Group (WSS DPG)

In her remarks, Ms. Abaliwano applauded the Ministry for the leadership exhibited amidst the challenging times of COVID 19 pandemic while fulfilling the sector mandate in general and sustaining the processes of joint monitoring in particular. She acknowledged the cordial relationship between the Ministry and the WSSDPG.

In line with the theme for the JSR/JTR, the DPs have continued working alongside the GoU to ensure that interventions in the water sector target strengthening of the private sector & contribute opportunities for employment, while building high quality infrastructure in water & sanitation, fighting against the challenges of CC and jointly protecting the natural resources for sustainability.

The DPs congratulated the sector for successfully achieving the following; i) Swift response to the COVID 19 crisis to ensure that water is provided to all especially the most vulnerable communities whose access would have otherwise been hindered due to no or delayed payments for the water services, ii) Hosting the Africa Water Association Conference (AFWA 2020) through the National Water and Sewerage Corporation (NWSC) which brought together a diverse range of practitioners for knowledge and experience sharing, iii) Contribution of the sector to the finalisation of the National

Development Plan 3 (NDPIII) especially ensuring that there is a dedicated sector programme & efforts to mainstream water & environment across the different programmes; we urge the MWE leadership to lobby Ministry of Finance Planning & Economic Development (MFPED) to ensure adequate allocation of resources to facilitate the attainment of the goals & objectives of this plan in the form of a well aligned budget.

iv) Development and launching the Water and Environment Refugee Response Plan (WESRRP) 2019 -2022 which will ensure that the right to water, sanitation and a clean environment for the refugees is guaranteed, v) In addition the creation of the Secretariat for coordination of the refugee response at the Ministry will go a long way in aligning the GoU and international priorities.

She reminded the meeting about the WSSDPG priorities set out during the JSR2019 and assured the meeting of their resolve to pursue them, these are; a) Sector financing for both capital development as well as O&M to ensure sustainability, b) A greater focus on sanitation interventions within the sector, c) Viability and sustainability of the Umbrella Authorities (UAs): urged the sector to i) develop the gazettelement guidelines for handing over utility management of piped water schemes to either UA or NWSC & ii) Develop a clear strategy built on viable financial models for both UA & NWSC within their respective mandates, e) Irrigation & Water for Production: this being one of the government priorities especially in the industrialisation, job creation and wealth creation, the DPs urge government to engage and discuss more on how this sub sector is evolving, f) Monitoring of Sector Performance: The DPs encouraged the sector to improve the monitoring and align it to the SDGs, including monitoring of progress of WASH in schools, health centres and other institutions – this calls for collaboration with other relevant line ministries, g) Water source protection & implementation of the catchment management plans: The DPs highlighted the need to invest in effective integrated water resources management systems and for implementation of the catchment management plans that have been developed over the past years. This is crucial due to the rapid economic growth in Uganda and its impact on the ecosystems especially the water resources, both in terms of quality & quantity. This is exacerbated by the effects of CC as evidenced in the recent floods.

In her final remarks she reiterated the DPs commitment to leverage their expertise through greater coordination & communication. In the recent past DPs supported the sector in response to the COVID19 pandemic and the floods management through enabling flexibility in the ongoing programmes. Finally she wished the participants fruitful deliberations.

Opening remarks by Mr. David Githiri Njoroge, Senior Technical Coordinator, UNHCR the Lead DP for Environment and Natural Resources and Climate Change (ENR-CC).

In his remarks he began by thanking the Ministry for organizing this JTR amidst the current challenges of COVID-19 pandemic; allowing stakeholders to jointly devise strategies and solutions to address the challenges faced in the sector especially now as working modalities are changing.

He informed the meeting that environmental protection is both a duty in UNHCR's operations in Uganda as a key peace building effort to maintain the integrity of the asylum space and resilience in refugee and host communities.

The ENR –CC DPs appreciate the timing of the Technical Review because it coincides with the revision of the Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC) for Uganda and the 2050 Long-Term Strategy for Climate Change is being formulated, providing an opportunity for the sub-sector to enhance the mitigation and adaptation ambitions and further mainstream environment, climate-resilience and refugee response in the programming of all sectors for reduced emissions.

On behalf of the ENR –CC DPG he congratulated the Ministry for achieving the following milestones, some of which were part of the JSR 2019 undertakings; i) Completion of the National Development Plan (NDP)III whose goal is *“To Increase Household Incomes and Improve Quality of Life of Ugandans”* which integrates innovative ways for pursuing a green pathway to development which is inclusive of both nationals and refugees, ii) The launch of the Water and Environment Sector Refugee Response Plan (WESRRP) 2019 – 2022 in March 2020 providing a framework for orderly and joint integrated planning and implementation of water and environment sector activities in refugee-hosting districts by humanitarian and development actors. In addition, the WESRRP-Refugee Response Sub-Group Secretariat was constituted, iii) The submission of the Climate Change Bill to the Parliamentary Committee on Climate Change in June 2020 for scrutiny and feedback, iv) Development and institutionalization of the National Forest Monitoring Information System (NFMIS) to estimate the emissions from and removals by the forestry sector for tracking of the country’s NDC, v) Successful participation and contribution to the 25th meeting of the Conference of Parties on CC (COP25) held in Madrid, Spain, vi) Participation and contribution in the first ever Global Refugee Forum held in Geneva, Switzerland in 2019, vii) Active participation in the humanitarian coordination platforms for both WASH and Environment and in the Comprehensive Refugee Response Framework Steering Group.

He reiterated the importance of the WES due to its crucial role in the country’s economy because most of the sectors (agriculture, forestry, energy, fishing, services and transport) rely on environmental quality and the stock of natural resources, goods and services for enhancing their productivity, providing the necessary raw materials, and reducing the cost of public expenditure for providing the services in those sectors. All these sectors contribute significantly to Uganda’s GDP and employ more than 60% of the working population.

He urged the government to prioritise funding the ENR sub sector because of its value to the national economy; he gave an illustration that with moderate investment, the ecosystem service value of all wetland services in 2020 is estimated to be between USD 970 – 1.11 billion annually assuming 10% wetland coverage in Uganda¹. However, with increasing rates of degradation natural habitats and biodiversity are being lost resulting in diminishing ecosystem services from protected areas, thereby affecting tourism, agriculture, electricity generation, fishing, etc. and the livelihoods that depend on these sectors.

The DPs expressed their fears on the risks COVID-19 pandemic might have on the management of the environment and natural resources due to reduced surveillance /enforcement efforts which then presents opportunity for abuse and misuse of resources including wildlife and protected areas, encroachment, land grabbing and unapproved infrastructural developments. The pandemic has also impacted the tourism sector as there are no more tourists travelling to the country, hotels are either

¹ The Contribution of Water Resources Development and Environmental Management to Uganda’s Economy, 2016

closed or operating at lower capacity, and many government staff have stopped working while a few work virtually. Nature based tourism generates many jobs and significant revenues (USD 1.6 billion in 2018) which benefit local communities.

Furthermore, CC effects have led to delayed and intermittent rains across much of the country as well as increasing prevalence of flooding and droughts in some parts of the country. This is expected to have direct impact on food security in the country. There will be an increased need to rely on the available water resources through increasingly unpredictable seasons, yet degraded catchments may not be able to meet the ongoing needs of communities for portable water and water for production, unless managed in a holistic manner that addresses wetlands, peat lands, forests and livelihoods.

There is need for collaboration between government, development and humanitarian partners to support and enhance environmental conservation, and restoration initiatives including sustainable forest management in Uganda as well as ensure that the gains from commercial afforestation are not lost. These initiatives include mainstreaming CC in other sectors (agriculture, energy, industry, transport); protection, rehabilitation and restoration of forests and other fragile ecosystems; revision of Uganda's NDC (2030); drafting Uganda's 2050 Long-term Strategy on CC as well as Social Protection Initiatives to support the more vulnerable populations.

The DPs recommend that post COVID-19, the above aspects must be put into consideration even as we plan for COP26, Africa Climate Week 2021 and the Water and Environment Week 2021 to ensure we build a climate resilient sector and economy.

The DPs note that progress has been made on most of the undertakings, but more work needs to be done. Commitment from all actors is required to realise these undertakings in the remaining 6 months.

The Environment Natural Resources –Climate Change Development Partner Group (ENR-CC DPG) was encouraged that under WSS sub sector, there are undertakings on restoration of degraded hotspots in micro-catchments and faecal sludge management that contribute directly to sustainable environment management including enhancing pollution prevention and environmental health. In addition, undertakings 12 and 13 relate to joint enforcement of water and environment regulations which indirectly enhance environmental benefits.

The DPs underscored the importance of public accountability & transparency as resources become more constrained amongst various sectors; and improving absorption capacity of allocated resources to the sector.

In conclusion, the ENR-CC DPs commended the MWE leadership for organizing the JTR 2020 and reiterated their commitment to continue working with all partners in the sector to achieve the Government's aspirations to be a middle income country through its NDPIII and Vision 2040 and to attain Agenda 2030's 17 Sustainable Development Goals. Finally he wished the participants a successful and productive JTR.

Official Opening

The JTR 2020 was officially opened by the **Minister of Water and Environment, Hon. Sam Cheptoris**. He welcomed the participants to the JTR. He explained that the JTR is a very important forum, which provides a unique opportunity to Government, DPs, Private Sector, the media and other key stakeholders to engage in a consultative process. It enables the sector to come up with solutions to the existing challenges, take stock of sector achievements, share experiences and together pave a way forward for the enhanced performance of the sector.

He noted the relevance of the theme considering that the country had developed NDP3 whose theme is hinged on industrialisation for inclusive growth and wealth creation. Industrialization has a great potential to generate employment, goods and services for wealth creation through domestic consumption and export but it highly relies on raw materials from the environment and natural resources.

The minister stated that while the strategic focus of NDP III is hinged on resource led industrialization, the country is facing unprecedented natural resource depletion. He decried the depletion of renewable natural resources which posed a constraint to sustainable growth and poverty reduction. The rate of forest loss estimated at 2.6% annually is among the highest globally. Land degradation, soil fertility loss, wetland reclamation, and fisheries declines are all major issues. This has been exacerbated by the COVID 19 pandemic where there is reduced interventions by all players and limited monitoring by the sector. Prospects for economic growth will ultimately be linked to sound and sustainable management of the country's natural capital base, which will require additional efforts to save it.

The Minister explained that in order to meet the NDP III objectives, the sector had identified specific priorities that constitute the strategic direction towards addressing the national challenges and these are in line with Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) as well as the Sector Strategic Investment Plan (SSIP) 2018-2030 as highlighted below:

- i. Investments to secure the integrity of water resources at local, regional and national levels with the involvement of communities.
- ii. Investment in safe water supply systems and sanitation facilities in rural (including Rural Growth Centres) and urban areas as well as providing for industrial needs and wildlife in national game parks.
- iii. Promotion of irrigation systems in liaison with the agricultural sector.
- iv. Strengthening the protection and management of ecosystems and refugee response.
- v. Strengthening the weather, climate and climate change response.
- vi. Capacity and partnerships development of both public and private sectors in water and environment resources management.

The minister highlighted the following challenges related to increased demand for better services; the sector is facing a perennial financing gap which is likely to increase as a consequence the COVID-19 pandemic. He reiterated the Ministry's commitment towards facilitating the transformation of all Ugandans from a peasantry to an industrious and prosperous society through sound management and sustainable utilization of water and environment resources.

He urged the participants to deliberate, while cognizant of these challenges and aim at coming up with viable solutions to protect our environment and maintain water resources for the present and future generations.

On behalf of the MWE, he expressed his gratitude to the DPs, CSOs, the PS and the line ministries for their continued support. It is through the combined efforts of all, that national targets under the NDP III, the National Resistance Movement Manifesto (2016-2021) and SDGs will be achieved.

Finally he declared the 12th Joint GoU/DPs Water and Environment Sector review open and wished the participants fruitful deliberations.

4.0 Implementation status of Undertakings for the 2019 JSR

A total of 13 undertakings were agreed upon during last year's water and environment JSR which was held in September 2019, of these 10 were new and 3 were carried forward from JSR 2018. Thematic groups and subgroups were formed to implement the undertakings; they prepared action plans with indicators/outputs to monitor progress of implementation of the respective undertakings. Progress on the 13 undertakings was reported in plenary and a summary of the status of implementation is provided below:

Undertaking 1: *Finalize the mainstreaming guidelines and support preparation of sector specific mainstreaming guidelines for the 4 remaining high impact sectors (Agriculture, Infrastructure, Lands, Energy) by FY 2019/20.*

So far the following actions have been taken: i) Finalised and printed the General Environment mainstreaming guidelines, ii) Draft Environment mainstreaming guidelines for Agriculture Sector in place.

Next steps: i) Dissemination of the general guidelines, ii) Training the users.

Challenges: Lack of funds to carry out the Institutional consultations, dissemination/ training and for preparing the sector specific mainstreaming guidelines for the 3 remaining sectors (Infrastructure, Lands, Energy).

Observation: There is need to demystify the term mainstreaming because it is possible that it is already taking place.

Recommendations: a) The outstanding activities related to awareness raising /dissemination and trainings should be conducted on line considering that the MWE has been facilitated to acquire video conferencing/online platforms, b) Build capacity in the concept of mainstreaming in practice.

Undertaking 1 is on track and level of achievement is 70% may not be achieved fully due to lack of funds.

Undertaking 2: *Put in place a strategy and action plan for accelerated implementation of the CC mainstreaming guidelines including capacity building, resource mobilizing and a framework for reporting by FY 2019/20.*

So far the following actions have been taken; i) Shared guidelines with sectors, ii) Contacted various Partners to support the mainstreaming process, iii) FAO has supported the development of the Agriculture sector CC mainstreaming guidelines, iv) USAID is supporting the awareness raising in DLGs, v) Boardroom trainings to sectors, vi) ToRs for the specific guidelines developed.

Next steps: i) As an entry point update the 2014 guidelines, ii) Develop capacity building plan for training at the level of planners and practitioners for priority sectors/LG, iii) Develop training manual and modules on screening tools; and offline demo version and iv) Hands-on dedicated training and clinics on mainstreaming process and implementation, v) Intensify boardroom meetings especially with MFPEd and all sectors including DLGs and vi) Continued underscoring of mainstreaming process as an unfunded priority.

Challenges: i) Process vs action: Passive trainings while necessary is not complete without actual mainstreaming/hands on taking place in all entities at National and Subnational, ii) Limited resources to implement the guidelines, iii) Timing due to COVID19 measures, iv) Gap in raising awareness on CC mainstreaming guidelines.

Recommendations: a) Explore opportunities to utilize the online platforms in raising awareness on CC mainstreaming guidelines, b) Consider combining efforts with undertaking 1 in the dissemination/awareness raising since the subject is related and the target audience is the same in order to optimize resources, c) In terms of monitoring mainstreaming, the team should critically look at the plans/budgets submitted by the respective sectors.

Undertaking is off track and level of achievement is 25% hence will not be achieved due to lack of funds.

Undertaking 3: *Prepare a study to guide parliament on increased financing of Climate Change interventions including contribution from other MDAs by FY 2020/2021.*

So far the following actions have been taken; i) Mapped existing financing streams, ii) Carried out an analysis of GoU & other sources of financing, iii) Prepared ToRs for hiring a consultant to support implementation of the undertaking.

Next steps: i) Procurement of a consultant, ii) Plan for consultations in various MDAs & DLGs, iii) Encourage Private Public Partnerships (PPPs) in enhancement of climate change response actions, iv) Promote climate research in the highly impacted sectors through concept development to attract funding.

Challenges: Limited of financial support to conduct the undertaking.

Recommendations: The undertaking should be carried forward to FY 2020/2021.

Undertaking is off track and level of achievement is 10% hence will not be achieved due to lack of funds.

Undertaking 4: *Prepare at least 4 project proposals for approval to be funded under the Green Climate Fund (GCF) and Adaptation Fund (AF) by the Ministry and LGs spearheaded by the de-concentrated units focusing on ENR by FY 2019/20.*

So far the following actions have been taken; i) A 10 member project preparation Task Force with representatives from Policy and Planning Department, WRM, DWD, ENR, CCD, WSDFs, Agencies i.e. UNMA, NFA, NEMA, NWSC in place, ii) Project proposal was developed by UNMA and approved by the WESWG on 16th /July/2020 and ready for submission to GCF through MFPED/NDA, iii) Project concept was prepared by DWRM and submitted to MFPED on 20.2.2020 for endorsement and subsequent submission to GCF, iv) project was prepared by WSDF South West and submitted to MFPED/GGI on 20th/July/2020 for endorsement to GCF, v) Project prepared by DWRM and submitted in June 2020 for endorsement and subsequent submission to GCF, vi) The project was prepared by DWRM and submitted to MFPED for endorsement by the Adaptation Fund Board as a pipeline project.

Challenges: Lack of funds to facilitate the task force meetings and thus the respective MDAs took their own initiatives, prepared concepts/proposals and submitted.

Key issues & Observations: i) Due to the work load of the members of the Project preparatory task force, they have not been able to guide the MDAs and consequently more than 8 small projects which are not necessarily strategic and optimal have been submitted, ii) In other countries full time staff/consultants have been hired to prepare project proposals and respond to the GCF/AF secretariat queries in order to ensure timeliness in fulfilling the rigorous project proposal preparation requirements, iii) In the 8 project proposals submitted so far, there is a lot of duplication, iv) There are some concept notes which were not presented and not returned either, there is need for information on their status.

Recommendations: a) There is need for a program approach to proposal writing and thus should consolidate the many small projects into 4 project proposals which are strategic covering the 4 regions of Uganda as well as utilizing the funding envelope in line with the GCF and AF guidelines.

Undertaking is on track and its level of achievement is 50% and is unlikely to be fully achieved.

Undertaking 5: *Upgrade 13 water schemes in refugee hosting districts and integrate management of existing water supply and sanitation into utility management structures sustainably.*

So far the following actions have been taken; i) Water and Environment Refuge Response Plan completed and launched in March 2020; Refugee Sub-group & Secretariat functional, ii) Technical engineering designs developed for 10No schemes and 01No Feacal sludge treatment plant, iii) Completed Construction of 10No WSS in: Ranch 1 (Kiryandongo); Alere, Nyumanzi, Ofua III, Omugo VI, Olujobo/Tika, Ayilo II (Adjumani); Bidi-Bidi Zone V (Yumbe); Pawor (Madi Okolo); & Yelulu (Terego). iv) Construction of 06No WSS at 50% completion in: Odobo, Wanyange, Ocea, Eden, Buluku-atuni (Madi Okolo); Cinya (Terego), v) For O&M, Umbrella approach is under pilot in 3 schemes of Alere, Ofua 2 and Nyumanzi. Ranch 1 and Rwamwanja are under NWSC, (v) The Kagera WSS project funded by EU through AFD (Euro.10.7m) implemented by NWSC is at Detailed design stage, it will supply

Orucinga and Nakivale refugee settlements, (vi) The faecal sludge treatment plant construction in Rhino-camp, Terego district is under procurement, funded by KFW and implemented by Oxfam through OPM (this includes the 8 No Schemes), (vii) Planned upgrade of 20 schemes and handover to NUWS by GIZ/MWE under Water Supply and Sanitation for Refugee Settlements and Host Communities in Northern Uganda (WatSSUP) (viii) Uganda's IWMDP – WSS, & Capacity building, WB. in Yumbe, Moyo, Adjumani, Lamwo, Arua, Kiryandongo, (ix) Development of WSS schemes, faecal sludge treatment plant and well-functioning O&M structures in refugee settlements in Arua, Kiryandongo, Adjumani & Yumbe by EU trust fund, (x) Northern Uganda Resilience Initiative (NURI) - Development of 8 Micro-Catchment Management Plans, Setting up MCP coordination structures by DANIDA, (xi) Conclusion of town gazettement criteria and guidelines by MWE, (xii) Development of O&M model for operator schemes – ADA and GIZ, (vii) UNHCR-OPM-MWE agreement on schemes handover process and timelines.

Next steps: i) Complete construction / upgrading of the 6 schemes under construction, ii) Develop project proposals in line with the RRP and commence solicitation for Funds and iii) Stakeholder engagement on management approach for schemes in refuge areas.

Challenges: i) Delays in construction progress due to Covid-19 Pandemic, ii) Funding gaps for the operations of the secretariat's coordination role in monitoring progress of implementation of the undertakings and iii) Understaffing of the secretariat.

Undertaking is on track and level of achievement is 85% will most likely be achieved.

Undertaking 6: *Restore degraded hotspots within the refugee hosting micro-catchments.*

So far the following actions have been taken; i) 14 micro catchments have been mapped around refugee settlements. 6 Micro Catchment Management Plans are planned to be prepared this year, ii) 3 Micro Catchment Management Plans prepared (under NURI Project). This include Yelulu (Arua), Ora (Zombo) and Nyarwodho (Nebbi) micro catchments, iii) Degraded hotspots from the 3 Micro Catchment Management Plans identified, iv) Restoration of degraded hotspots in the 3 Micro Catchment Management Plans initiated (under NURI Project), v) Micro Catchment Stakeholders Forum (CSF) established awaiting election of Micro Catchment Management Committee, vi) Formulation of community bylaws on natural resources management is ongoing, vii) Preparation of 5 Micro Catchment Management Plans initiated (under NURI Project). This include Ogwapoke (Kitgum), Nyivura (Adjumani), Iboa (Moyo/Obongi) and Abongo (Packwach) micro-catchments, viii) Procurement of consultants for preparation of 6 Micro Catchment Management Plans is ongoing (under World Bank).

Next steps: i) Prepare and implement 6 micro Catchment Management Plans, ii) Identify the hotspots areas from the Micro Catchment Management Plans, iii) Restore identified degraded hotspots in the micro catchments, iv) Constitute and operationalize Micro Catchment Management structures, v) Develop community agreements/bylaws on natural resources management, vi) Produce and disseminate Micro Catchment Plans and vii) Document and disseminate lessons and best practices from restoration activities.

Challenges: i) Impact of Covid-19 virus which limited stakeholder interactions (Processes are largely stakeholder driven), ii) Limited Capacity in Integrated Water Resources Management (IWRM) among various stakeholders and iii) Limited awareness of Community Based IWRM (CbiWRM).

Recommendations: a) Strengthen linkages and harness resources from the on-going projects/programs

Undertaking is on track and level of achievement is 70% but the remaining actions will not be achieved due to lack of funds.

Undertaking 7: *Conduct a comprehensive review to identify the causes of water supply inequity and identify strategies to address them by FY 2019/2020.*

So far the following actions have been taken; (i) Prepared ToR/Tender document for hiring a consultant to spearhead the review, (ii) Hired a consultant & the contract Signed on 26th June, 2020; (Contracting took longer than expected due to COVID 19 and the negotiations in costs), (iii) Start up meeting held and interviews with Heads of Departments (HoDs) for RWD, UWD, WFP held on 23rd & 24th July, 2020.

Next steps: i) Initial analysis prepared by the consultant and inception report expected by 7th August, ii) Diagnostic study, (iii) Strategy formulation and (iv) Presentation of final report to key stakeholders, (v) Presentation of Draft Comprehensive Report to the Thematic Working Group (TWG), (vi) Final Report.

Challenges: (i) Covid 19 restrictions made it difficult to meet between the months of March – June 2020, (ii) The Consultant IPE is a foreign firm and hence it was difficult to execute the assignment due to travel restrictions.

Observations & recommendations: a) The issue of inequity is very serious, the task force was challenged to ensure that it is comprehensively addressed and the undertaking should be fast tracked because of the magnitude of the challenge, b) There is need for proper documentation because what was presented was not satisfactory and this should be done before the JSR 2020.

Undertaking has experienced slow progress, the level of achievement is 20%, and it will not be achieved by the 2020 JSR due to a late start.

Undertaking 8: *Develop and document a sustainable financing strategy for the Umbrella Authorities by the end of FY 2019/20*

So far the following actions have been taken; (i) Work plan for the undertaking developed, (ii) ToR for procurement of the consultancy to develop a financing strategy for Umbrellas of Water and Sanitation (Under Professionalization Consultant for the Umbrellas of Water and Sanitation) prepared and submitted to the World bank for approval, (iii) Solicitation for Resources, (iv) Initiation of the Procurement, (v) Consultations with the World Bank, (vi) Regional Consultative Meetings, (vi) Development of Performance Improvement Plans (PIPs) for selected WSSs.

Next steps: (i) Approval of the final Terms of Reference (ToRs) by the WB, (ii) Procurement of the Professionalization Consultant to design and document the long term financing strategy for the

Umbrella Authorities, (iii) Commencing/development of the Financing Strategy, (iv) Dissemination of the strategy for execution.

Challenges: (i) Delays in the implementation process due to adjustment of the ToRs to categorize different modules of Governance, Commercial, Technical and Financial Management, (ii) Delays in implementation of the activity as a result of the COVID 19 pandemic where all activities were halted due to the lockdown and (iii) Lack of funds.

Observation: i) There is a pressing need in the sector to streamline the process of takeover of newly constructed or existing water systems for management in both urban and rural areas, currently the decisions seem to be politically motivated.

Recommendation: The Acting Commissioner Regulation should fast track the development of the criteria for gazetting completed schemes as requested earlier; the deadline was end of July and thus this criteria should be presented during the upcoming WESWG.

Undertaking is off track and level of achievement is about 20% will not be achieved due to lack of funds therefore it should be carried on in the FY 2020/21.

Undertaking 9: Develop a management framework for faecal sludge service management chain (including business aspects) by end of FY 2019/20 (continued from last FY).

So far the following actions have been taken; (i) Prepared Standard Operating Procedures for FSTPs, (ii) Test running/ pilot management of Apac FSTP under UWS – North; Kyotera under UWS – Central, (iii) Undertaking consultancy services to conduct feasibility studies and detailed design of faecal sludge management facilities in 10 un-sewered towns in Uganda i.e. assignment to suggest alternative feasible management frameworks,

Next steps: (i) Complete feasibility study assignment with recommendations of alternative management frameworks, (ii) Stakeholder consultation and recommendations for adoption, (iii) Formulation of Faecal Sludge Management (FSM) tools (Financial/business models), (iv) In collaboration with Water for People: Pilot project on safely managed sanitation in 03 towns of Pallisa, Kole and Nansana to experiment innovations in FSM promotion and management (WSSP), (v) Design and implementation Faecal Sludge Treatment Plant (FSTP) infrastructure under AfDB (STWSSP/WSSP II) WB (IWMDB), (vi) Expediting commencement of Assignment 2. Completion of study under Assignment 1, (vii) Stakeholder engagement on the management framework for faecal sludge service chain in Uganda and (viii) Undertaking will be substantially completed by December 2020.

Challenges: (i) Procurement delays in the consultancy assignment (Assignment 2: North and Eastern regions), (ii) Administrative challenges due to COVID-19 restrictions: Stakeholder consultations, delay in consultancy fieldwork (Assignment 1: Central and South Western regions).

Key issue/Observation: The team was tasked to develop guidelines for the new and existing systems.

Undertaking is on track and level of achievement is 70% will not be achieved by the 2020 JSR but will be complete by the end of year December 2020.

Undertaking 10: Disseminate the sanitation monitoring indicators, measurement framework and develop an improved MIS system (digital based) by FY 2019/20.

So far the following actions have been taken; (i) Procurement of consultant for Development of the improved MIS system with support from UNICEF has been concluded, (ii) Contract signed with Advanced Geospatial Solutions (AGS) on 8th June 2020, (iii) AGS was introduced to the key contact persons, (iv) AGS presented their rough understanding of the task and general plans, (v) Scoping by the Consultant is ongoing to gather user requirements and (vi) Consultative meetings with key contact persons are ongoing.

Next steps: (i) Complete development of the MIS system, (ii) Disseminate and build capacity of District Local Governments and CSOs on use of the MIS and (iii) Disseminate the performance indicators to local governments and other stakeholders.

Challenges: (i) Delays in the procurement process due to COVID 19, (ii) Limited Financial Resources to support dissemination of the performance measurement framework and monitoring indicators.

Undertaking is off track, still at infancy stages, level of achievement is 20% hence will not be achieved. It is therefore recommended to carry it over to next FY 2020/2021.

Undertaking 11: Develop a national master plan for improved coverage of “safely managed” sanitation by FY 2019/2020.

So far the following actions have been taken; (i) Stakeholder consultations on the requirements for development of Master plan, (ii) Drafted ToRs for consultancy services to develop the National master plan for improved coverage of safely managed sanitation, (iii) Shared the ToRs with stakeholders for funding opportunities,

Next steps: (i) Finalise preparation of ToRs for consultancy to develop the National master plan for improved coverage of safely managed sanitation, (ii) Engage a consultant for the study, (iii) Stakeholder engagement on improved coverage of safely managed sanitation, (iv) Development of the National master plan for improved coverage of safely managed sanitation, (v) Continued engagement with stakeholders for funding of the National master plan for improved coverage of safely managed sanitation (Sanitation and Hygiene Fund, BMBF, WfP) (vi) Completion of the ToR for the study with clarity on sub-sector responsibilities, (vii) Procurement of consultant and implementation of the study.

Challenges: (i) Inadequate policy framework for un-sewered sanitation, (ii) No funding for the consultancy study and (iii) Limited opportunities for stakeholder engagement in light COVID-19 restrictions.

Undertaking is off track and level of achievement is 20% hence will not be achieved due to lack of funds. It is therefore recommended to continue with this undertaking in next Financial Year

Undertaking 12: Develop a strategy and a plan for joint action to enforcement and compliance to water and Environment Laws using the Ministry of Water and Environment (MWE) regional structures and Local Governments.

So far the following actions have been taken; this undertaking has not been implemented so far because it lacked a lead institution to spearhead it.

Key issues/observations: i) The undertaking is very crucial and currently ENR and DWRM is implementing bits and pieces of it, ii) At the MWE regional level, enforcing is taking place, what is lacking is coordination and sharing of information.

Recommendation: a) Undertaking should be split between ENR and DWRM to ease its implementation, b) As a follow up undertaking the two streams of work will be consolidated for joint action.

Undertaking 13: Review the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) process including approvals, monitoring and enforcing conditions in the EIA certificates.

So far the following actions have been taken; (i) Carried out management response through implementing administrative and technical reforms, (ii) Legal reforms- where the National Environment Act (NEA) and regulations on EIAs, audit and permits have been reviewed to meet the new and emerging national priorities and the related environmental and social concerns including; a) Process steps-merger where various steps in the EIA review process have been merged in order to create efficiency through time saving and reduction in the lengths of processes and procedures and b) Use of electronic data base which has been established and operationalized to enhance efficiency and effectiveness in the review, approval, inspections and monitoring of EIAs and permits, (iii) Use of soft systems and real time data through GIS, remote sensing and satellite applications which are time-saving and more effective, (iv) Electronic transfer of reports to Lead Agencies to save time and avoid unnecessary forward and backward movements of documents, (v) Application of the full cycle process- baseline verifications, monitoring and inspection as well as environmental audits through the cluster teams and use of technology and scientific applications like *Google earth*, (vi) Formation of cluster teams for the review of EIAs on sector basis like – energy, mining, infrastructure, manufacturing, agriculture and ICT, among others and (vii) Joining the One-Stop-Centre with other Government institutions, which are involved in handling of investments such as Uganda Investment Authority (UIA), Uganda Revenue Authority (URA), (viii) Recruitment of more staff with budget support from Government of Uganda , (ix) Mobilization of more funding from Government and off-budget projects to support environmental monitoring and compliance activities , (x) Establishment and operationalization of three (3) more regional offices in Lira, Mbale and Mbarara in addition to one in the Masindi which was established earlier, (xi) These four regional offices decentralized service delivery to local governments and investors (developers) and thus saving them time and costs and (xii) NEMA supported the development of the Strategy on Coordination and Integration of Environment and Sustainability Concerns into Lead Agency Plans and Operations.

Observation/ recommendation: NEMA should utilise the lead agencies e.g. ENR has 3 staff who could support the EIA processes.

Undertaking is on track and level of achievement is 90% but will not be fully achieved due to lack of funds.

5.0 Key Issues emerging from the proceedings

- a) There is need to refocus the issue of sector funding towards the NDPIII especially ensuring that there is a dedicated sector programme & efforts to mainstream water & environment across the different programmes; to lobby Ministry of Finance Planning & Economic Development to ensure adequate allocation of resources to facilitate the attainment of the goals & objectives of this plan in the form of a well aligned budget.
- b) The need to improve monitoring of Sector Performance through aligning it to the SDGs, including monitoring of progress of WASH in schools, health centres and other institutions – this calls for collaboration with other relevant line ministries.
- c) This calls for developing a handover strategy that comprehensively defines the procedures and informs decisions in the selection and hand over of water systems for management to the relevant water services management Authorities.
- d) The need to consolidate compliance and enforcement of water and environment regulations by all actors at all levels including Environment staff at the districts, OPM staff within the refugee settlements, Implementing and Operating partners in refugee hosting areas, NFA staff and WASH Umbrella organizations, etc. In addition, existing community structures for example refugee welfare committees should be involved in supporting enforcement efforts for enhanced sustainability

6.0 Closing Session

Mr. David Githiri Njoroge, Senior Technical Coordinator, UNHCR the Lead DP for Environment and Natural Resources and Climate Change (ENR-CC), thanked the MWE for successfully organizing the JTR meeting that has provided a forum for the various Ministries, Departments, Agencies, Civil Society and Development Partners to reflect on the mid-term progress on implementation of the actions/undertakings which were agreed on in the 2019 Joint Sector Review and devise strategies to address emerging issues and challenges in the sector to achieve these undertakings.

The event was very well organized with timely and insightful sessions allowing for in-depth discussions on progress made and how to realign ourselves to achieve the remaining activities for 2020 amidst the COVID-19 pandemic. In relation to the theme for the joint review, he re-echoed the Honorable Minister who highlighted in his opening speech that domestic consumption and export relied on raw materials derived from the environment; and therefore supported his call for more effort towards sustainable natural resource management by all stakeholders including the communities.

Furthermore, nearly 70% of Uganda's population (and the 1.4 million refugees that it hosts) are under 25 years of age and this is indeed the next generation who need access to both education and intact environmental services to thrive. Hence the need to intensify efforts to curb the unprecedented rates of natural resource degradation related to water, soil, forests, wetlands and peat lands to ensure the needs of next generation are met by the same natural resources.

The ECC DPG is aware that the influx of refugees (1.4 million currently) in the country further exacerbates environmental degradation as refugees and host continue search for fuel wood and

construction materials. In UNHCR, partners in the refugee response have prioritized action on environment in 2020 by increasing quotas for sustainably sourced construction poles for new arrivals, engaging refugee and host communities to plant and maintain more than 2000 hectares of trees through cash for work, and increasing access to more than 11,000 households to energy-saving stoves but more needs to be done.

To date, this effort has been led by the Office of the Prime Minister (OPM) and DLGs and implemented by over 35 NGOs with technical and financial support from UNHCR and many DPs such as EU, Austria, Norway, Sweden, DFID, US through PRM, Germany through GIZ, UNDP and FAO among others with new significant displacement-related investments from the World Bank for example. UNHCR through its partnership with NFA continues to support restoration of more than 400 hectares of Central Forest Reserves including establishment of 3 bamboo plantations and scaling up production in 12 regional nurseries to supply quality tree planting materials for woodlot establishment in refugee and host communities.

From the presentations made regarding progress on undertakings, we are making strides to move beyond assessment and approval to compliance and effective enforcement of water and environment regulations. To achieve this, there is need to consolidate enforcement efforts by all actors at all levels including Environment staff at the districts, OPM staff within the refugee settlements, Implementing and Operating partners in refugee hosting areas, NFA staff and WASH Umbrella organisations, etc. In addition, existing community structures for example refugee welfare committees should be involved in supporting enforcement efforts for enhanced sustainability.

For effective natural resource management, we need to incentivize environmental restoration and tree growing activities while leveraging on innovative financing approaches and opportunities such as GCF. Furthermore, development partners have continued to set aside funds for environmental restoration for example, the European Union (EU) under the Emergency Trust Fund set aside EUR 10 Million in April 2020 to support Response to Increased Environmental Degradation and Promotion of Alternative Energy Sources in Refugee Hosting Districts.

The ENR –CC DPG commended the Ministry for the achievements registered so far, especially the undertakings that have been completed as set out in the 2019 JSR. For all undertakings, the DPs noted that they had been substantially completed, however some work remained. The DPs urged the MWE to take this momentum forward into this year's undertakings.

In conclusion, he conveyed the DPs' gratitude to the MWE for organizing the Joint Review; they actively listened and reiterated ENR DPs' commitment to continue working with all stakeholders to align to and achieve the Government's aspirations for industrialization and wealth creation through sector participation, technical guidance and financing of its priorities.

The Lead Donor WSS was not available, she had requested the ENR –CC Lead Donor to provide closing remarks for both groups.

Closing remarks by the Minister of State for Environment, Hon. Beatrice Anywar; due to unavoidable circumstances she did not attend the JTR, her speech was read by the P.S. MWE.

The Minister thanked the participants for attending the 12th JTR for the Water and Environment Sector. She singled out DPs who supported the Ministry to organize the modified Joint Review event in adherence to the COVID19 prevention guidelines provided by the Ministry of Health. She noted that despite the unique situation the meeting had ample opportunities for in-depth reflections and discussions.

From the various presentations, she noted the following major issues which needed to be addressed if the sector was to deliver on its mandate of promoting and ensuring the rational and sustainable utilization of water and environment resources for socio-economic development of the country.

- i) There is need for the sector to uphold its role of enforcement of the law and regulations and guidelines to curtail the degradation of our forests and wetlands. The country is witnessing the environment being degraded with impunity. She pointed out that environment management is a decentralized activity under the Local Government Act, by implication Local Government need to be proactive, she therefore appealed to the district leaders to be more vigilant in enforcement;
- ii) Lack of coordination of relevant government bodies in planning, designing and implementation of water and environment projects both at the center and the local governments has led to duplication of activities/efforts. There is a tendency to work in isolation and yet natural resources management requires very high level coordination mechanisms.

She acknowledged the role of NDPIII which is hinged on programme implementation rather than working in silos.

Furthermore, she expressed concern on the weak collaborative and coordinated monitoring by the regulatory agencies e.g. there is need to enforce the ban on kaveera, monitor the cancelation of titles in wetlands and encroachment on riverbanks and forests.

In closing, she urged the participants to reflect on the review deliberations and her remarks and together focus on bringing a historical window of opportunity to end the misery and indignity of the vast millions of urban and rural poor, who have been persistently denied access to safe and clean water and sanitation due to the limited resources but also the impacts of human activities that are slowly but surely destroying the environment.

On behalf of the Ministry, she expressed her gratitude to the DPs, CSOs and PSOs and the line MDAs for their continued support in especially the COVID19 response and the rising water levels which caused flooding. Last but not least to UNDP for the support to online facility which will enable the Ministry to set up a modern video conferencing facility in the Ministry auditorium.

He then declared the 12th Joint Government of Uganda/Donor Review of the Water and Environment Sector 2020 closed.

5 Commitments

All parties agreed to continue to expedite implementation of the 2020 JSR undertakings, so that they are completed within the earlier agreed timeframe(s). Follow-up of all issues raised and recommendations will be done by the MWE leadership. All parties agreed to implement the recommendations arising out of the JTR.

Mr Alfred Okot Okidi

For: Mr. David Githiri Njoroge

Mr Hatem Chakroun

Permanent Secretary

Ministry of Water and Environment

On behalf of the Government of Uganda

Signed:

Kampala, 6.10.2020

Senior

Coordinator

United Nations High Commission for Refugees (UNHCR)

On behalf of the Development Partners, Environment and Natural Resources

Signed:

Kampala, 19th / 10 / 2020

Technical

Country Director

Agence Francaise De Developpement AFD)

On behalf of the Development Partners, Water and Sanitation

Signed:

Kampala, 13.10.2020