



## UWASNET ENGAGEMENT ON COVID19 PREVENTION

### I. Background

The World Health Organization (WHO) declared the coronavirus (COVID19) as a pandemic on March 11<sup>th</sup>, 2020 following the confirmation of coronavirus cases worldwide and the possible and sustained risk of further global infections. *“This is not just a public health crisis; it is a crisis that will touch every sector. So every sector and every individual must be involved in the fight,”* Dr. Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus, the Director General - WHO said at the time during the media briefing.

Then, there were a total of 118,000 confirmed cases of COVID19. As of today, there are more than 468,644 confirmed cases of COVID19 worldwide.

In light of this, the World Health Organization (WHO) calls on all countries to detect, test, treat, isolate, trace and mobilize their people in the response to coronavirus as a means of curbing further spread of the virus. Amidst all these interventions, there is a call to innovate and learn from this pandemic as a way of preventing future pandemics with focus on prevention, preparedness, public health, political leadership and people.

A number of countries have demonstrated that coronavirus can be suppressed and controlled. A big part of this is also mitigating the social and economic consequences of the coronavirus pandemic.

#### **Country status – Uganda**

Uganda currently has 44 confirmed cases of corona virus as of 31 March 2020 and the number keeps growing by the day. Government of Uganda is currently battling the spread of corona virus and has put in place a number of measures and guidelines aimed at curbing the spread of the virus throughout the country including testing, isolating, proposed self-quarantine, ban on travel, social distancing and washing hands with soap and or use of sanitizers as a form of improving personal hygiene. This response is being spearheaded by the Ministry of Health, which is mandated with planning, delivering and maintaining an efficient and effective healthcare delivery system including preventive, curative and rehabilitative services in a humane, affordable and sustainable manner.

The Ministry of Water and Environment, through the National Hand Washing Secretariat (NHWI) is coordinating different actors to contribute to the national efforts to prevent the spread of the virus in Uganda. A number of strategies are proposed including; promotion of proper hand washing with soap, conducting mass communication on prevention of COVID19 through media namely radio, television, newspaper and social media.

### II. UWASNET’s engagements on COVID19

**As a member of the National Hand Washing Initiative, UWASNET would like to mobilize its members to jointly contribute to this cause.** As sector players, we should recognise that the dramatic spread of COVID-19 has disrupted lives, livelihoods, communities worldwide and has put water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) at the forefront of all messages. This outbreak demands cooperation among government, international organizations, civil society, private sector, research and learning, and all professionals in the sector, to strengthen the systems and make sure that the human right to water and sanitation is respected.



It is also an opportunity for the whole world to acknowledge that we as Sector Stakeholders have been advocating that '*... handwashing with soap can prevent the spread of diseases like COVID-19 in addition to slow down the spread of diseases like Ebola, diarrhoeal, cholera, pneumonia and intestinal worms.*'

**This is the time to advocate for the prioritisation of the sector by sensitising the key decision makers that '*... for effective handwashing to take place there's need to have adequate clean water...*'**

UWASNET would therefore like to mobilise its members to engage in the COVID-19 Campaign with the following objectives:

1. Coordinate Civil society response actions to COVID-19 with galvanised initiatives based on joint action plans and resource leverage
2. Increase public awareness of the importance of good handwashing in order to stop the spread of COVID-19
3. Contribute to curbing the virus in the country by providing basic needs to promote hand washing
4. Advocate to key decision makers to prioritise water and good hygiene and sanitation to curb viruses like COVID-19 and many others.
5. Engage relevant line ministries to develop long term policy guidelines on handwashing in public places and households

UWASNET is therefore calling on all its members to contribute to this cause currently, but also after the COVID-19 Epidemic to ensure that the current behavioral change of hand washing with soap is sustainable. This will be achieved through the following proposed interventions namely;

#### **Short Term Initiatives**

- i. Establish a CSO COVID 19 Coordination Desk at UWASNET Secretariat for effective roll out of this plan**
  - a. Recruitment of part time person to oversee COVID 19 activities
  - b. Establishment of data base to coordinate members' activities and coordinate with ongoing government initiatives at different levels
- ii. Conduct mass communication campaigns to share relevant preventive information on COVID19 on television, radio, print and social media**
  - a. Develop social media /e-banners on current status of WASH in the country and its implication on COVID19 prevention
  - b. Develop, translate and air short COVID19 messages for radio
  - c. Conduct radio talk-shows on the call for WASH improvement and its impact on COVID19 prevention
  - d. Develop and air TV adverts in different languages
  - e. Develop educational small skits with comedians for instance Fun Factory comedians, CBS' Kalisolo crews as part of sensitization on general WASH improvement at household and institutional levels
  - f. Conduct mass sensitization in towns, and rural growth centers and engagement of the local authorities on access to safe water and improved sanitation and hygiene for all
- iii. Provide essentials for promoting hand-washing**



- a. Provide basic needs for promoting hand washing with soap i.e. Accessibility to clean water, soap, hand washing facilities etc.

#### **Long Term Initiatives**

- iv. **Engagement of decision makers on addressing the policy related challenges hindering universal access to universal WASH service delivery**
  - a. Develop policy briefs / one pagers on the current status of WASH in the country and its implication on COVID19 prevention to share with key stakeholders (including Parliament) as part of the advocacy for improving WASH service delivery
  - b. Conduct webinars/ dialogues with key decision makers to sensitize them on prioritizing provision of safe water for all, most especially the underserved
  - c. Conduct webinars/ dialogue meetings for CSOs to coordinate and guide effective delivery of COVID 19 initiatives by CSOs
  - d. Support different Local Governments to develop long term strategies of sustaining hand washing in public places and communities



**Proposed budget**

<b>PROPOSED BUDGET ON ENGAGEMENTS OF CSOs ON COVID19 PREVENTION IN UGANDA</b>					
	<b>Description</b>	<b>Quantity</b>	<b>Freq</b>	<b>Unit cost</b>	<b>Amount</b>
<b>1</b>	<b>Establish a CSO COVID 19 Coordination Desk at UWASNET Secretariat for effective roll out of this plan</b>				
1.1	Recruitment of part time person to oversee COVID 19 activities	1	6	3,500,000	21,000,000
1.2	Establishment of data base to coordinate members' activities and coordinate with ongoing government initiatives at different levels	1	1	10,000,000	10,000,000
				<b>sub-total</b>	<b>31,000,000</b>
<b>2</b>	<b>Conduct mass communication campaigns to share relevant preventive information on COVID19</b>				
2.1	Develop short messages on COVID19 prevention and general hand washing with soap in different languages (translation costs)	10	1	200,000	2,000,000
2.2	Air developed messages (skits) on local radio stations	5	20	200,000	20,000,000
2.3	Conduct radio talk-shows on the call for WASH improvement and its impact on COVID19 prevention	10	1	3,500,000	35,000,000
2.4	Develop policy briefs / one pagers on the current status of WASH in the country and its implication on COVID19 prevention to share with key stakeholders as part of the advocacy for improving WASH service delivery (Design and printing costs)	200	2	10,000	4,000,000
2.5	Develop and air TV adverts in different languages	10	1	1,000,000	10,000,000
2.6	Develop educational small skits with comedians for instance Fun Factory comedians, CBS' Kalisoliso crews as part of sensitization on general WASH improvement at household and institutional levels	2	2	2,000,000	8,000,000



2.7	Conduct regional level mass sensitization in towns, and rural growth centres and engagement of the local authorities on access to safe water and improved sanitation and hygiene for all (mobilisation costs)	1	1	10,000,000	10,000,000
				<b>sub-total</b>	<b>89,000,000</b>
<b>3</b>	<b>Provide essentials for promoting hand-washing</b>				
3.1	Provide basic needs for promoting hand washing with soap i.e. Accessibility to clean water, soap, hand washing facilities etc.	1	1	20,000,000	20,000,000
				<b>sub-total</b>	<b>20,000,000</b>
<b>4</b>	<b>Engagement of decision makers on addressing the policy related challenges hindering universal access to universal WASH service delivery</b>				
4.1	Develop policy briefs / one pagers on the current status of WASH in the country and its implication on COVID19 prevention to share with key stakeholders (including Parliament) as part of the advocacy for improving WASH service delivery	200	1	10,000	2,000,000
4.2	Conduct webinars/ dialogues with key decision makers to sensitize them on prioritizing provision of safe water for all, most especially the underserved	1	1	5,000,000	5,000,000
4.3	Conduct webinars/ dialogue meetings for CSOs to coordinate and guide effective delivery of COVID 19 initiatives by CSOs	1	1	5,000,000	5,000,000
4.4	Support different Local Governments to develop long term strategies of sustaining hand washing in public places and communities	1	1	10,000,000	10,000,000
				<b>sub-total</b>	<b>20,000,000</b>
				<b>GRAND TOTAL</b>	<b>160,000,000</b>