



THE WATSAN EYE NEWSLETTER

Documenting CSOs' contribution to the Water and Environment sector

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Creating awareness on SDG 6.1, 6.2 & 6.5 indicators amongst CSOs & District Local Governments



Raphael Okoth from World Vision with representatives from UWASNET member organizations & District Local Governments receiving SDG 6.1 & 6.2 posters during the Lango & Acholi regional meeting held March 30th—April 1st, 2021 in Lira.

UWASNET is strengthening the capacities of its member organisations and District Local Government representatives through creation of awareness on SDG 6.1, 6.2 & 6.5 indicators with the aim of facilitating the localisation, better internalisation, implementation, reporting and monitoring of SDG 6.1, 6.2 and 6.5 indicators in Uganda.

Through regional meetings, UWASNET also aims at strengthening the institutional and technical capacities of its members organisations to effectively, efficiently, and sustainably contribute to set sector goals.

UWASNET held a three-day regional meeting from March 30th – April 1st, 2021 in Lira for its' member organisations and District Local Government representatives in the Lango and Acholi region. The regional meeting is part of a series of regional meetings planned for 2021 that

aim at strengthening the coordination of CSOs' voices to influence WASH policies and practice in the sectors of Health, Water and Environment, Education and Sports through collaboration, promotion of learning, sharing, and networking amongst CSOs and other key regional strategic partners and strengthening the institutional and technical capacities of UWASNET members to effectively, efficiently, and sustainably contribute to the sector.

Ten regional meetings are planned for 2021 and are being supported by SIMAVI and the WASH SDG 6 programme, the Uganda Sanitation for Health Activity (USHA) and GIZ under the Civil Society in Uganda Support Programme (CUSP).

UWASNET is also collaborating with the Ministry of Water and Environment who are facilitating the trainings on understanding SDG 6 and the water & sanitation

service delivery performance indicators amongst CSOs and the District Local Governments.

The agenda for the planned regional meetings also includes dialogues on WASH in schools and healthcare facilities through collaborations with Ministry of Education and Sports, Ministry of Health and other key partners like private sector, media and CSOs.

A number of outcomes are expected from the regional meetings namely; improved dialogue & collaboration between CSOs & key sector stakeholders, increased participation of CSOs in district level WASH planning and sector related meetings, enhanced reporting & tracking sector performance on SDG 6.2, 6.1 and 6.5 implementation, increased documentation & upscaling of best practices & better internalization, implementation, & monitoring of SDG 6.1, 6.2 and 6.5.

Highlights from the Lango & Acholi regional meeting

The Lango and Acholi regional meeting was held from March 30th – April 1st, 2021 at Pauline Hotel in Lira.

The meeting was characterized by a number of activities including the marketplace, training, field visit and discussion on the identification of key regional advocacy issues. The regional meeting aimed at promoting learning, sharing, and networking amongst members and other key regional strategic partners, strengthening the capacities of UWASNET members to effectively, efficiently, and sustainably contribute to the sector and strengthen the coordination of CSOs' voices to influence policy and practice in the sector of Water & Environment, Education, & Health through collaboration on key advocacy issues.

The meeting was opened by the Regional Coordinator – World Vision represented by Raphael Okoth, the WASH Programs Manager who welcomed and thanked members and partners for their participation.

Highlights from the Secretariat

The Secretariat presentation included updates on the different aspects including membership engagements, participation, expansion and retention. The presenter also shared the different goals set for 2021 including fundraising drives and activities, including soliciting new donors and improving annual membership subscription payments. Ongoing partner funded projects and anticipated projects were also shared with members. A number of planned annual events were also shared with members and partners to facilitate their planning and participation namely the annual data collection for the annual CSO performance report, the annual WASH CSO forum, the election of new BOD members,



Members during Day1 of the Lango and Acholi regional meeting held from March 30th—April 1st, 2021 at Pauline Hotel, Lira. A total of 30 participants attended the meeting.

regional coordinators, thematic working group leaders, the development of a new strategic plan, the Annual General Meeting, the Joint Technical Review and the Joint Sector Review meetings.

Part of the presentation also included highlights on the third National Development Plan (NDPIII), its strategic focus and specifically its programmatic implementation approach and the anticipated key outcomes for each program.

The Marketplace

The marketplace presented members with an opportunity to share their work and learn from each other through discussions and presentations.

Nobert Oola, a Senior Business Advisor at Water and Sanitation Entrepreneurs Association – Uganda (WASEA-U) shared his organization's work under strengthening WASH service delivery in rural growth centres. WASEA -U supports small scale local entrepreneurs to plan, build

and sustain WASH businesses. He shared that the organization has supported 600 entrepreneurs in northern and western Uganda, recruited 200 marketing corps to support the WASH businesses.

Raphael Okoth, WASH Program Manager shared the organization's work including WASH interventions in schools, healthcare facilities and in communities.

He also shared findings from the World Vision 14 Country WASH Evaluation Final Report conducted in 2019 focusing on sanitation and hygiene at household level, water supply and water point management in healthcare facilities and water access, storage, treatment and quality at schools. In the next five-year, World Vision aimed at reaching 783,479 people accessing safe water, 1,020,252 people access improved sanitation and 567,333 accessing improved hygiene services.

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Highlights from the Lango & Acholi regional meeting *From Pg.2*



Raphael Okoth from World Vision sharing about their work during the Marketplace



David Iyubat from USHA making a presentation on USHA during the Marketplace

Raphael also shared the four priority intervention areas namely sanitation and hygiene, water supply and quality, governance and finance, water security and resilience. He also shared the means to achieve the priority areas namely through innovation and research, staff capacity building and training, strategic partnerships and collaboration and documenting impacts of interventions on WASH improvement in healthcare facilities.

David Iyubat, Regional Manager – Northern Cluster at Uganda Sanitation for Health Activity (USHA) shared USHA’s work in 20 target districts aiming at increasing the

number of people with access to improved and sustainable WASH services. He said this will ultimately lead to improved health and nutrition status of the population in the focus areas in Uganda.

He shared the outcomes and results achieved through using Community Based Total Sanitation (CLTS) approach and the Market Based Sanitation (MBS) approach that facilitates the exchange of sanitation-related goods or services among buyers, sellers, and sanitation enterprises.

“Under MBS, it’s important to develop best-fit products that consider a segment’s needs, preferences, and affordability. It is also

important to activate demand with tailored marketing messages for each customer segment, facilitate a network delivery model that allows customers to receive all the information they need related to the best-fit product, in a consolidated manner and to develop user-appropriate sanitation loan products to increase the households’ willingness to obtain financing, and reduce their liquidity barriers,” he said.

He mentioned that for the northern cluster, USHA optimized the latrine product offerings. He shared the different toilet products and the different support documents developed for the CLTS enterprise models.

Unpacking SDG 6.1 & 6.2 Indicators

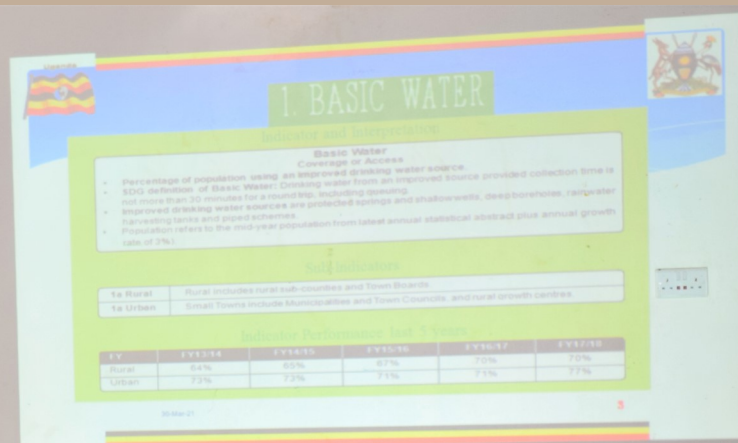
Eng. Jimmy Otim, Ass. District Water Officer, Lira unpacked SDG 6. In his presentation, he shared the aims behind the SDG agenda and its interconnection approach to solving some of the world's biggest development challenges. Presentations from the Ministry of Water and Environment aimed at unpacking the concepts and indicators under SDG 6, status of

implementation, challenges faced and the opportunities available for CSOs' participation and contribution. He also made a presentation on the importance of sector performance monitoring and the relevancy of each stakeholders' participation.

Mr. Thomas Abeja, a Public Health Specialist with Ministry of Water and Environment's Rural Water and Sanitation Regional

Center 1 (RWSRC 1) unpacked the sanitation and hygiene monitoring indicators and also made a presentation on why monitoring SDG 6 implementation is important for the sector and how data is collected and analysed to inform the current status of sanitation and hygiene in the country.

He shared the computation method for each indicator and the final district bench-marking results.



Eng. Jimmy Otim, the Assistant District Water Officer, Lira making a presentation aimed at unpacking SDG 6.

He noted that computation methods and assumptions used for rural and urban are the same though the definitions are different. “Rural includes rural sub-counties and rural growth centres (RGCs) in districts while urban are large and small towns including municipalities, town councils and town boards,” he said.

He said that in tracking final faecal sludge disposal, the standards are lacking especially for final effluent/sludge cake after treatment including tracking safe treatment and re-use. He noted that under SDG 6 indicators, all households without sanitation facilities

are practicing open defecation.

Mr. Abeja noted that Ministry of Water and Environment uses the following monitoring tools namely; the rural sanitation annual data collection tool / the Environmental Health Data (EHD) collection form – Rural and the urban sanitation annual data collection tool / the Environmental Health Data (EHD) collection form – Urban. He noted that districts are supposed to develop their own data collection tools for routine data collection.

The District Water Officer defined basic water, safely managed water, village coverage, pro-poor,

functionality, piped water management, non-revenue water, customer satisfaction, financial sustainability, per capita investment cost, water quality, and their respective indicator baselines, targets for 2030 and their respective sector performance for the past five years.

He also shared the cross-cutting issues of gender, auditing, CSOs' contribution, sector funding, external funding, reporting and their respective indicator baselines, targets and sector performance for the past five years.

Importance of sector performance monitoring

- ⇒ A performance monitoring system allows GoU to gauge the performance of WASH service providers against national benchmarks
- ⇒ Publication of performance monitoring reports offer a means for communication with customers and increases transparency in WASH and wastewater services.
- ⇒ Performance indicators assist managers in efficient planning, decision making and allocation of financial resources targeted to improve performance where needed.
- ⇒ KPIs encourage sharing of good practices among service providers
- ⇒ A performance monitoring system helps to inform policy makers with accurate, specific and transparent information.
- ⇒ Performance monitoring results will support sector planning, resource allocations, investments planning, and the development of national regulations and standards.
- ⇒ Monitoring water services helps to fulfil and protect customers' interests and needs and protects customers from monopolistic practices.
- ⇒ It also promotes accountability and maintains a balance between the level of service and its price, .

Dissemination of SDG 6.1 & 6.2 posters



Eng. Jimmy Otim receiving SDG 6.1 & 6.2 posters for Lira DLG during the Lango & Acholi regional meeting

With support from Uganda Sanitation for Health Activity, SIMAVI and the WASH SDG 6 programme, UWASNET was able to print and disseminate SDG 6.1 and 6.2 posters with simplified illustrations that will facilitate the better internalization, implementation, monitoring and reporting on SDG 6 by CSOs and Government. The posters are planned to be printed in four (04) languages including English, Luganda, Luo and Lusoga and will be disseminated among CSOs, district local governments and in communities. During the Lango and Acholi regional meeting, each of the 12

districts that constitute Lango and Acholi region received 100 posters each for use and reference. The posters were handed over to the District Water Office for dissemination. World Vision, the Regional Coordinator has planned to distribute the posters to the different DWOs in the region as well.

UWASNET member organizations in the region also received copies for their use and reference. UWASNET has planned to disseminate the posters to the key stakeholders as part of the regional

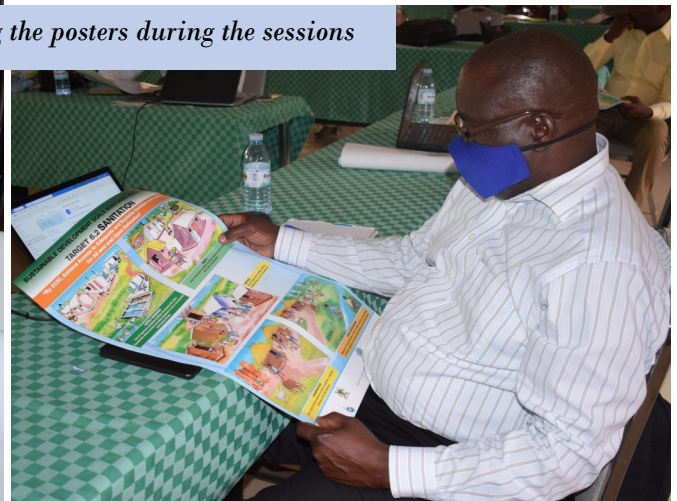


Mr. Ocan Peter receiving posters for Agago DLG

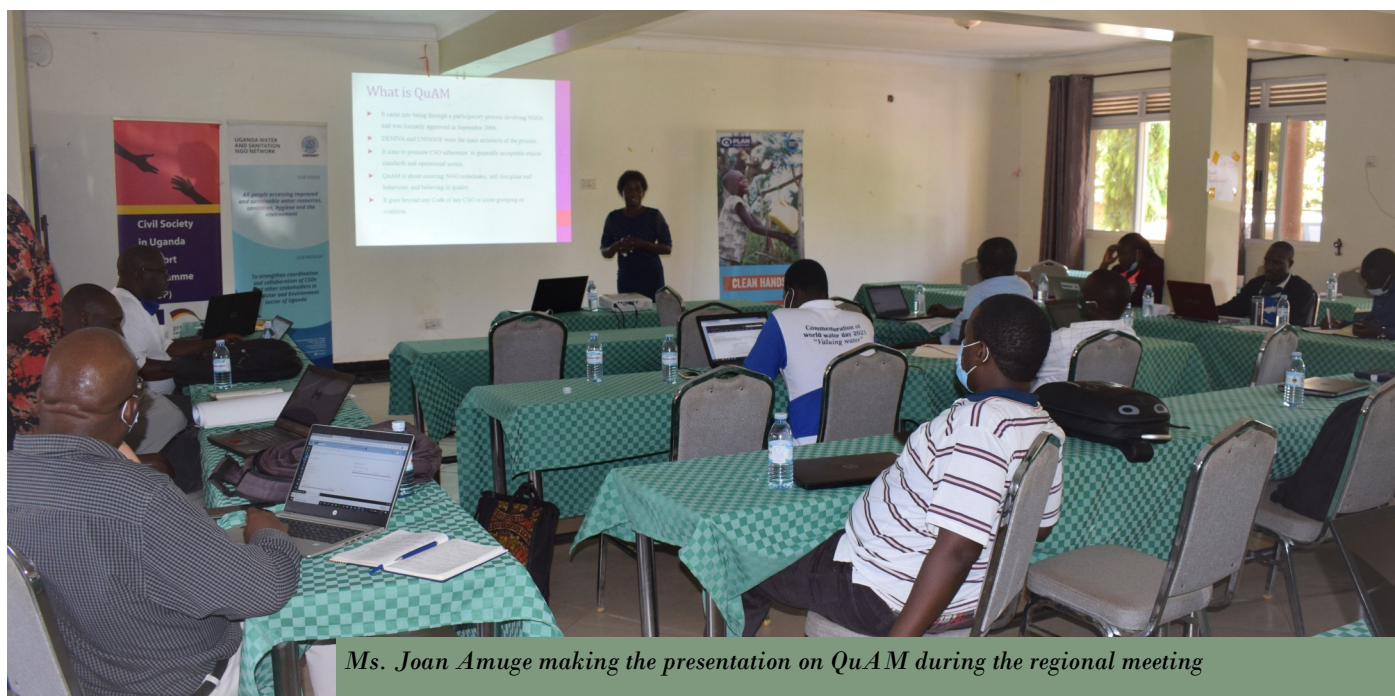
meetings agenda. Soft copies of the posters have been disseminated on email to the different key stakeholders and also posted on the UWASNET website and social media.



Participants reading the posters during the sessions



Sensitization on QuAM certification



Ms. Joan Amuge making the presentation on QuAM during the regional meeting

UWASNET members and partners were also sensitized about QuAM certification. The presentation was made by Ms. Joan Amuge, a Programs Officer at Lira NGO Forum. She was representing the National QuAM Secretariat.

She began by giving a background to why the QuAM certification was initiated and what it means for non-governmental organisations.

“Various sectors have standards that govern their professional work. The NGO Quality Assurance Certification Mechanism (QuAM) was put in place to provide a bench mark for NGOs to follow. It is a code to guide NGOs,” she noted.

She noted that in September 2006, QuAM concept was birthed after regional consultations were conducted by Development Network of Indigenous Voluntary Associations (DENIVA) and Uganda National NGO Forum.

She shared that QuAM is a voluntary self-regulation mechanism developed to strengthen the internal governance of NGOs. It aims at promoting adherence by CSOs

to generally acceptable ethical standards of behaviour for responsible practice and ensure NGO orderliness, self-discipline, behaviour, and above all, quality in their work

“QuAM is a self-assessment initiative developed for and by NGOs in Uganda and it emerged out of a stronger call for accountability and transparency in the NGO sector,” she said.

She also shared about the QuAM secretariat, how it is structured and how it works.

She noted that QuAM has altogether 60 standards. 32 Minimum standards and 28 standards that have to be met for an organisation to be QuAM certified.

Since inception, a total of 400 NGOs in Uganda have received QuAM certification and have valid QuAM certificates.

She mentioned that QuAM certification is classified into three levels namely;

The Provisional certification which is only valid for one year and a member must have met between 1—20 QuAM standards.

The Ordinary certification which



Ms. Joan Amuge

is valid for 3 years and an NGO must have met 1-40 standards.

The Advanced certification which is valid for 5 years and an NGO must have met 1-60 standards.

To get the QuAM certificate, NGOs have to pay costs as per their classification namely;

District NGOs pay UGX. 100,000/=, Regional NGOs: UGX. 150,000/=, Regional Networks: UGX. 200,000/=, National NGO: UGX. 300,000/= and International NGOs: UGX. 500,000/=

Members at the pre-paid metered water source operated by AFST



Highlights from the Field Visits



Members at the WASH Business & Innovation Hub initiated by WASEU

The field visit was organized by member organizations under the SIMAVI consortium implementing the WASH SDG 6 programme in Agago district. The field visit constituted four sites where innovations were showed to the UWASNET members and partners participating in the Lango and Acholi regional meeting. First, participants participated in the launch of WASH-FIN, a microfinance institute initiated by WASEU in Patongo to support communities with WASH loans with the aim of achieving WASH improvement at household and community level. The microfinance institute also gives loans to local WASH entrepreneurs to build their businesses and contribute to sustainable WASH improvement at household and community level. The microfinance is operated by WASEU and the minimum amount of money given to a community member is 500,000/=.

The working capital loan can be in form of cash or the materials needed to produce WASH products. Mr. John Walugembe, the Executive Director of WASEU stated that WASHFIN's operation will be like any other microfinance but their major interventions will be WASH. WASHFIN will be

operating a cashless system and money will always be sent directly to the accounts of members, clients will be getting weekly reminders about their liability.

The second field visit site was the WASH Business and Innovation Hub, a one stop center for learning and training of local entrepreneurs to acquire technical skillsets to produce quality



Members also visited the Technology Transfer Centre in Kalongo in Agago district



Members looking at innovations available at the WASH Business & Innovation Hub initiated by WASEU

Highlights from the Field Visits *continued from Pg.6*

and sustainable WASH products. It is also a centre where community members, local entrepreneurs can purchase WASH raw materials and also sell WASH products are sold. During the field visit, members learnt that the Hub also fabricates contactless hand washing facilities and makes liquid soap, sanitary pads, and has different models of latrines that communities can adopt.

UWASNET members and partners interacted with some of the WASH entrepreneurs who included but not limited to liquid soap producers, hand pump mechanics, latrine constructors and emptier .

The heads of the WASH entrepreneurs shared their experiences, Mr. Umar Odongo the leader of the hand pump mechanics shared that they have drilled about thirty (30) shallow wells in Agago district. He also shared that they do routine water testing and treatment.

The WASH Business and Innovation Hub sits on land provided to WASEU by the Patong Town Council.

The third field visit was in Kalongo where Agency for Rural Sustainable Transformation (AFRST) operates a pre-paid water supply system in Wol sub-county. Mr. Otim Noah from AFRST shared that the point water sources in the area have a low functionality rate and high operational costs. The money collection to operate and maintain the systems is also challenging. The pre-paid water system uses a demand driven approach and was constructed to increase WASH service delivery in the community.

Mr. Otim shared that the modular piped water system provides clean treated water and reduces on the time people collect water.

The hand pump on the pre-paid water system is motorized and

serves two water points targeting 600 users with a total of UGX125,000 collected on average.

He also shared that water credit is sent to the water hub where it is received by the vender. The water vender thereby vends the water to the water user at 50shs per 20liter jerry can.

The fourth field visit site was at Lapono rock catchment where rainwater is harvested for use. Simon Peter Sekuma shared that Agago district is rocky geologically and getting ground water is difficult. He mentioned that alternative water solutions were tabled which included rain water harvesting. The grass-thatched houses in the identified community were not viable and drilling boreholes to extract ground water was also hard. He mentioned that rivers in Agago are seasonal and usually dry up during the long dry seasons. He said that the only viable option was to construct a rock catchment and harvest rainwater from the rock outcrop. The rock catchment was constructed in 2019 as part of the WASH SDG programme by Rain Aidenvironment. The rock catchment has water storage of 120m³ capacity which is able to sustain the community for three months.

“Previously people used to walk 1.5km to access water and girls never used to go to school when they are in their periods since there was no water at school but now people in the community and neighbouring health centre are able to access water,” he said.

The fifth field visit site included the Technology Transfer Center supported by AFRST to support masons in technical training and developing sanitation products. The centre is hosted by Kalongo Town Council and is supported under the WASH SDG programme which is funded by the Dutch government.



Mr. Otim Noah from AFRST explaining to members how the water point works & below he shows how to use the chip to access the water



The Field Visits in Pictures



Members also participated in the launch of the WASHfin Microfinance launched by WASEU to give WASH related loans to community groups in Agago



Members interacting with beneficiaries in the field



Technicians at the Technology Transfer Center in Kalongo



Members at the 12,000 rain-water harvesting tank



Members interacting in the field



Members at the Lapono rock used as a catchment for rainwater harvesting. Community members and a nearby healthcare facility use the rainwater harvested from the rock. The rainwater harvesting facility was constructed by Rain, an organization under the SIMAVI consortium

Participants' experiences of the regional meeting



Jimmy , Ass. DWO—Lira

I hoped to learn how partners working in the region have adapted to the current Covid-19 situation and what they are doing to improve WASH service delivery in the different areas they are working in. I also came to network and see how we can collaboratively work with the CSOs to improve WASH in the region. More needs to be done about CLTS. I will follow up on linking the CSOs in Lira to connect with the WASH Innovation Hub and replicate it in Lira.



Raphael Okoth, World Vision

This meeting presents an opportunity for me to learn more from other CSOs in the region specifically the sanitation marketing process. I have learnt more about sanitation marketing and other innovations within the sector. I am going to mobilize more district leaders to participate in regional meetings. I will also ensure that there is collaboration among members, the district local government and private sector



Vincent Odil , John Foley Well Works

I have learnt about the Ministry of Water and Environment sector performance monitoring frameworks and how they compute data for the sector performance report. It was also good learning about the SDG 6 specific focus on 6.1 and 6.2 indicators. The field visit was constructive. I learnt the different possible solutions on how to implement water projects in various areas with different geological formations. I also learnt that as CSOs, there is need to diversify our projects with different WASH products targeting different stakeholders.

Fred Ongom, Plan International

I came to learn from other partners on how they are using and implementing the sanitation marketing approach in scaling up sanitation coverage in their districts of operation. The field visit was eye opening. I liked the pre-paid water stand. I recommend its wider adop-

tion because it has the Operation and Maintenance (O&M) component integrated into it. I also liked the concept of integrating WASH and microfinance. I will follow up on linking WASH entrepreneurs to financial institutions as another way of improved WASH service delivery.



Vincent Okeny, JOY Drilling

I can to learn and share what we are doing. I learnt a lot about WASH innovations from the WASH Innovation Hub we visited. I even bought a satopan. There is need to do an assessment and support communities that have loose soils where pit latrine construction is not possible. As an organization, we will start promoting the treatment of faecal sludge and also promote sanitation marketing.



Nobert Oola , WASEU

I was able to share my organization's work and hear feedback from different partners on the products they saw during the field visit. It has been a great experience to meet

and interact with like-minded individuals and organizations. I have appreciated the discussions on processes to engage government in sanitation improvement and will

follow up on how the different stakeholders are supporting private sector involvement in WASH.

Participants' experiences of the regional meeting



Simon Otim, PACHEDO

Knowledge transfer and sharing during the meeting was good. As the assistant Regional Coordinator, I will follow up on members' reporting using the kobo tool and also train my team on how to use it. There is also need to organize more field visits for learning. There is need to promote

collaboration between the different stakeholders because there are opportunities for building synergies and widening our programming and resource mobilization strategies.



Pauline Akidi – Engineers without Borders (EWB - USA)

It was interesting and inspiring to know the different interesting innovations within the region. I appreciate the rock catchment for rain water harvesting and diversifying the gained and seen innovations in other project areas.



Denis Okello Ogwal, GLOFORD

I now have a better understanding of SDG 6 and its indicators and a better understanding of NDPIII plus the Kobo tool being used to collect data for the annual CSO Performance report. The use of digitized water supply billing is good and should be promoted. I also think the concept of WASH financing by micro-finance institutions and having regional WASH Innovation Center should also be promoted. I will learn more about the WASH Innovation Hub and set up in Lango if I get the resources needed.



Joan Amuge, Lira NGO Forum

The regional meeting was an opportunity to network with other CSOs. I am interested in advocacy and how best it can be done to ensure access to WASH services for all. A lot needs to be done when it comes to the Operation and Maintenance of water sources in the region. There is need to promote new sanitation technologies that are in the market. There is need for continuous sensitization of communities on WASH and increased budget allocation for WASH by the Local Governments.



Kenneth Odur, Children's Chance International

I am appreciative of the capacity strengthening opportunities that UWASNET has shared. I loved the training on SDG 6 indicators. I will follow up on my organization's submission of the information required by CAWST so that my organization can receive the tailored training from CAWST.



Simon Peter Sekuma, NETWAS – Uganda

I came to see opportunities for building synergies and learning from other organizations.

I came to hear what the other organizations are doing. I am happy that the Secretariat has resumed promoting QUAM and following up to ensure that the member or-

ganizations are QUAM certified. I will follow up on my organization's QUAM certification.

Participants' experiences of the regional meeting



Noah Otim, Agency for Rural Sustainable Transformation (AFRST)

This has been a learning experience where different partners have shared what they are doing. I hope to follow up on linking clients and WASH entrepreneurs to the WASHfin Microfinance institution that provides loans for WASH improvement.



Kumbulani Ndlovu, SNV

I am interested in networking and meeting new colleagues. I appreciated the session of the identification of key regional advocacy issues and learning from other partners. I think there is need to enhance CSOs' understanding of NDPIII and its implication to the WASH sub-sector so that CSOs ensure that their programming is aligned to NDPIII and attainment of SDG 6



Thomas Abeja, Ministry of Water and Environment There have been good deliberations and healthy discussions on how to improve WASH service delivery. I see potential of collaboration between the district local government, the decentralized structures of Ministry of Water and Environment to ensure access for all. This has been an opportunity to learn what CSOs are doing in the region.

Valentine Ojoro, AMREF

I have learnt about sanitation marketing, the value chain and linkages. There is need to also promote WASH governance and promote sanitation marketing as a more sustainable approach.



David Ibuyat, USHA

I came to learn & share. The overall assessment is that there is need to increase awareness on the Do-It-Yourself (DIY) approaches.

Francis Ojok, Caritas Lira

I was impressed with how organizations document their work. I will ensure our staff are oriented on the importance of documentation and how to document.

Irene Namusu, SIMAVI

I appreciate the opportunity to know the other partners in the region and learn from them. I have understood the concepts and approaches begin the WASHfin Microfinance Limited, a microfinance institution that lends money for WASH improvement. I also loved the WASH Innovation Hub that promotes best practices for WASH sustainability. I appreciated the rock catchment approach to rainwater harvesting and I hope to integrate some of these ideas into our programs.

Isabella Akello, Link To Progress

I came to learn about any new interventions in the sector and create partnerships for effective and sustainable WASH service delivery. I loved the new technology of the pre-paid water system that I witnessed in Agago district. I hope to link this technology to our water system



Godman Oloya, Water Access Consulting

I have gained from the networking with the partners. There has been knowledge sharing on the WASH technologies. What stood out for me is the documentation of impact of our interventions through the voices of the beneficiaries. I hope my organization can implement the digital water metering technologies as witnessed in Agaga during the field visit.