

*Assessing Governance and Integrity in the Water and
Sanitation Sub-Sector*

Experiences of Good Governance Working Group in
Uganda

Presentation Made

At

Water Integrity Forum

Delft, June 2013

Presentation Outline

- ❑ Background to Good Governance (GG) efforts in WSS, Uganda
- ❑ Previous studies & outputs of GG in WSS sector
- ❑ Strength and Weakness of the Methodology
- ❑ Update of the GG Action Plan Using Study Findings
- ❑ Value of Assessments – Trends Emerging?
- ❑ Emerging Issues
- ❑ Key Lessons Learnt

Background

- In 2006 MWE established the Good Governance Working Group (GGWG) with:
 - representatives of the public sector, the private sector, civil society and development partners
 - Tasked to recommend specific measures to promote and monitor transparency, accountability and good governance in the WSS sub-sector
- In 2008 GGWG commissioned a Water Integrity Study to assess integrity experiences of stakeholders in the provision of water services;
 - Comprised Risk and Opportunity Mapping Study and a Baseline Study on integrity

Strength and Weaknesses of Integrity Studies Methodology

- Risk and Opportunity Mapping Study was conducted through a combination of desk review of policy documents, field trips, and unstructured interviews/discussions with key sector players at the centre , only one local government visited
- The study, therefore, relied on what several other studies had to say about the situation at the local government level.

Strength and Weaknesses of Cont'd

- Baseline Integrity Survey was quantitative in nature involving administered interviews with water consumers, providers, contractors and local governments.
- A three-stage sample design adopted selection of interviews outside Kampala. First stage - selection of districts from which villages (zones or Local Council were sampled to form the second stage. The third and ultimate stage was the selection of the households covering rural areas, small and large towns.

Update of Good governance Action Plan using Study Findings

➤ September, 2009

- A national Stakeholders workshop was held to discuss study findings and the Good Governance Action Plan was updated with key action areas:

Update of Good governance Action Plan using Study Findings (continued)

➤ **Strengthening sector performance and governance oversight**

- Raise political will of Leadership to drive reform process
- Link Water sector with other anti-corruption institutions
- Avail resources to support GGWP

➤ **Enhancing corporate governance for large and small towns water and sewerage service providers**

- Transparency in selection of Private Operators

Update of Good governance Action Plan using Study Findings

➤ **Enforcing rural water supply guidelines**

- strengthen certification of rural water services
- Improve record keeping
- penalise defaulters and reward good performers

➤ **Strengthening of procurement and contract management**

- Improve procurement processes and project implementation
- Build procurement at district level

➤ **Holding water sector institutions (including DPs and NGOs) Account**

- weaknesses in Government are similar to those in NGOs

Value of Assessments – Trends Emerging?

1. The GGAP has the following good attributes:

- Systematic way for the sub-sector to report progress on their key actions quarterly
- Provided the sector an assessment forum where other key emerging issues that are topical can be handled e.g Value for Money for District procurement
- Capacity needs of other partner NGOs come to the fore and can be raised with sector working group for redress
- Actions that need intervention of other institutions outside water sector are highlighted and flagged!
- Funding needs for Governance Improvement (“poor cousin”) highlighted.

Emerging Issues

- Dedicated support for the Good Governance Secretariat: - Personnel
 - Flexible funding for short-term inputs
- Need for follow on water integrity studies to assess effectiveness of the tools (establish trends and gaps). Also to diagnose weaknesses and propose solutions
- Improving water governance is part of the broad Governance question in the whole country
- Water sector is susceptible to political changes such as creation of new districts

Key Lessons Learnt

- Start Small and identify Allies for Good Governance as you go along
- Water sector is quite broad and dynamic so need for different tools for the different sub-sectors (rural, urban – large and small towns, water for production) depending on need
- Procurement & Project Implementation procedures & processes need regular review for sector to keep abreast of challenges especially in Local Governments
- Support for Good Governance secretariat is key to the success of water integrity efforts.
- Support from organisations such as WIN is key to raise the profile of Integrity issues in the sector