

WASH-Based Climate Change Adaptation Strategies in Uganda: NGO Perspective

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Presentation outline

1. Background
2. The WASH-Climate change nexus
3. Pertinent National challenges
4. Strategic Responses
5. Key NGO ASKS

Background

- ❑ According to the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (CC) (IPCC) 5th (2014), warming of the climate system has been happening since the 1950s.
- ❑ The UNFCCC and the Kyoto Protocol (KP) constitute the fundamental global legal instruments on climate change.
- ❑ All actions to CC must conform with the principles of the Convention, in particular those of equity and common but differentiated responsibilities

The WASH-Climate change Nexus---1

- ❑ Majority of climate impacts are/will be felt through the water cycle – droughts, floods, rising sea levels.... This will impact on achieving universal access to sustainable WASH services by 2030.
- ❑ Delivering universal access to sustainable WASH is a critical part of building resilience to the negative impacts of climate change, and should be considered a climate change adaptation mechanism.
- ❑ Over 8 million Ugandans who rely on unimproved drinking water sources will be increasingly vulnerable to climate change because such sources are highly exposed to climatic threats.

The WASH-Climate change Nexus---2

- ❑ Building resilience to CC emphasises the need for integrated sustainable development that addresses the multiple causes of vulnerability.
- ❑ Access to WASH is critical to resilience, as is access to food, education, health services and economic opportunity.

Reflection:

- *Climate change is not the cause of poor WASH coverage. These problems are driven by various governance, financing, management and capacity issues. CC will however be an additional stress on the availability of WASH services.*

Pertinent National challenges

- ❑ Lack of institutional coordination + policy coherence --- Need for clarification of mandates of the many institutions in the ENR sector (NEMA, NFA) breeds contest rather than cooperation
- ❑ Limited private sector mobilisation and action (PPPs?)
- ❑ Low finance for climate change actions by Central & LGs – vote fucn. for UNMA; resources for impl. Of NCCP
- ❑ Key ‘natural cushions’ – water catchments, wetlands under threat - human activities (impunity), pop. growth & rapid urbanization – agric. expansion demand for fuel wood
- ❑ Political interference in implementing CC based programmes – orders to bypass environmental legislations based on political grounds

Strategic responses (1)

In 2015, UNFCCC parties made milestone achievement by concluding the negotiations of Paris Agreement:

- a) To hold the increase in the global average temperature to well below 2°C above pre-industrial levels and to limit temp. increase to 1.5°C above pre-industrial levels
- b) Increase the ability to adapt and foster climate resilience and low greenhouse gas emissions
- c) Develop and make finance flows consistent with a pathway to realize the latter

Uganda developed its Intended Nationally Determined Contribution (INDC) informed by the country's National Climate Change Policy (NCCP) of (2015) and re-echoed in the National Vision 2040

Strategic responses (2)

Proposed Strategy	Estimated cost (Million USD) in the Long Term (15 Years)
a) Promote and encourage water harvesting and efficient water utilisation among individuals, households, institutions and sectors	11.8
b) Ensure availability of water for production in water dependent sectors in order to increase their resilience to climate change impacts	69.5
c) Promote integrated Water resources Management (including underground water resources) plus contingency planning for extreme events such as floods and droughts	105.9

WASH NGOs – Our Key Advocacy “ASKS” (1)

Globally;

1. Climate Finance: More money for adaptation is crucial. These funds must be new and additional to existing international development funding and monitored to ensure that they are provided as grants

WASH NGOs –key Advocacy “ASKS” ----- (2)

Nationally;

1. **Increase Local Financing:** Government leverages existing international climate financing streams with local financing mechanisms for development that enhances water security and delivers sustainable WASH service.
2. **Private sector involvement:** Empower private sector to invest more in WASH and climate change actions especially around water for production to boost the national economy
3. **Institutional strengthening:** Provide an enabling environment through capacity strengthening of institutions---including fast tracking the climate change legislation to allow for coordination and functionality of institutions
4. **Sustainability for WASH:** Sustainable WASH is widely acknowledged as a climate change adaptation mechanism that builds resilience and helps communities cope with both climate variability and change