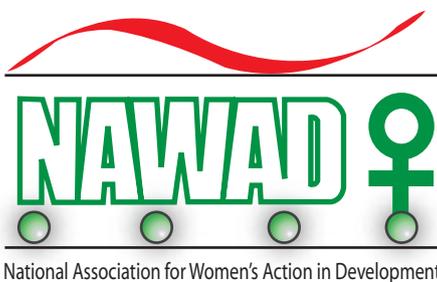


THE REVIEW MEETING ON APPLYING THE HUMAN RIGHTS APPROACH TO WATER AND SANITATION IN UGANDA



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OVERVIEW OF THE REVIEW MEETING;

The National Association for Women's Action in Development (NAWAD) with the help of Both END organized a review meeting on applying the human rights approach to water and sanitation in Uganda on 6th November 2013. The meeting was a stepping stone in a series of advocacy activities to realize the rights to water and sanitation in Uganda. It took place at Lweza Training Center Hotel along Entebbe in Kampala, Uganda.

The main objective of the meeting was to review and perfect the CSO joint statement that was developed during a workshop on the rights to water and sanitation in 2012 to be presented to parliament. The main facilitators of the workshop were Rose Niwagaba- NAWAD, Patience Muramuzi- NAWAD, Sylvia Kyohairwe- NAWAD, Busingye Godard- UCU, Bagambe Steven- LIPRO Uganda and Katuure Grace- NAWAD.

The following recommendations were put across during the workshop;

There is need for advocacy workshops to empower the community on rights to water and sanitation.

There should be a mechanism that ensures sustainable use of natural resources including minerals and energy by all household members.

There is need to promote traditional water harvesting techniques at house hold level.

CSOs working on water and sanitation should organize other stakeholders to jointly advocate for a policy on rights to water and sanitation.

Civil society and other stakeholders should dialogue with the community on issues related to health, environmental and rights to water and sanitation.

Carry out more extensive research on the status of water and sanitation in Uganda.

CSOs to design fundable proposals to address the gaps identified by research and for training on application of rights to water and sanitation.

Communities should play a role in coming up with by-laws to be able to hold on to their own water sources.

For sustainable use of water and ensure good health, the government and other stakeholders are required to;

1. Develop water sources in an orderly manner
2. Prevent wastes and unreasonable use of water
3. Maintain public hygiene and protect the environment
4. The socio-political set up the state should be in line with promoting sustainable use of water and sanitation.
5. Constitutional and administrative arrangements in a state e.g. decentralization to empower people at the local levels
6. Information accessibility is vital especially on human rights. This will make people demand for their right
7. Awareness raising on water as a right
8. Involvement of all stakeholders, i.e., the government, civil society religious leaders, academicians, public etc

NAWAD along with other civil society Organizations had come up with a joint civil society statement and therefore, there was need to agree on how it could be presented to parliament and the best way of achieving it was through a Joint advocacy in promoting water and sanitation accessibility and this should be continuous until implementation is realized.

During the review meeting, a number of challenges were observed that impedes water and sanitation accessibility some of which included;

Women and girls have been sexually abused around water sources because of the long distance from their homes to water sources.

Accessibility at its extreme; women have got involved in accidents when accessing water. ie children falling from their backs when drawing water from dip wells.

Water to reduce the spread of STDs- girls would prefer going to wells late and meet with boys. This is

common with water stressed communities.

The bottled water is a land pollutant which affects the poor who usually engage in subsistence agriculture;

Water for health; women and girls need more water to reduce infections like cholera and ensure healthy bodies especially the girls who experience menstruation.



Water is still inaccessible and the quality is not of standard (all surface water is unsafe).

The following concerns arose;

1. How do we harvest, and store water and are the storage facilities safe?
2. Who should control or own water catchment areas?
3. How is the private sector penetrating in water and sanitation?
4. People are now adopting bottled water; what happens to the poor who need to consume water?
5. Should the government tax water companies and if so, should it use the revenue to increase water services to the poor?
6. Is water affordable to the poor?
7. How will NAWAD bring on board all parties to embrace grass root advocacy?

8. As NAWAD, are we pushing towards realization of RTWS
9. Is there consumer protection in terms of affordability?
Current access to safe water; government target by 2010
Urban areas- 95%, rural areas- 68%, average-72% Sanitation- about 81% excluding Kampala.

Expounding on the right to water and sanitation; To guarantee that rights to water and sanitation are made possible, the following must be considered;



Sufficient; water supply for each person must be sufficient and continuous for personal and domestic use.

Safe; the water required for personal and domestic use must be safe. That is to say, free from micro organisms, chemical substances and radiological hazards that constitute a threat to health.

Acceptable; water should be of an acceptable color, odor and taste for each personal and domestic use, cultural sensitivity, gender, privacy, life styles etc.

Physical accessibility; water sources and sanitation facilities should be within the vicinity and easily accessed.

Affordability; the cost of water should take a very small proportion of the consumer's income to enable him/her enjoy a good standard of living including the poor.

Private public partnership in water sector;

- Garbage collection and disposal
- Water treatment
- Gravity water flow
- Mobile toilet facilities

Water sources protection
Community policing

Review of the joint statement
Suggestions/recommendations on the statement.
This involved all members participating through deliberations, brainstorming and consultations These were the suggestions;

Local government should be mandated to ensure allocation of water resources.

There should be public ownership of water sources so as to guarantee communal use.

Enforcing laws on water and sanitation other than just putting the laws on paper.

On water and sanitation standards, there is need to be specific on the roles. for example, on water standards, the UNBS should be the determinant

NAWAD must have a complete action that parliamentarians can do and not just presenting an essay.

NAWAD needs to put mechanisms to see how their issue is being addressed on the ground.

Working closely with the parliamentarians because they are also after benefiting the community.

Action planning; This involved consultations and deliberations on what needs to be done to make the joint statement a success. These included;

Enforcing laws on water and sanitation other than just putting the laws on paper.



On water and sanitation standards, there is need to be specific on the roles. If its standard let it be UNBS, if it's the government, let it be the government other than being general.

NAWAD must have a complete action that parliamentarians can do and not just presenting an essay NAWAD needs to put mechanisms in place to see how their issue is being addressed on the ground.

Working closely with the parliamentarians because they are also after benefiting the community.

Alliance on rights to water and sanitation with; CSOs, Private sector, Academic institutions, Government, Development partners, Media, Water use committees, V.H.T, Religious institutions, Cultural institutions.

Action points;

1. Refine the joint statement.
2. Presenting the statement to parliament.
3. Disseminating of the information to the public through media, flyers.
4. Sensitizing of the local leaders. Performing artists should be involved.
5. Follow up of the strategy.

Involving academicians and institutions to champion RTWS.



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