



LAKE VICTORIA

WATER AND SANITATION INITIATIVE

FOR A BETTER URBAN FUTURE

UN  HABITAT



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FOREWORD



The rapid growth of many small towns bordering Lake Victoria is causing unprecedented deterioration in the ecosystem of Africa's greatest lake. It is also placing enormous pressure on the capacity of these towns to provide adequate water and sanitation services for their burgeoning populations. The gap between supply and demand in the provision of water and sanitation services will only grow wider unless urgent and concerted action is taken by national governments, development partners, and local authorities in the region.

UN-HABITAT's Water for African Cities Programme, which was launched with the full support of the African Ministerial Conference on Water, aims to promote investments in the water and sanitation sector directed at improving access for the poorest segments of populations in participating cities.

Around Lake Victoria, the agency's Lake Victoria Region Water and Sanitation Initiative, promotes improved access to water and sanitation, encourages efficient water demand management and carries out capacity building activities to ensure sustainability of the improved water and sanitation facilities, and to mitigate the environmental impact of urbanization on freshwater sources. Further, it seeks to improve public awareness of water management and conservation practices, thereby preparing the ground for follow-up investments.

In many smaller towns in Africa, poor maintenance and inadequate human resources capacity has resulted in the dilapidation of water and sanitation infrastructure. Yet, with relatively modest support, the water, sanitation, solid waste management and drainage services in these towns can be considerably improved.

The Lake Victoria Region Water and Sanitation Initiative is a joint project involving UN-HABITAT and the Governments of Kenya, Tanzania and Uganda. Its broader objective is to help towns around the Lake attain the water and sanitation targets of the Millennium Development Goals.

This publication shows how a series of quick impact interventions to improve access to water and sanitation services for the poor have been implemented in seven towns in Kenya, Uganda and Tanzania, in parallel with a fast track capacity building programme to ensure that these quick impact interventions are sustainable.

At UN-HABITAT, we are working closely with the East African Community, the African Development Bank and others, to bring the initiative to other towns in the Region including neighbouring Rwanda and Burundi. It is our duty to help improve the quality of life of people living in poverty in the towns within the Lake Victoria Basin and to ensure the best possible conservation of this greatest of lakes.



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BACKGROUND

The rapidly growing urban centres in the Lake Victoria basin are playing an increasingly important role in the economic development of the region. But most of these towns are experiencing unplanned, spontaneous growth. The run-down and often non-existent basic infrastructure and services in most of them poses a major threat to their sustainability.

The poor people of these urban and peri-urban areas are the most affected. Official statistics are often misleading and do not reveal the true extent of the problem. The unplanned urban development and intense pressure on basic infrastructure have had a significant negative impact on living conditions, the natural environment, and the fragile ecosystem of the Lake.

These secondary towns are yet to reap the benefits of upstream reforms taking place in the water and sanitation sector in the East African countries. The local authorities, overwhelmed by the rapid and unplanned development of these towns, lack the capacity and resources to address the widening demand-supply gap. Unless a coordinated effort is made by the national and local authorities, supported by the international community, the supply-demand gap will continue to increase, significantly curtailing the prospects of these towns to achieve the Millennium Development Goals for water and sanitation.

A MODEL FOR ACHIEVING MDG TARGETS AND FOSTERING REGIONAL COOPERATION

The sustainability of the smaller urban centres is critical to development of the region. Demonstrating an

integrated approach to the provision of basic services in these towns and enhancing capacity at local levels for the towns to manage themselves will provide a model for national authorities and donors (including international financing institutions) to replicate this approach in other towns in the region. The initiative will also foster regional cooperation by sharing of experiences and exchange of expertise among the three East African countries.

LINKAGES WITH OTHER ON-GOING INITIATIVES

The Lake Victoria Region Water and Sanitation Initiative is working with two ongoing programmes coordinated by the East African Community Secretariat, the Lake Victoria Environmental Management Programme and the Nile Basin Initiative. It has also established collaborative linkages with the NEPAD Water Agenda for the region facilitated by the African Development Bank, and other regional initiatives.



OBJECTIVES

The overall objective of the Lake Victoria Water and Sanitation Initiative is to make a substantial and rapid contribution to the achievement of internationally-agreed water and sanitation goals in secondary towns in the Lake Victoria region in East Africa, involving 15 urban settlements and 1 million people in Kenya, Tanzania and Uganda. This Model-setting initiative seeks to demonstrate the balance between innovative approaches to investment in physical infrastructure and investments in capacity-building for sustainability. The Initiative has set clear quantitative targets for the number of persons to be provided with improved access to water and sanitation services within an agreed timeframe.

With a clear pro-poor focus, the Lake Victoria Region Water and Sanitation Initiative is designed to generate desirable outcomes that will have a lasting effect on the poor. These include improved access to water and sanitation services, functional and gender-focused approaches for sustainable management and performance monitoring of the rehabilitated systems, institutionalized capacity building programmes to

SPECIFIC OBJECTIVES

- Promote pro-poor water and sanitation investments in the secondary urban centres in the Lake Victoria Region
- Support development of institutional and human resource capacities at local and regional levels for the sustainable delivery of improved water and sanitation services
- Facilitate realization of upstream water sector reforms at the local level in the participating urban centres
- Reduce the environmental impact of urbanization in the Lake Victoria Basin

regularly upgrade the capacity of stakeholders, and a contribution to the reduction in pollutant loads entering into Lake Victoria. Implemented in tandem with ongoing sector reforms in the region, these interventions will lead to improved health and productivity for populations in the secondary towns participating in the programme.



IMPLEMENTATION STATUS

Short-term interventions designed to deliver immediate results in seven towns in the first phase of the project have been substantially completed in Kisii and Homa Bay in Kenya, Nyendo/Ssenyange and Kyotera in Uganda, Bukoba and Muleba in Tanzania, and the border town of Mutukula. With a total contractual commitment of US \$ 6.2 million, these interventions are scheduled to be completed by December, 2008 and are to provide access to safe drinking water for 130,000 people, and improve sanitation to another 20,000. An additional US \$300,000 has been channelled through local NGOs in Uganda and Kenya.

To improve environmental sanitation in the towns and reduce the pollution load entering Lake Victoria, the Initiative is supporting the project towns to enhance efficiency in the collection and disposal of solid waste. A solid waste management system suitable for small urban centres has been designed, the necessary equipment been procured and is awaiting delivery to the towns, with operation and maintenance training for selected employees of local authorities in the project towns being undertaken both on location and at the manufacturers' premises.

KENYA

In Kisii, rehabilitation of the intake works at Kegati has been successfully completed. A 10km distribution pipeline has been laid, 10 public water kiosks and another 10 VIP latrines in public institutions have also been constructed and handed over to the Multistakeholder Forum for management.

In Homa Bay town rehabilitation of both the old and new intakes has been successfully completed, and new pumps installed. The works are now complete and were handed over in April 2008. These involved the rehabilitation of the treatment works at Makongeni, laying of approx 1 km of PVC pipeline, installation of 10 tipping bins and 4 waste transfer stations, construction of 10 VIP latrines in selected schools and public areas and a number of water kiosks in low income settlements.

TANZANIA

In Bukoba, the rehabilitation of the main water source at the Customs Intake has been completed, resulting in a doubling of the water production capacity. The construction of 25 domestic water points and sanitation facilities have been completed and handed over. The rehabilitation of 3 Water Storage Tanks and 3 Septic Tanks at the Prison has also been completed.

In Muleba a major water supply scheme is in progress consisting of rehabilitation works at Ihako Springs and



Nyamwala Springs, installation of a 13 kms new water mains, the construction of a 680 cubic metre storage reservoir and upgrading of the distribution system. In addition, an existing borehole at Magata is being improved and 15 domestic water points and 10 public VIP sanitation facilities constructed.

UGANDA

In Uganda, the focus has been on the construction of sanitation facilities in the towns of Kyotera and Nyendo Ssenyange which is now substantially complete and most have been put into operation. These comprise construction of 20 sanitation blocks (comprising both toilets and bathrooms) at Orphanages, Schools and Public Buildings. The construction of an improved water scheme to serve Kyotera, a town with a population of 12,000, has also commenced. In the border town of Mutukula, two successful boreholes were drilled last year. Designs for a water system are being finalized.

A pilot rainwater harvesting project to address the drinking water needs of Orphan-Headed Households was completed in December 2007 and has had an immediate impact, providing safe drinking water to over 2,020 persons, in addition to providing skills training to 1,560 persons, and supporting the establishment of 40 micro-credit schemes to facilitate replication.

IMPLEMENTING FAST-TRACK CAPACITY BUILDING

Experience gained in the implementation of the UN-HABITAT water and sanitation programme indicates

that improvements in water and sanitation services delivery cannot be achieved purely by providing technical solutions. Dilapidated infrastructure, low levels of revenue collection, poor management, and lack of accountability in governance are major obstacles to the sustainable improvement of access to water and sanitation services, particularly in low-income peri-urban settlements.

To respond to the immediate need to strengthen the management and operational capacity of the utility managers in the project towns, the National Water and Sewerage Corporation (NWSC) of Uganda, was contracted by UN-HABITAT to undertake urgent capacity building activities in five project towns: Kisii and Homa Bay in Kenya, Bukoba and Muleba in Tanzania and the border town of Mutukula. These efforts have been focused on equipping the



THE NATIONAL WATER AND SEWERAGE CORPORATION TRAINING AND CAPACITY BUILDING PROGRAMME AS AN EXAMPLE OF SUCCESSFUL PARTNERSHIPS BETWEEN WATER OPERATORS

Improvement in customer care is just one area in which the Gusii Water and Sewerage Company and three other water utilities in the Lake Victoria region have benefited thanks to their interaction with professionals from the National Water and Sewerage Corporation (NWSC) of Uganda – one of the region's 'champion' utilities. Through exchange visits and follow-up training, management and staff of the Gusii Water and Sewerage Company have witnessed first hand how well an East African utility can perform, and have taken up the challenge to improve their own performance. Like an overwhelming majority of water service providers around the world, the National Water and Sewerage Corporation is a publicly owned and operated utility. It has one of the lowest rates of unaccounted-for-water on the continent, outstanding customer-employee service ratios, and the capacity to fund most of its capital investments through internally-generated funds.

While the Gusii Water and Sewerage Company has a long way to go before it attains the performance standards of the National Water and Sewerage Corporation, the most difficult area of change -that of attitude - has already occurred, notes the NWSC External Services Unit, which is charged with transfer of know-how to other utilities through training and capacity building services. While the Gusii Water and Sewerage Company have been involved in many donor-funded capacity building programmes in the past, the National Water and Sewerage Corporation programme has had the greatest impact, and participants acknowledge that this had everything to do with exposure to practical examples at work on the ground.

This mode of peer-to-peer exchange between utilities is at the core of the strategy adopted by the Global

Water Operators' Partnership Alliance, a new worldwide mechanism that aims to improve access to clean water and basic sanitation, particularly for poor communities. With support from the Global Water Operators' Partnerships, management and staff of different water utilities will be able to share information and exchange know-how more easily with each other, drawing on professional technical support and other complimentary resources provided by governments and donor agencies.

UN-HABITAT, the agency tasked with promoting socially and environmentally sustainable cities, is hosting the new Global Water Operators Partnership Alliance, whose aim is to strengthen the capacities of public water operators. The Alliance is a major plank in efforts to meet Goal 7, target 10 of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) which calls for halving the proportion of people without access to safe drinking water, by 2015, as well as the target set in the Johannesburg Plan of implementation during the World Summit on Sustainable Development in 2002 to halve by 2015 the proportion of people without access to basic sanitation.

The Water Operators' Partnership concept is founded on the basic notion that ample capacity to address problems ranging from extension of services into informal settlements to the beneficial reuse of wastewater sludge resides within the water and sanitation utilities of the world. The problem lies in getting that know-how where it is needed. While exchanges between water operators' is by no means a new concept, GWOP aims to intensify and scale-up partnership amongst utilities and create mechanisms to facilitate the exchange of practical, useable, and relevant information and knowledge.

participating utilities with the skills and software to enhance revenue collection and expand their revenue base, improve customer orientation, and strengthen their capacity for efficient maintenance and operations of existing infrastructure. The Corporation developed customized high-impact training modules covering commercial services, customer care, revenue collection, reduction of leakages and illegal connections, block mapping, organisational development, and change in management. These efforts have resulted in significant reductions in the levels of unaccounted for water, improved revenue collection, and better staff morale.

A key component of the fast track capacity building programme has been the preparation of Performance Improvement Plans to provide a strategic management and performance monitoring tool for each utility. The first quarter evaluation of the PIPs has shown that major improvements were registered by participating towns vis-à-vis the quarter prior to implementation of the Plans.

CHALLENGES IN THE PROVISION OF BASIC SERVICES IN SMALL TOWNS

Due to rapid population growth coupled with little attention to proper urban planning, small towns share a number of unique capacity needs. With many of them having doubled in size over the past decade, demand has far outstripped the capacity of local authorities to deliver basic services. This problem is compounded by the fact that the majority of new migrants to these small towns are poor, resulting in rapid growth in low-income settlements with low levels of access to basic services such as water and sanitation. In addition, water sector reforms and decentralization

processes have left many local authorities with increased responsibilities for the provision of basic services without a corresponding increase in resource allocation or growth in resource base.

PARTNERSHIPS

In addition to the capacity building activities, sustainability and replicability of the LWATSAN programme is further strengthened by ensuring that field experience is fed into normative tools and guidelines to facilitate replication, and that strategic partnerships are developed with national level stakeholders, development banks and other multi-lateral and bilateral agencies to scale up innovative and successful approaches supported by the programme.

IMPLEMENTATION PARTNERSHIPS ESTABLISHED BY THE LAKE VICTORIA WATER AND SANITATION INITIATIVE (LWATSAN)

- National Governments -
Kenya, Tanzania, Uganda (Phase I)
Rwanda and Burundi (Phase II)
- African Development Bank
- Secretariat of the East African Community
- Lake Victoria Basin Commission of the EAC
- National Water and Sewerage Corporation -
Uganda
- Lake Victoria South Water Services
Board - Kenya
- SNV Netherlands
- Federation of Canadian Municipalities
- Gender and Water Alliance
- Sustainable Cities Programme (SCP)
- UN-HABITAT Monitoring Branch

A major step in this direction was taken in 2007 with the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding between UN-HABITAT and the East African Community (EAC). The MoU establishes a framework for cooperation to replicate the LVWATSAN Programme in 15 additional towns in 5 countries with Rwanda and Burundi being included as new countries. Following submission of an investment proposal to the African Water Facility, a grant to fund the project formulation phase has been approved and procedures to select a consulting firm to undertake the formulation study are now being implemented. The study is expected to begin in January, 2009 and is expected to lead to a follow up package of investments from the African Development Bank.

In the meantime, a needs assessment mission has been undertaken in Rwanda and Burundi to identify



new project towns to be funded by the African Development Bank.



LONG TERM PLANNING

With the immediate interventions now substantially completed, planning for the long term interventions is almost complete. The long-term interventions are being designed to ensure that the Initiative achieves its agreed output targets to extend water supplies to 230,000 persons and improved basic sanitation to 220,000 persons. In addition to the existing project towns, Long-term activities shall be extended to include Bondo in Kenya, Bunda in Tanzania and Bugembe in Uganda.

Results of the Urban Inequities Survey carried out by the UN-HABITAT Monitoring Systems Branch

reveal that the level of access to sanitation in the seven towns participating in the first phase of the Lake Victoria Water and Sanitation Programme is very low. A sanitation strategy has been prepared for implementation in 2008/2009. The strategy was shaped by an analysis of the special situation of small urban centres, as well as the experiences in the two regional programmes and the results of a series of rapid gender assessments that were carried out in the latter part of 2007. As part of this strategy, the programme is undertaking the implementation of a micro-credit scheme for construction of sanitation facilities targeting female-headed households in the project towns. The scheme, to be implemented in partnership with local Non-Governmental Organizations and Micro-finance institutions, is due to be launched in late 2008.

IMPLEMENTING AN INTEGRATED CAPACITY BUILDING PROGRAMME

The long term interventions will be complemented by an integrated programme of training and capacity building to address the capacity gaps and priorities in the project towns. Following recommendations of a workshop held in October 2006, UN-HABITAT has brought together a consortium of internationally renowned capacity building institutes with complementary strengths in capacity building in the water and sanitation sector – IHE Delft Institute for Water Education, SNV Netherlands, the Gender and Water Alliance, and the Federation of Canadian Municipalities – to develop a comprehensive programme to deliver multi-layered training to enhance management, governance, operations, and maintenance capacity in the project towns.

After carrying out detailed needs assessments in each town, these partners are designing tailor-made training modules to enable these towns to fully support, sustain and reap maximum benefit from the improvements to water, sanitation and solid waste infrastructure being implemented in the towns by the Lake Victoria Water and Sanitation Initiative.

Given the complexity of needs identified at the workshop, a broad range of groups have been targeted by the capacity building interventions. These include staff of local government authorities, representatives of Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs) and Community Based Organizations (CBOs), formal and informal private sector enterprises engaged in the delivery of water, sanitation and solid waste management services, sector institutions, and members of the town level Multi-stakeholder Forums.

While the consortium of international training partners will be involved mainly in conceptualizing the training programme, designing training materials and providing leadership in the implementation process, actual training will be delivered by local and regional training institutes who have relevant experience in the Lake Victoria region. Through Training of Trainers (ToTs) and on-going mentoring plans, the capacity of these local institutions will be strengthened, enabling them to anchor the knowledge in the region, and thereby continue to serve as local resources beyond the life cycle of the project. It is envisaged that inception of the training programme will take place in the third quarter of 2008, with the Training of Trainers commencing by the end of the year.

PROGRAMME MANAGEMENT

PROGRAMME STEERING COMMITTEE

At the regional level, policy guidance for the LVWATSAN Initiative is provided jointly by the Ministers responsible for water in the partner countries, the Secretariat of the East African Community (EAC), whose technical committee has fully endorsed and supports the programme, and UN-HABITAT.

PROJECT MANAGEMENT UNITS

In each country, three levels of programme management have been established under a framework for the management, implementation and co-ordination of the Lake Victoria Region Water and Sanitation Initiative (LVWATSAN) as established in Memorandum of Understanding (MOUs) signed between UN-HABITAT and the Governments of Kenya,



Tanzania and Uganda, respectively, in June 2006.

The MOUs provide for the establishment of Project Management Units (PMUs) responsible for overall coordination and management of projects at regional or national level.

PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION UNITS

At the town level, project implementation is coordinated by Project Implementation Units (PIUs), chaired by the respective Town Clerks.

MULTI-STAKEHOLDER FORUMS

To encourage ownership at local level, Multi-Stakeholder Forums (MSFs) bringing together representatives of municipal authorities, service providers, local private sector, NGOs, and CBOs have been formed in the project towns. The MSFs facilitate the active participation of a broad range of stakeholders at town level, in the design and implementation of the programme interventions. They also help to raise local awareness, develop understanding, ensure buy-in and build local support for the programme by promoting active stakeholder participation.

UN-HABITAT COUNTRY TEAMS

In each of the project countries, UN-HABITAT has a National Chief Technical Advisor (CTA) and a Programme Manager (HPM) who assist the implementation teams in providing programme management advice. These are supported by teams of local experts engaged on a consultancy basis.

TOWN LEVEL STAKEHOLDERS OF THE LAKE VICTORIA INITIATIVE

Poor Women and Men, the Elderly, Youth, Orphans and Other Vulnerable Groups

These are often excluded from decision-making but are the most affected by the lack of water and sanitation services. The Lake Victoria Initiative supports the participation of poor women and men, youth, orphan-headed households, the elderly, people living with AIDS and other marginalized groups in the Multi-Stakeholder forum.

Local Authorities-

The staff and the elected leadership of the Local Authorities, the mayor and councilors participate in all stages of the Lake Victoria Initiative to ensure that it is properly integrated into the local urban planning system.

Non-Governmental Organizations and Community-Based Organizations

NGOs and CBOs are given the responsibility for community mobilization and implementation of community water and sanitation schemes. They are also responsible for community awareness raising, training and education activities. Partnership building with local authorities also creates opportunities for contracting non-governmental organizations and community groups for service provision.

Local Water and Sanitation Service Providers

Water and sanitation utilities and small-scale providers are managers of assets and any assistance in infrastructure or capacity building have a direct impact on the management of their operations. The Lake Victoria Initiative improves on the assets and management capacity, to ensure sustainability of the project. It also assists in building the capacity of local service providers in the areas of business

plan development, financial management, technical management, including operations and maintenance and demand management.

Local Private Sector

The LVWATSAN Initiative promotes engagement of the local private sector during implementation. Furthermore, town-wide improvements in water supply, sanitation, drainage and solid-waste management will attract investments and increase local economic activities in the participating towns. The local private sector will, therefore, be direct beneficiaries of the Lake Victoria Initiative.

Local Water Vendor Associations

The water vendors are currently responsible for most of the service provision to the poor communities in the participating towns. To avoid the inevitable loss of income, the Lake Victoria Initiative supports the vendors in facilitating and supporting the formation of associations of small-scale service providers; providing access to finance and supporting development of entrepreneurship skills; regulating prices and monitoring quality of water supplied to consumers; and establishing linkages with utilities (through franchising etc.) to ensure vertical integration and synergy.

Local Media

The local media are being engaged in raising the awareness level of water, sanitation, waste management and drainage issues in the Lake Victoria Initiative in general, and in the participating towns, in particular, among political leaders, policy makers, development partners, and beneficiary communities.

PROMOTING GENDER PARITY

In many local cultures in the Lake Victoria region, women and girls bear the primary responsibility for water, sanitation and hygiene at the household level. For them, sanitation means more than just latrines: it incorporates safety and dignity. They require sufficient water for personal use to maintain good hygiene, as well as local drainage systems that ensure wastewater is not discharged into the areas around their households. Unhygienic public toilets and latrines without water facilities threaten the health and dignity of women, exposing them to myriad infections, particularly those affecting their reproductive organs.

Recognizing the unique sensitivity of women to inadequate clean water and proper sanitation facilities, UN-HABITAT in partnership with Gender and Water Alliance carried out a rapid gender and vulnerability assessment in the last quarter of 2007 to determine the main water and sanitation concerns of women and vulnerable groups in Kenya, Uganda and Tanzania.

The assessment indicates that while water supply for poor communities attracts greater attention from policy makers and local authorities, more focus should be on sanitation policies targeting the poorest segments of communities, particularly women and vulnerable groups such as orphans and the physically challenged. Furthermore, the assessment indicates that the dire lack of sanitation facilities could be mitigated through the enactment and enforcement of local authority by-laws, e.g. compelling landlords in informal settlements to provide adequate sanitation facilities for their tenants. The construction of communal sanitation facilities in high density informal settlements with little space for individual household

facilities would greatly help, in particular women and girls.

Public institutions such as hospitals and schools should also be sensitised on the issue that their sanitation facilities respond to the specific needs of women and girls, the physically challenged, and the elderly. In many primary schools, lack of water and inadequate provision of sanitation facilities result in high drop-out rates for girls. The Initiative has identified the need for campaigns to raise public awareness about these issues, and to change attitudes and behaviour by sensitising communities to the importance of good hygiene. Local opinion leaders and other community leaders are critical partners in this process.



RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE REGIONAL GENDER MAINSTREAMING WORKSHOP HELD IN KAMPALA, UGANDA 3-4 APRIL, 2008

There is a need to increase participation of men, women and vulnerable groups in existing water and sanitation project design, implementation and monitoring structures to ensure that their needs for water and sanitation are addressed.

Access to micro-credit and revolving funds by poor households is critical in order to enhance their capacity to construct household sanitation facilities, and participate in community management and maintenance of public water and sanitation facilities.

There is an urgent need for local authorities to formulate and enforce policies and by-laws that address gender and vulnerability concerns in water and sanitation projects at the local level.

Parity in representation of women, men and vulnerable persons in the Multistakeholder Forums in participating towns ensures gender sensitive development, implementation and monitoring of projects and should be actively promoted.

Guidelines for the operation and maintenance of public water and sanitation facilities constructed under the Lake Victoria Water and Sanitation Initiative should make provisions for effective and balanced participation by women groups.

Contractors engaged in project implementation should promote gender parity in employment and promote local economic growth by offering as many local opportunities as possible to women.



STRATEGIC URBAN PLANNING



Like so many urban centres in Africa, the Lake Victoria towns reveal all of the worst features of unplanned and haphazard development as a result of the absence of effective urban planning systems. Through the Initiative, UN-HABITAT is assisting the towns in preparing urban plans to guide their future development and to facilitate the design of the infrastructure works being carried out. In this regard, urban plans have already been completed for 5 of the 7 pilot towns through a participatory process linked to training and capacity building. These plans are to

be coupled with priority Action Plans and Investment Plans thereby linking them with budgeting processes of the respective local authorities and of relevant central government ministries.

Phase I of the urban planning initiative in the Lake Victoria region is being carried out in Homa Bay and Kisii in Kenya, Masaka and Kyotera in Uganda, and Bukoba and Muleba in Tanzania and the border town of Mutukula.

PARTICIPATORY COMMUNICATION STRATEGIES

Visibility of the Lake Victoria Water and Sanitation Initiative has been enhanced through participation in international and regional water and sanitation conferences, workshops, and exhibitions at the global and regional levels. These include the 3rd World Water Forum, the AfriCities Conference, the 21st Governing Council of UN-HABITAT and the Stockholm Water Week. All these events featured exhibitions highlighting programme activities; promotional and information material on the programme was widely disseminated.

VIDEOS ON LVWATSAN

To support awareness raising activities, a series of baseline television documentaries have been produced on the Lake Victoria Region Water and Sanitation Programme. These include documentaries on each of the seven project towns, an overall programme documentary and three Public Service Announcements (PSAs) which were distributed to various TV networks in the region. The productions focus on major water, sanitation and solid waste management problems in the towns, and the physical interventions being undertaken by the programme.

Following the completion of Phase I interventions of the Lake Victoria Water and Sanitation Programme, production of post-intervention video documentaries is underway. These documentaries focus on project beneficiaries in the project towns and the overall contribution of the interventions towards the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals for water and sanitation.

WEBSITE

In order to facilitate interactive engagement with programme partners, the programme website is being

updated to enhance content, improve user friendliness, and ensure that up-to-date information on all programme activities in all the project towns is available on the website. To improve access to programme information and documentation, an Extranet has been developed as an information repository to which key programme stakeholders and partners will have access.

PROMOTIONAL MATERIALS

To enhance programme advocacy and outreach at the national, regional and global levels, publication of a range of outreach material is on-going. These include brochures, flyers, posters, exhibition panels, and other promotional material. In addition, a number of toolkits are being developed based on the experience gained and lessons learnt in implementation of the first phase of the programme.

At the town level, Communication and Awareness Committees (CACs) have been formed to support the development and implementation of localized communications and awareness campaigns. Schools Awareness Campaigns are also being developed as integral components of all town level communications and awareness plans.

To ensure active community participation and engender a sense of local ownership of the communication and awareness campaigns, partnerships have been forged with local NGOs, CBOs, Faith-based groups, women and youth groups and other organized community groups. The programme is also developing partnerships with local FM radio stations in the region to promote water, sanitation and hygiene education and awareness at community level and in schools.

TARGETING ORPHAN AND CHILD HEADED HOUSEHOLDS

The effects of the HIV/AIDS pandemic on communities living around the Lake Victoria region are most clearly manifested in the number of orphans left under the care of older siblings, who are themselves often children under the age of 18.

LWATSAN is implementing a project to improve access to water and sanitation for HIV/AIDS Orphan and Child Headed Households in the Region in collaboration with Community Based Organizations (CBOs) and Faith Based Organizations (FBOs) already active in fighting HIV/AIDS.

In Uganda, the Uganda Women's Efforts to Save Orphans (UWESO), is a key partner in a demonstration project covering Masaka, Kyotera, Nyendo and Mutukula towns. The project will be replicated in neighboring countries in the region and consultations are now ongoing with potential implementing partners in Tanzania and Kenya.



The pilot projects demonstrate that on-site sanitation and Rain Water Harvesting (RWH) schemes are viable and sustainable alternatives for marginalized and disadvantaged groups, with a focus on improving local knowledge and enhancing skills in the construction of affordable on-site sanitation and rain water harvesting systems.

The project promotes appropriate and affordable water and sanitation technology options that respond to real needs on the ground, can be managed by the communities, and are replicable. Awareness raising approaches are participatory and inclusive to promote meaningful and lasting change in attitudes, behaviour and practices, and engender proper conservation, use and management of water at the household and community levels, and the adoption of improved hygiene and sanitation practices.

ENHANCING MUNICIPAL CAPACITY FOR SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT



The widespread and indiscriminate dumping of solid waste in open places, streets and public markets, presents a formidable challenge for the municipal authorities in the Lake Victoria towns. In fact, studies carried out by UN-HABITAT show that because of limited capacity, the Municipal Authorities are collecting less than 5% of household waste. The remaining 95% is contributing to the serious problems of environmental pollution and the deteriorating quality of the water in Lake Victoria. LVWATSAN is working with the Municipalities and local communities to enhance their capacity to improve solid waste management systems. The focus is on providing the necessary equipment for the collection and disposal of waste, complemented by training, institutional development and public awareness, as well as strengthening community based initiatives in waste management.

A special solid waste management system has been designed which takes into account the size of the towns and the haul distance to the disposal sites. The seven project towns in the first phase interventions for Solid Waste Management are all relatively small with

populations of between 20,000 and 200,000. This means that waste quantities in each town are quite small, with each town being responsible for its own waste disposal. The haul distances from the towns to the disposal sites are all relatively short - typically 3km to 10 km. In this regard tractors are much more cost effective than trucks in providing collection services due to their lower capital and operating costs and longer life expectancy.

Tractor trailed systems have therefore been recommended for six of the seven towns, using either low loading height trailers or high tipping container trailer pick-up system. These trailers have been manufactured by Farm Engineering Industries Limited (FEIL) in Kisumu, Kenya to a designs and specifications provided by UN-HABITAT. A small pickup, manufactured by NDUME Engineering limited of Gilgil, also in Kenya, uses a two wheeled tractor as a power source and has been modified to suit UN-HABITAT's requirements. For one town, Mutukula, it has been recommended that the Little Pickup would meet all the waste haulage requirements.

MONITORING IMPROVED WATER AND SANITATION COVERAGE

UN-HABITAT has developed a comprehensive framework to monitor water and sanitation coverage in 17 towns as part of the LVWATSAN Initiative. This process will help in tracking progress towards meeting the water and sanitation targets set out in the Millennium Development Goals (MDG 7 Goal 10) and the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation. It will also ensure that investments in the LVWATSAN Programme target the poorest communities in these towns.

The monitoring framework incorporates a baseline household survey (the Urban Inequities Survey), development of a Geographic Information System (GIS) for each secondary urban centre, application of Remote Sensing Technology in community profiling (through the acquisition of High Resolution Satellite data), and building the capacity of local authorities to maintain and update the information.

URBAN INEQUITIES SURVEY (UIS) CARRIED OUT IN 17 SECONDARY URBAN CENTRES

Urban Inequity Survey tools were developed by the Monitoring Systems Branch of UN-HABITAT and localized for the project area in collaboration with the National Statistical Bureau of each country. This is the first time high resolution satellite imagery has been used during the UIS baseline surveys by the National Statistical Bureaus in the project countries to create the spatial information profile of water, sanitation, solid waste and other infrastructure in each of the enumeration areas of the towns.

A comprehensive Interviewers' and supervisor's manual has been developed for the Urban Inequity Survey data collection process.

GIS DATABASE DEVELOPED FOR THE TOWNS

Application of Geospatial technology in urban planning, utility networks and socio-economic mapping is not only useful for implementation of the LVWATSAN Programme, but also enhances the capacity of local and national authorities in planning and policy formulation.

UN-HABITAT applied geospatial technology, using very high resolution satellite imagery (0.6m resolution) for each project town. The satellite images were used to develop the GIS map layers along with the available maps or other GIS data sources for future geospatial applications such as urban info, revenue mapping, utility mapping, etc.

All the digital maps are synchronized on the same GIS platform as the first building block of the GIS databases. Dynamic geo-databases have also been developed, similar to the static statistical database, where all the information such as the structure or building's name, location, size, plot number, purpose etc., has been recorded.

This was also the first time all the National Statistical Bureaus have applied Geo-spatial techniques in field data collection similar to their traditional census exercises. Convergence of digital technology in mapping opens a new dimension in traditional census processes, enabling the National Statistical Bureaus in the five East African countries to adopt a geospatial technological approach in their upcoming census exercises.



The Lake Victoria Region Water and Sanitation Initiative is a collaborative effort between UN-HABITAT, the Governments of Kenya, Tanzania and Uganda, and the Secretariat of the East African Community. It supports small towns in the Lake Victoria region to attain the water and sanitation targets of the Millennium Development Goals. Its objectives are to improve the water supply and sanitation coverage for the poor and to reduce the pollution of the Lake from these towns.

A series of quick impact interventions to improve access to water and sanitation services especially for the poor and vulnerable segments of the populations have been implemented in 7 towns in Kenya, Uganda and Tanzania. A fast track capacity building programme to ensure that these quick impact interventions are sustainable has also been undertaken. UN-HABITAT is working closely with the East African Community and the African Development Bank to expand the Programme to include more towns, including some in Rwanda and Burundi.

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UN HABITAT
FOR A BETTER URBAN FUTURE

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