

Motivation

For the last over two decades, significant amounts of money have been pumped into the sector to improve issues of access and functionality for the resource poor peoples. However, much of the funding available in the Ministry of Water and Environment (MWE), Directorate for Water Development (DWD) and Local Governments (LGs) is being used or abused by public officials for private gain. Government of Uganda, Civil Society Organizations and the Donor community are increasingly committed to improving the efficient and effective use of Water and Sanitation funds.

Objectives

- Analyze the national budgeting process
- Establish and track the chain flow of funds and budget support to water and sanitation sector from the centre to the end-user
- Analyze local government accountability mechanisms in selected districts and adherence to set policies in implementation of water and sanitation projects at user level.

Main findings

- The budgeting and planning process for Water and Sanitation is not consultative enough to capture the local district priorities.
- Lack of proper physical and financial accountability especially at the District level
- The planning process as indicated in the water and sanitation guidelines is not appropriately adhered to
- Inadequate coordination between departments at district level
- Poor record keeping
- None of the Districts visited had an assets register for water and sanitation investments
- None of the Districts visited has displayed budget information and release of funds on public notice boards for public viewing.

Leakage

The poor procurement practices at district level were cited as the leading cause of leakages of funds for provision of safe and clean water to the community.

Other findings

- Delays in procurement and contracting of water and sanitation works and services
- In some cases, the largest portion of resources receivable from the national budget is only credited to the district accounts in the 4th quarter.

Sample

983 water users

Sample design

At the central level, Ministries and departments were purposively selected because of their role and contribution to the planning and provision of water and sanitation services. 8 districts were sampled from each of the 4 regions in Uganda. Random 2 sub –counties were randomly sampled from each of the districts where study visits were conducted at the water facilities. At least 8 facilities were visited in every district

Resources monitored

- Water and sanitation funds allocation from Finance Planning and Economic Development to districts

5 levels:

- Central level
- Districts
- Sub-counties
- Communities water points facilities
- Water users
- Data from FY 2004-2005 to FY 2008-2009

Recommendations

- Need to provide civil society and the community in general with access to the quarterly financial releases from the Ministry of Finance and to the local governments to facilitate timely tracking of public expenditure to prevent the current losses and leakages.
- Need to introduce Integrity Pacts in procurement of goods and services in the water and sanitation sector

Main report

Anti Corruption Coalition Uganda (2009) “Public Expenditure Tracking Survey in the Water Sector,” June.