

National WASH Multi-Stakeholder Forum 6

Social Assessment of One WASH National Program

To be presented by Girma Aboma,
On behalf of National WASH Coordination Office
4 February 2014



Objective of presentation

This presentation aims at:

- Increase understanding of stakeholders on the characteristics of social exclusions as manifested in the implementation of WASH I; and
- Provide alternative options on how social exclusions can be well addressed in the implementation of One WASH National Program



Introduction

- NWCO commissioned Social Assessment as part of finalizing One WASH National Program design & Implementation strategy
 - Sector review done by international consultant hired by DFID &
 - Stakeholder consultations by local consultants hired by WAE with financial support of DFID
- Social assessment aims at:
 - assessing potential impact of One WASH National Program on under-served populations in emerging regions & pastoralist areas; & vulnerable & disadvantaged social groups &
 - identifying strategies for mitigating risks & adverse impacts.
- Methodology
 - Review & synthesis of existing data sources in relation to key social & institutional issues affecting poor, vulnerable & underserved individuals, households & populations and;
 - Rapid participatory stakeholder consultations in 3 regions & six selected woredas.(a total of 78 FGDs across the 3 regions involving 701 people (353 women, 346 men))



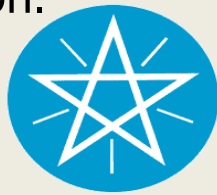
Major findings from sector review

- Results from policy reviews indicated that there is a committed enabling environment supporting One WASH National Program to meet ambitious goals laid out in the GTP
- Constitutional rights, policies & programmes strongly support & promote equitable inclusion of regions & social groups lagging behind in access to WASH Services
- Substantial progress in access to water & sanitation (from 19% & 3% in 1990 to 52% & 63% for water supply & sanitation, respectively), **but** there are still considerable disparities (WAE research & NWI data, 2011):
 - spatial inequalities , i.e. functioning WASH services are more likely located in urban areas & in more developed regions compared to emerging regions
- Specific groups experiencing the greatest challenges in accessing WASH services include:
 - women in general, older people, people living with disabilities & HIV, communities in remote rural areas & in urban slums or informal settlements



Major findings from Sector review

- Despite those policies environments, a number of challenges face the sector in meeting universal access
- **Some are generic** to the sector including: capacity & human resource issues, high government staff turnover, limitations in private sector capacity to meet demand, geographical inequities, operation & maintenance issues, ensuring sustainability, ongoing limitations in M&E & slow financial utilisation rates
- **Other challenges** relate directly to progressing equitable access to WASH, including lack of awareness by service providers of the legal & policy framework supporting equitable access; inaccurate & non-existent data on the numbers & characteristics of vulnerable & disadvantaged groups; limited social science capacity at regional level, particularly in pastoralist areas, to address the social dimensions of WASH provision; inconsistencies in WASH policies & strategies in relation to identifying & targeting vulnerable groups
- **No explicit guiding principle or pillar** has been developed within One WASH National Program with regard to equity & inclusion in WASH service provision.



Major findings (Stakeholder consultations)

- Benefits from existing WASH services
 - Results indicated that areas with road infrastructures, people with good physical conditions & those having better resources have benefited from WASH I
 - **Challenges:** sometimes water not in the tap; poor & widows not afford water fees & construction of sanitation facilities; lack of road infrastructures affected service provision in some areas; physically challenged people not accessing facilities because of lack of appropriate design; poor sustainability of the facilities
- Community needs
 - Affordable; adequate quantity; quality; accessible; sustainable; school WASH
 - Anyuak women & girls need separate latrines as they are not culturally using the same facility with men/boys
- Barriers to equitable access to WASH provisions
 - Lack of access to information on WASH particularly for women, poor & widows, people with disabilities
 - Low participation of women in WASH planning & decision making (especially non WASHCO members, poor people, people with disabilities)



Major recommendations

- Develop & implement a clear & accountable policy on subsidies & cost-waivers for poor & vulnerable groups within the first year of implementation of OOWNP
- Develop an overarching policy & implementation framework to guide equitable access to WASH provision for underserved populations & vulnerable groups (conduct E&I review during phase 1 for different implementation modalities)
- Review & revise the mass mobilisation strategy for rural WASH
- Assessment of the post-construction management & technical support to WASHCOs should include explicit social development issues
- In developing pastoralist WASH strategy, specific attention needs to be given to poorer & vulnerable pastoralist individuals & households
- It is vital that urban strategy clearly identifies who the underserved & vulnerable groups & tailors implementation strategies to ensure access
- Revise hard ware design standards within school & health services provision to ensure addressing specific needs of people living with disabilities & HIV/AIDs



Major recommendations

- Establish an information strategy to inform users of their institutional WASH entitlements & how to complain if these entitlements are not met
- Review social science human resources within WASH sector, under OWN -P to include social inclusion/impact & accountability assistance
- Within the first 12 months of OWN-P conduct a study visit of selected key stakeholders, (gender parity in study tour participants a prerequisite)
- Integrate gender & social inclusion issues into the proposed capacity building assessment forms & the subsequent capacity building strategies
- The proposed communication strategy to be developed with the support of UNICEF needs to address communication needs of underserved populations & vulnerable groups
- OWN-P's bi-annual & annual performance reports should include a section on the outcome of locally generated communication strategies on WWT & WASHCO plans & targets
- Develop a clear strategy for GRM/accountability mechanisms, including implementation framework & M&E indicators by the end of phase 1



Possible proposal for strategic direction of WASH (undertaking)

- **Increasing focus on equitable & inclusive WASH:** putting in place guiding document for ensuring equitable & inclusive WASH; agree on subsidy policy)
- **Upgrade sector data management system:** revising data collection templates & key performance indicators to address social development issues
- **Focus on sustainability:** Increasing focus on sustainability of WASH services at all levels

