



African Civil Society Network on Water and Sanitation (ANEW)
Analysis of Water and Sanitation Policies and Status of
IWRM in Africa
&
Advocacy capacity assessment of African civil society
on water supply and sanitation
Summary Report

1 Introduction

With support from the European Union, the Africa Civil Society Network on Water and Sanitation (ANEW) has launched a region-wide initiative on “Promoting and improving the capacities of African Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) for advocacy and participation in governance to enhance provision of water supply and sanitation and Integrated Water Resource Management (IWRM)”. The initiative aims to support and strengthen capacities of African CSOs as well as institutional development of ANEW over a three year period in order to facilitate dialogue and concerted action between African civil society and decision-makers on water and sanitation in Africa.

The objectives of the initiative are:

- To increase the number of African countries with explicit policy and strategies that promote progress towards achieving the IWRM and water supply and sanitation targets agreed to by the Heads of State and Government in Africa;
- To build political commitment to action by mobilizing and coordinating the experience and energy of African CSOs and support their network, ANEW; and
- To monitor progress and engage in dialogue that reflects the priorities of poor and marginalized communities, with national governments, regional bodies and high-level initiatives.

The initiative reflects the recognition that civil society in many parts of the world has been instrumental in water and sanitation provision, through its direct involvement in policy formulation through advocacy, participation in water resources development and management, campaigns for required national legislation and budgetary resources, public awareness-raising, and empowerment of local communities through knowledge-sharing and capacity-building. In Africa, a number of national and local initiatives instituted by various CSOs have gone a long way in providing safe water and adequate sanitation, especially in rural and slum areas and improving sustainable catchment management at river and lake basin levels.

Admittedly, the ANEW initiative has an ambitious and broad scope, but it has the potential to significantly strengthen and greatly enhance efforts to address the ongoing and emergent water and sanitation crisis in Africa. It can do this by helping civil society actors to play an effective role in the water and sanitation sector, while working in synergistic partnerships with governments, inter-governmental bodies, private sector and development cooperation partners.

To be successful, the initiative needs to be supported by an extensive knowledge-base and communications infrastructure to undertake informed actions at all levels. Capacity-building of civil society actors to undertake advocacy and participate in governance has to be an essential component of the initiative.



To this end, ANEW commissioned a study with the general objective *to review and analyze water and sanitation policies and the status of IWRM in Africa in order to promote informed and inclusive public debates and dialogues on key policy issues and IWRM.*

Within this broad objective, the study aimed to:

- i. Review and analyze water and sanitation policies and the status of IWRM in Africa, with a view to identifying policy gaps that could be addressed by civil society advocacy;
- ii. Assess advocacy capacity of CSOs working on water supply, water resource management and sanitation, and identify gaps to be filled; and
- iii. Identify critical intervention opportunities and strategies.

The countries covered by the study were:

- Southern Africa: Zambia, Mozambique, Lesotho and Botswana
- Central Africa: Tchad, Cameroon, and Democratic Republic of Congo
- Western Africa: Senegal, Ghana, Burkina Faso, Mali and Nigeria
- Eastern Africa: Kenya, Tanzania, Uganda, Ethiopia and Rwanda

The study was designed to provide information to ANEW on:

- Gaps and opportunities within the water and sanitation policy arena in Africa
- Existing CSO capacities and skills in advocacy and networking
- Gaps in the CSO knowledge-base, capacities and skills and ways to address them
- Opportunities for CSO advocacy on water and sanitation at the local, national and regional levels
- Indicators for monitoring progress.

The following executive summary of findings of the study has been prepared by the Nottawasaga Institute (NI), a Nairobi-based consulting firm specializing in institutional capacity assessment and development, with substantial experience in water and sanitation issues in Africa at the local, national, sub-regional and regional levels through its engagement and work with the African Union, African Development Bank, New Partnership for Africa's Development, African Ministers' Council on Water, UN Water/Africa, development cooperation partners and African civil society organizations.

2 Comparative advantages of CSOs in the water and sanitation sector

CSOs have some potential comparative advantages vis-à-vis other entities working in the water and sanitation arena. These include:

- Credibility and hands-on experience of working among communities, especially marginalized groups in both rural and urban areas;
- Ground-level knowledge of the water and sanitation needs of local communities within their specific contexts—environmental, political, socio-economic and behavioural;
- Knowledge of and contacts with societal representatives and value-givers in communities—political, religious, etc.—including leaders of women and youth;
- Understanding of the feasibility and effectiveness of external interventions;
- Ability to transfer knowledge and appropriate technologies, including best practices and lessons learned.
- Cost effectiveness vis-à-vis large, often centralized programmes and projects.
- Ability to monitor and evaluate action on a day-to-day basis.

However, in Africa as in some other developing world-regions, the capacities of and resources available—financial, technical and human – to CSOs in order for them to play effective roles in the water and sanitation arena remain limited. A major concern is also the



sustainability and scalability of their efforts over space and time. Often, governments are suspicious or oblivious of the activities of CSOs. In this regard, the ANEW initiative on behalf of African CSOs can play a substantial role in supporting and sustaining civil society efforts to ensure availability of safe water and adequate sanitation to communities most in need. As a representative organization working at the international, regional, national and local levels, ANEW has the challenge and opportunity to bridge the chasm between policy and implementation.

3 Summary of findings and analysis

[To be completed with selected findings and analysis that feed into or form the basis for section IV]

a) Watsan Policy Analysis

b) Advocacy Capacity Assessment

Summary findings under each area below:

- Challenges to Equitable Access to Water and Sanitation Services
- The Role of CSOs in Watsan Policy and Service Delivery
- Gaps in Watsan Policy Formulation and Implementation
- Water and Sanitation Policy Landscape at Regional/Sub-regional and International levels
- Existing Advocacy Activity

c) Institutional Capacity

Summary findings regarding national focal points, regional coordinators and ANEW Secretariat.

4 Recommendations

[This section can be edited down to make it shorter and crisper, but all the recommendations from the report should be included.]

i. Strategic direction

- i. *Recommendation:* ANEW to prepare a strategic plan to guide its development over the next 3-5 years. The recommendations from this current study should be used to inform the strategic planning process. This should include a comprehensive organisational assessment and organisational capacity development plan to ensure that the internal development of the organisation meets the demands of its growing mandate in Africa.

ii. Advocacy strategy

- ii. *Recommendation:* as part of its overall strategic plan, ANEW should develop an advocacy strategy that prioritizes strategic and critical entry points for advocacy while at the same time building on the unique position and mandate of the organization. Features of the strategy should include the following:
 - Training on the basic concepts, forms and modes of advocacy. This training should involve AMCOW members and other key players at the national and regional level to ensure a common understanding, thereby facilitating relations across sectors;
 - Advocacy as partnering with government and other stakeholders in the effective formulation and implementation of policy that reflects the needs, rights and resource capacities of local communities;



- Building on the unique position of civil society to provide a linkage between the micro and macro levels;
- Strengthening skills of CSOs in inclusive and participatory planning processes, in order that they can play a lead role in facilitating broad stakeholder engagement in needs assessment, policy formulation and monitoring;
- Strengthening trans-boundary, river basin and sub-regional networking as a platform for working with AMCOW and other inter-governmental initiatives at this level;
- Strengthening the role and capacity of civil society in monitoring and evaluation, and research to inform stronger Watsan policy and decision-making.

iii. *Recommendation*: as part of its advocacy strategy, ANEW should identify key entry points where its efforts can have the most effect and impact; based on the study team's analysis of the available information, several such entry points could be the following:

Regional Level entry points

- Mobilize a major popular campaign for water and sanitation as a rights-based issue.
- Sanitation is still a marginalized issue in nearly all countries. At best it is mentioned only in passing in the policies, strategies and papers. This is where ANEW could have a main focus and make substantial contributions through their membership. Especially in light of the Sharm el Sheikh outcome and declaration, ANEW could immediately focus a major part of its work on awareness-raising, capacity-building and advocacy to bring sanitation from the margins to the centre in all Watsan and development planning and action at the national, sub-regional and regional levels.
- Advocate for stronger inter-governmental collaboration at sub-regional and river/lake basin levels (in forging sub-regional water resource management plans, trans-boundary resource sharing agreements, etc.), and foster CSO networks or platforms at these levels to interface with sub-regional institutions (RECs and R/LBOs).
- Build on the current momentum towards the negotiation of a post-Kyoto protocol to the climate change convention, focusing on the water related impacts of climate change as a unique component of the African negotiating position at the UNFCCC; this could be linked to the movement for "climate justice".

Country Level entry points

- Promote the strategic niche and comparative advantage of CSOs in Watsan with respect to bridging the micro-macro divide, facilitating multi-stakeholder engagement and participatory planning methodologies.
- Advocate for more prominent inclusion of water and sanitation in development planning, particularly in the context of PRSPs and national budget allocations.
- Promote and support the adoption of mechanisms for transparency and accountability in implementation of Watsan policies and strategies, including local level monitoring bodies (such as the Water Watch Committees in Zambia).



iii. Advocacy capacity-building

- *Recommendation:* Design and implement an advocacy training programme for ANEW members, ensuring that all countries can benefit from the training. An indicative elaboration of such a plan is provided in Annex I. Key elements of the training should include the following.
 - awareness-raising and capacity-building about national, sub-regional, regional and global policies and initiatives in the Watsan sector, identifying the most critical points for intervention and methodologies to do so, monitoring the Watsan situation and seeking support for their activities;
 - developing an advocacy strategy;
 - understanding decision-making: identifying decision makers and influential advisors, mapping policy processes, developing relationships and building credibility;
 - using documented evidence, case studies, and targeted research as a key tool in advocacy;
 - strengthening networking for advocacy at national, regional and international levels;
 - media strategies for highlighting the advocacy efforts of civil society organizations and the results achieved with regard to national Watsan policies and strategies, IWRM roadmaps and plans, and strategies for achieving the water and sanitation related MDGs;
 - advocacy toolkit: media releases, web-sites and internet campaigning, organizing media conferences, working with parliamentarians;
 - advocacy impact assessment, M&E.

iv. Knowledge management and policy analysis

- *Recommendation:* ANEW should institutionalize mechanisms for gathering, managing and disseminating information and knowledge on policy developments and initiatives/actors in water and sanitation for easy access by its members and the general public; the proto-type database prepared through this study (see Annex II) can form the basis for such a mechanism.
- *Recommendation:* A “help-desk” should be established at national level, whereby local CSOs can access assistance in policy interpretation and improve their ability to engage in Watsan issues. The information office is the heart of the organisation and should be strengthened to ensure that the organisation is prompt and responsive to its members and partners.
- *Recommendation:* Networks at the national and regional level should be strengthened to ensure functioning and vibrant information sharing and resource mobilisation.
- *Recommendation:* In conjunction with AMCOW-TAC, ANEW should establish a policy analysis think tank at the continental level, with sub-regional presence. This will provide the required platform to engage African intellectuals and other key stakeholders in policy interpretation and also formulation and it will facilitate more effective input of CSO experiences and learning into the policy formulation processes.

v. Implementing the AMCOW-ANEW MoU

- *Recommendation:* ANEW to prepare a plan on a priority basis for implementing the AMCOW-ANEW MoU, within the framework of its broader strategic planning process, and arrangements made with the Chair of AMCOW TAC for a presentation and



discussion of this plan, with an aim to finalizing agreement prior to the 7th Ordinary Session of AMCOW. Recommended components of the plan are the following:

- Mechanisms for coordinating and consolidating CSO contributions to AMCOW policy and planning deliberations;
- ANEW's role in knowledge building in Watsan issues in Africa;
- Fostering and strengthening partnerships between civil society and AMCOW bodies at regional and sub-regional levels, and with national governments and other partners such as ANBO, African Groundwater Commission, AWEPA, etc.;
- Capacity development of CSOs for an effective role in achieving the Watsan MDGs across Africa;
- Documentation and dissemination of case studies and research on civil society initiatives and approaches;
- Organizing a major annual CSO event as part of the African Water Week.

vi. Strengthening the Secretariat and Network Structures

- *Recommendation:* To ensure that the organization's development is paced with the expansion in its mandate both towards its members and partners, the staffing structure and skill base at the headquarters, regional coordinators and national focal point level should be evaluated and addressed accordingly. This process needs to be guided by a comprehensive strategic plan developed to guide ANEW's operations throughout Africa, to include those countries currently not covered under the EU grant.
- *Recommendation:* ANEW needs to expand its financial resource base beyond the current limited number of donors; it should develop a resource mobilization strategy that will enable it to facilitate its internal and external expansion as required.
- *Recommendation:* For ANEW to consolidate its recognition as an independent entity, and also to ensure that ensure it can accommodate the required management support systems, the Board should consider options for establishing and housing the secretariat independently from any member institution.