



ANew Advocacy Action Plans

1. Thematic target : Human Right to Water and Sanitation HRWS (supported by FAN Global)

Objective: Countries develop roadmap for adopting human right based national action plan on water and sanitation (following 2010 global recognition of the human right to water and sanitation by the UN General Assembly and UN Human Rights Council).

Key opportunities: World Water Forum 6 2012; Rio + 20 2012; UN General Assembly Sept 2012; Regional conferences (AfricaSan, SACOSAN, LatinoSan and Africa Water Week)

2. **Why has your regional network prioritised this thematic?** (Set out the problem at national and regional level, what needs to happen and why your work will address the issue)
2. **Why has your regional network prioritised this thematic?** (Set out the problem at national and regional level, what needs to happen and why your work will address the issue – half a page is sufficient)

A lot of national constitutions, In Africa, implied the duty of the State to ensure water and sanitation for their populations of sufficient quality, availability, affordability and accessibility. In some constitutions, there is an explicit reference to the right to water and sanitation, in other constitutions this right is implied more implicitly, for example within the *right to health*¹, or the *right to life*. Although the legal inclusion of the right to water and sanitation in national constitutions does not automatically provide for its protection in practice, it does provide for a foundation for further measures to ensure and protect these rights. This is because by including the right to water and sanitation, the obligations of the State to create the corresponding legal, economic and social conditions for the realisation of this right will provide the basis for further development.

Including the right to water and sanitation in the constitution signifies a political commitment recognizing that, next to fact that every human being simply needs safe and sufficient water and sanitation to survive, everyone also has a *legal entitlement* to this right. Civil society organizations and national campaigns can rely on constitutional provisions to make our claims credible.

Beyond the inclusion in legal documents as well as sector strategies, countries take liberty in different interpretations of these rights, they have taken varied steps if any, to recognise and achieve the RTWS ranging from merely having the same in the

¹ The right to a healthy environment, or a similar right, has been formally included in most constitutions adopted since 1992.

legal documentation to including it in the plans and strategies, and providing resources for implementation.

Further still, the marginalised and underserved do not have a lot of information about these rights, are not empowered to demand and in many cases, there is no arrangement, forum or opportunity for dialogue to take place among the various stakeholders and citizens. These would be the key gaps this intervention would seek to bridge.

Beyond the national level, there is need to learn from progress, be in position to compare performance and provide support for where there are blockages to progress. At the same time we need to ignite pressure at the global and continental level to impact at the national level by ensuring that what is being done or not being done is shared and reported at regional and continental level.

The ANEW Approach:

ANEW (Secretariat and its members the national networks) plans to promote the right to water and sanitation as a priority in its strategic Plan 2010 -2014. ANEW has implemented similar work in 15 countries and therefore has lessons to draw from. These may be done in a combination or as a stand-alone depending on where the country may be in terms of capacity and implementation:

- ✓ **National Dialogues on Rights:** ANEW will organize dialogues at the national level where the right to water and sanitation can be discussed by key stakeholders including government representatives, practitioners, service providers, civil society and citizens. Dialogues will provide the opportunity for perspectives to be shared and move the sector toward agreeing a common understanding and framework by which the rights can be adopted and implemented in countries.
- ✓ **Pan Africa Level Dialogues** – Similar to the national dialogues, these events will bring together key stakeholders at the international level to move the sector forward in understanding and implementing the rights to water and sanitation across the continent, in order to achieve the MDG targets in these areas.
- ✓ **Knowledge Building of CSOs on the Rights** - CSOs understanding of the right to water will increase through research and knowledge building activities. This will include support in interpreting the content of the right to water, identifying the extent to which the rights have been adopted and implemented in different countries, and sharing of experiences in implementing rights regionally and internationally.
- ✓ **Citizen's campaign for the Right to Water:** Member CSOs will be empowered to understand, articulate and demand their rights to water and sanitation as appropriate to the national context. They will be supported to organize national campaigns to demand the fulfilment of rights through increased equitable service delivery. The media will be engaged in these activities, to ensure awareness of rights increases within the public.

3. What steps do you plan to take up in order to address the issue and when?

These activities will be implemented by the national networks in collaboration with the secretariat and with technical support from the working group that planned it, with FAN support and other experts in rights based approaches. The target groups will be mainly national level actors.

1. Map the status of observation and steps taken to recognise right to water and sanitation in at least 10 countries in Africa. This will inform the focus and messages for the advocacy work at national, continental and global level.
2. Provide feedback to and provide inputs into UN special Rapportuer's report the on right to water in 2013 and 2014
3. Build capacity through development and provision tools, information packs and training of at least 5 national networks to monitor and organize national level dialogues on human right to water and sanitation leading to development of action plans.
4. Sensitize the media, the members of the public, CSOs working in WASH, parliamentary committees on WASH/Social services in 5 countries on RTW.
5. Monitor and document progress being made in the 3 year in the 5 countries of intervention to draw lessons. Publish and share the documentary on the website and present it to sector stakeholder at given forums.
6. Persuade governments to include RTWS into the government policy in at least 2 countries where it does not exist currently.
7. ANEW members attend and make valuable inputs on RTWS as a theme at continental and global levels. This will include ANEW secretariat ensuring that it uses it presence in planning committees to have RTWS as an agenda item and necessary provide the leadership as a convenor.

4. **Resources** Think about capacity needs, skills training, staffing cost, and other operational costs. Put this on an excel spreadsheet.

5. **Sources of funding** – what funders do you think will support this work. What % will you request for DFID funding, remembering that Asia and Africa are their priority regions? Funding for Latin America from DFID to focus on south-south learning

The resources will be both from the funding from DFID contributing about 60% and the 40% will sought from other sources including ADB and the AU/EC facility from the Africa Union commission or other agencies partnerships focusing on right to water work.

6. **Suggested Indicators.** How will you check the project is on track and making progress towards the outcome?

After 3 years of implementation, ANEW anticipates:

- ✓ **Improved understanding of the rights to water and sanitation:** Dialogues will improve the understanding of the right to water at different levels for members CSOs and WASH sector stakeholders, including governments and service providers, to increase prospects of adoption and implementation.
- ✓ **Citizen demand for services increases:** CSOs will campaign for the right to water. Both knowledge of rights and demand for water and sanitation services will increase amongst citizens, and governments will be held accountable to fulfil their obligations
- ✓ **Citizens fulfil their obligations:** Dialogues on the right to water will also improve CSO and citizen understanding of their own responsibilities as service users, enhancing the sustainability of interventions by service providers.
- ✓ **More countries adopt the right to water and create action plans for implementation:** Greater dialogue and awareness-raising on the right to water may result in more governments recognizing rights, adopting them in legal frameworks and creating actionable plans for implementation.
- ✓ **Greater sector harmonization on implementing rights at the national level:** Improving dialogue and understanding will support governments and other sector actors to collectively develop and action sound plans and instruments for implementing rights and monitoring the delivery of services effectively.