

PROJECT PROFILE

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| <u>Sector</u> | Water Infrastructure |
| <u>Sub-sector</u> | Others |
| <u>Code</u> | WI 10(C) |
| <u>Title</u> | Support to District Water Supply and Sanitation Development |
| <u>Implementing Agency</u> | Ministry of Water, Lands and Environment |
| <u>Total Plan Exp</u> | US\$ 13.52m |
| <u>Funds Secured</u> | US\$ 20.22m |
| <u>Funding Gap</u> | US\$ -6.70m |
| <u>Start Date</u> | 2000 |
| <u>Completion Date</u> | 2005 |

Background

At present only 47% of Ugandans have access to safe water supply and 45% to basic sanitation. GoU has responded to this by including investment in the sector as a key component of the PEAP. Government, under the Poverty Action Fund (PAF), has started implementing its intentions of eradicating rural poverty by improving the quality of life of the poor this will be among other things, be achieved by providing safe water and sanitation services in the rural areas. Substantial amounts of money will be disbursed directly to the districts as conditional grants under the District Water Supply and Sanitation Programme (DWSSP), based on the national 15-year rural water supply and sanitation investment plan and strategy. Through this programme, districts and lower authorities will be given more freedom in planning, so as to design realistic workplans, which are responsive to specific or local needs and priorities thereby improving on success of ownership, implementation and achievements of set objectives and targets.

Many districts however lack the capacity to implement an effective water and sanitation programme in their present state and they need strong support for institutional development and capacity building. Local capacity constraints normally prevent effective utilisation of available resources and therefore service delivery. Although the recruitment of relevant and competent staff by the districts is a condition for accessing the Water Development Conditional Grant, it will take time for such staff to be able to handle programmes of such a big multitude. Moreover even with decentralisation, the centre will be required to carry out certain roles as laid down in the Local Government Act (1997). It is these roles that are being taken nearer to the beneficiaries.

Objectives

To strengthen the capacity of the districts, and lower local governments in the implementation of the newly introduced District Water Supply and Sanitation Conditional Grant.

Expected Outputs

- Area Support Units (ASUs) set up
- The newly recruited staff at districts and lower local authorities trained
- Technical Assistance provided to districts
- Consultants/contractors for surveys, design and construction of water sources procured

Performance Indicators

- Number of ASUs set up
- Number of staff trained
- Number of consultants/contractors procured

Financing

The project is to be funded by a number of donors and government of Uganda. Donors who have expressed interest in funding the project include The World Bank, the Austrian government, Sida, DFID and UNICEF. Government of Uganda will provide Shs. 6.2bn as counterpart funding over a period of 5 years. GoU will also provide for taxes.

Technical description

8 ASUs will be set up as a de-concentration of the central government's (DWD) roles which are spelt out in the Local Government Act, 1997. The ASUs will also assist districts in the following:

- Procurement and management of district Technical Assistance (Consultants, Contractors, Training and Advocacy).
- District needs assessment, development of strategies, setting up plans for service delivery and Institutional and Human Resource Development.
- Carrying out value for money audits and inspection.

Plan of operation

The project will involve the setting up of transitional regional offices by DWD - Area Support Units (ASU). This is to ensure that central government obligations are brought closer to the districts. 8 regional offices will be set up in Arua, Lira, Soroti, Mbale, Kampala, Kabarole, Masaka and Kabale. The project will replace all the technical assistance components of existing projects (WES, RUWASA, EDF, GFS) and the district budgetary support components that were under these projects have been transformed into this project.