This material is shared as a learning resource to promote awareness and good practice in the provision, use and management of water resources for sustainable social and economic development and maintenance of African ecosystems.

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GOING FORWARD

Thoughts on achieving universal basic sanitation and progress against the Ngor Declaration

Analysis of country reports on the Ngor Commitment on Sanitation and Hygiene provides some insights that, whilst not necessarily causal, are interesting to consider going forward.

Across Eastern Africa countries, there is a correlation between access to (at least) basic sanitation levels and enabling environment scores of most commitments. Countries with higher enabling environment scores (stage 1 indicators) have higher access to (at least) basic sanitation.

Several countries had the enabling environment in place to be able to report on commitment progress (stage 2 indicators). For these, countries with higher basic sanitation levels reported more progress against several commitments including:

- Commitment 1 – eliminating inequalities
- Commitment 6 - institutional sanitation
- Commitment 7 - fecal waste treatment

KEY TO UNDERSTANDING THE COMMITMENTS PROGRESS SYMBOLS:

Stage 1 indicators: Each segment of the circle represents a country in the region that has reported on the commitment. Segment colour denotes the country’s enabling environment score for that commitment.

Stage 2 indicators: Each bar represents a country in the region that has reported on stage 2 indicators for the commitment. Bar colour denotes the country’s progress score. Grey segments are reporting countries that have not reached stage 2.

Progress against each commitment can be seen at a glance, mostly green segments or bars show good progress, whilst mostly red segments or bars show limited progress.

Footnotes:

(1) Source: Monitoring the eThekwini Commitments on Sanitation endline report (AfricaSan 4 report, 2015)
(3) Hygiene data presented refers to the 8 countries in the region with data available on handwashing with soap.

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Eastern Africa Snapshot

MONITORING THE NGOR COMMITMENTS ON SANITATION AND HYGIENE

In 2015 African Ministers responsible for Sanitation and Hygiene adopted the Ngor Declaration on Sanitation and Hygiene. The Ngor monitoring process captures progress against the Ngor vision, and the Ngor commitments both in terms of whether the building blocks of the enabling environment are in place, and subsequently progress against country-specific targets. The key findings of the baseline monitoring in East Africa include:

- Across the region there has been significant progress in commitments relating to establishing leadership and coordination structures, and government-led monitoring and review systems. These are key areas which drive progress (1).
- Establishing budgets for sanitation and hygiene, and developing and funding strategies to bridge the human resources capacity gap remain critical bottlenecks which threaten to undermine progress.
- Progress in eliminating untreated waste waste, and encouraging its productive re-use is also limited.

TRACKING THE NGOR DECLARATION VISION

Achieve universal access to adequate and sustainable sanitation and hygiene services and eliminate open defecation by 2030

- The vision of the Ngor Commitments on Sanitation and Hygiene predates, but closely aligns to SDG targets 1.4 and 6.2.
- Less than 20% of region’s rural population, and only one third of the urban population have access to at least basic sanitation(2).
- Open defecation is a predominantly rural issue in East Africa, one quarter of the rural population practice open defecation. This average figure masks several countries with considerably higher rates of OD (60-90)(2).
- Hygiene practice is also low – only 12% rural and 28% urban households in the region have basic handwashing with soap facilities(2,3).
### THE NGOR COMMITMENTS ON SANITATION AND HYGIENE

**PROGRESS AT A GLANCE**

1. **Focus on the poorest, most marginalised and unserved aimed at progressively eliminating inequalities in access and use and implement national and local strategies with an emphasis on equity and sustainability**
   - **Where are we now?**
     - Overall there has been some progress on achieving this commitment in most countries. There has been slightly greater progress in rural areas than urban areas.
     - Most countries have established sanitation and hygiene strategic plans which address the needs of the poorest, most marginalised and unserved populations, and some countries have established sustainable sanitation and hygiene evaluation mechanisms.
     - Progress against the commitment is hindered by a lack of objective studies against which to identify and target the poorest and most vulnerable populations with services.
   - **Recommendations**
     - Develop and fund strategies to bridge the sanitation and hygiene capacity gap at all levels.
     - Addressing the sanitation and hygiene capacity gap with well-defined and funded strategies is the least well-performing of all the NGOR commitments in the region, in both urban and rural settings.
     - Half of countries have reported significant progress in mobilizing support and resources for sanitation and hygiene in both urban and rural areas. *Rwanda*, *United Republic of Tanzania*.
     - There is a high degree of alignment between national visions and the SDGs, and sanitation and hygiene policies are well established. *Ethiopia*, *Rwanda*.

2. **Mobilise support and resources at the highest political level for sanitation and hygiene to disproportionately prioritise sanitation and hygiene in national development plans**
   - **Where are we now?**
     - Establishing budget lines for sanitation and hygiene remains a key challenge across East Africa.
     - Only one country in the region reports having an investment plan for sanitation and hygiene which is aligned to both SDG targets (1.4 and 6.2).
     - While some countries report that budgets allocations for sanitation are increasing, none have reached 0.5% GDP.
   - **Recommendations**
     - Develop and fund strategies to bridge the sanitation and hygiene capacity gap at all levels.
     - Establishing budget lines for sanitation and hygiene remains a key challenge across East Africa.
     - Without accelerated action to address human resource capacity needs, progress in sanitation and hygiene will be undermined.

3. **Establish and track sanitation and hygiene budget lines that consistently increase annually to reach a minimum of 0.5% GDP by 2020**
   - **Where are we now?**
     - Across East African countries there has been some progress on mobilizing support and resources for sanitation and hygiene in both urban and rural areas.
     - There is a high degree of alignment between national visions and the SDGs, and sanitation and hygiene policies are well established.
     - However funding and implementation of sun-national sanitation and hygiene plans is a limitation that remains to be addressed.
   - **Recommendations**
     - Develop and fund strategies to bridge the sanitation and hygiene capacity gap at all levels.
     - Establishing budget lines for sanitation and hygiene remains a key challenge across East Africa.
     - Without accelerated action to address human resource capacity needs, progress in sanitation and hygiene will be undermined.

4. **Ensure strong leadership and coordination at all levels to build and sustain governance for sanitation and hygiene across sectors especially water, health, nutrition, education, gender and the environment**
   - **Where are we now?**
     - In the East Africa region ensuring that leadership for sanitation and hygiene is clear and that coordination is effective at all levels has performed the most strongly of all the NGOR Commitments.
     - Almost all countries in the region report that there is a government body with a clear mandate to lead and coordinate sanitation and hygiene activities, and half of countries reported that multiple sectors are engaged in coordination activities.
   - **Recommendations**
     - Develop and fund strategies to bridge the sanitation and hygiene capacity gap at all levels.
     - Establishing budget lines for sanitation and hygiene remains a key challenge across East Africa.
     - Without accelerated action to address human resource capacity needs, progress in sanitation and hygiene will be undermined.

5. **Develop and fund strategies to bridge the sanitation and hygiene human resource capacity gap at all levels**
   - **Where are we now?**
     - Most countries in East Africa have made progress towards having standards, targets and milestones for sanitation and hygiene services in some, if not all, institutional settings.
     - National targets for school and health facility sanitation and hygiene services are reported as positive in approximately half of countries, although not all targets are on track (no country reports being on track for all national institutional sanitation targets).
     - Progress is less clear for sanitation and hygiene services in “other” public institutions and spaces.
   - **Recommendations**
     - Develop and fund strategies to bridge the sanitation and hygiene capacity gap at all levels.
     - Establishing budget lines for sanitation and hygiene remains a key challenge across East Africa.
     - Without accelerated action to address human resource capacity needs, progress in sanitation and hygiene will be undermined.

6. **Ensure inclusive, safely-managed sanitation services and functional hand-washing facilities in public institutions and spaces**
   - **Where are we now?**
     - Most countries have reported significant progress in sanitation and hygiene services especially for the marginalised and unserved.
     - National targets for school and health facility sanitation and hygiene services are reported as positive in approximately half of countries, although not all targets are on track (no country reports being on track for all national institutional sanitation targets).
     - Progress is less clear for sanitation and hygiene services in “other” public institutions and spaces.
   - **Recommendations**
     - Develop and fund strategies to bridge the sanitation and hygiene capacity gap at all levels.
     - Establishing budget lines for sanitation and hygiene remains a key challenge across East Africa.
     - Without accelerated action to address human resource capacity needs, progress in sanitation and hygiene will be undermined.

7. **Progressively eliminate untreated waste, encouraging its productive use;**
   - **Where are we now?**
     - Progress in eliminating untreated waste, and encouraging productive re-use is extremely poor in the region.
     - While countries report that FSM is included in definitions and service standards, very few countries have comprehensive and enforced regulations in place to govern disposal or re-use of faecal waste even in urban areas.
     - A key bottleneck to addressing this commitment is that no country in the region reports having a mechanism through which untreated faecal waste entering the environment is tracked.
   - **Recommendations**
     - Develop and fund strategies to bridge the sanitation and hygiene capacity gap at all levels.
     - Establishing budget lines for sanitation and hygiene remains a key challenge across East Africa.
     - Without accelerated action to address human resource capacity needs, progress in sanitation and hygiene will be undermined.

8. **Enable and engage the private sector in developing innovative sanitation and hygiene products and services especially for the marginalised and unserved;**
   - **Where are we now?**
     - There has been some progress in engaging the private sector for sanitation and hygiene in the region, but this progress is not yet benefitting the poorest.
     - While almost all countries report having a private sector engagement strategy, only three report having specific private sector targets for the marginalized and unserved. As a result, half of countries report that the private sector is not providing sanitation and hygiene products and services to the poorest.
   - **Recommendations**
     - Develop and fund strategies to bridge the sanitation and hygiene capacity gap at all levels.
     - Establishing budget lines for sanitation and hygiene remains a key challenge across East Africa.
     - Without accelerated action to address human resource capacity needs, progress in sanitation and hygiene will be undermined.

9. **Establish government-led monitoring, reporting, evaluation, learning and review systems;**
   - **Where are we now?**
     - There has been strong progress in establishing government-led monitoring and review systems in the region.
     - Almost all countries report having country sanitation and hygiene monitoring systems in place, although in some cases data is not yet fully available for use by all government and partners.
     - Over half of countries report having an inclusive sector review process, which is aligned to the SDG targets, however this is not always linked to review recommendations being funded and implemented.
   - **Recommendations**
     - Develop and fund strategies to bridge the sanitation and hygiene capacity gap at all levels.
     - Establishing budget lines for sanitation and hygiene remains a key challenge across East Africa.
     - Without accelerated action to address human resource capacity needs, progress in sanitation and hygiene will be undermined.

10. **Enable continued active engagement with AMCOW’s AfricaSan process**
    - **Where are we now?**
     - East Africa has a strong history of active engagement in the AfricaSan movement.
    - **Recommendations**
     - Develop and fund strategies to bridge the sanitation and hygiene capacity gap at all levels.
     - Establishing budget lines for sanitation and hygiene remains a key challenge across East Africa.
     - Without accelerated action to address human resource capacity needs, progress in sanitation and hygiene will be undermined.