

# Summary: Exchange and Learning Webinar on building CSO WASH Advocacy held on 8<sup>th</sup> December, 2020.

## Preamble

Civil society organizations play a critical role in advocating for WASH issues especially in being the voice of marginalized and vulnerable populations. While considerable process has been made towards the realization of access to water, the sanitation and hygiene components still lag behind in many countries. This is exemplified by a fragmented sanitation sector in Kenya, 11% sanitation coverage in Madagascar, and lack of prioritization of menstrual hygiene management by the Ministry of Gender in Uganda just to name a few. Mitigating these issues and achieving water, sanitation, and hygiene for all requires coordinated collaboration especially of CSOs to ensure no one is left behind which is enabled by SWA's mutual accountability mechanisms.

In reality, CSO advocacy, coordination and capacity building has been wanting. Ceridwen Johnson (WSSCC) puts it well and simply, “meaningful engagement of civil society is often the missing link, unsupported and often severely underfunded in the WASH sector”. In response, the WSSCC provided short-term catalytic funding to boost civil societies to honor their SWA commitments and to contribute meaningfully to sector dialogues as well as enable CSOs to bring the voices of vulnerable populations into sector dialogues. Despite reports of positive impacts from the 4 beneficiary countries, this work is unfinished and needs to continue. WSSCC transition into the sanitation and hygiene fund also begs the question of how the gains made can be sustained?

The objectives of this webinar, therefore are three-fold: to provide a platform for ANEW's members that have received catalytic funding from the WSSCC to share on the work they've done, impacts, lessons, and way forward. This also acts as a platform to discuss how SWA, ANEW and other partners will perpetuate the legacy and for ANEW/SUSANA to document as well as disseminate the key learnings.



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## Abbreviations

ANEW	Africa Civil Society Network for Water and Sanitation
EAT	East African Time
CCEABT	Concertation Council for Water and Basic Sanitation
CSOs	Civil Society Organizations
IRC	International Rescue Committee
KEWASNET	Kenya Water and Sanitation Civil Society Network
NEWSAN	The Society for Water and Sanitation
MAM	Mutual Accountability Mechanism
OSCEAH	Organisation de la Société Civile Eau Assainissement Hygiène
PFPH	Plateforme des Fédérations des Personnes Handicapées de Madagascar
SuSanA	Sustainable Sanitation Alliance
SWA	Sanitation and Water for All
TAWASNET	Tanzania Water and Sanitation Network
UWASNET	Uganda Water and Sanitation NGO Network
WASH	Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene
WSSCC	Water Supply and Sanitation Collaborative Council

## 1.0 Opening Remarks.

### 1.1 Background and Webinar Objectives

The webinar officially started at 1501 hours EAT. Sareen Malik, ANEW's executive secretary began by explaining that this regional exchange and learning webinar was led by ANEW and supported by SWA. She then expounded on the webinar's objectives and its background. "In the last couple of months, the WSSCC and SWA have provided support that has been catalytic in terms of ensuring that civil society organizations are able to continue with their work, advocate for WASH for all, and promote accountability. For ANEW it has been critical to ensure we take up our leadership position and that we are able to better represent you and mobilize voice moving forward".

"One of the requests by members has been on how to utilize knowledge management in enabling greater visibility. In this webinar, the national CSOs that have received catalytic funding from the WSSCC will share on the work they've done, impacts, lessons, and way forward. After the webinar, SuSanA and ANEW will produce an e-publication that will document these key learnings. This funding has been critical to ensure we all grow up; we have been strengthened and given opportunities to ensure CSOs do their work on the continent and beyond".

Sareen then welcomed Ceridwen Johnson of WSSCC.

### 1.2 Opening Remarks- WSSCC.

Ceridwen Johnson, Head of Governance and Membership at WSSCC, began by acknowledging ANEW's appreciation of the work as a signal that the organization was ready to take the baton in perpetuating the learning. She then explained the background to the catalytic funding. "Recently, the WSSCC and SWA joined forces to support SWA's mutual accountability mechanisms. In 2019, the council made a commitment to the WSSCC made a global commitment to SWA, 'to support sanitation and hygiene systems strengthening activities in a number of countries in 2020'. WSSCC's support to national CSOs, therefore, stemmed from this commitment as well as a belief in collaboration for multi-stakeholder engagements especially for CSOs to build capacity and enable them to bring the voices of vulnerable populations into sector dialogues".

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The short-term catalytic funding was meant to give a boost for sector coordination beyond state or development partners as well as for stakeholders for sector reviews and progress through action planning, progress reviews, and corrective actions based on sector processes.

-Ceridwen Johnson {WSSCC}-

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We know that meaningful engagement of civil society is often the missing link, unsupported and often severely underfunded. CSO advocacy, coordination and capacity building is significantly underfunded in the WASH sector (and SWA does not have a budget for this). Ceridwen expounded on the premise behind the grants, “[these grants were meant to enable civil societies to honor their SWA commitments and to contribute meaningfully to sector dialogues](#). Maybe the grantees will speak of what their commitments were and how the grant has helped them to honor these commitments”.

She then gave a summary of how the grantees have used the support as a precursor to the presentations which would focus on impact, lessons and recommendations.

“Today we will hear presentations from 4 countries mainly national CSOs but also *the Ministry of Water and Irrigation Development in Malawi*. The ministry has been supported to plan effective joint sector reviews in partnership with civil CSOs to prioritize the leave no one behind agenda at a regional and ultimately national level through the upcoming national sector review. *In Tanzania*, TAWASNET has conducted a WASH financing study to identify disparities in WASH investments and another study on investment in WASH healthcare facilities. Recommendations from the studies have already been used to influence the finance minister’s meeting. The network also plans to use evidence to inform policy at the upcoming sanitation conference and advocacy with the incoming cabinet ministers. Other activities in Tanzania have been involvement of people with disabilities and provision of covid-19 prevention support”.

“*In Kenya*, partners have been co-convening the government ministries to improve coordination and establish a national sanitation steering committee that cuts across the ministries. KEWASNET has also been developing and testing a social accountability tool and engaging the youth as well as including them in policy dialogues. *In Nigeria*, NEWSAN has strengthened the engagement and advocacy capacity of its state chapters. The latter has been mainly advocating for diversity and inclusion of disadvantaged groups by bringing in non-wash actors and vulnerable populations to the dialogue as well as advocating for states to develop SDG plans for WASH”.

Ceridwen then explained the importance of the learning and exchange webinar. “WSSCC is transitioning to the sanitation hygiene fund and the space to support CSOs is shrinking. [The work is unfinished and needs to continue](#). One of this webinar’s objectives, therefore, is to dissect how the gains made through the catalytic funding can be sustained and what can be done to continue supporting this work as its critical in the achievement of SDG 6.2. The documentation and dissemination of key learnings by SUSANA is important as it will ensure the conversation continues.

## 2.0 Presentations from African National CSO WASH Networks.

Elizabeth Wamera, senior WASH specialist at WSSCC and the webinar's moderator echoed the sentiments of previous speakers on the role of catalytic funding in supporting CSOs and fighting for vulnerable populations left behind or forgotten. She then introduced the presenters and outlined the scope of their presentations.

### 2.1 Malawi: Ministry of Water and Irrigation Development

Willis Mwandira, gave a presentation of Malawi's MAM process focusing on the impacts, key lessons, and way forward. The highlights of this presentation are summarized below.

#### ***What has been the impact of the MAM project on Malawi's WASH Sector?***

- Strengthened institution arrangements such as a more vibrant National Sanitation Hygiene Coordination Unit-NSHCU. This has been through effective engagement of key actors in the sector.
- Strengthening of sector policies especially enhancing inclusivity; this will be informed by the ongoing process reviewing water and sanitation policies.
- Effective tracking of sector progress through joint sector reviews-JSR from district to national level. The grant spearheaded the first ever JSR.
- Championing for inclusion through network members.
- Improving CSO data collection tool and making it more inclusive.

#### ***What have been the key lessons in Malawi?***

- Non-WASH actors have innovative way of contributing to inclusion and diversity in the sector.
- District joint sector reviews facilitate accountability of national level duty bearers where they are tracked based on their commitments.
- Active district coordination teams are good platforms for sharing information.

#### ***What's the way forward in Malawi?***

- The government will play a leading role in mutual accountability mechanism.
- Sustained momentum and improvement of 2020's engagement processes.
- The joint sector review will reflect MAM processes.

In his presentation, Willis also mention that Malawi's MAM process had been plagued by two key challenges; Covid-19's interruption of meetings compounded by connectivity issues and some ministries were not forthcoming during inter-ministries meetings.

## 2.2 Nigeria: The Society for Water and Sanitation (NEWSAN).

Benson Attah, NEWSAN's national coordinator, gave a presentation that focused on the results of NEWSAN's capacity building efforts under the WSSCC grant. This presentation is summarized below.

### ***What has been the impact of NEWSAN's capacity building efforts?***

- Capacity strengthening of NEWSAN members as well as people living with disabilities in advocacy, budget tracking, and mutual accountability mechanisms.
- The capacity of NEWSAN's state chapters (in 7 states) has been enhanced to conduct rapid WASH policy assessment and engage with state authorities.
- Effective inclusion of people living with disabilities in the National Task Group on Sanitation; integration of non-WASH actors in decision making.
- Better informed on WASH as a human right; realized the importance of self-representation by people living with disabilities-each group has its way of dealing with issues.
- Government partners accepted NEWSAN's efforts; call for NEWSAN to advocate on their behalf.
- Willingness of the government to open up on issues affecting them; identified budgetary issues where WASH investments are used in funding politics.
- Improvement in evidence-based WASH advocacy and decision-making in seven states.
- States recognized the need for public-private sector collaboration and technical working groups on Menstrual Health and Hygiene; NEWSAN members invited by the Ministry of Water to participate in state capacity building.

### ***Key lessons in Nigeria.***

- People living with disability should be involved in planning.
- Evidence-based advocacy is effective in holding stakeholders accountable as evidenced by state surveys.
- Multi-stakeholder collaboration is important in meeting sector goals.
- The need for states to develop WASH financial investment plans.

### ***Way Forward?***

Sustain commitments made by the 7 states, increase the number of states in NEWSAN's capacity building efforts, seek for multi-stakeholder collaboration at district and national level, and continued use of the situation room in data collection.

### 2.3 Tanzania: Tanzania Water and Sanitation Network (TAWASNET).

Deus Masige, the executive director of Tanzania Association of Environmental Engineers, gave a presentation on mutual accountability mechanisms in Tanzania. This presentation is summarized below.

#### *What has been the impact/achievements from the MAM and the reviews?*

- The government has acknowledged the network's work and extending its support especially on inclusion of people living with disabilities.
- Budgetary advocacy- study recommendations to be shared with the ministry of finance.
- Contribution to Covid-19 prevention efforts, for example, providing people living with disability with sanitizers.
- Integration of non-WASH actors such as people with disabilities and street children.

#### **Lessons Learned.**

- Walking the talk; training on WASH has to be commensurate with resources.
- There is a need to replicate practical WASH education for the elderly and people with disabilities
- Establishment of the national water fund has improved water coverage.

#### **Way Forward.**

- Participate in upcoming sanitation conference and Maji Week to share the studies' findings including results, impacts and recommendations.
- Continue with budgetary advocacy highlighting financing gaps in WASH to line ministries and Ministry of Finance.
- Share CSO commitments with the government during the sanitation conference and Maji Week.
- Promoting media engagement through WASH awards; media key advocacy platform with the public.
- To engage parliamentarian WASH champions in accounting for the needs of people living with disabilities in policy and financial discussions.
- At the upcoming sanitation conference, there are plans to have side meetings with government officials.
- Summarizing and sharing findings of each line ministry.



## 2.4 Kenya: Kenya Water and Sanitation Civil Society Network (KEWASNET).

Tobias Omufwoko, CEO of WASH Alliance gave a presentation on Kenya's implementation of the MAM beginning with a brief context of Kenya. In Kenya, the sanitation sector has been fragmented as a shared function between ministries creating a coordination challenge. KEWASNET used the WSSCC catalytic funds to convene government ministries to improve coordination. The highlights of this presentation are summarized below.

### *What has been the impact?*

- The establishment of a national sanitation steering committee co-chaired by both ministries with members from CSOs, private sector, state agencies and the Ministry of Education. The grant has, thus, cemented partnerships between the Ministry of Health and the Ministry of Water, Sanitation & Irrigation.
- The Ministry of Water, Sanitation & Irrigation is developing a National Sanitation Management Policy.
- Sanitation stakeholders are strengthening and finalizing their SWA-MAM commitments; the government has revised its commitments, CSOs have made their commitments, and other stakeholders are anticipated to make their commitments. Additionally, stakeholders are looking at how they can use these commitments.
- SWA engagement has strengthened partnerships and empowered partners to hold each other accountable towards the realization of SDG.
- Empower the coordination capacity of lower levels of government such as sub-counties.

### *Way Forward: What are the next steps?*

- Finalize and share commitments with the SWA secretariat.
- Define roles and responsibilities of each stakeholder.
- Establish SWA-MAM process at the county level where implementation occurs.
- Hold quarterly stakeholder meetings to assess progress in meeting the commitments made by each stakeholder.

## 2.5 Chat box Q & A

As the presentations were ongoing, a plenary discussion ensued and is summarized below.

- *Chea Samnang: How do mutual accountability mechanisms work in the hard circumstances of Covid-19 pandemic?*

Anjani Kapoor responded, “The need for accountability remains even during the pandemic, and in fact, there may be more opportunities for CSOs to monitor government funds that are specific for COVID-19. Covid-19 has also emphasized the need for better coordination and collaboration”. Please see how SWA CSO partners are advocating for accountability and additional financing for the sector in COVID-context:

<https://www.sanitationandwaterforall.org/news/putting-ears-ground-how-swa-civil-society-partners-are-advocating-water-sanitation-and-hygiene>

- *Evelyne Makena: Can Malawi please share some examples of the Non-WASH actors and how they contribute to enhance inclusive WASH.*

Willis Mwandira {Malawi} responded, “Saint John of God has focused on the needs of people that have been left behind especially people with mental challenges and children with special needs. The CBO has developed innovative ways of enhancing inclusion in WASH. In prisons, for example, women female inmates were plagued by poor sanitary and hygiene conditions. Key issues were lack of disposal facilities for used sanitary pads or access to sanitary materials. St. John of God taught female inmates safe re-use and disposal through lessons on sewing re-usable pads and proper disposal in an incinerator”.

- *How do Joint sector reviews at the district level feed into the national level?*

Willis Mwandira responded, “the review processes start at the district level where districts collate information, which is taken to the sub-national/regional level and reviewed with the final review at the national level. The information reviewed at district level is mirrored by the information reviewed at national level”.

- *Chey San- Cambodia: From the SWA Framework the role of private sector is very crucial, how do you engage private sector in your project.*

In his response, Attah Benson explained that the private sector is engaged through a multi-stakeholder collaboration such as the clean Nigeria Campaign.

- *Jamie Myers: The research component has been mentioned in a number of examples especially on advocacy towards budgetary allocations. How willing were governments to listen and respond to negative results?*

In his response, Mac Deus {TAEE}, stressed that the manner of presenting results is key with the goal being to avoid a finger-pointing approach especially with negative results. He expounded, “The network plans to present its findings-both positive and negative- on finance and budget in the upcoming sanitation conference. While the hope is that these findings will be received well by duty bearers, the network is creating an appropriate environment by sharing these results in side meetings with the key line ministries. **This private discourse tactic will ensure the government will not be antagonized by a watchdog approach.**

Attah Benson {NEWSAN} added that sometimes the government is receptive towards evidence and collaboration as exemplified in Nigeria.

- *George Njoroge: To Kenya - Are there other outcomes, including unplanned outcomes, from the SWA-MAM process or other SWA activities in the country?*

Tobias Omufwoko {WASH Alliance-Kenya} responded, “the strengthening of sector collaboration between state and non-state entities is one of the main unplanned outcomes. The ministries are not only collaborating with each other but also open to partnerships with other actors in the sector. The first meeting acted as an ice-breaker as we have been able to hold two other meetings”.

Malesi Shivaji {KEWASNET} echoed Tobias sentiments, “As a result of the SWA-MAM process, the ministry is engaging CSOs more on issues of mutual accountability and development of sanitation management policy. Another unanticipated outcome has been that the government/service providers have become more forthcoming with information to the public as compared to before. This is exemplified by community dialogues at the sub-national level where communities would directly engage with the government/service provider”.

- *Ellyn Walter: What kind of assessments were done to understand who is marginalized and being left behind? Can anyone provide details about how they were invited or brought to the discussions? How did you balance bringing voices of the marginalized directly to the accountability process and representing their voice? Do you recommend one approach over another?*

Malesi Shivaji from KEWASNET responded via the chat box. “The question of who REALLY are the vulnerable in the WASH sector is an important question in this conversation. On our part, we used the traditional way of determining vulnerability, through the lens of Geography, Governance interactions, Socio-economic status, and impacts of shocks and fragility in making a basic determination of our focus population. We nonetheless took up the deliberate action of conducting a vulnerability assessment, which will inform onward targeting and engagement in the sector. The results of this will be available soon”.

Nompumelelo added, “Malesi, this is very good, and other partners could learn from this, we look forward to the results”.

- *Christopher Mhone: What is the experience in other countries on non-WASH actors engagement in WASH/SWA agenda apart from Malawi?*

Doris Zakama: In Kaduna state Northern Nigeria RUWASSA, Kaduna state Water corporation and other line MDAs has recognized our importance as non-WASH actors.

- *Discourse on Mutual Accountability Mechanisms-MAM.*

Elizabeth Wamera {WSSCC}: “from the presentations, it has becoming clear that the conversation on MAM is stressing on the ‘mutual’ component; how to draw in different stakeholders to realize that what they are bringing to the table is valuable. It’s a journey of building trust before embarking on accountability conversations. Unless you have integrity, it’s difficult to have the accountability conversation.

In a nutshell, the presentations have flagged out that in the MAM it is critical to have a multi-stakeholder approach, engage different stakeholders, and have a joint vision. However, most importantly the partnership has to be on a mutually accepted basis.

-Elizabeth Wamera {WSSCC}-

Yunia Musaazi {UWASNET}: “MAM calls for recognition of all partners, but as CSOs there's need to also be accountable to other stakeholders. That way whom you hold accountable will listen”.

*Ellyn Walter: “Mutual accountability also means holding up a mirror to ourselves as civil society not just holding government accountable. I am interested in reactions or examples of this aspect of mutual accountability”.*

In response to Ellyn, Yunia quipped, “I think what many National CSO Networks do annually to compile annual CSO Performance Reports and engagement / sharing plans/ budgets at local level are examples”.

Anjani added “Here’s how UWASNET is using SWA commitments to strengthen their own accountability in the sector: <https://sanitationandwaterforall.org/news/uwasnet-accountability-begins-civil-society>”.

Mac Deus, “Ellyn, you are very right that we have responsibility to hold each other accountable on what we do to fulfill our obligations towards the public we serve. We do this in Tanzania through Zonal WASH meetings to track on our activities, share best practices and share lessons learnt from our own activities as CSOs”.

George Bagabo, “Supporting accountability within the service delivery framework is about improving the quality of relationships between stakeholders. Accountable service providers and users assume responsibility and answer for their actions—all key elements for breaking institutional inertia and making the institutional arrangements and systems for service delivery work for all”.

### 3.0 Panel discussion and Reflections

Estelle Robinson gave a brief background to introduce the panel discussion. “Early this year, the WSSCC decided to pilot a project to build learning on the WASH front on how it might in future deliver its strategic enablers on mutual accountability and multi-stakeholder approaches. The program was piloted in 4 countries Cambodia, Togo, Madagascar, and Uganda. Cambodia. It aimed to strengthen CSOs and national networks on their activities around advocacy and accountability of sanitation, hygiene, & menstrual health. It also aimed at ensuring that voices of vulnerable populations are heard in policy dialogues and debates. Some of the activities of these pilot projects include strengthening/creation of national networks in Uganda, building advocacy strategy for financial accountability at national & community level in Togo, and developing good practices of including different voices especially the vulnerable or youth in Madagascar and Uganda”.

After introducing the panelists and giving a brief of their organizations, Elizabeth Wamera posed questions which were answered as follows.

#### 3.1 Panel Discussions

##### A. Arsene Raveloson {president-OSCEAH and project lead, Madagascar}

*We are aware you work with disadvantaged women to strengthen their voices. What are the key learnings you have gained about voice and accountability in this project?*

In his response, Arsene highlighted two key learnings. **First, it's the importance of integrating vulnerable groups in to the Track Fin.** In terms of accountability, OSCEAH has integrated vulnerable groups in different dialogue platforms at Municipality level. Although, there isn't sufficient dialogue at the national level as of yet, the recent policy process stressed on involving vulnerable groups in the discussion because WASH is a basic fundamental right. Through this initiative, actors have been able to track Madagascar's funding on women and people living with disabilities.

#### BACKGROUND OF OSCEAH & PROJECT

(OSCEAH) is the national CSO advocacy umbrella platform for WASH in Madagascar.

The project aims to strengthen the capacity of the CSOs within the OSCEAH network to support and advocate for the most marginalized in WASH.

Specifically, the project will: identify good practices of engagement for hard-to-reach marginalized groups, develop an accountability mechanism for the network and develop an advocacy strategy for disadvantaged groups using the SWA framework.

The second key learning has been on the power of empowerment in giving voice and urgency to disadvantaged women. According to Arsene, “OSCEAH has been training women groups in three regions to be organized. A lack of capacity was established as a key bottleneck in making the voices of vulnerable groups heard. Empowering the women thus enabled them to participate in the different dialogue forums.

### B. To Josoah Radafiniantsoa {Executive Director, PFPH}.

*We are aware that your organization works with people living with disabilities. What challenges do non-WASH actors face in bringing in different voices to the WASH debate?*

Josoah’s assistant responded on his behalf and cited budgetary inclusion of people living with disabilities as the main challenge. “The challenge has been to convince authorities and decision makers that budget lines should include people living with disabilities for instance on infrastructure adjustments for accessibility of the disabled”.

#### PFPH: project overview

The project will focus on the needs of disabled people in accessing adequate sanitation, hygiene and MHH. This will include mapping of available resources in WASH for disabled, raising awareness for disabled women on MHH, and developing a disabilities-rights approach to advocacy messages so that the disabled advocate for themselves.

### C. To Yunia Musaazi {Executive Director, UWASNET- Uganda}.

#### UWASNET: Project overview

This project aims to increase civil society’s knowledge of sanitation financing in Uganda for advocacy purposes, as well as strengthening the national umbrella organisation for WASH organisations.

The project has undertaken a rapid assessment on the extent of exclusion marginalized populations face when it comes to sanitation and MHH services. This forms the basis of Yunia’s discussion in the webinar.

*In your project, you did a rapid assessment. Share with us at least two recommendations for successful civil society strengthening of voice and mutual accountability to promote inclusion.*

Yunia explained the recommendations were as follows:

- CSOs need to embrace evidence-based advocacy. One of the key findings was that despite the cross-cutting nature of sanitation, other ministries such as the Ministry of Gender in Uganda are lagging behind on matters of WASH. The network thus intends to use evidence from the assessment to engage with the line ministries to ensure issues of sanitation and MHH are prioritized in plans and targets.

- An understanding of who are the underserved and the contributing factors strengthens CSO advocacy. The catalytic

funding was aimed at boosting CSO advocacy. The policy briefs generated from the rapid assessment highlighted key messages on the unserved/underserved and the contributing factors. This flags out what civil societies can do about this in terms of advocacy especially at district level where there is minimal civil society engagement. This information helps in dissection of the national policies including the national development plan and in engaging parliamentarians during the election year to foster dialogue at national level.

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*“For us to speak sustainability, we need to involve the youth. If the youths are the leaders of tomorrow, what are doing today to see this come to fruition?”*

*-Elizabeth Wamera-*

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#### **D. To Martin Wanzala {Executive Director, African Youth Development Link, Uganda}**

*We are aware that you lead a youth organization. Why is it important to bring in the youth as part of mutual accountability? Secondly, what can be done in the WASH sector to support youth voices in WASH discourse?*

Martin responded, “The youth are cited as the leaders of the future but we should be cognizant that they are the leaders of today as well. Therefore, [having the youth as part of the conversation is an opportunity to achieve sustainability](#) both for today’s and tomorrow’s interventions.

In implementing the project, we have affirmed that young people are affected by WASH issues. [Including the youth in these conversations enables the youth to understand WASH as a critical sector](#) that is not just a concern for older generations. Ultimately, including the youth is important as the sector will benefit from the enthusiasm, tenacity, and energy of young people.

Mainstream actors can support youth voices through mentorship for instance on the criticality of the WASH sector to the lives of all or on the importance of youth participation”.

#### **AYDL: Project overview**

This project aims to examine the need for and feasibility of establishing a national CSO umbrella network for MHH/M that would bring together CSOs from different sectors and different levels, taking into account the MHH/M advocacy landscape in Uganda.

## E. To Emile Atigaku {Executive Director, CCEABT- Togo}.

*For this project, you focused on community level advocacy. What lessons have you learned about strengthening voice and accountability?*

The lessons discussed by Emile are summarized below:

- The funding received has helped in getting legitimacy from the local governments in Togo.
- Importance of academic institutions such as universities in influencing the sector.
- Supporting the community to have the divide of communal to national level engagement in budgetary processes; the community understands the budgetary process.

Elizabeth Wamera, the webinar’s moderator concluded this panel discussion by summing up the key-takeaways. “Multi-stakeholder engagement is important and highly beneficial; every voice counts. We as civil society have a responsibility to bring all these voices on the table. These discussions have also flagged out the importance of evidence-based approaches in advocacy.

## CCEABT: PROJECT OVERVIEW

The main objective of the project is to strengthen the coordination and advocacy capacity of the CCEABT network.

Specifically, this project will:

- Strengthen the technical capacities of the CSO members/focal points of the network for monitoring and accountability in the WASH sector.
- Develop a strategic advocacy document on WASH and advocacy for the institutional stability for the sector and the formalisation of existing accountability mechanisms.



### 3.2 Comments from the audience.

As the panel discussions, comments were made in the chat box as follows.

- Hanta Baraka: Thank you very much for *the* presentation made by the platform for the disabled in Madagascar. The State and the population still have a great challenge in promoting the rights of people with disabilities.
- Ellyn Walter: these examples and contributions were excellent. It is great to see progress in mutual accountability. There are additional great resources and cases on accountability from the Watershed Programme here <https://watershed.nl/> Here is one specific blog on accountability this audience might find interesting. <https://watershed.nl/blog/francophone-civil-society-acts-towards-more-accountability-for-progress-for-water-and-sanitation-always-and-for-all/>
- Chea Samnang: The MAM platform should be organized by Government and Civil Society to support each other for counting every voice in the WASH sector.
- Yunia: I do appreciate the synergies this webinar/ program has provided between ANEW, SWA and WSSCC.
- Arsene: How can we advocate for funding if we do not have access to data? CSOs should be strengthened to fulfill its advocacy mission and ensure that the population takes ownership of universal access to WASH. Inclusive budgets should be applied at the municipal level so that people with disabilities have access to WASH services.

### 4.0 Closing Remarks

*Ellyn Walter* from IRC reflected on the discussions and gave ideas for the next steps. “It was exciting to hear the cases and examples of progress made in mutual accountability and identification of where we need to build. Partners can support CSOs to keep the work ongoing through two main ideas. First, it’s the provision of resources as its important to invest in these processes. We need to look at new and different types of resources as well as how we can tap into more sustainable resources for advocacy. Secondly, the momentum can be maintained by taking advantage of opportunities for policy reviews and maintaining needed skills/awareness of what is happening to ensure actors are ready when the opportunities arise”.

*Heloise Chicou-SWA CSO advisor*. “We’ve seen in this webinar that development goals are unique in the sense that they ask for all actors to play a part in supporting governments in fulfilling the goals. The importance of CSOs, in particular, has been stressed and put well by Liz where CSOs are to be the broker of the voices on the ground to policy makers and offer that table or at least work with governments to create a round table that includes all the voices. The MAM tool from SWA is important in ensuring inclusion of all stakeholders. I’d encourage all of us to build

on this MAM and try to include all the voices around the table with government leadership. The major challenge, however, is that although CSOs are crucial, they are plagued by lack of financing or long-run capacity. We need to continue working with CSOs but also with donors and external support agencies as well as the private sector in making sure that they see the value in MAM through multi-stakeholder platforms and that they also see the value in funding/supporting CSO voice around the table. The call is for SWA and others to build on what we've done this year and make the case for funding and capacity building of CSOs in the long term”.

***Nompumelelo Ntshalintshali-SWA Africa Regional Coordinator*** added, “CSO networks have shared impressive results. SWA is delighted to have had WSSCC as a partner as part of their commitment to support the multi-stakeholder platform and CSO engagement in the different partner countries. The council has supported CSOs by providing technical support and catalytic funding. The MAM is a great tool for allowing each actor to act together towards the achievement of SDGs. This tool can also be used to strengthen commitment from donors to support the voice of CSOs around the table. I, therefore, want to call on all the actors to set the efforts to sustain the momentum gained this year. In the coming year, SWA will be strengthening our partnerships with the government and partners to focus on developing multi-stakeholder approaches as well as opening spaces for CSO engagement. We invite you all to work closely with us based on the best practices shared today and to share learning to other parts of the world”.

In her closing remarks, ***Sareen Malik, ANEW's executive secretary*** thanked the organizers, moderators, panelists, presenters, and attendees. She then stated, “We are glad to see that the catalytic funding has supported CSOs to strengthen their hold within the sector. This work doesn't end here. ANEW commits to continuing this work and in taking leadership in mobilizing of CSOs going forward, the main output of this webinar-the e-publication will be found on the SUSANA chapter. If the members feel that there is a need for the development of a position paper or a call to action then ANEW will support this action”.

The webinar came to a close at 1717 hours EAT.