

I am pleased to welcome you to this conference on Unclogging the Blockages in Sanitation in Kampala, Uganda. I am all the more delighted to welcome you as a host of this exciting conference in Kampala. Thank you for honoring our invitation.

In a special way I would like to thank very much our co- sponsors and partners who have helped us in organising this event. I will mention a few, Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, the Global Sanitation Fund (GSF), the IRC International Water and Sanitation Center (IRC), Johnson and Johnson, Population Services International (PSI), the Sustainable Sanitation Alliance (SuSanA), the Water Supply and Sanitation Collaborative Council (WSSCC) Water and Sanitation for the Urban Poor (WSUP); The Ministry of Health and Ministry of Water and Environment.

Water for People has been operating in Uganda since 2008. Our vision is a world where all

people have access to safe drinking water and sanitation and where no one suffers or dies from water or sanitation related disease. Our programme of everyone forever aims to fulfill the ambition. The idea is simple but its application complex. In short, we asked ourselves if we could model what *full coverage* combined with *sustainable water and sanitation services* might actually look like in practice and at scale. We pulled back from projects and villages, and we now focus on districts as the unit of intervention.

Our Sanitation as a business programme in Uganda is about 3 years now. WfP is supporting the sanitation market through facilitating the private sector in the offering of sanitation products and services. The objective of SAAB is to make the private sector the driver of

improving access to sanitation by the under-served populations by helping create efficient and inclusive sanitation market

There are a number of blockages which range from

- Limited market data on the prevailing market opportunity in sanitation for rural households
- Lack of affordable products that address the households aspirations for improved sanitation
- Inadequate awareness of latrine technology options amongst the key supply chain actors
- Poor linkages between marketing promotion for pit latrines and product availability

- Accessibility: Lack of effective distribution channels for sanitation products in the rural areas
- Financing: The initial cash outlay for purchase of latrines is out of the reach for many rural households

WE hope by the end of the conference that you will share with us ways in which we can unblock some of these blockages

I wish you all fruitful deliberations and look forward to all the discussions in the next 3 days.

