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# Presentation

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# The Political Challenge

## Putting Sanitation on Top of the Political Agenda

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# Sanitation status in Uganda

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- **Estimated latrine coverage 2007: 59%**  
**(MDG and PEAP/PRSC target is 72% and 80% respectively)**
- **Hand washing with soap after toilet: 14%**
- **Sewerage coverage: 6-7% of urban**
- **Pupil Stance Ratio of 69:1 in primary schools against a target of 40:1**
- **(Water coverage 63%)**

# The challenges...

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1. Unwillingness of political leaders at all levels to put excreta and its safe sustainable management at the local government, national and international agenda
2. **Inadequate political will & lack of exemplary leadership**
3. **Sanitation unfortunately is still a taboo subject** in many cultures
4. **Sanitation is not a vote winner** (unlike water supply)
5. **Benefits of sanitation are not obvious**, e.g. Lack of awareness that the sanitation MDG is linked to 5 other MDGs (income for the poor, universal primary education, empowerment of women, child mortality rates and maternal health)

# Other challenges....

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5. **Lack of prioritization** of sanitation and hygiene in district development plans/budgets and subsequently allocation of low funding ( e.g. 2- 4% of sector funding as presently in Uganda)
6. Sanitation is taken as a household responsibility
7. **Sanitation is usually fragmented** across sectors or central ministries (e.g. health, education, water) pausing institutional conflicts in resource allocation and poor coordination
8. **Poor monitoring & evaluation** (unreliable statistics and/or data)
9. **Poor documentation & dissemination of best practices**

# Underlying Reasons

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1. Actual needs and demands for sanitation are often unknown by politicians due to the often inconsistent/unreliable or whitewashed data
2. Many policy makers/planners are unaware of the economic and quantified health benefits from safe sanitation and hygienic practices
3. Lack of adequate skilled manpower at national, local government level, and in the civil society
4. The sanitation challenge often affects the poor section of society, who have no voice/lobby

# Few steps taken in Uganda with respect to politicians

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- Kampala Declaration on Sanitation of 1997; KDS + 10 being considered in 2008
- Letter written to HE by the National Sanitation Working Group - requesting him to promote sanitation and hygiene; as was the case with HIV-AIDs
- Local Government Leaders have committed themselves to raise sanitation coverage by 100% - including enforcement of legislation

# The way forward...

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## 1. At international level

- Declaration of 2008 as the International Year for Sanitation (IYS) is an important step
- Campaigns like WASH by the WSSCC and initiatives like ANEW should play a major role to put sanitation on the top of the political agenda
- Multilateral/Bilateral/International organizations should prioritize support for sanitation and sharing of successful approaches and practices between countries



# Way forward.... (cont)

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## **2. National level**

- Treat sanitation as a priority issue in its own right.
- Demonstrate commitment by including sanitation in the PRSPs/National strategies
- Establish a formal coordination mechanism involving all ministries with sanitation roles, development partners, Civil Society and the private sector
- Ensure explicit/ring-fenced funding for sanitation and related capacity building & software activities
- Improve Monitoring & Evaluation

# Way forward.... (cont)

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3. **Local Governments** should...
  - Allocate adequate resources for public and school sanitation
  - Promote exemplary leadership
  - Leverage resources from well funded programmes e.g. HIV-AIDS
  - recruit the necessary qualified sector staff
  - Enact and enforce bye-laws for sanitation
  - Establish a formal coordination mechanism for water and sanitation involving all sector players at that level
  - Improve monitoring & evaluation

# The way forward.... (cont)

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## 4. **Sector Institutions** should...

- Research and promote environmentally sustainable & affordable technologies like ecological sanitation
- Promote initiatives like customer/user payment for sanitation/sewerage services

## 5. **Civil Society** should...

- Empower the poor/ vulnerable to demand for improved sanitation services from the Local Governments and /or service providers
- Lobby for sanitation and hygiene education programmes, especially for the poor
- Sensitize communities about the economic and health benefits from improved sanitation and hygienic practices

# Finally, the political message is....

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- 1) Political will at all levels is necessary for sanitation programmes to be effective.
- 2) We need to lift sanitation to the top of the political agenda at all levels
- 3) Prioritize and ring-fence funding for sanitation at international, national, decentralized and community levels
- 4) Involve CSOs/NGOs and private small scale providers in implementation of sanitation activities
- 5) Give attention to solutions that address all sanitation aspects (i.e. in a holistic manner)
- 6) Sanitation is affordable by the users when the right technology is chosen
- 7) Use also social marketing techniques as presently applied in hand washing campaign in Uganda.

Thank you!!

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The End