

Water Supply Thematic Group

LYDIA KANSIIME

COMMUNICATION OFFICER

MWE

Broad Issues

1. Equity - differences in access rates, micro level planning to identify pockets in Districts with very low access
 - Water quality - certain areas have poor groundwater quality (iron, saline, etc.). Water quality from springs and surface water is also an issue. Iron removal and other technologies are expensive.
 - To serve the remaining unserved requires a higher per-capita investment
 - Idea for bulk water supply as a technology to serve the most difficult underserved areas.
2. Umbrellas and point source O&M management models – Umbrellas are operational but are they sufficiently funded to perform?
3. Issue of people in rural areas thinking water is free (political)
4. Harmonization of policies
 - Duplication of efforts across NWSC, Umbrellas, etc. – is it feasible to have a master plan to streamline the efforts across these departments?

Causes and Practical Solutions: Equity

- Identify the areas that are underserved – mapping
- Identify solutions: Limited water resources, expensive to serve, High cost of technologies, bulk water transfers, high level of resource mobilization required.
- Pushing for a dedicated program for rainwater harvesting in the underserved areas.
- Having a master plan for the bulk water systems where the technology can be used for underserved areas.

Causes and Practical Solutions: Umbrellas

- Established, mandate has increased, but viability is questionable because of underfunding.
- UA are operating in a competitive service environment (NSWC?)
- Staff recruitment is a challenge, insufficient resources to meet increased mandate
- Wrong assumption that collections from water sales can augment UA's operations. Scheme specific tariffs, some do not break even, positive revenues from one scheme cross-subsidize the others. 18% to URA, 5% for the water boards, 40% for operational crew, 37% remains for system repairs.

Proposed Undertakings

1. Comprehensive review to identify the causes of water supply inequity and identify strategies to address them.
2. Develop and document a sustainable financing strategy for the Umbrella Authorities

Community involvement with rural schemes

- Back to basics of community participation – community involvement in the planning, execution, post construction cycle.
- Money is time-bound
- Long-term planning