



Report on AfricaSan+5 2008

South Africa, Durban 18 – 20 February 2008

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1- Introduction

The 2nd African Conference on Sanitation and Hygiene, AfricaSan +5, was held in Durban, South Africa from February 18 – 21, 2008. Over 600 people attended this event including ministers from 30 African countries, a large number of senior officials, representatives of civil society in charge of sanitation issues, the World Bank, the African Development Bank, the scientific community and the United Nations.

The purpose of AfricaSan +5 was to follow up on progress made against the resolutions adopted during the first AfricaSan held in 2002 in Johannesburg, South Africa. Specifically the event looked to assess progress, challenges, and lessons identified as each African country attempts to achieve the sanitation Millennium Development Goal (MDG) of halving the population of those who do not have access to basic sanitation.

During the three-day event, attendees participated in 17 different topic sessions ranging from financing sanitation to developing policies to scaling up promising approaches such as Community-Led Total Sanitation and Sanitation Marketing. At the end of the event, the attending ministers jointly agreed to a declaration on sanitation and hygiene.

Gender and Water Alliance was represented by a delegation:

- ✓ Stanislas Bineli, GWA Regional focal point francophone Africa;
- ✓ Zingui Messomo, GWA member from Cameroon (Director of the NGO ASSEJA, Yaoundé)
- ✓ Charles Diémé, GWA Programme Officer for Francophone Central and West Africa
- ✓ Mary Wuya, Ocean Foundation, Jos, Nigeria and GWA member
- ✓ Keletso Mokobi, Women's Affairs Department, Ministry of Labour and Home Affairs, Botswana

2- Opening of the conference

The event was opened on Monday 18 February 2008 with several speeches among which:

- ✓ Mrs Lindiwe Hendricks, Minister for Water Affairs and Forestry of the Republic of South Africa;
- ✓ Hon. Bruno Jean-Richard Itoua, Minister for Water of the Republic Democratic of Congo and President of the African Ministers' Council on Water (AMCOW)
- ✓ HRH Prince Willem-Alexander, Prince of Orange, Chairman of the United Nations Secretary General's Advisor Board (UNSGAB) on Water and Sanitation;

In his speech, the President of AMCOW said: "AfricaSan has brought together in Durban African government ministers responsible for sanitation, and other relevant ministries; managerial-level sector professionals from the public and private sectors; and sanitation sector practitioners in civil society; multilateral donor/development agencies; research/training institutions and the media. And he concludes by giving the real reason why something has to be done: The provision of sanitation is a key development intervention – without it, ill-health dominates a life without dignity".

Prince Willem-Alexander has made a video message where he said: "AfricaSan provides a framework for identifying key political messages and roadmaps so that African Presidents, Prime Ministers and Finance Ministers can get Africa back on track to achieve the water and sanitation MDG.

As part of its road map, the President of the UNSGAB has established a number of priorities in his agenda where gender mainstreaming integration in sanitation is one of the 7 key activities in order to support Africa in achieving the MDGs.

For the Chairman of the UNSGAB, experience has shown that remarkable advances can be made very quickly, even in the poorest of countries for example in Ethiopia where integrated programmes have been devised to tackle water supply, sanitation and hygiene education:

- ✓ At institutional level where Ministries of Water resources, Health and Education have signed an MoU setting out the roles and responsibilities of partners regarding their implementation, meanwhile underscoring the necessity of cross sectarian approaches to achieve the MDG's.
- ✓ Not only at the institutional level, but also on the ground there have been some stunning results as:
 - In the Southern Nations of Ethiopia, 1.3 million latrines were built in only 18 months time;
 - In Uganda, in the district of Busia, motivated health officials virtually doubled coverage of sanitation through a sustained local promotion program;
 - Introduction of Community Lead Total Sanitation or Total Sanitation Approach has achieved remarkable results in countries like Benin, Nigeria, Zambia and Sierra Leone.

And various major international meetings will give a platform for discussing African sanitation issues.

To ensure that drastic improvement Prince Willem-Alexander believes to get national governments to commit to a number of guiding principles on Sanitation and agree on ways to promote local action:

- ✓ To develop a clear understanding between the ministries of Water, Health and education about their roles and responsibilities and according to him Ethiopia provides a good model;
- ✓ To evaluate national policies and plans in sanitation with emphasis on MDG 7 target 10, following the Johannesburg conference.

3- Activities

Monday 18 February 2008

- Attendance at the 2nd African Conference on Sanitation and Hygiene (AFRICASAN 2008)
- Meeting with Prosper N. Zombre, Mayor of Ouargaye and Second secretary of the Association of Burkina Faso Mayors.
- Meeting with Ms. Hanan El-Amin Muddathir Head of Environmental Union of Sudan (Mostagbal Org. For Youth Welfare and Training)
- Welcome ceremony and Status reports on sanitation and Hygiene in Africa
- Attendance at seminar Sub-regional Caucuses on country status and Actions:
 - ✓ Progress Towards the Sanitation MDGs in Burkina Faso;
 - ✓ Progress Towards the Sanitation MDGs in Senegal;
 - ✓ Round Table of other countries (including the civil society) on Status/Key Lessons/Challenges;
 - ✓ Discussion on Sub-regional Actions.
- Attendance at seminar Learning from African Success
 - ✓ Lessons from the Hand washing Program in Ghana;
 - ✓ Case study of Uganda;
 - ✓ Round table on experiences of national WASH Campaigns facilitate by WSSCC

Tuesday 19 February 2008

- Attendance at seminar Sanitation Leadership, Capacity coordination and Knowledge Exchange:
 - ✓ Round table by Ministers on how they got Sanitation Recognized as a Priority issue;
 - ✓ Round table of experience on coordinating sanitation;
 - ✓ Round table on African knowledge networks in sanitation.
- Attendance at seminar Safeguarding society
 - ✓ The impact of sanitation on children;
 - ✓ Sanitation and Risk management: A WHO Guideline Perspective;
 - ✓ Round table on sanitation, Hygiene, and HIV/AIDS;
 - ✓ Sanitation and Security for Women;
 - ✓ Round table on Sanitation, Women and Children.
 - ✓ Closing ceremony conference, dinner and party
- Dinner organized by the Mayor of the district of Ethekekwini.

Wednesday 20 February 2008

- Meeting with Mr. Denge Lugayu, Project Manager of Kitui Water & Sanitation Project (African Medical & Research Foundation- Kenya)
- Meeting with Daniel S. Kurao, Project Manager of Kajiado Watsan & Environmental Conservation Project (African Medical & Research Foundation- Kenya)
- Meeting with Mr. Richard Albani, Senior Water Resources Specialist (Program for Institutional and Regulatory Strengthening of Water Management in Armenia, USAID)
- Meeting with Camille Dansou, Water and Sanitation specialist (Dutch Embassy Benin, Cotonou)
- Ministerial Roundtable
 - ✓ Political undertakings from AfricaSan
 - ✓ Ministers draft AfricaSan Political Statement
- Meeting with Mrs Awa Thiam Ngom, Officer IEC for the coordination unit of the « Programme d'Eau Potable et d'Assainissement du Millénaire » (PEPAM), Senegal ;
- Meeting with Mamadou Gueye, Chief Autonomous Service Cleansing, (Coordinator of PAQPUD, Senegal);
- Jabulani Ben Ngcobo, Water Service department Sisonke District Municipal (South Africa)
- Meeting with Dr. Shiferaw Teklemariam, Ministry of Health, State Minister of Ethiopia
- Meeting with Mr. Pape Abdoulaye Fall, GTZ Consultant

Thursday February 21, 2008

- Meeting with Dr. Kouassi Dongo, Lecture Cocody University, Abidjan- Ivory Coast

During the days of the conference AfricaSan, 18 till 20 February, I have been promoting the GWA among many participants during these days in the different sections/seminars of the conference and handling out electronic and hardcopies of GWA materials. Many participants were aware of GWA and were interested in having capacity building trainings into the concept of Gender and Integrated Water Management.