

Chairman CECs Water, Forestry & Mining Webinar

Concept: Pathways to Sustainability of Water & Sanitation Services During & Post Covid-19

Focus: Opportunities & Challenges in Ensuring Service Delivery in the Present Circumstances

Challenges:

- Place of **WASH Sector** in the Delivery of the Water & Sanitation Services – Lack of clear policies, institutional frameworks to guide the Sector: **WASH was loud** in the Health Sector! Why?
- WASH being the critical aspect of fighting Covid-19 spread; Handwashing points; provision of water to the informal settlements for hand washing purposes; scarcity of water – water for handwashing or drinking?
- Covid-19 Protocols in the Provision of Water Services to the vulnerable/low-income/unserved areas? Who was in charge? Is it Health or MWSI?
- Lack of Consultation/Coordination between the MWSI & Health + CoG on the Covid-19 Protocols...impediment to the implementation of the same! Sustainability strategy? Resources?
- Water Scarcity; Low Sanitation Coverage – how were the WSPs suppose to implement the protocols?
- Support from the parent ministry to the County WSPs – bureaucracies? Water Tanks? Bowsers? Water Treatment Chemicals? Performanced-based Grants?
- Role of the Inter-governmental Framework?
- Effects of Climate Change in the WASH Sector – Flooding/Destruction of the Water & Sanitation Infrastructure?

Opportunities:

- Implementation of the Inter-governmental relations between the MWSI & CoG/Quick support from the MWSI.
- Place of WASH in the Sector – Role of WASH in MWSI Sector & Role of WASH in Health Sector.
- Development Partners – proper coordination and synergies in the support of the WASH Activities for maximum impact.
- Resources: Opportunity to expand the Water & Sanitation Services sector in the Counties/Country – Focus on the vulnerable communities!
- **Climate Change Effects:**

⇒ As Kenya works to address the current COVID-19 crisis, it is also committed to integrating green and resilience elements into its COVID-19 recovery plans.

- At all levels, there is a need to take a broad view of resilience and recognize that communities are aware and experienced in managing multiple risks simultaneously.
- We need to support communities to adapt to a changing climate during the COVID-19 pandemic, by adopting an integrated, multi-hazard risk management informed by the latest climate science, so that communities and institutions are recovering from the pandemic emergency while preparing for future hazard events.
- We need to be sure that while recover from this pandemic, we are preparing for other ongoing and future risks, as these will continue to affect us.
- COVID-19 can be an important entry point to engage communities in preparing for changes in other disease vectors that climate change may bring, in addition to many other potential impacts.

⇒ And we also need to understand that hazards reveal existing social inequalities. If we are going to talk about sustainable recovery from COVID-19, we need to understand and address the pre-existing social, political, and economic factors that contributed to the vulnerability of the poor and marginalized in the first place.

- We know that poor and marginalized people are more affected by the impacts of climate change, and they can also be adversely affected by actions and policies to mitigate and adapt to climate change, for example, greening a transport system can increase public transport costs for certain groups, or moving out of certain industries like coal, that has livelihood implications that need to be addressed.
- Our recovery from the pandemic should pay special attention to empowering the most marginalized groups. For example, here in

Kenya, as in many countries, we have seen a rise in the cases of gender-based violence during the pandemic.

⇒ In addition to protecting communities, these same communities bring a lot to the table. Communities can be engaged as valuable partners to develop solutions to address climate change.

- Women's empowerment is an important element to building broader resilience. Women face higher levels of vulnerability in the face of natural hazards and climate change – and they are also quite often the designers and builders of resilience. That's why it is important to foster women as leaders in community post covid-19 era. This means creating formal spaces where women's groups can organize to participate in recovery efforts, as well as formally allocating resources and roles to groups of affected women.
- We also have the opportunity to build on the indigenous knowledge of traditional communities, and mobilize the energy of our youth.

⇒ This crisis has caused the entire world to realize that we need to do things differently. And it should be the same for us. It is a time to focus on underlying root causes of vulnerability, particularly social inequality and exclusion. Social vulnerability, equality, and conflict sensitivity need to be systematically integrated into the policies, systems, and procedures of governments and organizations at every level. This is an essential step to creating better communities and societies.