



AFRICAN UNION



Economic Commission for Africa

**Joint ADB, AU and ECA-SA Seminar on “*Water and Sanitation in the Southern Africa Development Community (SADC): Innovative Approaches for Resource Mobilization and Policy Implementation*”  
Lusaka, Zambia, 10 - 11 December 2008.**

**Findings, recommendations and conclusions**

**Issues and challenges identified**

The seminar noted that region as a whole has serious challenges meeting the MDGs targets on water and sanitation. Provision of water supply and sanitation in the region was constrained, to varying degrees among SADC member states, by the following:

**(a) Inadequate financing and funding mechanisms**

- Lack of bankable integrated WATSAN projects
- Unsuitable environment for private sector participation in WATSAN development and management
- Very low levels of internal financing of water supply and sanitation initiatives,
- Inadequate cost recovery
- Lack of efficient window for financing WATSAN development projects in existing development banks

**(b) Weak institutional performance**

- Weak coordination and duplication of roles and responsibilities among governmental institutions and other sector players
- Inadequate human resources capacity for planning and management of WATSAN activities
- Poorly resourced sector institutions

**(c) Infrastructure development and support**

- Insufficient infrastructure development and maintenance
- Inadequate use of appropriate technologies for WATSAN service provision
- Lack of effective MDG plans

**(d) Monitoring, reporting and evaluation mechanisms**

- Lack of harmonized data and common definitions of key indicators for reporting
- Poor M&E systems at local, national and regional levels
- Inadequate funding of M&E operations
- Shortage of human resources with M&E skills
- Poor data and information for effective planning and management

**(e) Information and knowledge management**

- Low access to information
- Weak linkages between Research organizations and end users
- Poor knowledge sharing and dissemination mechanisms
- Lack of comprehensive and holistic stakeholder mobilization on WATSAN
- Poor coverage of WATSAN issues within school curricula
- Lack of learning from others` experiences

**Main recommendations**

The seminar identified further recommendations to strengthen water and sanitation development in the subregion.

- Member states should demonstrate their commitment towards meeting the sanitation MDG through mandatory budgetary allocations and innovative funding mechanisms,
- Governments and other stakeholders should introduce and promote simple and cost-effective technologies for harvesting rainfall and also install technology systems for purification purposes, both in urban and rural areas,
- Considering that water and sanitation service provision as a social function has led to poor policy choices and curtailed private investment in the sector, there is therefore a need for institutional reform towards developing the private sector, commercialization and establishment of PPPs,
- Though there is a clear realization that water and sanitation are at the core of development, agreed strategies should be translated into actions that directly improve service provision and define appropriate monitoring mechanisms.
- WASAT reforms should not be left to technocrats alone, comprehensive and holistic dialogue involving all key players should be promoted with special attention to the needs of women and girls,
- The IWRM philosophy and principles need to be mainstreamed in WASAT services with sanitation and hygiene issues given the same prominence as water issues, at national and basin levels.
- The SADC needs to strengthen WASAT human resources capacity development programmes for effective policy implementation in the sector. This will require commonly agreed definitions of key concepts and indicators for monitoring developments and evaluation of outcomes in water supply and sanitation particularly regarding access, coverage and poverty,

- Concerted effort by the sector practitioners is required to engage the political establishment in the subregion and face the weak political will in supporting WASAT.
- Best practices demonstrated by UNICEF and Mvula Trust Programmes need to be recognized and other stakeholders encouraged to learn from them,
- UNICEF should assist countries in developing and promoting a social marketing strategy to raise the profile of sanitation issues among the donor community and fill the gap between the donors` involvement in water and their low support to sanitation issues,
- Methodologies for more effective community participation, sharing responsibilities and indigenous private sector development need to be promoted and strengthened,
- The domestic financial system should be developed in order to reduce the dependency on foreign aid in WASAT sector development. Windows on WASAT should be created or strengthened in existing development bank in the subregion and the option of creating WASAT specialized Banks should be considered. These Banks could then approach the ADB and the DBSA for capitalisation to enable them finance Water Supply and Sanitation activities.