

# National Sanitation Working Group Proposes new **Hand-washing with soap campaigns**

**T**he National Sanitation Working Group (NSWG), which has been championing sanitation and hygiene in 2003, has proposed to integrate new plans aimed at scaling up hand-washing with soap campaigns across the country.

The actions of the NSWG are hinged on the Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 6 of the United Nations which emphasizes Clean Water and Sanitation for All, whereas SDG 6.2 talks about Sanitation and Hand-washing with soap for All.

NSWG is made up of members from Ministry of Water and Environment, Civil Society Organizations (CSOs), Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs),

line ministries (Ministry of Health, Ministry of Education and Sports, Office of the Prime Minister, Development Partners and other stakeholders in the sector.

The NSWG met on Thursday at Royal Suites Hotel in Bugolobi, Kampala, where members deliberated on history of the sector, current position and the future they foresee.

It is in this meeting that they assessed performance of the sector and also harmonized on various strategies and campaigns they will adopt to improve performance.



Mr. Sam Mutono makes a key note address at the NSWG meeting on Thursday at Royal Suites Hotel in Bugolobi, Kampala

Cate Namyalo Mpairwe, Environmental Health Officer, Rural Water Supply and Sanitation Department, presented the Hand-washing with soap report (2018).

The report showed Teso region at 49.5 percent, followed by West Nile region at 39.8 percent, Mid-central at 39.2 percent, Greater Ankole at 35.7 percent, Central at 32.1 percent, Rwenzori at 27.4 percent, Busoga/Elgon/Bukedi at 26.1 percent, Northern at 21.1 percent, and Karamoja at 8 percent.

The strategies, proposed by NSWG include; coming up with a way of increasing dissemination of available sanitation and hygiene communication materials in communities. This, they hope, will work, if they involve all stakeholders, opinion leaders, cultural leaders, heads of institutions and political leaders, in both rural and urban areas. Some of the public areas looked at as strategic are; markets, schools, hospitals, places of worship (churches and mosques).

NSWG also proposed to scale up the adoption of technological innovations and approaches in both rural and urban communities. For instance, there are some schools that put cement and concrete on hand-washing with soap equipment, which eases dispensing water with standards. They plan to come up with ways of encouraging all schools to adopt such a successful practice.

The team further proposed to support all efforts by public institutions to avail hand-washing with soap facilities.

**New campaigns  
are aimed at  
enabling NSWG  
to reach its  
target of**

**100%**

**sanitation  
coverage in  
Uganda**



The NSWG suggested to introduce an electronic catalogue of all materials produced and circulated by various stakeholders.

They further planned to use schools to promote behavior change in society. They argued that passing message through children, has been proven to be effective since they are agents of change.

The following are some of the key achievements registered by NSWG;

- Hand washing coverage rose by 4% from 21% in 2010 to 25% in 2011.
- Media plan was rolled out successfully using 27 local area radio stations with adverts and sponsored monthly talk shows for all 30 districts.
- A total of 3,176 HWAs were trained.
- School calendars were printed and distributed to 390 primary schools in the 30 districts.

### **Achievements under SNV;**

- SWOT and Stakeholder Analysis done to discover and document facts and trends in the sector that influence and or are likely to affect the future of the NHWI.
- Strategic directions and results. This was hinged on three pillars i.e. Capacity Building; Learning and Knowledge Management and Coordination and Alignment.



NSWG in a group photo after the meeting on Thursday at Royal Suites Hotel in Bugolobi, Kampala

- Institutional Framework and Implementation Model supported strategic institutions, networks, alliances, partners to cause a movement for mass behavior change in HWWS at scale. UWASNET, TSUs and IRCU were the immediate strategic partners in this respect.

## Achievements under MWE

Together with UNICEF, NHWWS Strategy is under development.

BCC strategy developed and materials produced. BCC materials translated in 12 local languages (visual) and in 24 local languages (Audio), 60,000 copies of HWWS BCC materials disseminated in schools, communities, health centres and institutions.

300 government officials and CSOs trained in use of HWWS BCC tools.

200 journalists trained in HWWS BCC.



Mr. Sam Mutono, Chair National Sanitation Working Group (L) with Mr. David Katwera Semwanga of Ministry of Health (R)

## Some of the challenges faced by NSWG.

NSWG is faced with low sector financing for HWWS, low prioritization of hygiene often hidden in sanitation programs, inadequate funding for the secretariat, trivialization of hand washing, and limited technology options.

However, the NSWG strongly believes that after implementing the strategies harmonized in the meeting and highlighted above, they will achieve their target of 100 percent coverage in hand-washing with soap.

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