



MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDINGS  
ON  
MINISTERAL RESPONSIBILITIES FOR SANITATION/HYGIENE  
PROMOTION ACTIVITIES

AU + SA

Uganda has one of the lowest access coverage for sanitation in the world and the Government has decided to address this embarrassing situation by setting targets and putting in place plans and strategies to rectify this situation. In order for the existing and new programmes to be implemented successfully and meet the set targets there is need for a clear institutional arrangement.

Since early 1980s, DWD/MWLE, in collaboration with EHD/MOH and Donors, have incorporated water related sanitation activities as an integrated part of Rural Water and Sanitation programmes. The Water Sector Reform, undertaken by MWLE/DWD in collaboration with line ministries, local governments with support from Donors has prepared a 15-year Strategy and investment plan for Rural Water supply and Sanitation, where aspects of sanitation related to water supply provision are covered. The Urban water reform proposal is that the water and sanitation services in the towns be integrated and managed together.

At the moment there is unclear institutional arrangement for sanitation at the central level that hamper service delivery by the Local Governments. The approach in handling sanitation issues is not well defined, the water sector addresses some aspects and health sector addresses others. The issues even reached the Cabinet level and it was agreed that the institutional responsibility for sanitation be clarified between Ministry of Health and Ministry of Water, Lands and Environment. In 2000, two meetings were held between the two ministries (MWLE/MOH) at policy level (Ministers) and Technical level (Permanent Secretary and Directors), but were not conclusive and the issue was referred to MPFED to organize another meeting. MPFED chaired meeting held on 23<sup>rd</sup> March 2001, attended by official from MOH, MWLE, MOES, MGLSD and MOLG, that agreed on a common stand and way forward.

The three ministries (MOH, MWLE and MOES) initiated efforts to resolve the issue and each of the 3 ministries prepared issue papers on sanitation that were presented at the First Joint Government of Uganda/Development Partners Review of Water and Sanitation sector in September 2001. There was consensus and recommendation that sanitation and hygiene promotion be given higher priority and that:

- Benefits from the Investments in rural and urban water supply will not be fully realized if the health benefits are not obtained.
- More emphasis is needed on hygiene promotion for household sanitation, sanitation in schools and the special challenges of urban sanitation.

Furthermore, it was agreed that the concerned ministries should formally certify the institutional anchorages and responsibilities, including prioritization of resources, for

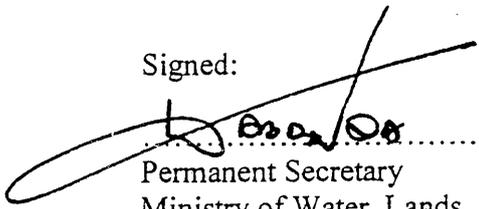
sanitation and hygiene promotion. The lead central level institutions for defining strategies and plans in specific areas of sanitation and hygiene promotion would be:

- MWLE for planning investments in sewerage services and public facilities in towns and rural growth centres;
- MoH for household hygiene and sanitation; and
- MoES for school latrine construction and hygiene education.

The mechanism for cooperation and integration among line ministries need strengthening and elaboration.

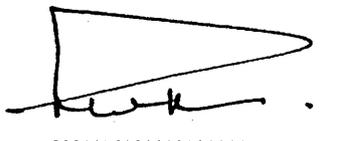
The undersigned certify their agreement to the above and agree to finalise putting in place institutional arrangements, including co-operation mechanisms and resources prioritisation before 31<sup>st</sup> December 2001(one of the undertakings from the Joint GOU/Donor Review).

Signed:



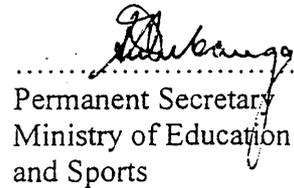
Permanent Secretary  
Ministry of Water, Lands  
and Environment

Date: 28/07/2002



Permanent Secretary  
Ministry of Health

Date: 22/12/2001



Permanent Secretary  
Ministry of Education  
and Sports

Date: 22/1/02