

WATER AND CONFLICT

Making Water Delivery Conflict Sensitive In Uganda

by

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Introducing Saferworld

Saferworld is

- An international organisation currently working in Africa, Aisa, and Europe
- The main office is in London, with offices in Nairobi, Kampala, Brussels, Pristina, Colombo, Kathmandu, as well as staff based in Vienna, Dhaka, and Juba
- It's a conflict prevention organisation that specialises in Conflict sensitive Approaches to development, Small Arms Management, and Security and Justice sector development

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Introduction

Saferworld's work in Uganda aims at;

- **Promoting Conflict Sensitivity in development policy and practice so that development interventions are based on sound conflict analysis and therefore contribute to promoting peace and minimising the negative impacts of such work on conflict dynamics**



Conference objectives

Saferworld understands the objectives of this conference as meant to look at conflict as;

- **a result of an increase in demand for water because of population increases, migrations, pollution and pastoralism**
- **a result of sharing the resources e.g. Lake Victoria, the Nile river, the Senegal river, the river Zambezi, the Orange river and others**
- **a result of the dwindling nature of the resource due to natural factors including global warming, depletion and degradation of forests and destruction of the ozone**



- Saferworld acknowledges the above as immediate themes in the water discourse that need urgent attention, but also would like to propose that it is time we started discussions on how delivery of water to urban and rural beneficiaries both for life and for production can be used to contribute to peace. Thus the adoption of the **Conflict Sensitive Approaches**



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Relationship between conflict and development

This is particularly important in Uganda because past conflicts in the North and North Eastern of the country have undermined development and prevented poverty reduction targets from being attained

To understand the methodology, we piloted a project in Uganda whose objectives were:-

- To stimulate policy discussion on conflict sensitive development with strong input from civil society focussing on water sector as a pilot



Cont...

- Use the sector based work to stimulate macro – level discussion on conflict and development assistance in Uganda.
- To support civil society and other relevant stakeholders to revise and conflict sensitize in practice, two water sector focused pilot projects in Kasese and Arua districts
- Use district implementation experience to inform national level policy



Approach

Work on the project has took the form of:-

- Initial consultation and assessment – allowing for identification of key conflict issues, selection of water sector as a focal sector and Kasese and Arua as pilot districts
- Awareness raising – aimed at promoting discussions between Gov't and CSOs, district and national level partners on conflict sensitive development
- Revising sector and partner development strategies to become more conflict sensitive initially focussing on the water sector and how water can contribute to peace



Cont...

- Accompanying district level projects – day to day support to ensure that implementation of two water projects in districts contribute to addressing the cause and dynamics of conflict and providing training where needed.
- National and international experiences feeding lessons and experiences into international advocacy and practice on conflict sensitive development with specific reference to water



Lessons learnt

Broadly we have learnt that water services providers need to be cautious of:-

- Disputes over land on which water projects are commissioned
- Competition for water resources between communities can resurrect historical animosity and cause conflict
- Disagreement over whether water should be used for domestic, animals or crop consumption
- User committees that collect fees and do not use the fees to maintain the facility can cause misunderstanding over the motives of the water providers.



Proposals to the conference

Integrate conflict issues into water management policy

- Use experiences of mainstreaming HIV/AIDS and Gender to deal with conflict in the water sector
- Include conflict analysis in the writing and reviewing of policy documents



Cont.

Improve conditions between different actors

- Make it clear who is responsible for what and communicate this properly
- Ensure there is correct complaints procedures esp' with regard to collecting and managing fees



Cont..

Integrate conflict analysis into assessments and planning

- Planning for new water projects need to have in-depth conflict analysis to help identify the nature of interactions it will have with the conflict dynamics



Cont..

Improve compensation practices

- Urban land owners are compensated for land lost to water projects but this is not normally the case in rural settings. This causes problems because in the rural areas land is the main source of livelihood



Cont.

Allocate more resources to software activities

- Donors and other development actors need to increase the capacity for software activities. This should include the management of software funds because they are the ones mostly open to abuse



Cont..

Improve feedback procedures

- Place much emphasis on the process of sending information back to the communities about the status of the service being provided
- Communities need information to minimise expectations that might otherwise flair tempers



Kiywebe Gravity flow scheme



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END

THANK YOU

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