

Financing sustainable development: bringing new urgency to ending water and sanitation poverty, catalysing economic development and protecting the environment.

Report on Ethiopian Government and WaterAid side event at the Third International Conference on Financing for Development in Addis Ababa.

14 July 2015

At the Third International Conference on Financing for Development in Addis Ababa, the Government of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia and WaterAid convened a high-level panel of experts to discuss financing universal access to water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) by 2030. The debate offered panellists the opportunity to consider how WASH could be successfully integrated with other Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and financed within the broader context of sustainable development.

Key areas of focus for the speakers included:

- Financing aspects of the Ethiopian Government's Growth and Transformation Plan and the ONE WASH National Program.
- The challenges in addressing estimated national financing gaps in resourcing universal access by 2030, including the role of Official Development Assistance (ODA).
- How to ensure the sustainability of WASH programmes.
- How WASH investments can act as a catalyst for social and economic development.

Summary of speakers' points

His Excellency Alemayehu Tegenu, Minister of Water, Irrigation and Energy, Ethiopia

H.E. Alemayehu Tegenu welcomed guests to the event. He highlighted that Ethiopia's principal focus when financing sustainable development is the eradication of poverty. He emphasised the significant impact of WASH on overall socio-economic development and cited the Ethiopian government's achievement in halving the number of people without access to water by 2015. He said that this had been a concerted effort by all WASH

stakeholders. The Minister went on to speak about how Ethiopia has now moved to a broader sector-wide programme, the ONE WASH programme which aims for universal access by 2020. ONE WASH is successfully harmonising approaches, with one plan and budget, addressing rural, urban needs, strengthening institutions and developing capacity. The programme requires major cross-sectoral funding.

**His Excellency Thomas Kaydor,
Deputy Foreign Minister, Liberia**

H.E. Thomas Kaydor spoke about Liberia's reconstruction after 14 years of civil war. He pointed out that the rehabilitation of the hardware of the country's water system will require US\$300 million. Although the Government is planning to increase budget allocations, there is still a major national shortfall, currently estimated at US\$220 million. The Government is fully committed to providing basic services, including water and sanitation, to all Liberian citizens, because they recognise that these are a human right for everyone. The Minister spoke briefly about the Ebola crisis and the key role that water, sanitation and hygiene played in stopping the epidemic – the Liberian Government rapidly and extensively promoted handwashing and hygienic practices. The Government's long-term vision of development, the 2030 Agenda, includes a key role for the provision of water and sanitation services.

**Ambassador Atsuyuki Oike,
Director-General for Global issues,
Japanese Government**

Ambassador Atsuyuki Oike spoke about the importance attached by the Japanese Government to water and sanitation as a human right, and the work its collaboration with developing countries to help supply clean water. As part of the Tokyo International Conference on African Development (TICAD IV), 2008–12, the Japanese Government committed to supply safe water to 10 million people, a promise it has now delivered. Japan also trained 13,000 experts in the sector and plans to reach another 10 million people with clean water in the next TICAD period. He provided examples of Japanese projects in Africa and Asia, and

emphasised the importance of linking ODA, private sector and local government for successful delivery of the SDGs.

Mr Tony Pipa, US Special Co-ordinator for the Post-2015 Development Agenda

Mr Pipa spoke about gender equality, saying women and girls are disproportionately affected by the lack of water, sanitation and hygiene. He pointed out that the disparities in access by gender, wealth, or rural and urban areas, represent a major challenge for the sector. He said that financing and achieving the SDGs is a challenge that goes beyond the capacity of individual governments; there is therefore a need for increased collaboration to finance the ambitious goals.

Mr Pipa detailed the financial need, saying that more than US\$40 billion dollars is likely to be needed annually to provide services for those currently without access and to accommodate growing populations. This is in addition to what is required annually to rehabilitate existing systems. He concluded that these funding requirements would need to be covered through mobilisation of domestic resources as well as efficient use of ODA. He also asserted that, for any of the programmes to succeed and be sustainable, ownership by local people and local government is essential. The sustainability of WASH services also was reliant on improvements in governance, the technical capacity of systems, and rigorous consideration of environmental and social factors.

Mr Guido Schmidt-Traub, Executive Director of the UN Sustainable Development Solutions Network

Mr Schmidt-Traub spoke about the continuing high numbers of people in the world who still lack access to water and sanitation, emphasising that lack of access is directly contributing to ill health. Stunting and poor health in children are significantly related to poor sanitation and not only to signs of poor nutrition. He went on to speak about the gap in investment to realise universal access to water and sanitation. He noted that, although since 2000 many people had gained access to sanitation, the progress was insufficient particularly when considered alongside the growth in populations. Mr Schmidt-Traub asked ‘How can we mobilise financing for sanitation?’ He went on to say that the first thing we need to do is a better job of explaining what one dollar invested in sanitation can achieve; it is clear that a bigger share of financing has to go to water and sanitation in each country. He was clear that we need to convince every finance minister in every country that they need to invest in WASH services, and that “Business as usual” is not going to bring universal access by 2030.

Mr Teferi Abebe Kidane, Country Representative, WaterAid

Mr Teferi Abebe Kidane noted that WaterAid specialises in providing access to clean water, sanitation and hygiene. He posed the question ‘What will we do differently in the new SDG period?’ and said that there was need for a new urgency to find resources and to ensure that there is integration among sectors to work towards the goal of universal WASH access for all. Mr Abebe cited WaterAid Ethiopia’s Country Programme as an example of collaboration with local government, and how increasingly WaterAid was working with health and education sectors. He also spoke about WaterAid’s research on aid flows which showed that 45 countries are in need of increased aid investments, and said that the research demonstrates the need for increased urgency from governments and financial institutions.

The **Question and Answer Session** included discussion of the mechanisms for the localisation of the SDGs in keeping with all new standards included in the Sustainable Development Framework; that the Framework should include well-defined milestones, modes of implementation as well accountability mechanisms, the importance of strengthening national statistical institutions, effective reporting of progress by countries, including the impact of unforeseen issues, and how governments respond and adapt. The discussion also emphasised the importance of including civil society in the implementation of the SDGs worldwide.



His Excellency Alemayehu Tegenu, Ethiopian Minister for Water, Irrigation and Energy.



The Honourable Thomas Kaydor, Liberian Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs.



Ambassador Atsuyuki Oike, Director General for Global Issues, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Japan.



(L-R): Mr Teferi Abebe Kidane, Country Representative, WaterAid Ethiopia; Mr Tony Pipa, US Special Coordinator for the Post-2015 Development Agenda; His Excellency Alemayehu Tegenu, Minister for Water, Irrigation and Energy.



(L-R): Ambassador Atsuyuki Oike, Director General for Global Issues, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Japan; Mr Guido Schmidt-Traub, Executive Director of UN Sustainable Development Solutions Network.



Ms Catarina de Albuquerque, Executive Chair, Sanitation and Water for All Partnership.



Ms Mary Kate Costello, Policy Analyst, The Hunger Project.



Mr Amos S. Siebo, Jr., Deputy Head, President's Delivery Unit, Executive Office of the President, Ministry of State for Presidential Affairs, Republic of Liberia.



Ms Selome Tadesse, Moderator.



Credit: Behailu Shiferaw