

Innovate4WASH Kampala 2023



25th to 27th October 2023

At the **NWSC International Resource Center**

Accelerating financing of climate-smart WASH solutions and provide a platform for stakeholders to exchange knowledge and best



1. Background

It is widely recognized that water is central to sustainable development, and is linked with socioeconomic development, healthy ecosystems, and human survival. In Uganda, improving access to water and sanitation leads to an improvement in the health, welfare, and productivity of populations. Every day, unsafe water results in many deaths and the spread of water-related diseases, including those caused by microorganisms and chemical substances, such as dysentery and cholera. These waterborne diseases are a significant cause of suffering and infant mortality in Uganda.

In many parts of Uganda, underground water sources are threatened by the pollution produced in certain mining, farming, and industrial activities, especially in areas where there is a lack of adequate regulation or controls. It is not only a question of industrial waste, but also detergents and chemical products, which are commonly used in many parts of the country, and continue to pour into our rivers, lakes, seas, and other water bodies.

Some studies warn that an acute water shortage may occur within a few decades unless urgent action is taken, and the environmental repercussions could affect billions of people. In Uganda, financial needs for improving the water sector are also huge, but investing in the water sector is often perceived as risky and complex. To attract more public and private investments into the water sector in Uganda, innovative finance mechanisms are needed to de-risk and make the sector more attractive. Financial investments and attention need to move from exclusions into supporting environmental and sustainable development goals-based investment funds and new initiatives with real impact in Uganda.



2. Innovate 4WASH 2023 Forum, Kampala

The Innovate for WASH Kampala Conference is a 'home grown' initiative aimed at providing a sustainable approach to addressing the need for innovation in the water and sanitation sector. This initiative was started in Kenya through private sector engagements, with technology and innovation being prescribed as the strategy to deliver efficient water use and reduce the strain on utility companies in the country and the East African region. The Forum seeks to showcase cutting-edge innovations by nurturing 'homegrown' solutions developed by local and regional innovators to address WASH challenges that hinder uptake. The Ugandan chapter of the Forum, Innovate for WASH Kampala, is now being introduced to attract investors and the private sector to tap into the WASH ecosystem in Uganda and foster partnerships in East Africa. The Conference aims to accelerate financing of climate-smart WASH solutions and provide a platform for stakeholders to exchange knowledge and best practices in the WASH sector.

This Forum will bring together various stakeholders and provided a platform for them to:

A

Gain an understanding of the policies, programmes, and interventions that the government has in place aimed at fostering positive action in sustainable water management.

B

Showcase various innovations in the Eastern African Region market and the value they create within the water and sanitation sector.

C

Facilitate an exchange between the sources and seekers of capital by offering organizations the opportunity to present, in time-limited segments, their mission, their value proposition, and other relevant information. .

D

Give presentations on the available sources of financing, and requirements.

E

Showcase their areas of intervention, for those not directly involved in seeking capital and financing.

F

Create partnerships geared towards sustainable water and sanitation management.

3. The Ugandan Context

Uganda is a country that has made significant progress in the WASH sector over the past few years. According to the JMP report, access to basic drinking water services in Uganda increased from **64% in 2000 to 81% in 2017**. However, the country still faces significant challenges in improving access to safely managed drinking water and sanitation services. In 2017, only **11%** of the population had access to safely managed drinking water, and only **28%** had access to basic sanitation services. rate financing of climate-smart WASH solutions

Climate change is exacerbating these challenges. Uganda is particularly vulnerable to climate change, with frequent droughts and floods impacting the availability and quality of water resources. These challenges are further compounded by the fact that the majority of the population relies on rain-fed agriculture for their livelihoods, which is highly vulnerable to climate change impacts.

In order to address these challenges, the government of Uganda has developed a number of policies and strategies aimed at improving access to WASH services and promoting climate-smart WASH solutions. The National Development Plan (NDP) 2020/21-2024/25 recognizes the importance of WASH in achieving sustainable development and sets out a number of targets for the sector, including increasing access to safely managed drinking water to **100%** by 2030 and increasing access to basic sanitation services to **80%** by 2030.

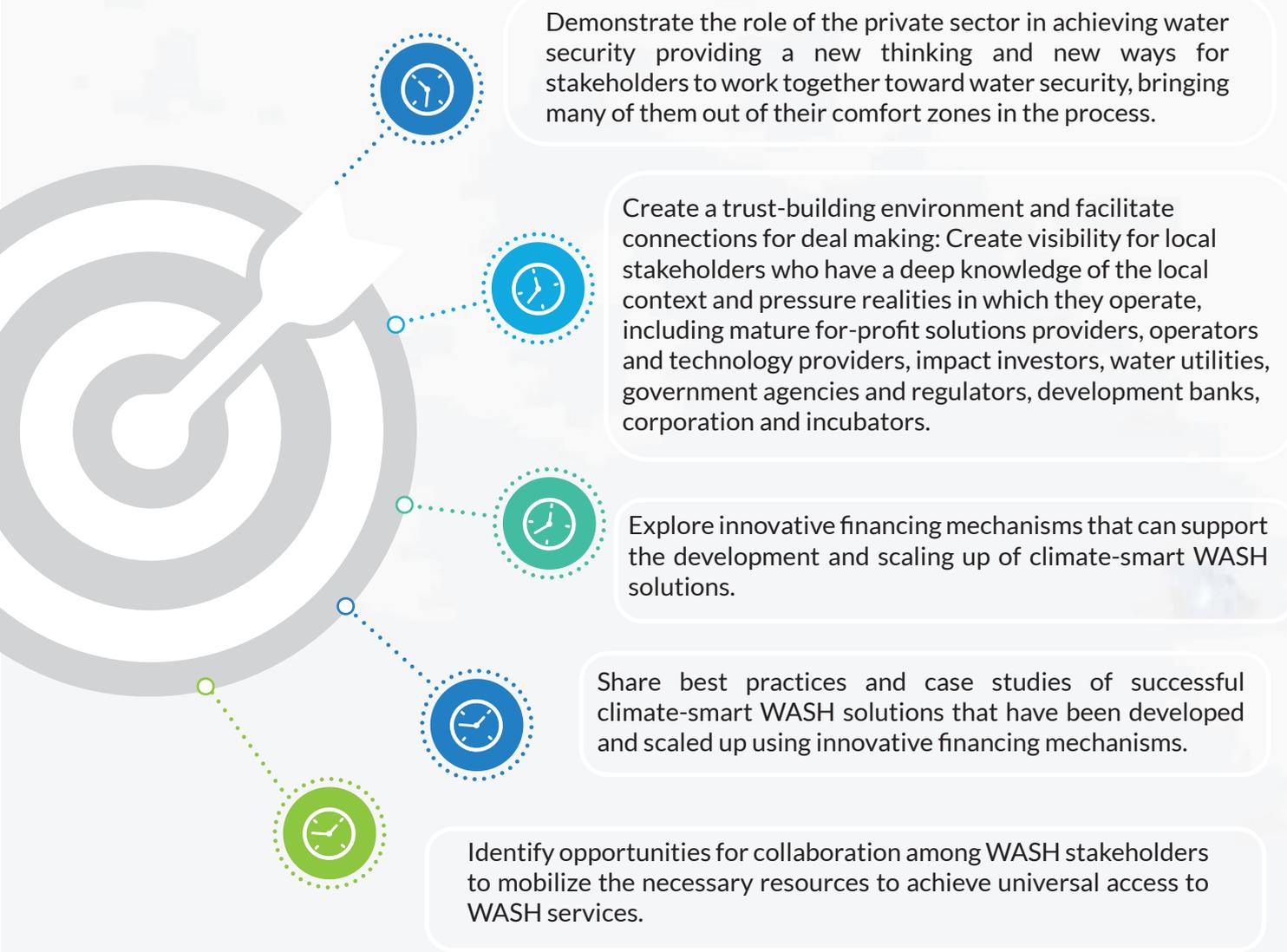
In addition, the government has developed a number of policies and strategies aimed at promoting climate-smart WASH solutions. The National Climate Change Policy (2015) recognizes the importance of WASH in building resilience to climate change and calls for the promotion of climate-smart WASH solutions. The National Adaptation Plan (NAP) process, which is currently underway, also recognizes the importance of WASH in building resilience to climate change and is expected to provide guidance on how to integrate climate change considerations into WASH planning and programming.

Despite these efforts, there are still significant funding gaps in the WASH sector in Uganda. Innovative financing mechanisms, such as impact investing, blended finance, and social bonds, are needed to mobilize the necessary resources to achieve universal access to WASH services and promote climate-smart WASH solutions. The Innovate for WASH Kampala Conference provides an opportunity for WASH stakeholders to explore these innovative financing mechanisms and identify opportunities for collaboration to mobilize the necessary resources to achieve universal access to WASH services and promote climate-smart WASH solutions in Uganda.



4. OBJECTIVES

The Innovate for Water and Sanitation, Kampala Forum will have the following five (5) key SMART objectives.



5. EXPECTED OUTCOMES



- A Facilitate connections for deal-making
- B Give visibility to organizations (UN, NGO's, Corporations) presenting their needs and/or current projects (impact funds, coalitions, innovative public/private models, new financial vehicles) to potential service providers (social entrepreneurs, water and technology experts, etc.) partners and investors
- C Form sustainable partnerships in adapting suitable innovations in combating threat paused by climate change in the water and sanitation sector
- D Leverage the interest of entrepreneurs who innovate, including with disruptive technologies and social business models, thus contributing to SDG 6
- E Promote climate smart WASH technologies including Water Recycling and Reuse

6. FORMAT

Every participant is invited to make a 7 minutes pitch presentation. One thought provoking panel discussion will be organized to help unpack our traction on our achievement on SDG 6. The participants come across the range of East Africa's innovation community for WASH. We ensure we create ample chances to meet and talk for networking purposes.

Where we need to go deep, we organize special sessions beyond the pitch to co-design ways forward.



💧 We focus on pitches because good commercial solutions for WASH exist. Pitches put them out there. One Innovate4WASH guiding principle is “take action”.

💧 Every participant pitches. So, everyone contributes to the shared experience.

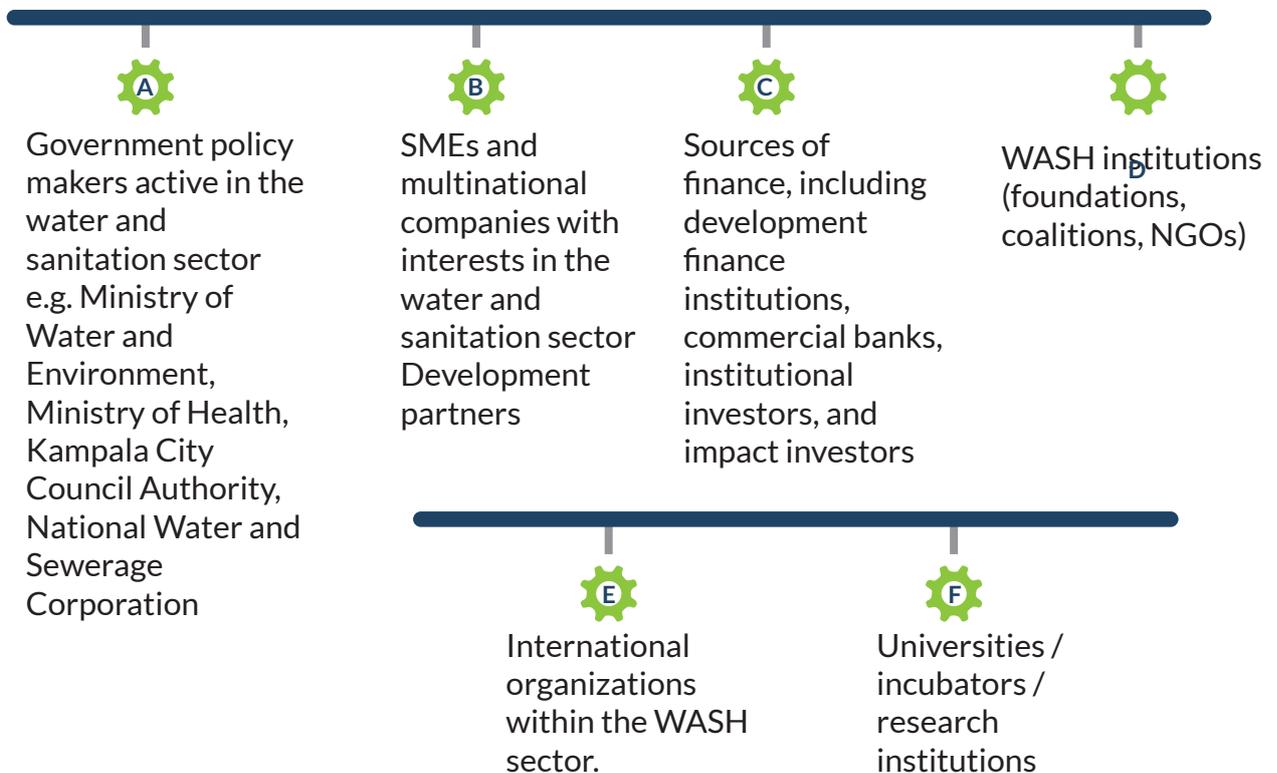
💧 We also create limited exhibition space for participants to showcase their innovations and encourage partnerships and collaborations.

💧 We invite a diversity of people across the sector. Another Innovate4WASH guiding principle is to “be welcoming and inclusive” because different perspectives make innovation beyond mere incremental improvements possible.

💧 A stage and space to meet is great. Yet sometimes not enough. In facilitated smaller special sessions we take it a step further and design together how to move forward. It is part of ‘taking action’.



7. INTENDED AUDIENCE

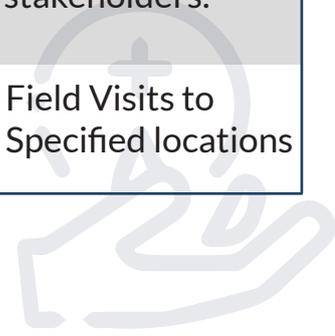


8. KEY PRIORITY AREAS FOR INTERVENTION

- a. Water - Energy - Food Nexus
- b. Water for climate, resilience and environment
- c. De-fluoridation solutions
- d. Solarization Programs/Clean & Sustainable Energy Solutions (Green Energy)
- e. 5 Building Blocks of Sanitation – Upscaling the Kampala CWIS Strategy and Financing WASH Options.
- f. Water Harvesting Solutions
- g. Water Recycling Solution
- h. Innovative WASH finance
- i. Integrated solid waste management solutions
- j. Menstrual Hygiene management

9. TENTATIVE PROGRAM

	Day 1	Day 2	Day 3
MORNING	Welcoming Keynotes and Pitch by Enablers	Pitch by WASH Stakeholders	Pitch by WASH stakeholders
AFTERNOON	Pitch by WASH stakeholders	Pitch by WASH stakeholders	Pitch by WASH stakeholders.
EVENING	Pitch by Private Sector Players	B2B networking cocktail	Field Visits to Specified locations



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