



Ministry of Water and Environment

Humanitarian and Development Response Management of Refugee settlements in host districts

Joint Sector Review Workshop September 2019



Critical Challenges

- At strategic level, deconcentrated Unit is far from the refugee hosting districts in West Nile – making it difficult to have Snr. Technical staff closer to support DWO.
- Inadequate Operation and maintenance frameworks for Water supply and sanitation: host/refugees interface
- Issue of subsidies on sanitation: approach not harmonized with country strategies
- Friction between host and refugees over introduction of Cash for services, bringing competition for products and services between refugees and host population in the same market: could be also an opportunity on market stimulation – probably the community is not ready for this
- Land: Need to enforce laws on acquisition by foreigners. Human carrying capacity of this region is exceeded considering the current resource availability. Need for identification and opening of other settlements:
- Environmental degradation is continuous, conflict over scarce resources e.g. fuelwood



Causes

- ▶ Open door policy
- ▶ Absence of enforcement on land laws
- ▶ Lack of adherence to Ministry guidelines and relevant policies
- ▶ Refugees settled in marginal areas with very little natural resources and general lack of basic services.



Practical solutions

- Consolidation of comments with regards to gaps on land and hand it Ministry of Lands
- Issue of refugee policy: consolidate issues that need to be addressed and forward to Management for discussion and forwarding;
- Gazettement of water supply schemes, utility agencies to do proper O&M : NWSC and Umbrella Authority
- Mainstreaming refugees response in the upcoming sector development Plan
- Comprehensive assessment and restoration of degraded areas in refugee hosting districts
- Consultations at district level and @ Sub-County level on implementation of priorities identified in the WERRP:
- Ministry deployment of snr. Staff at Arua level and improving implementation capacity of District
- Certified suppliers of wood/bamboo to refugees as food is distributed;
- Institutional requirements to roll out the plan, e.g. RRP Subgroup and secretariat

Proposed Undertakings

- Upgrading 13 water schemes in refugee hosting districts and integrating management of existing water supply and sanitation into utility management structures sustainably.
- Restore degraded hotspots within the refugee hosting micro-catchments.