

Meeting with School Head Teachers and Water Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH) Club Patrons to develop topic for school WASH clubs writing competitions and tools for effective implementation of WASH activities in the 3 Primary schools in Kampala City.

An Activity Report, 26th February, 2020.

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1.0 Introduction, Background and Objectives of the activity

1.1 Introduction

This report highlights the proceedings of a meeting with school teachers and Water Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH) club patrons (*i.e. Mirembe primary school, Railway primary school and Uganda school for the deaf*). The meeting was conducted on **26th February 2020**. The main aim of the meeting was to develop topic for school WASH school writing competitions but also tools for effective implementation of WASH activities in the school.

1.2 Background

Environmental Alert (EA)¹ in partnership with Water Aid is implementing project on Water Sanitation and Hygiene project titled **Sustainable WASH (SuSWASH)** project. This project also supports KCCA directorates for Health, Education and Strategic Planning to include elements that strengthen the sustainability of WASH services within their current plans. This SuSWAH project focuses on two main areas:

- a) Strengthening of School WASH structures including SMCs to support sustainability and ensure that WASH services are inclusive especially for women and girls;
- b) Capacities strengthening of school WASH structures through tailor-made trainings on sustainability of service provision. At the community level, through mobilising community members and local leaders to spearhead the scale-up of improved sanitation facilities through targeted behavior change campaigns and dialogues.

Recently, Environmental Alert conducted a rapid assessment of the WASH situation in the selected schools as a basis to find capacity gaps that will be bridged during various interventions. This assessment was conducted in the 5 project schools (*i.e. Kansanga seed secondary school, Mirembe primary school, Nateete Muslim high school, Railway children primary school and Uganda school for the deaf*).

From the assessment, findings indicated that about 10% of learners lacked adequate knowledge and information on WASH. EA is intending to conduct WASH writing competitions especially with in the primary section (Mirembe primary school, Railway children primary school and Uganda school for the deaf) to enhance learners' capacity in generating and sharing knowledge and information on WASH but also build a critical mass that is knowledgeable and informed enough to address WASH issues. It is against this background that EA organized a meeting with school head teachers and WASH club patrons to generate and agree on the topic for WASH writing competitions.

1.3 Objectives of the activity

The main objective of the meeting was to agree on

- a) The topic for WASH writing competitions,
- b) The criteria of selecting the best candidate from the competing manys,
- c) The kind of gifts for the different winning category.

2.0 Methodology and Output

2.1 Methods used in delivering the activity

- i. The meeting employed a mix of approaches that encouraged an interactive participation of the participants to generate and agree on topics for school WASH writing competitions.

¹ Further information about Environmental Alert is available in the **Box 1**.

- ii. The meeting also involved PowerPoint presentation on the contextual background to bring the participants to updated
- iii. participants to updated

2.2 Activity Outputs

- i. The topic for WASH writing competitions was generated.
- ii. The criteria of selecting the best candidate from the competition were developed.
- iii. The kinds of gifts for the different winning categories were agreed on.

3.0 Proceedings of the event

3.1 Opening prayers

This was led by the head teacher Mirembe primary school Ms Hanifah Bako who requested God to bless the meeting and enable the participants implement the practices obtained from the training.

3.2 Self introductions

All participants were able to introduce themselves guided by the modulator Mr. Kamoga Arafa with a criterion of name, organization/school and the designation.

3.3 Welcoming remarks and Objectives of the meeting

This was conducted by Mr. Kizito Charles on behalf of Environmental Alert; Charles welcomed the participants to the meeting and thanked them good working relationship with EA, he further welcomed the new head teacher for Uganda school for the deaf. He reminded the participants that EA has had several engagements with these schools. He informed the members that the project is looking at building capacity of KCCA institutions to effectively and efficiently deliver services to the consumers i.e. schools and communities. He underscored the issue of capacitating school WASH clubs and other children in a principle of, **'leaving no one behind.'** He indicated that in the assessment conducted by EA, lack of school WASH improvement plans, inadequate WASH clubs and lack of adequate WASH knowledge and information. He quickly went through some of the project activities that have been so far implemented in schools. He emphasized that the main reason for convening the meeting is to agree on the WASH writing topics and modalities of conducting the competitions. He ended by wishing the participants fruitful deliberations.

3.3 Background/context – including criteria/key considerations to inform selection of topic for the writing completion

This was conducted by Mr. Kamoga Arafa on behalf of EA. He indicated that EA conducted a rapid assessment of the WASH situation of 92 respondents (52 Females and 42Males) in the selected schools as a basis to find capacity gaps that will be bridged during various interventions. This assessment was conducted in the 5 project schools (Kansanga seed secondary school, Mirembe primary school, Nateete Muslim high school, Railway children primary school and Uganda school for the deaf).He indicated that from the assessment, findings indicated that a about 10% of learners lacked adequate knowledge and information on WASH. Kamoga went ahead to say that Writing competitions will enhance learners' capacity in generating and sharing knowledge and information on WASH but also build a critical mass that is knowledgeable and informed enough to address WASH issues. He did mention about the key considerations for choosing the topic including: Comprehension, Incorporate WASH (i.e. cater for water sanitation and hygiene aspects), and Relationship with the children's day today life. He gave a key highlight on the components of a good article including: The Headline, Introduction, The Body/Content and

Conclusion. He ended his communication by giving the update on the school project activities so far implemented.

3.4 Selection criteria for the topic of WASH writing competition

This agenda item was conducted by Mr. Kizito Charles. Following the criteria of comprehension, combining the three components of WASH relating to the learners' daily life, several topics were suggested by the participants and a discussion was held and finally one topic was picked and agreed on for the writing competitions. The topic is **“WASH is very important on our daily lives at school and home”**.

3.5 Selection criteria for the best candidate of WASH writing competition

Participants discussed and agreed on different **considerations** for the competitions including: one full page, handwritten and by the upper primary section (p4-p7). Different awarding criteria were also agreed on including: breaking down the acronym WASH and 1 full page handwritten article. It was also agreed that the patron will receive the articles from learners, screen them and send 20 articles to the school vetting committee (head teacher, science teacher and English teacher) which will select the best 3 articles. The 3 articles will be sent to the independent committee (WaterAid, EA, and KCCA). The independent committee will then select the best, first and second runner-up. The awarding process agreed on include: assessing resources, not awarding equally (1st, 2nd, and 3rd) and have 2 positions. The meeting also agreed on the kind of awards including: school bags, juice containers, books, geometry sets, and pair of uniforms, soap, towels, sanitary package (pants, sanitary towels, soap, mirror, vaseline and a towel), watches, socks, mirrors, combs.

3.6 Action planning/way forward.

The meeting agreed on the action plan as shown in the **Table 1**.

Table 1 showing the planned and agreed actions for the writing competition.

Activities	Timelines
Announcing and putting out topics	27 th , February 2020
Writing and Submitting the articles	2 nd March 2020
Selecting the initial list (20)	3 rd -4 th March 2020
Selecting the final list (3)	5 th March 2020
Selecting the best writer, 2 and 3	6 th Mirembe, 9 th railway, 10 th March 2020 Uganda school for the deaf
Awarding	Assemblies 12 th March 2020

4.0 Key emerging issues, conclusion and recommendations

4.1 Key emerging issues

- a) The activity of writing competitions will involve procurement activities of the gifts.
- b) There is need for the informing KCCA and WaterAid about their presence on the independent vetting committee but also facilitating them.

4.2 Conclusion

The activity aimed at agreeing on the topic for WASH writing competitions. Basing on the proceedings of the meeting, the following conclusions are drawn:

- a) *A topic for school WASH writing competitions was generated and agreed on.*
- b) *Action plan for the WASH writing competitions was developed and agreed on.*

c) *Modalities, values, principles for the competition were generated and agreed on.*

4.3 Recommendations

- a) Environmental Alert procurement committee needs to begin the process of procuring gifts early.
- b) Environmental Alert should inform the participants from KCCA and Water Aid Uganda on time

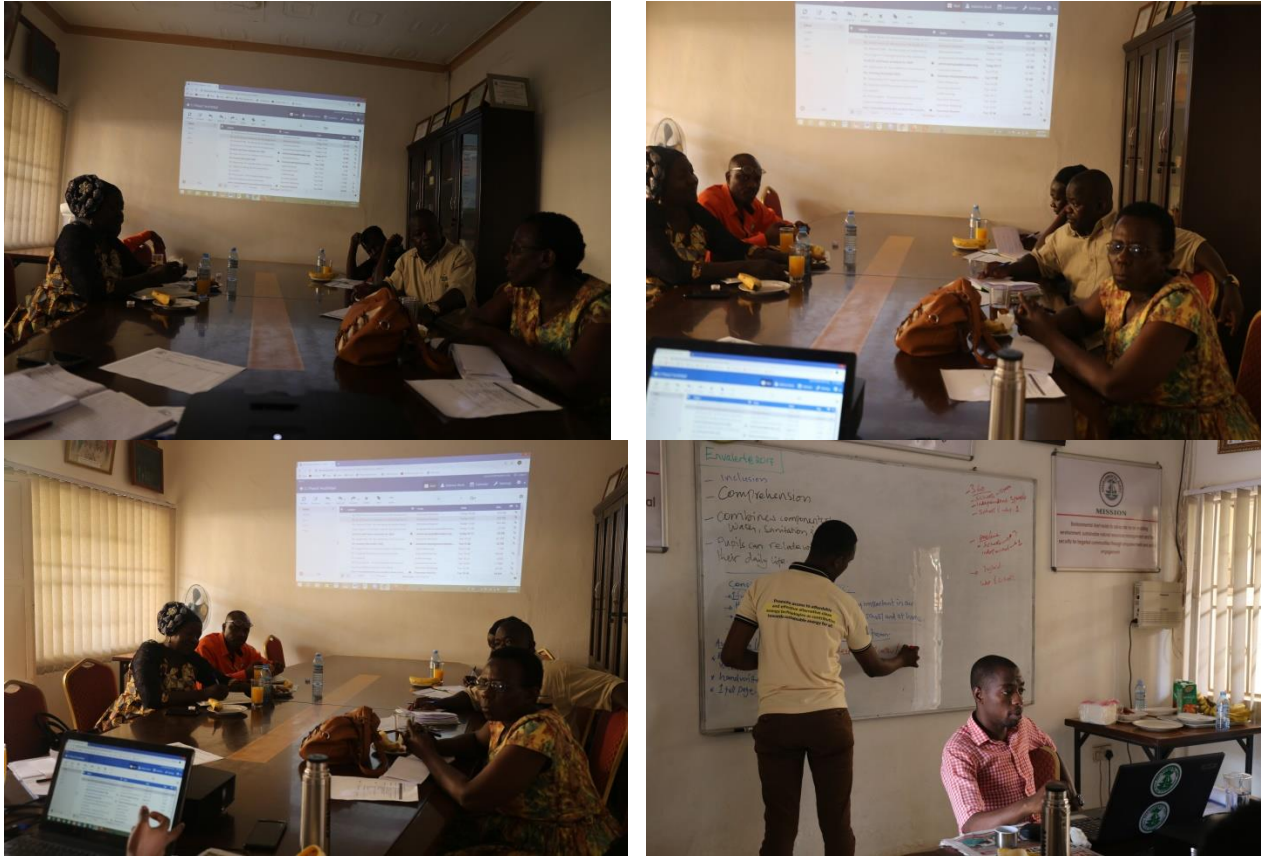


Figure 1: Photos of the meeting. Photo credit: Environmental Alert.

Box 1. About Environmental Alert

Environmental Alert (EA) was founded in **1988** and has developed and transitioned into a National Non-Governmental organization contributing to an enabling policy environment for sustainable agriculture and sound environment and natural resources management at community, local, national and international levels. EA is officially registered with the NGO Board as a Ugandan non-governmental organization (NGO), incorporated as a company limited by guarantee. EA is governed by an Independent Board that is responsible for providing strategic oversight of the organization including ensuring its integrity as a voluntary service organization.

EA is a **1st prize winner of the Energy globe award for environmental sustainability-2005 under the category, earth.**

EA is a member of the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) and a Member of The IUCN National Committee for Uganda.

EA envisions, *'Resilient and dignified communities, managing their environment and natural resources sustainably.'*

EA's mission is to, *'Contribute to improved livelihoods of vulnerable communities by enhancing agricultural productivity and sustainable natural resources management'*

Program and institutional Components:

- a. Environment and Natural resources management;
- b. Food security and Nutrition;
- c. Water, Sanitation and Hygiene;
- d. Finance and Administration;
- e. Resource mobilization and Investment.

Scale of Implementation:

EA operates in selected districts for generation of evidence to inform policy engagements on agriculture, environment and natural resources at National and International levels. Currently EA's operations are in 40 districts across the country. EA undertakes area wide targeted awareness on selected issues in agriculture, environment and natural resources engagements

EA is a Secretariat for following networks:

- a. The Network for Civil Society Organizations in Environment & Natural Resources Sector (ENR-CSO Network) - <http://enr-cso.org/>;
- b. Uganda Forestry Working Group - <http://ufwg.entalert.org/>;
- c. The Standards Development Group (for promotion of Sustainable Forest Management in Uganda); and
- d. Promoting Local Innovation in ecologically oriented agriculture and natural resources management (PROLINNOVA-Uganda Network) - [http://www.prolinnova.net/uganda](http://www.prolinnova.net/uganda;);
- e. The Renewable Energy CSO Network.

Further information about Environmental Alert is available at: <http://entalert.org/>