

Vetting of best writers in the school WASH writing competitions in the 3 Kampala Capital City Authority (KCCA) Primary Schools involved in the SusWASH Project.

An Activity Report, March 2020.

Compiled by: Kamoga Arafa Program Assistant, Environmental Alert, and Email: pa.enr2@envalert.org or kamogaarafa@gmail.com

For Further Information contact:

Environmental Alert

P.O. Box 11259, Kampala. Uganda. Plot 3, Sonko Lane,
Kabalagala (off Gaba Road)

E-mail: ed@envalert.org

Website: <http://envalert.org>



Table of contents

1.0 Introduction, Background and Objectives of the activity	3
1.1 <i>Introduction</i>	3
1.2 <i>Background</i>	3
1.3 <i>Objectives of the activity</i>	3
2.0 Methodology and Output	4
2.1 <i>Methods used in delivering the activity</i>	4
2.2 <i>Activity Outputs</i>	4
The appraisal and ranking of the best writers in the school WASH writing competitions successfully conducted. ...	4
3.0 Proceedings of the event	4
3.1 <i>Opening prayers</i>	4
3.2 <i>Welcoming remarks and Objectives of the meeting</i>	4
3.3 <i>Awarding of marks by the assessors</i>	4
4.0 Key emerging issues, conclusion and recommendations	5
4.1 <i>Key emerging issues</i>	5
i. There was no budget/facilitation for the vetting members from NWSC and KCCA that would make the committee stronger. Therefore, these did not come on board.	5
4.2 <i>Conclusion</i>	5
4.3 <i>Recommendations</i>	5

1.0 Introduction, Background and Objectives of the activity

1.1 Introduction

This report highlights the proceedings of the meeting for independent vetting committee for best writers in school WASH writing competitions. The committee composed of Environmental Alert (EA)¹ staff including: *Mr. Charles Kizito, Mr. Kamoga Arafa, Mr. Ssemwanga Emmanuel, Mr. Kiryowa Abdul and Ms. Atwine Penina*. The schools involved in the competition included: Mirembe primary school, Railway primary school and Uganda school for the deaf). The meeting was conducted on **12th March, 2020** in EA boardroom. The main aim of the meeting was to appraise and the rank the writers from the first (best) to the third ahead of the awarding event.

1.2 Background

EA in partnership with Water Aid Uganda 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. The SuSWASH 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 mobilizing 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. In a bid 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, EA organized a meeting with school head teachers and WASH club patrons a total of 5(2Females and 3Males) were present to generate and agree on the topic for WASH writing competitions. The topic was generated as, **'WASH is very important on our daily lives at school and home,'** and was shared with schools for writing competitions to commence. Each school selected their best three writers and submitted them to EA independent vetting committee as agreed in the preparatory meeting. It is against this background that the independent vetting committee meeting was conducted to appraise and the rank the writers from the first to the third ahead of the awarding event.

1.3 Objectives of the activity

The main objective of the meeting was to appraise and the rank the writers from the first (best) to the third in the school WASH writing competitions ahead of the awarding event.

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

2.0 Methodology and Output

2.1 Methods used in delivering the activity

The assessors were provided with vetting forms which provided guidance in respect to awarding marks. The awarding of marks was very independent for respective assessors. After the awarding exercise, the team generated the average scores that gave rise to the best, second and third best writers for respective schools.

2.2 Activity Outputs

The appraisal and ranking of the best writers in the school WASH writing competitions successfully conducted.

3.0 Proceedings of the event

3.1 Opening prayers

This was led by the head teacher Mr. Kiryowa Abdul who requested God to bless the meeting.

3.2 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. Charles stated that 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 (Kansanga seed secondary school, Mirembe Primary school, Nateete Muslim high school, Railway children primary school and Uganda School for the Deaf). He went ahead to state that from the assessment, findings indicated that about 10% of learners lacked adequate knowledge and information on WASH. He said, in a bid 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, EA organized a meeting with school head teachers and WASH club patrons to generate and agree on the topic for WASH writing competitions.

The topic was generated as. **'WASH is very important on our daily lives at school and home,'** and was shared with schools for writing competitions to commence. Each school selected their best three writers and submitted them to EA independent vetting committee as agreed in the preparatory meeting. It is against this background that the independent vetting committee meeting intends to conduct appraisals and the ranking of the writers from the first to the third ahead of the awarding event. He ended by wishing participants a very blessed meeting.

3.3 Awarding of marks by the assessors

The team awards the writers as follows in respect to the average scores:

In Mirembe primary school, **Essimbi Ariana (P.7)** emerged the best with the average score of **93.8%**, **Binomugisha Faimah (P.6)** the second with 93.6% and **Sserwadda Abdulsalaam Shaban (P.6)** the third with 82.4%.

In Railway primary school, **Amongi Flavia (P.6)** emerged the best with the average score of 84.2%, **Atim Joan (P.7)** the second with 79.4% and **Ajadiru Gladys (P.7)** the third with 75.2%.

In Uganda school for the deaf, **OPIO DANIEL JOE (P.7)** emerged the best with the average score of 78.6%, **ACHOLA KLEIN (P.6)** the second with 78.2% and **NAKITENDE ANN (P.7)** the third with 76.4%.

4.0 Key emerging issues, conclusion and recommendations

4.1 Key emerging issues

- i. There was no budget/facilitation for the vetting members from NWSC and KCCA that would make the committee stronger. Therefore, these did not come on board.
- ii. The facilitation for the vetting process was not catered for in the project budget. This makes the entire exercise a bit difficult.

4.2 Conclusion

The activity aimed at appraising and the ranking the best writers from the first (best) to the third in the school WASH writing competitions ahead of the awarding event. This was largely achieved as the average score were generated and submitted to the project team for awarding exercise.

4.3 Recommendations

- a) Environmental Alert procurement committee needs to fasten the process of procuring awards.
- b) EA and Water Aid Uganda should always allocate budget for such exercise.

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.ervalert.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>;
- e. The Renewable Energy CSO Network.

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