




EAST AFRICA REGIONAL FORUM


WATER INTEGRITY IN EAST AFRICA: LINKING POLICY WITH PRACTICE


KEY INTEGRITY CONCERNS IDENTIFIED IN RELATION TO THEMES:


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» **Infrastructure:** a build-neglect-rebuild culture has developed in water sector infrastructure, which has resulted in poor performance of public services and which creates and sustains institutionalized corruption.
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» **Climate change:** protection of the most vulnerable against frequent flooding and drought affecting urban environments, agriculture, water quality and water infrastructure, should be addressed as an integrity concern. Integrity risks in relation to climate change can also be related to funding being more supply than demand driven or when incomplete data is used to plan interventions.
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» **Monitoring:** monitoring water integrity is key for making it a priority. Little data and evidence is available on the status of integrity, which is why baseline studies are urgently necessary. Monitoring integrity and evaluating the quality and sustainability of water services can help assess the impact of projects and enhance service accountability.
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» **Water integrity systems:** policy frameworks for water integrity are incomplete and not always effectively implemented in East-African countries. We need to push for institutionalization of integrity practice at all levels.
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» **Urban water management:** integrated urban water management is vulnerable to poor service delivery, dishonesty and corrupt practices because it has to balance many competing interests and is related to huge investments.
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» **Community involvement:** capture by local elites and lacking ownership are integrity issues in community water management. A general lack of accountability to citizens on lack of policy implementation and service delivery is another integrity issue in relation to community involvement.
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» **Capacity Building:** a lack of knowledge and capacity to manage integrity in water projects and programmes.
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» **SDG Financing:** there is a huge financing gap in the water sector. Corruption and the lack of transparency on how funds are allocated decrease the financing for infrastructure development, operation and maintenance, and the institutions available required to deliver adequate services.

KEY MESSAGES AND RECOMMENDATIONS FROM THE FORUM:

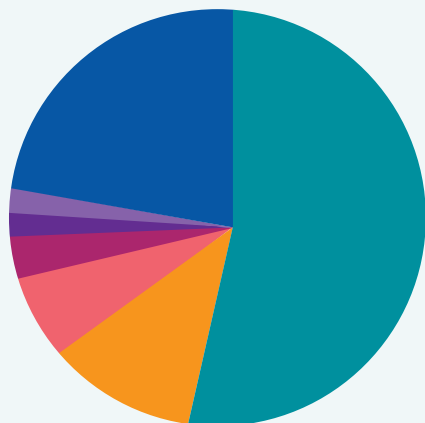
- » More effective advocacy is required to generate interest, action, and investment for integrity in the water sector. Strong partnerships are key.
- » Explicit monitoring can show how integrity contributes to performance and create incentives for better integrity practices.
- » Strong CSOs and empowered communities are key actors to hold duty bearers to account and push for change. Community participation must be institutionalized through policies and practices.
- » All stakeholders have a role. Strong platforms for knowledge management and dialogue are needed, for instance by setting up a water integrity hub in the region. Available water integrity tools can inspire action and be adapted to specific needs and capacities.
- » Water integrity practitioners should continue to support and nurture integrity champions and change agents.
- » Donors, national governments and public institutions should make more resources available for water governance and integrity, including capacity building, knowledge sharing and community involvement.
- » Promoting transparency and integrity in financing can improve allocation, reliability, and predictability of revenues and lead to better and more sustainable services. Regulators and leaders are critical in mandating formal regular financial and value for money audits.

WHERE? Addis Ababa, Ethiopia

WHEN? 9-11 May 2017



TOTAL # OF PARTICIPANTS: 152



PARTICIPANT DISTRIBUTION:

Ethiopia: 81 Participant

Kenya: 18 Participant

Uganda: 10 Participant

Zambia: 5 Participant

Benin: 2 Participant

Tanzania: 2 Participant

Other (including EU, etc.): 34 Participant

STAKEHOLDER REPRESENTATION:



UN: 6



Research: 16



Private Sector: 9



Other (networks, etc): 25



Donors: 4



NGOs: 44



Government: 48

Listen to the voices of the forum participants and find out what actions they recommend to further strengthen integrity here: www.thewaterchannel.tv/dossiers/water-integrity

Based in East-Africa, a core group of organisations in the water sectors is continuously working on linking policy to practice and practice to policy. For the promotion of integrity in the water sector, the key principles are transparency, accountability and participation.

Following the first 'East Africa Regional Forum' on water integrity, a regional collective voice and identity emerged with a shared vision on promoting water integrity and work with decision makers and politicians to help set the regional water agendas.

Join this call for joint action and connect with partners and country programmes that have already joined WI-CESA to work together on learning, speaking and acting for the common purpose of enhancing political priority for good water governance and integrity focusing East and Southern Africa.

For more information please visit: www.waterintegritynetwork.net or www.kewasnet.co.ke

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