

FAST TRACKING THE HUMAN RIGHT TO WATER AND SANITATION IN ZAMBIA

WASH CSOs Advocacy Agenda

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The WASH CSOs advocacy agenda is an evidence-based document that follows the findings of the research report “Fast Tracking the Human Right to Water and Sanitation in Zambia”. While Zambia has made significant progress in developing a legal, policy and regulatory framework for the delivery of water and sanitation services, several gaps remain, resulting in limited growth in water and sanitation coverage over the last 15 years. This advocacy agenda aims to establish advocacy priorities for the NGO-WASH Forum and wider WASH civil society in fulfilment of their role to hold duty bearers for the Human Right to Water and Sanitation accountable. It was developed in late 2024 as part of the Water Voices United: strengthening CSOs capacities and cooperation for the realisation of the Human Right to Water and Sanitation in Zambia. Water Voices United is a transformative four-year project (2024-2028), co-funded by the European Union and Danish People's Aid and spearheaded by SNV in partnership with the NGO WASH Forum. This initiative aims to enhance the capabilities and synergies among WASH Civil Society Organisations (CSOs) in Zambia. By fostering the CSOs role in WASH governance, the project supports the Zambian Government's efforts towards the progressive realization of the Human Right to Water and Sanitation. Together, we are not just aiming for change; we're ensuring a sustainable and equitable future where access to clean water and safe sanitation becomes a reality for all.

The advocacy agenda was finalized by the NGO WASH Forum and its members through a workshop held in Lusaka on December 10th 2024 that debated the initial document authored by Khuzwayo Tembo, Julia Boulenouar, and Harold Lockwood (Aguaconsult), and reviewed by Maria Carreiro (SNV) and Bubala Muyovwe (NGO WASH Forum). Members of the NGO WASH Forum that participated in the review and finalization of the advocacy agenda are:

The NGO WASH Forum further wishes to thank the representatives of the Ministries of ... for their contribution to the conclusion of the document.

DISCLAIMER

Funded by the European Union. Views and opinions expressed are however those of the author(s) only and do not necessarily reflect those of the European Union. The European Union cannot be held responsible for them.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This advocacy agenda was developed based on evidence from a detailed study which focused on assessing the implementation of the Human Right to Water and Sanitation (HRtWS) in Zambia and identifying opportunities to fast track it, using the [checklist for monitoring the compliance with the human rights to water and sanitation developed by the UN special rapporteur on the human right to safe water and sanitation](#) (Albuquerque, 2014). The study, named “Fast Tracking the Human Right to Water and Sanitation in Zambia” was carried out in late 2024, and it consisted in a document review and extensive consultations with a wide range of stakeholders in Zambia’s water sector (see Annex 2 of the research report). It resulted in the formulation of key conclusions and recommendations to the sector in relation to various dimensions of the HRtWS. The report ends with specific recommendations that this advocacy agenda details out, by articulating key advocacy priorities for the NGO-WASH Forum.

The advocacy agenda is organized around 4 areas: (i) legislation, regulation and policy, (ii) planning and sustainable service delivery, (iii) financing, and (iv) accountability, information and participation. The advocacy agenda highlights priority areas of advocacy for the NGO WASH forum and wider civil society to fast track the HRtWS in Zambia. It provides a basis for the NGO WASH forum and its partners to develop a detailed advocacy plan and strategy, articulating the tactics for achieving these advocacy objectives (e.g., identifying target audiences, sector allies as well as channels of implementation).

The study and the advocacy agenda constitute a key milestone of the EU funded project “Water Voices United: strengthening CSOs capacities and cooperation for the realisation of the Human Right to Water and Sanitation in Zambia”, (2024-2028) implemented by SNV in partnership with the NGO WASH Forum. The project aims to strengthen Zambia’s WASH civil society organisations (CSOs) in their engagement as actors of good governance and development, through the improvement of their internal management systems, the development of their capacities to engage in policy dialogue, implementation and monitoring of EU and national development plans and programmes, and through their improved coordination and networking.

For its duration (2024-2028), the Water Voices United project offers the NGO WASH Forum and its members the opportunity to pursue the ambitions stated in this advocacy agenda.

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INTRODUCTION

The International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (ICESCR) (1966) and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (1948) enshrine economic, social and cultural rights and International Human Rights Law. However, while both provide for the right to an adequate standard of living, including food, clothing and housing, the human right to water was not included explicitly. It was, however, generally understood that the right to water and sanitation was implied, in the same way as the rights to air (Albuquerque, 2014). However, as the global community became increasingly aware of the challenges related to water and sanitation, it became imperative to establish the human right to water and sanitation (HRtWS) explicitly. Consequently, the UN General Assembly adopted [Resolution 64/292](#) in 2010, which recognized the right to safe and clean drinking water and sanitation as a fundamental human right, and [Resolution 68/157](#) in 2013, which reaffirmed the recognition of the HRtWS by both the UN General Assembly and the Human Rights Council. These resolutions call upon states to provide financial resources, capacity-building, and technology transfer to ensure that everyone has access to safe, clean, accessible, and affordable drinking water and sanitation. While Zambia is a signatory to these international resolutions, their enshrinement into local laws and regulations is contestable. Zambia's Bill of Rights does not include the HRtWS. However, the Zambian government has made significant progress in establishing legal, institutional and policy frameworks that support the HRtWS and the provision of WSS services to everyone in society. The country performs strongly across the different dimensions, but several weaknesses and gaps remain.

This advocacy agenda highlights foundational priority areas of advocacy for the NGO-WASH forum and wider civil society to fast track the HRtWS in Zambia. It is not timebound and provides a basis for the NGO-WASH forum and its partners to develop a detailed advocacy plan and strategy, articulating the tactics for achieving these advocacy objectives (e.g., identifying target audiences, sector allies as well as channels of implementation and key advocacy messages) over a specific timeframe.

ADVOCACY GOALS

Current Situation

Zambia's Constitution lacks explicit recognition of HRtWS, with the 1996 Bill of Rights still in effect. However, legal precedence is in place that establishes the HRtWS in Zambia. A strong legislative and regulatory framework for WSS is also in place, with a proactive and dedicated regulator, NWASCO, but regulatory mechanisms are not fully enforced, and political interference is a major barrier to the autonomy of regulation and sustainable service delivery. Zambia also has a strong policy framework for WSS which aligns with the HRtWS, but some regulatory and institutional roles are still fragmented, and overlaps persist.

The effectiveness of accountability mechanisms and structures (such as complaint mechanisms, performance audits, technical working groups, etc.) is limited by gaps in awareness and accessibility, as well as unclear accountability lines between government and non-government actors. Furthermore, despite laws and regulatory mechanisms in place that mandate service providers and regulatory actors to inform the public about matters related to water supply and sanitation, rights-holders, especially in rural areas, are still ill-informed. The lack of capacity of communities to hold duty-bearers accountable is also exacerbated by the current focus of programs on needs rather than empowerment.

Additionally, financing for WSS remains critically insufficient and government is overly reliant on Official Development Assistance (ODA). This high reliance of foreign aid in the wake of possible cuts in ODA due to political shifts in the global north presents a major risk. The chronic inefficiency in public commercial water utilities also a major financial challenge, with the CUs incurring continuous losses, resulting in low investments in operations and maintenance, and a continuous cycle of deteriorating service levels. Additionally, private investments in the WASH sector are not yet adequately leveraged, and government has not put in place the required tax incentives that can unlock the investments and increase private sector involvement in the WASH sector. In the absence of clear data on the financial flows within the sector, it is also difficult for stakeholders to engage in informed and evidence-based dialogue.

As a result of these challenges, which are elaborated in detail in the research report on ***Fast Tracking the Human Right to Water and Sanitation*** ([insert link](#)), nationally, little progress has been made over the last decade in increasing access to safely managed water and sanitation services. The use of basic water supply services increased from 57% to 68%, and access to basic sanitation increased from 28% to 36% nationally, rural areas rising by 14%, and urban areas declining from 44% to 42% between 2010 and 2022.

Advocacy goals

Considering this, the NGO WASH Forum has the **goal** of promoting the enjoyment of the human right to water and sanitation in Zambia by holding duty bearers accountable for the provision of water supply and sanitation services equitably, safely and sustainably.¹

To achieve this goal, the NGO-WASH Forum will carry out advocacy in **four advocacy areas** and support the achievement of **key changes** in the WASH sector in Zambia which are described below:

1. **Advocacy area I:** Legislation, regulation and policy. Advocacy will support the prioritisation of the human right to water and sanitation through its recognition in the Zambian Constitution, and the development of laws, policies and regulations that support the enjoyment of the human right to water and sanitation.
2. **Advocacy area II:** Planning and Sustainable Service Delivery. Advocacy will support the development and implementation of comprehensive WASH programmes and activities that result in wider enjoyment of the human right to water and sanitation, sustainably and without discrimination.
3. **Advocacy area III:** Financing. Advocacy will seek to secure sustainable financing for the WASH sector through various sources, including government national budget, private sector financing, climate financing, and external development finance.
4. **Advocacy area IV:** Accountability, information and participation. Advocacy will encourage increased transparency and accountability in government's processes and plans, enhance mutual accountability between government and development partners, and empower communities and individual rights-holders by strengthening their capacity to hold duty-bearers accountable.

This agenda also calls for all stakeholders to support the generation of evidence and the implementation of strategic studies, to support duty-bearers address key efficiency and sustainability issues, address key recommendations outlined in the report on *Fast Tracking the Human Right to Water and Sanitation*, and inform decision-making from government and its partners,

The NGO WASH Forum's main approach is to mobilise civil society organisations to jointly provide checks and balances to national and subnational government agencies with responsibilities for policy, regulation and service provision; strengthen mutual accountability between civil society organizations and the government and encourage civil society to support the government in fulfilling its responsibilities, rather than assuming the government's role as duty bearers.²

¹ The goal is the desired long-term result of the advocacy activities carried out by the NGO-WASH Forum in Zambia.

² Specific approaches carried out by the NGO-WASH forum to carry out activities related to each advocacy area and achieve the above changes will be articulated in its advocacy strategy.

This advocacy agenda articulates **priority measures** adopted by Government and its partners, which the NGO-WASH forum advocates for. These relate to each of the above advocacy areas and associated sector changes and advocacy goal. The priority measures are categorised as either short term measures, which are recommended for immediate action as they are already set in motion, and medium to long-term measures, which are also critical, but call for more systematic and foundational shifts that will inherently require more time and wider collaboration amongst sector partners and government for implementation. Finally, the agenda outlines key measures to be implemented by the NGO-WASH Forum members and wider WASH civil society to support advocacy efforts.³

The term government is used broadly in this agenda to refer to duty-bearers for the human right to water and sanitation. The primary duty bearer is the state and its agencies. This incorporates political leaders, national ministries with responsibilities for water and sanitation policy and planning, local government authorities, regulatory agencies, public service providers, and private entities licensed by state agencies to provide water supply and sanitation services. Government's partners include development partners and international financing institutions, non-governmental organisations supporting government in its role as a duty bearer of the human right to water and sanitation.

³ The notions of "short" and "medium-to-long term" are illustrative but require further defining by the NGO-WASH forum.

ADVOCACY AREA I: LEGISLATION, REGULATION AND POLICY

The NGO-WASH forum urgently calls for the clear recognition of the HRtWS in the constitution, strengthening of the legislation, regulation and policy framework to address legal gaps, strengthening institutional autonomy, and promotion of evidence-based policymaking required to fast-track the HRtWS.

Issue: Outdated legal instruments, lack of clarity on institutional roles, and high levels of political interference limit the impact of the many legislative, policy and regulatory reforms implemented by the state over the last three decades. More recently, several progressive policies have been implemented and high political will has been demonstrated by the state, but policy decisions are not well supported by up to-date data. More foundationally, the HRtWS is not included in the current Bill of Rights, which is a major legal gap weak accountability for the state, and lack of legal mandate for the Human Rights Commission.

Short term measures

The NGO-WASH Forum calls for government to implement the following priority measures in the short term:

- i. **Expedited revision of the Water Supply and Sanitation Act.** Legal frameworks are the main statements of commitment by the state to the realisation of the HRtWS. A revised Water Supply and Sanitation Act is essential to bring the regulatory framework up to date and ensure it aligns with the minimum requirements for the HRtWS. More specifically, current challenges and gaps in the sector, such as unclear service delivery responsibilities in unserved areas, and the recent changes in the frameworks for provision and regulation of sanitation services in peri-urban areas and rural water supply services, need to be incorporated in a revised Act.
- ii. **The development of key strategies to ensure that policy changes are translated into action.** Policies, which are the general principles and priorities of government, shape the focus and direction of the sector, and are essential for the enjoyment of the HRtWS. However, these require clear strategies that translate these high-level guidelines into detail strategies of action. Below are two key examples of policies that require clear strategic plans:
 - a. **Development of a detailed strategy to support the recent policy shift to expand the role of commercial utilities into rural areas by the Ministry of Water Development and Sanitation and NWASCO,** with clear modalities for addressing the high levels of inefficiency in CUs in their current coverage areas, and recommendations for the development of viable business models in rural areas, as well as provision of climate resilient infrastructure and extension of services to vulnerable groups. This is essential to address the challenges faces by CUs with their expanded scope of services considering the current challenges already being faced by CUs in existing service areas.

- b. **Development of a strategy to support the recent policy shift to implement water-borne toilets in all public institutions by the Ministry of Water Development and Sanitation (MWDS), in collaboration with other ministries including the Ministry of Education (MOE), the Ministry of Health (MOH), Ministry of Local Government and Rural Development (MLGRD), and the Ministry of Home Affairs and Internal Security⁴ (MHAIS), including a phased approach and a “grace-period” that allows for new projects to construct Ventilated Improved Pit latrines in the interim.**

Medium to long-term measures

Additionally, the NGO-WASH forum advocates for the following measures which are critical and foundational in the medium to long-term to provide for the wider enjoyment of the HRtWS:

- i. **A review of the Bill of Rights to include Social, Economic and Cultural Rights.** In the absence of a clear incorporation of the HRtWS in the Bill of Rights, all other laws or international treaties hang in the balance and are not anchored in the supreme law of the land. The inclusion of the HRtWS in the Bill of Rights would have a major impact on enhancing accountability and localising the ratified UN Declarations of the HRtWS.
- ii. **Clarification of supervisory and regulatory roles at different levels.** Address the apparent overlaps between the regulatory, supervisory, and ownership responsibilities of the MWDS, Ministry of Local Government and Rural Development, and Local Authorities over the Commercial Utilities to ensure continuity of governance and immunity to the changes induced by political cycles.
- iii. **Enhanced monitoring of access to WASH through an enhanced partnership between the Zambia Statistics Agency and NWASCO.** The lack of updated data on the levels of access to safely managed water and sanitation needs to be addressed. This is essential to ensure that the development of future policies is based on current and comprehensive evidence and enhance monitoring access to services by vulnerable groups.

⁴ Specifically to ensure that prisons are also captured

ADVOCACY AREA II: PLANNING AND SUSTAINABLE SERVICE DELIVERY

The NGO-WASH Forum urgently calls for improved operational planning and performance monitoring and a renewed focus towards sustainable management of services and enhanced climate resilience.

Issue: Existing national plans for water supply and sanitation provide very clear visions and targets, but do not adequately provide operational detail for implementation. Coordination of national and subnational government for implementation is also not optimal, and performance monitoring structures must be enhanced. Existing programs also focus strongly on the construction of new infrastructure, but there is a need for more focus on overall sustainable management of services. Service providers are not resilient to climate and disasters, and there is an urgent need for enhanced long-term planning for adaptation and mitigation.

Short-term measures

Consequently, the NGO-WASH Forum advocates for government to implement the following priority measures in the short term:

- i. **Enhancement of accountability and monitoring.** While national programs often set ambitious goals and targets, their operationalization frequently lacks the necessary detail and robust monitoring mechanisms. The government must strengthen accountability and performance monitoring between MWDS and the respective implementation agents for national programs including Commercial Utilities and districts.
- ii. **The development of robust operational frameworks to support national plans and programs.** For all national and subnational water and sanitation programs, detailed operational frameworks must be developed, clearly outlining the roles and responsibilities of all implementing actors. This will ensure effective program implementation and strategic targeting of the most underserved communities, maximizing the enjoyment of the Human Right to Water and Sanitation (HRtWS) by all citizens.
- iii. **Community empowerment and capacity building.** Support the professionalization of community-based water supply and sanitation services, ensuring they have the necessary skills, resources, and knowledge to deliver high-quality services, and are empowered to hold service providers accountable for their planning and implementation even in remote areas.
- iv. **Integration of climate resilience into service delivery.** Climate change threatens to increase inequities in access through increased water stress and higher occurrences of WASH related diseases, amongst other impacts. Service providers must thus be supported to enhance their resilience through scenario planning for climate change and public health emergencies and ensure that service delivery is inclusive and captures groups specifically vulnerable to climate change and disasters.

- v. **The development of robust operational frameworks to support national plans and programs.** For all national and subnational water and sanitation programs, detailed operational frameworks must be developed, clearly outlining the roles and responsibilities of all implementing actors. This will ensure effective program implementation and strategic targeting of the most underserved communities, maximizing the enjoyment of the Human Right to Water and Sanitation (HRtWS) by all citizens.

Potential Studies to be carried out in the short term:

1. *A study on the efficiency reforms required to address key inefficiencies in public institutions, including ministries, regulators and public service providers for implementation national programs.*

Medium to long-term measures

Additionally, the NGO-WASH Forum advocates for the following measures which are critical and foundational to strengthen planning and sustainable service delivery in the medium to long-term.

- i. **Improved coordination and collaboration between development partners and Local Authorities.** Agendas, timelines and priorities of development partners and Local Authorities do not always align, and this results in poor implementation and reduced sustainability. It is important to implement measures to enhance transparency on the parts of both Local Authorities and Development Partners to improve mutual trust and alignment of project implementation with district plans and the national development agenda.
- ii. **Enhanced intra- and inter-sectoral collaboration for WASH,** primarily through stronger partnerships between MWDS and other national ministries that have roles related to the HRtWS. For example:
 - a. **MWDS to position the sector as foundational and critical to other sectors** such as agriculture, energy, health, and mining. Highlight the economic impacts of poor water supply and sanitation through targeted advocacy, showcasing its role in mitigating crises like droughts and improving public health outcomes.
 - b. **MWDS and Ministry of Infrastructure and Urban Development to institutionalise the Public Asset Management Policy to integrate long-term perspectives in the management of public infrastructure.** Ensure that overall sustainable management of infrastructure is embedded in all plans, and climate resilience is prioritised.

ADVOCACY AREA III: FINANCING

The NGO WASH Forum urgently calls for greater public investment into the sector and reduced dependency on external aid financing.

***Issue:** The WASH sector has been historically underfunded. Government allocations to WASH in the national budget have been trending downwards since 2021, and budget performance is also very low at only 37% in 2023. There is an urgent need to redress this balance by committing more public financing and addressing key inefficiencies including strengthening procurement processes and ensuring value for money to reach all members of society. Funding for climate resilient sanitation infrastructure, especially in rural areas and cholera hotspots, is critically low, with inequitable distribution of resources that do not cater for peri-urban urban and rural sanitation needs. There is also a high dependency on development partner aid financing.*

Short-term measures

Consequently, the NGO-WASH Forum shall advocate for the following priority measures in the short term:

- i. **A progressive increase in national budget allocations to the WASH sector is essential for the realisation of the states obligation for the HRtWS.** Financing is the primary way in which the government demonstrates its commitment towards the realisation of the HRtWS, and states must allocate the maximum available resources to progressively realise their human rights obligations. The government should work toward meeting and surpassing its commitment of allocating a minimum of 0.5% of GDP and reducing reliance on external funding and the risks associated with potential cuts in foreign aid. Key aspects of this include government the establishment and timely disbursement of finances to specific ring-fenced baskets dedicated to increasing access to water and sanitation services. Two immediate key examples include the following measures:
 - a. **Allocation of seed funding for the Zambia Water Investment Program by the MOF.** Seed funding for the program is needed to kickstart it and demonstrate government's commitment and ownership to attract external partners.
 - b. **Establishment of the Water Development Fund to replace the defunct Devolution Trust Fund by MWDS and NWASCO.** This fund is essential to ensure equitable access and functioning as a mechanism for extension of services to vulnerable groups. The fund should focus on improving service delivery in urban low-income areas and be free from political interference.
- ii. **Urgent action to address the financial challenges of Commercial Utilities.** As the main service providers for water and sanitation services in both urban and rural settings, CUs must balance between affordability and financial viability. While it is easy for sector stakeholders to advocate for lower tariffs, these can ultimately threaten the capacity of service providers to meet the needs of future populations. Therefore, it is essential for MWDS and NWASCO to take urgent action, including setting of equitable tariffs to allow cost-recovery and addressing underlying operational inefficiencies in revenue collection and high non-revenue

water to ensure that CUs can continuously fulfil their role as duty bearers and provide services sustainably.

- iii. **Exploration of innovative financing mechanisms beyond traditional budget allocations and unlocking private sector financing.** Financing of the sector must not only depend on direct public investment, but also other indirect support by government such as tax incentives for businesses that invest in water and sanitation projects or adopt sustainable water management practices. MWDS, NWASCO and the CUs should also work closely with private sector to intensify efforts to mobilize climate financing for the WASH sector. This includes the development of green bonds and other financing mechanisms. Government and its partners should thus intensify efforts to unlock financing from the private sector and explore these non-traditional sources of financing for the sector.

Potential Studies to be carried out in the short term:

1. *A cost-of-service study to support service providers to understand the actual cost of providing services in both urban and rural areas.*
2. *A set of feasibility studies in urban areas across the country to assess the most cost-effective sanitation technology options.*

Medium to long-term measures

Additionally, the NGO-WASH Forum shall advocate for these critical and foundational measures to promote sustainable financing for WASH in the medium to long-term.

- i. **MWDS and MOF to jointly commence efforts to elaborate WASH Accounts using the WHO TrackFin methodology for tracking financial flows in the WASH sector.** Currently, the financial flows in the sector are not well known, and this limits the capacity of sector stakeholders to provide evidence-based advocacy for sector financing. Elaboration of WASH accounts would allow a standardized and comprehensive mapping of expenditures, inform policy dialogues and contribute to improving transparency and accountability.
- ii. **CDF committees to ring-fence 10% of Constituency Development Funds for WASH projects at the local level.** MWDS to champion a “WASH-decade” program in partnership with CDF Committees to ring-fence 10% of the CDF over 10 years and secure ZMW 5.6 billion (~US\$207 million) towards WASH.

ADVOCACY AREA IV: ACCOUNTABILITY, INFORMATION AND PARTICIPATION

The NGO WASH Forum calls improved accountability, the empowerment of communities, and the promotion of equity through collaborative action and human rights-based approaches.

Issue: *The WASH sector faces significant challenges with accountability that need to be addressed. These include lack of transparency in decision-making processes and limited access to WASH related information among others. Existing institutions that are critical for accountability in the WASH sector are not adequately leveraged, and representatives of systematically marginalised groups operate in silos, thus reducing their voice. Communities are not adequately empowered to hold their leaders accountable, and rights-holders are not adequately informed about their rights.*

Short-term measures

The NGO-WASH Forum shall advocate for:

- i. **A sector-wide shift towards the Human Rights-Based Approach (HRBA).** A HRBA requires that rights holders play a more active role in determining the best solutions for their communities as empowered and active agents that can demand for their rights. Government must provide training to all duty bearers on Human Rights principles, focusing on inclusion, transparency, and community empowerment and adopt a more cross-sectoral approach to supporting grassroots organisations. More immediately, higher levels of accountability for WASH amongst political leadership must also be fostered, for instance through the operationalisation of the Parliamentary WASH caucus which is essential to enhance policy dialogue on WASH.
- ii. **An inclusive WASH sector that ensures participation of marginalised groups in decision-making.** Create mechanisms that support participation of marginalized groups such as persons living with disabilities, prisoners, women, girls, and children. Promote inclusivity in WASH public fora, ensuring that all coordination platforms include systematically marginalised groups. MWDS should operationalize the Equity and Inclusion Guidelines by embedding inclusivity in all phases of WSS planning and implementation. MWDS must also include prisons and prisoners in WASH policies and strategies, ensuring these institutions receive adequate attention.
- iii. **Increased access to information and awareness amongst peri-urban and rural populations.** Accountability can only be achieved through an informed public that is able to hold duty bearers accountable. Poor and marginalized communities are frequently excluded from the political process, leaving them voiceless in decisions that significantly impact their lives. Access to information empowers marginalized individuals and groups by levelling the playing field in

their interactions with the State and service providers. While several mechanisms have been developed to inform rights holders about their rights and obligations in relation to water and sanitation, more effort is needed to ensure that these mechanisms reach rural and peri-urban communities. Government in partnership with civil society must enhance efforts to raising awareness amongst rural and peri-urban communities about their WASH rights and obligations.

Potential Studies to be carried out in the short term:

- 1. A study to assess the extent to which bucket toilets (“chambers”) are being used in urban areas of Zambia (Including an investigation of possible psychological impacts on women responsible for their management).*
- 2. A study to investigate the impact of the Community-Led Total Sanitation approach (including investigation of the possible negative psychological and sociocultural impacts).*
- 3. A study on the status of water and sanitation services in prisons across the country*