

Country Dialogue Sessions of the AfricaSan5 Conference

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The Country Dialogue Sessions of the AfricaSan5 conference were designed as a structured peer knowledge exchange forum. The objectives of the country dialogue sessions were threefold:

1. Connect with new knowledge and knowledge exchange with peers.
2. Identify specific ideas and interventions to apply in order to make progress in their country.
3. Prioritise actions to be taken forward after AfricaSan.

To enable a focussed knowledge exchange, the country dialogues concentrated on five of the Ngor Commitments on Sanitation and Hygiene. The focus commitments were selected based on the Ngor monitoring baseline results and because they are either:

- **Key drivers for sanitation coverage improvements** – the SDG6 2018 Synthesis report identifies key actions to enable and accelerate progress which include eliminating inequalities, improving financing, and developing capacity.
- **Low performing commitments** – across the 39 countries reporting against the Ngor Commitments in 2018, eliminating inequalities in access and use, establishing budgets for sanitation and hygiene, and eliminating untreated waste¹ were critically underperforming commitments areas.

¹ Although Ngor Commitment 7 on *eliminating untreated waste and encouraging its productive use* was the worst performing of all the Ngor commitments at baseline, it was not selected as a focus for the country dialogues due to the lack of progress to share.

- **Identified for further exchange by sub-regional meeting participants** – Participants at AfricaSan Sub-Regional meetings during 2018 identified several areas of learning to be taken forward to AfricaSan5 including how to identify and target the most vulnerable, how to align policies and plans with SDGs and universal access targets, how to secure political prioritisation for sanitation and hygiene, mobilise resources and innovative financing mechanisms, and how to address hygiene and institutional sanitation aspects of the Ngor Commitments.

Country dialogues focused on the following Ngor commitments:

- 1 Focus on the poorest, most marginalised, and unserved aimed at progressively eliminating inequalities in access and use and implement national and local strategies with an emphasis on equity and sustainability
- 2 Mobilise support and resources at the highest political level for sanitation and hygiene to disproportionately prioritise sanitation and hygiene in national development plans
- 3 Establish and track sanitation and hygiene budget lines that consistently increase annually to reach a minimum of 0.5% GDP by 2030
- 5 Develop and fund strategies to bridge the sanitation and hygiene human resource capacity gap at all levels (national and sub-national)
- 6 Ensure inclusive, safely-managed sanitation services and functional hand-washing facilities in public institutions and spaces (national and sub-national)

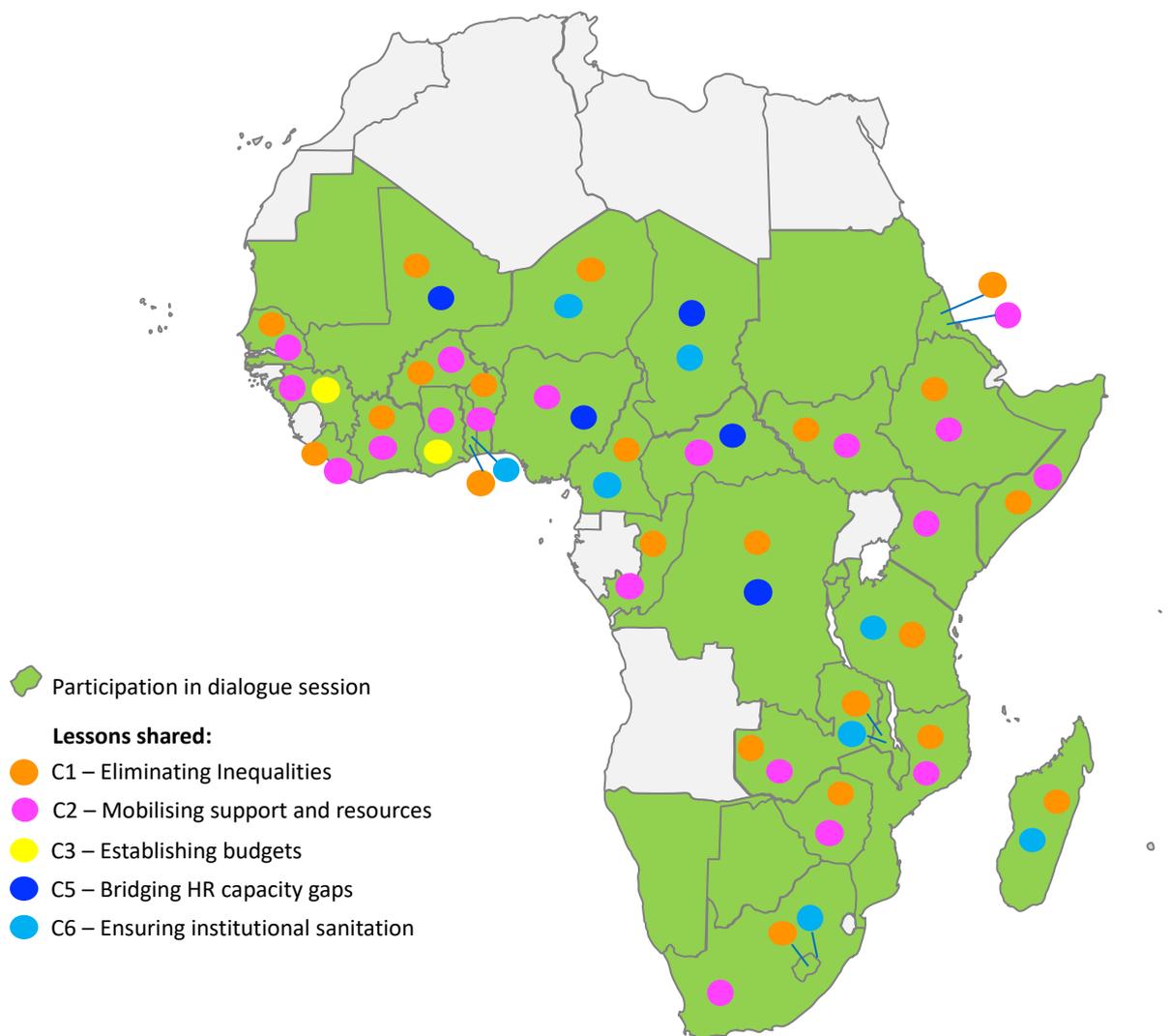
This report summarises participation in the sessions, key lessons shared, and highlights some of the actions that countries will prioritise over the next 12 months to accelerate progress in the Ngor commitments.

The report ends with recommendations for AMCOW to support and track country actions towards achieving the Ngor Commitments for Sanitation and Hygiene.

Knowledge exchange: Sharing lessons and experiences

A total of 35 countries² participated in the country dialogue sessions at AfricaSan5. Almost all countries prepared learning posters in advance for two of the five focus commitments. The map below shows participation by countries and the commitment areas that they shared lessons on.

Figure 1: Participation and lessons shared during Country Dialogue Sessions



"If I only came to this session, I would leave AfricaSan happy - I found out so much of the information I needed!"

Country Dialogue Participant

² Benin; Botswana; Burkina Faso; Burundi; Cameroon; Central African Republic; Chad; Congo, Dem. Rep. of; Congo, Rep of; Cote d'Ivoire; Eritrea; Ethiopia; Ghana; Guinea, Rep of; Kenya; Lesotho; Liberia; Madagascar; Malawi; Mali; Mauritania; Mozambique; Namibia; Niger; Nigeria; Rwanda; Senegal; Somalia; South Africa; South Sudan; Sudan; Tanzania; Togo; Zambia; Zimbabwe

Summary of key lessons shared in the commitment areas

Commitment 1 – Focus on the poorest, most marginalised, and unserved aimed at progressively eliminating inequalities in access and use and implement national and local strategies with an emphasis on equity and sustainability

Without a specific focus and concerted effort to eliminate inequalities, the SDG targets will remain out of reach. Countries shared various actions that have been undertaken to address inequalities in sanitation and hygiene:

- **Understanding who the different vulnerable groups are in any context, and the challenges they face.**

Nine countries shared that they have undertaken specific studies or included indicators into routine monitoring to better understand, map, and target inequalities.

Malawi undertook a national level “CLTS Last Mile Study” to understand the characteristics of the 5% of households in ODF areas which do not own or use a latrine. Insights from the study will allow Malawi to develop strategies to reach the unserved and ensure that no one is left behind.

- **Using disaggregated data to ensure the inclusion and targeting of the different vulnerable groups in the national development plans and sector documents.**

Fifteen countries shared that they had included specific targets for reaching the poorest, most marginalised, and unserved into national development plans, sector policies and strategies, programmes, and roadmaps.

- **Developing and applying specific strategies and approaches to respond to challenges and needs of the most vulnerable and allow them to access services.**

Eleven countries shared diverse strategies and approaches to dealing with both physical and contextual barriers to sanitation and services. Strategies and approaches to address cost-barriers included means-based direct and indirect subsidies, and promotion of village savings and credit associations.

Examples shared of technologies and systems developed at national or local level to address physical barriers to access included inclusive designs for institutional or household sanitation, and on-site / off-grid sanitation options for poor urban households.

To improve targeting, **Benin** has carried out a mapping exercise to identify the poorest and most marginalised through identifying high-, medium- and low-income households.

- **Embedding inclusion and non-discrimination approaches through capacity building of stakeholders at all levels** (one country).
- **Establishing mechanisms for tracking and responding to user satisfaction feedback especially in urban areas** (two countries).

Commitment 2 - Mobilise support and resources at the highest political level for sanitation and hygiene to disproportionately prioritise sanitation and hygiene in national development plans

While two countries reported having engaged high level political figures to champion or launch sanitation and hygiene programmes, other countries shared various actions taken towards mobilising and sustaining high-level support for sanitation and hygiene:

- **Aligning sector policy, strategy and planning with the SDG sanitation targets.**

Thirteen countries shared that they had developed or reviewed national development plans, sector policies and strategies, programmes, and roadmaps to align with SDG targets of universal access to sanitation and hygiene and elimination of open defecation.

In [Cote d'Ivoire](#) both the National Development plan and the National Rural Sanitation Strategy were aligned to the SDG6 targets through the 2018 review process.

In line with this, countries also shared how they have strengthened sector plans by using accurate sub-national and national data to ensure they are evidence-based.

- **Providing opportunities for high level, multi-stakeholder engagement on sanitation and hygiene.**

Eight countries shared having organised multi-stakeholder exchange through national sanitation conferences, meetings or institutional triggering events.

- **Collaborating through inter-sectoral task teams and leadership groups.**

Four countries shared how they had established or reconstituted multi-sectoral task teams and technical working groups collaborating around common goals.

- **Improving accountability for results.** One country shared how they have done this by including sanitation indicators in district performance assessment tools, as well as district Chief Executive performance contracts.

Holding the first National Sanitation Conference with both Governors and key Ministers generated competition amongst governors and triggered institutions to work together on sanitation in [Eritrea](#).

- **Sharing coverage and programme results data with all stakeholders to strengthen coordination and implementation of correctives measures** (one country).

Commitment 3 – Establish and track sanitation and hygiene budget lines that consistently increase annually to reach a minimum of 0.5% GDP by 2030

Establishing budgets for sanitation and hygiene remain key bottlenecks in the sector. Although only two countries specifically shared lessons for this commitment, several others had taken steps to mobilise financing resources under Commitment 2:

- **Generating political will and budgetary allocations for sanitation and hygiene through evidence-based advocacy.**

At least three countries had used an “institutional triggering” approach to generate political will and action, mobilising commitment and financial resources for sanitation and hygiene. One of the ways this was done was to package data and advocacy materials in a way that targets the priorities of the budget holders to influence decision making around budget allocations.

The [Republic of Guinea](#) brought together high-level executives from Ministry of the Environment, Ministry of Finance, Members of Parliament, community representatives, local elected officials, and civil society at a forum on sanitation and hygiene which facilitated the mobilization of financial resources at both national and communal level.

One country shared the importance of garnering high-level multi-stakeholder support, for example by inviting Finance Ministry representatives to participate in sanitation programme activities, or by bringing together high-level executives (sector ministries, finance ministry, MPs, community representatives, local elected officials, and civil society) in a forum focused on sanitation and hygiene.

- **Developing detailed, costed plans to reach sanitation and hygiene targets.**

One country had established a priority investment programme for sanitation and hygiene within the national development budget.

Two countries had carried out detailed microplanning exercises, analysing costs at decentralised level which can be aggregated to provide costed plans to reach local, national and global targets.

- **Establishing tracking mechanisms for monitoring budget and expenditure on sanitation and hygiene across all government agencies.**

Two countries had improved budget tracking mechanisms, one had revised local government guidelines in order to better disaggregate sanitation budgets for easier tracking.

In **Ghana** changes have been made to financial planning guidelines for local government which makes it easier to disaggregate spending on sanitation.

One country shared how they had supported civil society to track local government budgets as a way of enhancing accountability.

Commitment 5 - Develop and fund strategies to bridge the sanitation and hygiene human resource capacity gap at all levels (national and sub-national)

Having human capacity for sanitation and hygiene in place is of critical importance to drive the sector forward and achieve other commitments on political mobilisation, funding and leadership. Several countries have taken actions to build and maintain human resource capacity for sanitation for example:

- **Gaining a clear understanding of the situation in order to address the gaps and shortfalls.**

Three countries shared that they had carried out needs assessments nationally and sub-nationally to identify gaps in skills and competencies of existing staff and shortfalls in numbers or locations existing staff. Needs assessment results were used for planning and advocacy.

- **Developing capacity building and recruitment plans based on the detailed capacity needs study or assessment.**

Two countries shared their experiences in using the results of HR capacity needs assessments to define a sanitation and hygiene human resources strategy, or to define a sector recruitment forecast.

- **Carrying out evidence-based advocacy – for example a donor roundtable - to mobilise dedicated resources for workforce capacity strengthening and recruitment (one country).**

In **Chad** an organizational and functional audit of the ministry in Charge of Water and Sanitation has enabled the government to assess current human resource strengths, weaknesses and capacity-building needs according to profiles and positions, and define a recruitment and development forecast for human resources over the next 3 years.

- **Identifying ways to strengthen the job market for sanitation and hygiene, for example by offering scholarships and encouraging graduates into the sanitation sector (one country).**

- **Building capacity for sanitation and hygiene by establishing a pool of master trainers and updating training materials (one country).**

Commitment 6 - Ensure inclusive, safely-managed sanitation services and functional hand-washing facilities in public institutions and spaces (national and sub-national)

Countries shared the following actions taken which have enabled progress in ensuring institutional sanitation and hygiene:

- **Working collaboratively with sector leads of health and education to develop national strategies, plans and implementing guides for institutional sanitation.**

Three countries shared how they have established a cross-sector collaborative approach to planning for institutional sanitation. This includes advocacy with sector leads for the allocation of resources for the provision of WASH facilities in their institutions.

Three countries have developed or revised school WASH strategies.

Tanzania has developed a *National Guideline for WASH in Healthcare Facilities* which stipulate standards and requirements for WASH facilities for patients, healthcare workers and other clients. Emphasis is given on adequacy of facilities for people with special needs.

- **Working collaboratively with sector leads of health and education to ensure that WASH indicators aligned with the national and SDG 6.2 targets are captured in their monitoring systems.**
- **Partnering with the private sector for sanitation in other public spaces.**

Three countries shared how they are involving the private sector in establishing and sustainably managing sanitation in public spaces.

Madagascar has developed the WASH friendly schools and trainings approach which has been adopted by all actors and ministries.

Prioritised actions for achieving the Ngor Commitments on Sanitation and Hygiene

The final stage of the Country Dialogues provided country teams with an opportunity to reflect on their existing sector and / or Ngor Commitment plans - how well they address urgent gaps in the country's Ngor Commitments, what lessons from other countries could be replicated, and how the Ngor Commitments could be more fully integrated into national planning and monitoring processes. While this is an ongoing process that will continue through sector meetings and technical working groups post-AfricaSan5, table 1 provides an overview of some of the activities planned in different countries³.

Table 1: Overview of actions planned

Commitment	Types of actions planned
1 Eliminating inequalities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Studies to be able to identify vulnerable groups and the challenges they face • Including specific targets for vulnerable groups in national sector plans • Developing specific strategies and approaches to meet the needs of the most vulnerable
2 Mobilising support and resources	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Developing national plans which serve as a framework for partner engagement • Establishing inter-sectoral platforms
3 Establishing budgets	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Packaging evidence-based data and advocacy to influence decision making around budget allocations • Using the institutional triggering approach to galvanise commitment and financial resource allocations • Developing detailed cost analyses at decentralised level which can be aggregated to provide costed plans to reach local, national and global targets
5 Bridging HR capacity gaps	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Carrying out studies to gain a deeper understanding of what the gaps and shortfalls are in order to develop capacity building and recruitment plans
6 Ensuring institutional sanitation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Developing sector strategy through multi-sector collaboration • Improving monitoring of institutional WASH by establishing a baseline

³ Due to time constraints countries only briefly presented back one action they intend to prioritise in the next 12 months which related to the country dialogue focus commitments. Note however that countries will take various different actions in all commitment areas.

Recommendations to AMCOW on next steps

As part of its mandate to monitoring country progress against the Ngor Commitments on Sanitation and Hygiene, AMCOW will support and track country actions towards achieving the Ngor Commitments. Feedback from countries participating at AfricaSan5 was that the monitoring, planning and peer dialogue opportunities established for the Ngor Commitments on Sanitation and Hygiene are highly valued. The following are recommendations for continuing and improving the process:

1. Swift follow-up and a country-led approach with Ngor Actions embedded in national plans

As soon as possible AMCOW should reach out to countries and encourage them to review their existing sector plans post-AfricaSan5. AMCOW could provide guidance on the process whereby countries use their own Ngor Baseline Monitoring report to identify existing gaps, and then review national sector plans to ensure that these gaps are addressed (process outlined in figure 2). This approach will allow countries to embed Ngor actions into national planning processes rather than creating a parallel plan.

Planned national Ngor actions should then be shared with AMCOW for follow-up.

Figure 2: Planning to meet the Ngor Commitments on Sanitation and Hygiene



2. Longer-term approach to planning and reporting through existing sector meetings / processes

Timeframes for reporting should also be linked to country processes. One participant noted that sector reviews don't always happen exactly when AMCOW requires updates and that process could be made more meaningful if a longer-term approach was taken - including Ngor follow-up as an agenda item on an existing sector meeting rather than as a stand-alone process.

3. Link the Ngor commitment monitoring and actions to other global processes

Many African countries are engaged in the new SWA mutual accountability mechanism (MAM), an approach which mirrors the AfricaSan5 multi-stakeholder commitments. SWA side session participants saw value in aligning MAM commitments to gaps identified by the Ngor Commitment Monitoring. AMCOW should work with SWA to ensure that Country Ngor Commitments baseline monitoring reports are available and used during upcoming MAM processes.

The Country Ngor Monitoring reports identify the areas that need focus around which MAM commitments can be developed.

Government group at SWA side meeting

AMCOW can also identify other opportunities to link Ngor monitoring to other sector processes such as UN-Water GLAAS and JMP.

4. Maintain timely communications with country focal points

One participant noted that it would be good if AMCOW could increase engagement between monitoring rounds and conferences to “keep the Ngor Commitments on the sector’s agenda”. This could be in the form of regular email updates which share upcoming activities and actions that countries have taken.

A related recommendation AMCOW should provide information and requests for engagement in AfricaSan processes earlier to ensure quality of country inputs. Feedback from Sub-Regional meetings was that information and requests should be shared two months before deadlines to enable countries to properly engage.

Annex 1 – Country participation and grouping

Countries participating at the AfricaSan5 country dialogues were split across four groups based on language, in order to facilitate conversations (French and English). Countries were allocated to rooms according to their pre-prepared poster content, ensuring that all participants were able to find information on all of the five focus Ngor Commitments. Consideration was also given to participation at AfricaSan Sub-Regional meetings during the last quarter of 2018, as far as possible countries were placed with “new” countries to provide different learning connections.

Country	Head of Delegation	Title and institution
English Language Room 1		
Botswana	(David Molefha)	
Eritrea	Dr. Zemui Alemu	Director of Environmental Health
Eswatini		
Liberia	Mr. Bobby Whitefield	Chairman & CEO, National WASH Commission of the Republic of Liberia
Mozambique	Alcino Nhawme	Head of planning, National Director of water Supply and Sanitation
Namibia	Theopoline Nantanga	Ministry of Agriculture, Water and Forestry
Nigeria	Mr. Emmanuel Awe	Director Water Quality Sanitation and Control
South Africa	-	-
South Sudan	Alier OKA	Undersecretary, Ministry of water resources & Irrigation
Tanzania	Seleman Amour	Ag. Assistant Director Environmental Health and Sanitation. MoH
Zimbabwe	Victor Nyamandi	Director of Environmental Health
English Language - Room 2		
Ethiopia	Lia Tadene	Deputy Minister Ministry of Health
Ghana	Michael Yaw Gyato	Deputy Minister Ministry of Health
Ghana		
Kenya	Kepha Ombacho	Ministry of Health
Lesotho	Evodia Ntabiseng	Chief Engineer, Ministry of Water
Malawi	Emma Mbalane	Ministry of Water
Rwanda		
Somalia	Abdulizirak Mohamed	Head of Department WASH sector Ministry of Health
Sudan		
Zambia		
French Language - Room 1		
Benin	Pius Cossi Gounadon	Ministry of Sanitation
Benin	Yadjide Francisca Adissoda Gbedo	
Burkina Faso	Tiendrebeogo Julienne	Ministry of Water and Sanitation
Burkina Faso	Mariame Zampaligre	National Office of Water and Sanitation
Burkina Faso	Sanou Tontama	ONEA
Burkina Faso	Andre Patinde Nonguierma	Sanitation Department
Burkina Faso	Ouali Yempabou	Eastern Regional Water and Sanitation Department
Cameroun	Idriss Kouotou Njoya	Ministry of Water and Energy
Cameroun	Xaverie Ngo Oum	MINEE
Cameroun	Mamoudou Ousman	Ministry of Water Resources and Energy

Central African Republic	Sylvain Guebanda	Senior Advisor to the Minister, Ministry of Energy and Water Resources Development
Central African Republic	Barnabe Falibai	Ministry of Energy and Water Resources Development
Cote d'Ivoire	Hélène Bragori Yocolly	Director of Rural Sanitation
Côte d'Ivoire	Seydou Coulibaly	MINASS RCI
Mali	Tabalaba Boureima	CN-CIEPA/WASH
Mali	Drissa Traore	MEADD
Mali	Cisse Aissata	DNACPN
Republic du Congo	Herve Didas Christian Amboulou	Ministry of Water and Energy
French Language – Room 2		
Burundi	Jeanne Nizigiyimana	Directrice Générale de l'Eau Potable et de l'Assainissement de Base
Burundi	Ahmedou Bahah	UNICEF Chief of WASH
Burundi	Apollinaire Sindiheburu	Directeur General de l'Agence Burundaise de l'Hydraulique Rurale & Assainissement en Milieu Rural
Chad	Ignabe Padacke	Directeur de l'Assainissement / Ministère de l'Environnement de l'Eau et de la Pêche
Chad	Moussa Mahamat Alifa	Directeur General du Ministère de l'Environnement, de l'Eau et de la Pêche
Chad	Fabienne Bertrand	UNICEF Spécialiste WASH
Democratic Republic of Congo	Pascaline Mbangou Kikumbi	Directrice / Direction d'Assainissement du Ministère de l'Environnement et Développement Durable
Democratic Republic of Congo	Jean Marie Sangira	UNICEF Spécialiste WASH
Guinea	El Hadj Mamadou Barry	UNICEF Spécialiste WASH
Guinea	Seydou Bari Sidibe	Secrétaire General Ministère de l'Environnement, des Eaux et Forêts
Madagascar	Alain Randriamaherisoa	Chef de projet RANOWASH / USAID
Madagascar	Michèle Andriambahiny Rasamison	Coordinatrice nationale de WSSCC
Madagascar	Brigitte Pedro	UNICEF Chief of WASH
Mauritania	Lavdal Dadde	Conseiller du Ministre / Ministère de l'Hydraulique et Assainissement
Mauritania	Ahmed Weddady	Directeur de l'Assainissement / Ministère de l'Hydraulique et Assainissement
Mauritania	Abdayem Maaouya	UNICEF Spécialiste WASH
Niger	Dan Dobi Mahamane Moussa	Directeur General de l'Assainissement / Ministère de l'Hydraulique et de l'Assainissement
Niger	Madougou Labo	Directeur de la vulgarisation des services d'assainissement / MHA
Niger	Mahamadou Ibrahim Diolombi	Journaliste WASH (l'Union)
Niger	Suzanne Tchutchoua Kameni	UNICEF Spécialiste WASH
Niger	Ali Amadou Issa	Conseiller Technique du Ministre / Ministère de l'Hydraulique et de l'Assainissement
Senegal	Dr Ababakar Mbaye	Directeur de l'Assainissement / Ministère de l'Hydraulique et de l'Assainissement
Senegal	Cheikh Fadel Fall	CCSPEA / Ministère de l'Hydraulique et de l'Assainissement

Senegal	Racine Kane	UNICEF Spécialiste WASH
Togo	Amidou Sani	Chef de Division de l'Assainissement de Base / Ministère de la santé et de l'Hygiene Publique
Togo	Ayite Komlan	Directeur de l'Hygiene et de l'Assainissement de Base / Ministère de la santé et de l'Hygiene Publique
Togo	Balla Badibalaki	Assistant au Programme du Fonds Mondial pour l'Assainissement / / Ministère de la santé et de l'Hygiene Publique
Togo	Fataou Salami	UNICEF Spécialiste WASH