



WIWAS

**WOMEN IN WATER AND SANITATION  
ASSOCIATION**

**ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**

**30<sup>TH</sup> NOVEMBER, 2021**

**CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT**

WIWAS

## **CHAIR'S REMARKS**

THE EXCO,  
SECRETARIAT,  
MEMBERS,  
LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,  
GOODMORNING,

I am very pleased to extend to you all, on behalf of the EXCO, our gratitude for making time amid your busy schedules to attend this forum.

This is our sixth year of existence and for that we are proud of how far we have come. The road has not been easy especially after the last year which was as unprecedented and unpredictable. However, we came through it and for that we thank God.

We also take this opportunity to acknowledge your continued support of the Association as members and we cannot over emphasize how important it is for us to work towards the common vision of 'Empowered Women at the core of WASH'. This concerns all of us as we bear the greatest burden where WASH is concerned.

## **ASSOCIATION OVERVIEW**

As we are aware, WIWAS was established to empower women through capacity building, mentorship, knowledge management, advocacy and networking, and advocating for an enabling and safe environment for them to thrive as they create room for their peers and fellow women. This is still at the core of our mandate even as we endeavor to improve Water & Sanitation value chain through our contribution to society.

To reach this goal we concluded the review of our constitution and our strategic plan 2020-2025 to align them to our current situation and vision which is a holistic outlook towards anchoring our vision and mission. These documents can be found on our website [www.wiwas.org](http://www.wiwas.org). Further to this, we have continued to engage partners such as WASPA, KEWASNET, AfWA and other WASH related practitioners in order to increase our reach and impact in the community.

We continue to urge members to be present and active as we deliberate on ways to make our society better as we contribute to the overall achievement of SDG 5 and SDG 6 which envision gender equality and empowerment of all women and girls; and access to Water & Sanitation for

all, respectively.

## **ACTIVITIES**

Within the period under review, we managed to participate in various activities which were a boost for our profile.

In October 2020 in conjunction with Dada Women Mashinani in Waste and Sanitation and other stakeholders, we participated in the clean-up of Ngong' River at Karagita, Mihango area. This event was graced by NMS Director General who lauded the initiative and promising to implement the same across the city.

Alongside WASPA in July 2021, we hosted a Women and Youth Workshop in 2021 which targeted organizations and members of the WASH community. This forum brought together thought leaders and like-minded people in a bid to galvanize the position of women and youth in the achievement of WASH initiatives in our Country. Various concessions were made to further achieve this goal and it is our mandate as WIWAS to play our part in making our working environments women and youth friendly. The forum provided youths and women a rare high-level platform to share experiences, challenge the status quo and highlight the barriers that they face in their quest to participate in leadership and decision-making at various levels of the WASH. The Cabinet Secretary (Minister) and the Chief Administrative Secretary (Assistant Minister), of the ministry of Water, Sanitation and Irrigation, and other senior public, private sector, NGOs and CSOs officials were present to respond to the concerns raised.

In October 2021, we participated in the sweat 4 soap campaign which was marked on the Global Hand Washing Day and was geared towards providing soap to the Manual pit latrine Emptiers of Korogocho informal settlement and needy children from the Children of hope Mission School charitable primary school in Kajjado. This campaign culminated by our handing over the soap donated by well-wishers including Diamond Industries Limited, the manufacturers of panga soap.

WIWAS also marked the World Toilet Day 2021 by running a social media campaign requiring the public to participate in identifying availability of sanitation facilities in public places and their accessibility and usability. This was also culminated by a one-day workshop in partnership with APHRC which brought together WASH stakeholders and thought leaders to discuss and map solution on the Sanitation value chain from catch to disposal.

On capacity building and research, currently we have WIWAS members from a number of Water Utilities are participating in the USAID sponsored workforce Gender Equality Accelerated Program. This will go a long way in enhancing WIWAS capacity as well as those of member organisations. WIWAS will also be a beneficiary in the upcoming African Water Association (AfWA) City Wide Inclusive Sanitation Capacity Building Programme. WIWAS together with University of Ghana, University of Nairobi and the African Population, Health and Research will soon embark

on a IDRC funded study on Transforming Institutions to Advance Women Leaders in Science Technology Engineering and Mathematics. I look forward to members contribution towards the success of this study.

In November 2021, we joined the “Call for Action by UNESCO in Accelerating Gender Equality in the Water domain”. This call for action, presents an excellent opportunity for WIWAS to further the conversation on the importance of accelerating gender equality and the empowerment of women in the water domain, in line with the acceleration of the Sustainable Development Goal 6.

With regard to policy discussions, WIWAS presented their views during the development of the African Sanitation guidelines, the National Sanitation Management policy, Market-Based Models and PPP Options for Non Sewered Sanitation, among others.

All in all we are continuously working towards enabling WIWAS to stand as an Association and a force within the WASH sector that can be resilient and be called upon as a contributor to the sector. To this end, we are working towards finding donor partnerships that can support our initiatives as we look into creating forums for research that can benefit the sector while allowing us to be engaged at various levels of the value chain.

### **MEMBERSHIP**

As we know WIWAS is a member driven association and thus we are completely dependent on membership subscriptions. Individual membership and renewals have been at a slump possibly due to the pandemic and the financial implications that has had on all of us. We need to step up efforts in raising funds from corporate members as well as individual members, otherwise it will be impossible to actualize our strategic plan. This calls for a robust resource mobilization strategy.

In the period under review, two Appointments to the ExCO were effected to facilitate the effectiveness of the team. The Assistant Organizing Secretary and the Male Champion positions were created in order to further the reach of the ExCO. This is in line with the gender transformative approach that calls for engaging men in our pursuit for gender equality our sector, which is male-dominated.

The Cabinet Secretary of Water, Sanitation and Irrigation, Mrs. Sicily Kariuki, EGH, became a member of WIWAS. This is unprecedented high level of support, and we look forward to working closely with her and her Ministry to further the gender equality and water and sanitation for all goals.

We nonetheless, continue to urge our members to renew their membership subscriptions and at the same time participate in the various activities and committees that maybe fronted in order to

reap the benefits of your membership.

### **FINANCIAL HIGHLIGHTS**

The Association engaged an Independent Auditor to Audit our accounts as required by law in order to establish the financial position of the Association.

The following are the highlights of the financials. A detailed report is downloadable on our website.

<b>Item</b>	<b>Year</b>	
	<b>2019</b>	<b>2020</b>
Income	-	-
Total Assets	312,911.00	315,821.00
Member Contributions	82,870.00	82,870.00

### **CONCLUSION**

As I conclude, we have all had difficulties in adjusting to the times we are in however, as women, we are resilient and innovative and so like a phoenix we shall continue to rise.

I therefore, urge members to continue to hold the EXCO to account to further increase our transparency and accountability as we contribute to the mandate given to us by the members and we continue to seek your feedback on how we can together make WIWAS the Association we are all proud of.

Finally, I would like to appreciate the members of the ExCO, and the Secretariat for their continued support in our endeavor to accomplish our mandate.

Thank you and God bless us all.



**Leunita Sumba, PhD**

**Chairperson**