

VIRTUAL TRAINING WORKSHOP ON THE WASSMO SYSTEM

Support for The Establishment of a Monitoring and Reporting System for The Water Sector in Africa – Phase II Project



African Ministers' Council on Water

Conseil Des Ministres Africains Charges De L'eau



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Sub-Committee of the AU Specialized Technical Committee on Agriculture, Rural Development, Water and Environment



African Development Bank Group

Training Report

1-4th June 2021 (for English Speaking Countries) and 8-11th June 2021 (for French Speaking Countries)
Organised by: AMCOW Secretariat, Abuja, Nigeria

TRAINING REPORT

ON THE VIRTUAL WORKSHOP

ON THE PAN AFRICAN WATER AND SANITATION SECTOR MONITORING AND REPORTING SYSTEM (WASSMO)

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1. BACKGROUND

1.1 THE WATER AND SANITATION SITUATION ACROSS AFRICA

Access to sanitation is a human right that is essential for preserving human dignity and attaining a high quality of life. It is also a social service that makes important contributions to human health, poverty eradication, gender equity and economic development. Studies have shown that for every dollar invested in water and sanitation, there is a return of 3-5 dollars in savings from medical and funeral expenses, time for tending to the sick and increased productivity of the workforce, among others.

Despite the obvious benefits from improved water and sanitation, a large proportion of the African population has no access to these services, and many African countries are not on course to meet their SDG targets for water and sanitation. The Joint Monitoring Programme for Water Supply, Sanitation and Hygiene (JMP) report for 2019 indicates that in 2017 about 399 million Africans had no access to basic and safely managed water services; 750 million people (i.e. close to 70% of the population) did not have access to at least basic sanitation; over 200 million people (i.e. 20% of the population) practiced open defecation and about 767 million do not use basic handwashing facilities.

1.2 THE SHARM EL SHEIKH COMMITMENTS AND WASSMO

The 11th Ordinary Session of the AU Summit of Heads of States and Governments that was held in Sharm El-Sheikh, Egypt on 30th June 2008 made a number of commitments to support water and sanitation on the continent, including renewing efforts to implement previous declarations on water and sanitation; increasing domestic financial resource allocations to water and sanitation; intensifying efforts at resource mobilization for the WASH sector; and strengthening national policy, regulatory and institutional frameworks for water governance. The Summit charged the [African Ministers'](#)

[Conference on Water \(AMCOW\)](#) with the responsibility for reporting on annual progress made in the implementation of these commitments.

Subsequent to, and as a way of implementing the above directive on reporting, AMCOW in 2011/2012, with support from development partners, established the [Pan African Water and Sanitation Sector Monitoring and Reporting System \(WASSMO\)](#). WASSMO is the first ever continent-wide automated web-based system that exclusively captures data on water and sanitation across the 55 member states of the African Union using harmonised progress indicators. The current WASSMO Framework comprises of 7 themes, 28 sub-themes, 58 indicators and 194 input parameters. As part of the WASSMO system, five annual progress reports on the status of water and sanitation in Africa have been prepared, the most recent report being that of 2018.

The purpose of WASSMO is to aid decision-making by the AU Heads of State and Government, by creating a continent-wide credible monitoring and reporting system that regularly provides information on the state of water and sanitation development on the African continent, and on progress towards attainment of the Sharm El Sheikh commitments. However, the system, has been beset by multiple challenges, and has not functioned as well as intended. One of the key challenges that has affected its smooth operation is the weak capacity of the Members Countries to compile relevant data and contribute to Annual WASSMO Reports.

To address the above challenge, AMCOW with financial support from the African Development Bank (AfDB)/African Water Facility (AWF) has prepared and is implementing a project titled “[Support for the Establishment of a Monitoring and Reporting System for the Water Sector in Africa Project – Phase II: Strengthening Capacity Building and Learning](#)”. AMCOW is using part of the project funds to conduct training of country officials on the Pan African Water and Sanitation Sector Monitoring and Reporting System (WASSMO).

2. OBJECTIVES AND EXPECTED OUTPUTS

2.1 THE WASSMO TRAINING

The training on the WASSMO System took place virtually from 1-11th June 2021 and was organised by the AMCOW Secretariat, with technical support from UN-Water, and financial support from AfDB/AWF. The training is the first step in the process of reviving regular monitoring and reporting on water and sanitation on the African continent.

2.2 OBJECTIVES

The objectives of the virtual workshop were to:

1. explain the background of the WASSMO System, and the Sharm El Sheikh Commitments;
2. increase knowledge and understanding on the WASSMO Framework, particularly its targets, indicators, input data and method for indicator computation.
3. increase understanding on the approach for coordinating national level data collection and reporting.
4. Build knowledge on use of the online WASSMO System for reporting.
5. introduce and increase awareness of national focal points for SDG indicators, and resources of SDG caretaker agencies that can be used to support WASSMO reporting; and
6. increase understanding on next steps and timelines for the 2021 WASSMO data campaign.

2.3 EXPECTED OUTPUTS

The expected outputs from the virtual training, which were all realised, were the following:

1. Improved understanding of the WASSMO Framework and System, and its purpose.

2. Increased knowledge of WASSMO indicators, their data requirements and sources of data.
3. Increased awareness on the way to organise, coordinate and manage the process of national data collection and reporting through the WASSMO system.
4. Increased skills and confidence in the use of the online WASSMO system for reporting.
5. Strengthened ties between national focal points for WASSMO, and national focal points for SDG indicators.
6. Enhanced understanding on the next steps, and roles of national teams, in the 2021 WASSMO data campaign.

2.4 PARTICIPANTS

The training was attended by a total of 410 participants, 368 (90 percent) of whom were from Regional Member Countries and 42 (10 percent) were from the AMCOW Secretariat, AfDB/AWF and UN Agencies (UN-Water, UN Habitat, WHO, UNICEF, FAO, UNEP, UNECE and UNESCO).

The training was conducted in two sessions: the first was for English speakers and was held from 2-4th June 2021 while the second was for French Speakers and was held from 8-9th and 11th June 2021. A total of 50 participants attended both English and French sessions.

All African countries with the exception of two – Eritrea and Seychelles – participated in the training. Among the countries that participated, the number of participants ranged from one (in Angola, Djibouti, Ethiopia, Gabon and Morocco) to forty (in Madagascar), with an average of about seven persons per country (see Figure 1 below).

In terms of regional distribution, West Africa and Southern African registered the highest number of participants (see Figures 2 and 3 below).

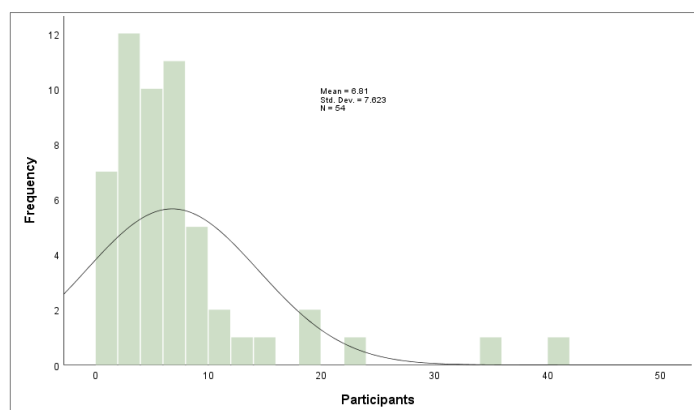


Figure 1: Frequency distribution of number of participants from Regional Member Countries.

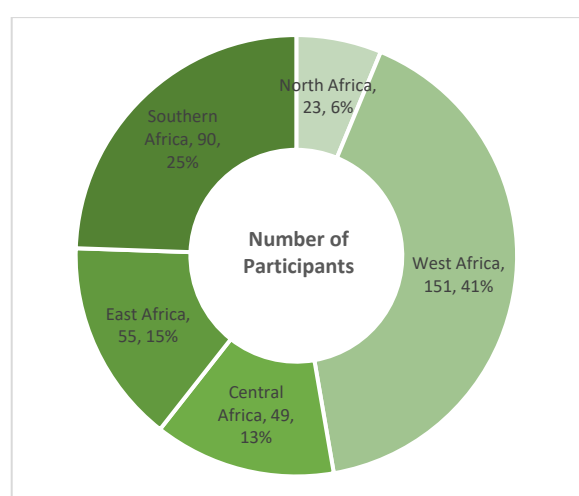


Figure 2: Regional distribution of workshop participants.

There was very broad representation of professions in the training. Present among the participants were , which included The training was attended WASH Specialists, Water Supply Engineers, Sanitarians and Sanitary Engineers, Public Health and Environmental Health Experts, Chemists and Water Quality Experts, Environmentalists and Environmental Engineers, Ecologists, Agronomists, Irrigation Experts, Hydrologists, Hydrometeorologists and Meteorologists, Climate Services Officers, Disaster Risk Reduction Experts, IWRM Experts, Water Resources Planners, Statisticians, Economists, Planners, Monitoring and Evaluation Specialists, ICT/Data management/ Information Systems Experts, Communication Specialists, and Research

Officers. The rank of participants ranged from Interns and Senior Officers, through Principal Officers and Heads of Departments, to Deputy Directors, Directors and Director Generals. The full list of participants is attached as Annex 2.

3. LAUNCH OF THE TRAINING

3.1 WELCOME REMARKS

3.1.1 Welcome remarks from organisers

Participants were welcomed to the virtual launch event by Mr. Patrice Leumeni, AMCOW's Monitoring, Learning and Evaluation Officer. Mr. Leumeni thanked participants for accepting the invitation to the training, and said that the training would mark the start of efforts to revive regular reporting on water and sanitation to the AU Assembly. In consideration of the large number of persons participating in the live session, Mr. Leumeni said, there would be no self-introductions of participants. He observed, however, that most African countries were represented at the launch event.

3.1.2 Introduction of dignitaries

Mr. Patrice Leumeni, after the above welcoming remarks, went on to introduce guests at the launch event who included the following:

- Mr. Christopher Munikasu, Chief Development Planner in the Ministry of Agriculture, Water and Forestry of the Republic of Namibia, and AMCOW TAC Chairperson.
- Mr. Harsen Nyambe, Acting Director of Sustainable Environment and Rural Economy in the Department of Rural Economy and Agriculture at the African Union Commission.
- Mr. Thomas Banda, Director of Finance and Administration, and Acting Executive Secretary at the AMCOW Secretariat.
- Mr. Franz Höllhuber, Principal Water and Sanitation Engineer at the African Water Facility.
- Mr. William Reidhead, Global Monitoring Officer at UN-Water.

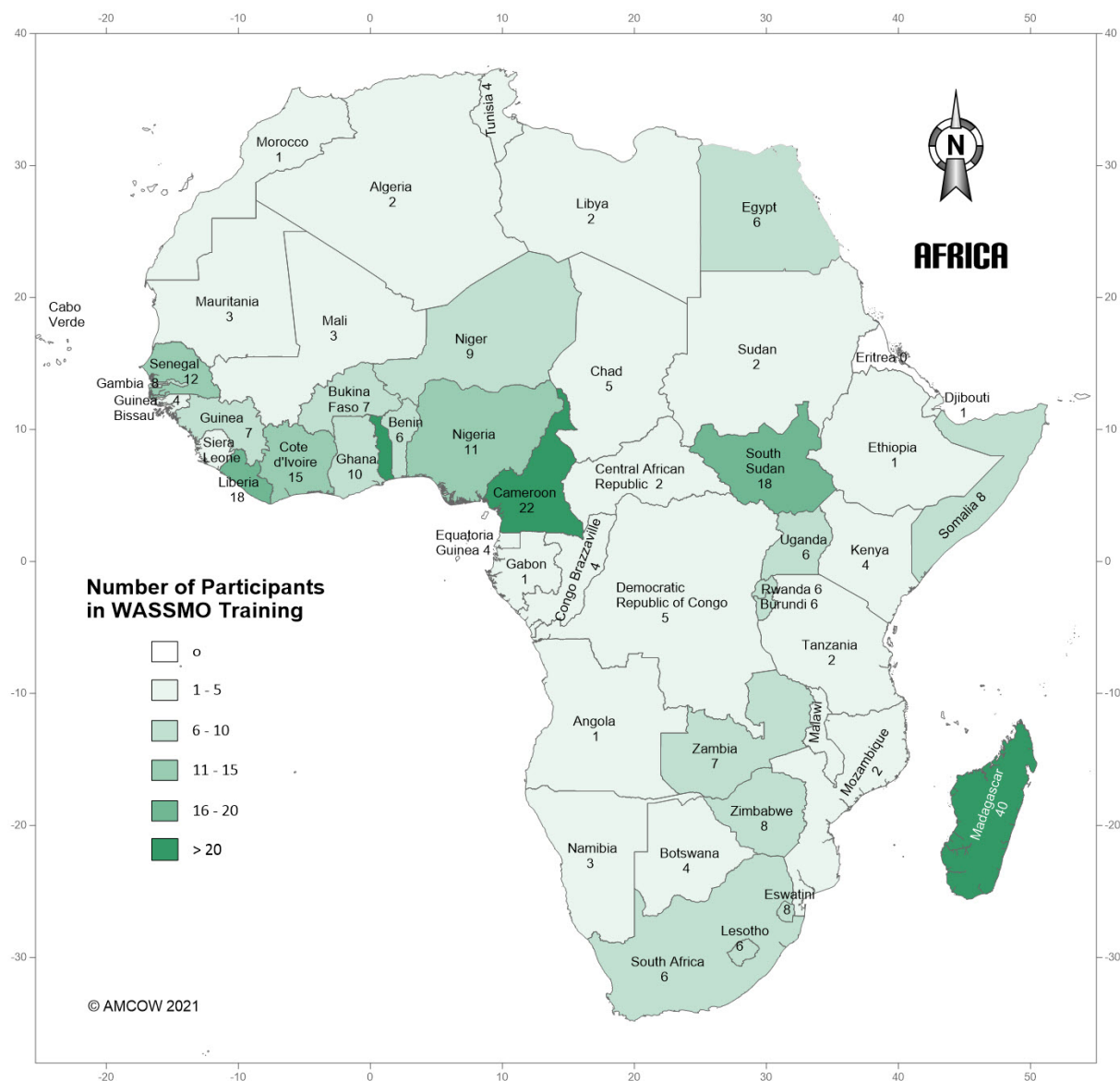


Figure 3: The number of participants per country

3.2 REMARKS BY PARTNERS

3.2.1 Remarks from UN-Water

The remarks from UN-Water were made by Mr. William Reidhead, Global Monitoring Officer in the organization. Mr. Reidhead said that UN-Water was happy to be a partner of AMCOW in operating a monitoring and reporting system on water and sanitation in Africa. He noted that there were eight UN custodian agencies responsible for 11 water-related indicators that are part of SDG 6 and the WASSMO system. He informed

participants that UN Water had supported activities to build technical capacity in monitoring in UN member countries. This, he said, included a training workshop on SDG indicators that had been held in 2017 and repeated in 2018.

Mr. Reidhead informed participants that UN-Water and WASSMO share the same focal points, and explained that within each country there are 5-10 technical focal point persons for the SDGs. These, he said, were all available to support the WASSMO reporting.



Figure 4: Mr. William Reidhead of UN-Water making is remarks.

The UN-Water representative went on to explained that in 2020, a data collection campaign was launched by UN-Water. Despite the COVID pandemic, he said, the campaign had gone well, and over 100 countries around the world had participated in the campaign. Reporting by African countries in the data drive had been above average, he noted. Following the data campaign in 2020, the focus in 2021 for UN Water, he explained, was on what to do with the data that had been collected.

This year, Mr. Reidhead informed the participants, a one-day high level international meeting had been held to review progress on the water and sanitation SDGs. This was the first time in almost 40 years that trends and projections on water-related SDGs could be made based on available data. The information, he said, had showed that the world was not on track to meet the SDGs on water and sanitation in 2030. The information, he said, provided clear evidence on how much more effort was required from the international community to meet the targets. The updated document, he further explained, had an annex that provided indicator values for all participating countries.

Mr. Reidhead highlighted two global events that the UN-Water was planning that were of relevance to the participants. One was the release of indicator reports for seven SDG indicators, that is planned to take place in August 2021 during the Stockholm World Water Week. The second was a virtual global workshop planned for the

last quarter of 2021, that would look at what had been learnt from the 2020 data campaign.

While concluding, Mr Reidhead said that the different representatives of the custodian agencies will be present in the WASSMO training, and will be listening in and responding to questions. Most importantly, he said, the representatives would be available after the training to provide technical support to the countries.

With those few remarks, he wished AMCOW and participants a successful training event.

3.2.2 Remarks from the African Development Bank

Mr. Franz Höllhuber made a few remarks on behalf of the Director of Water Development and Sanitation at the African Development Bank (AfDB), and on behalf of the Coordinator of the African Water Facility (AWF).

Mr. Höllhuber started by registering his happiness at noting the partnership between UN-Water and AMCOW, and stressed that it was important to maximize complementarity between WASSMO and other initiatives on the African continent such as the **WHO/UNICEF** Joint Monitoring Programme.

Mr. Höllhuber explained the background of the AfDB support to AMCOW, mentioning the Phase I project for establishment of the WASSMO System, and the ongoing Phase II support that is aimed at strengthening capacity for monitoring and reporting. The Bank's support, he elucidated, had been through small grants extended to AMCOW via the African Water Facility.

Mr. Höllhuber went on to talk about the AfDB's High Fives (priority interventions areas), and the role of WASSMO in tracking performance on these priorities. He informed the participants that the AWF was a special facility hosted by the AfDB whose mission was to support the mobilization of resources for water infrastructure development in Africa, and pointed out that WASSMO would support this mission by helping countries to have data that can be used to prepare investment projects. He further explained that the WASSMO system could help the AfDB

in monitoring development impacts on the African continent, in partnership with other actors.

Mr. Höllhuber concluded by making the following recommendations: (a) to maximize harmonization of WASSMO with other systems to avoid additional monitoring burden on countries; (b) UN Agencies and other Partners to ensure that reporting at global levels is aligned to the Pan African Water and Sanitation Sector Monitoring and Reporting System; and (c) the WASSMO system to serve as a learning point for other regions of the world.

3.2.3 Remarks from the AMCOW Secretariat

Mr. Thomas Banda, the Director of Finance and Administration at AMCOW Secretariat, made a few remarks on behalf of the Secretariat. Mr. Banda started by expressed his pleasure at the opportunity to make a few remarks on behalf of AMCOW at the launch of the WASSMO training.

Mr. Banda explained that WASSMO had its origin in the African Water Vision 2025, which called for a harmonized monitoring system. He further explained that the AMCOW Ministerial Declaration at the end of the First African Water Week held in Tunis in March 2008 included a recommendation for development of a monitoring and evaluation mechanisms for water supply and sanitation at local, basin, national and regional levels. He further explained that in the same year, in early July 2008, the 11th Ordinary Session of the African Union in Sharm El Sheikh mandated AMCOW to report annually to the AU Assembly on implementation of water and sanitation commitments that had been made by the Assembly.

In 2020, Mr Banda explained, AMCOW and the AfDB had signed a grant agreement for Phase II Support to the Establishment of a Monitoring and Reporting System for The Water Sector in Africa. This project, he said, was being used to revive the WASSMO Framework and monitoring system. Speaking about the current training, Mr. Banda said the focus would be on how to collect and report data through the updated WASSMO System.



Figure 5: Mr. Thomas Banda making remarks on behalf of the AMCOW Secretariat.

Separate training sessions would be held for French- and English-speaking countries, Mr. Banda he went on to say, and remarked that, immediately after the training, the data collection campaign would be launched for a period of 1.5 months.

He called on the countries to work to avoid duplication in monitoring efforts, and to participate in the preparation of the 2020 annual report for submission to the AU Assembly. He further urged for increased alignment of WASSMO with UN-Water to avoid additional monitoring burden on countries.

Mr. Banda expressed appreciation to the AfDB for financial support extended to the RECs and Regional Member Countries, and concluded by wishing all participants successful training.

3.2.4 Remarks from African Union Commission

Water is indispensable to human life, and is vital to all sectors of socio-economic development. As such, water is critical for realization of the goals of Agenda 2063 and the SDGs. It is with this background that one can appreciate the importance of the WASSMO system. These were the words of Mr. Harsen Nyambe who made a few remarks at the training launch ceremony on behalf of the Commissioner of Rural Economy and Agriculture of the African Union Commission. Mr. Nyambe said the importance of water was even greater now because of the COVID-19 pandemic.



Figure 6: Mr. Harsen Nyambe of the African Union Commission making his remarks.

Mr. Nyambe explained that the 2008 Sharm-El-Sheikh Summit had recognized the need for monitoring water and sanitation as a tool for tracking compliance to various commitments on water and sanitation, and stated that, without the system, challenges and opportunities of the water and sanitation sector would not be brought to the attention of politicians. The WASSMO system, he explained, enables AMCOW to table a report on the situation with respect to water and sanitation on the continent, which report may influence decisions at the continental level, including on resource allocation.

My Nyambe informed participants that a decision had been taken to convene a special conference on water and sanitation on the sidelines of the 9th World Water Forum that will take place in Dakar in March 2022. This conference, he said, could provide an opportunity for African leaders to re-commit to delivering the water-related goals of the SDGs and Agenda 2063.

Mr. Nyambe appreciated the support from the African Development Bank and African Water Facility towards AMCOW's Pan African Water and Sanitation Sector Monitoring and Reporting System, and ended by thanking participants for their attention and wishing them successful training.

3.2.5 Remarks from the AMCOW TAC Chairperson

Mr. Christopher Munikasu, Chief Development Planner in the Ministry of Agriculture, Water and Forestry of the

Republic of Namibia, and AMCOW TAC Chairperson, officiated at the launching of the WASSMO training. Mr. Munikasu conveyed heartfelt greetings to all participants from the Minister of Agriculture, Water and Forestry of Republic of Namibia.

After conveying welcoming remarks to the participants, Mr Munikasu went on to explain that the WASSMO system supports evidence-based policy and decision making, and enables AMCOW to fulfil its mandate for annual reporting to the AU Summit on Water and Sanitation. The training that was being initiated would help to familiarize the member states with the updated WASSMO system, he explained.

Mr. Munikasu provided a highlight of activities in the coming days, which included the training for English-speaking countries on 2-4th June 2021, training for French-speaking countries on 8-9th and 11th June 2021, and the launch of the African Sanitation Policy Guidelines on 10th June 2021 by the President of Namibia.



Figure 7: Mr. Christopher Munikasu, AMCOW TAC Chairperson making his remarks.

The long-term objective of the WASSMO project, Mr. Munikasu explained, was to enhance the quality of life for people in Africa through improvement in water and sanitation. The annual report generated through the system, would not only be useful to water ministries, Mr. Munikasu explained, but to all water-related sectors as a basis for decision making and resource mobilization. The WASSMO system will further enable the AUC to have a strong system for regional reporting – a system that provides a picture of the status of water and sanitation

across the continent. He explained that this system provides African countries with a common reporting system on which continental policies can be based.

In his capacity as the AMCOW TAC Chairperson, Mr. Munikasu called on the Regional Member Countries, Development Partners, and CSOs to support the WASSMO Project.

He thanked the AfDB for the financial support extended to AMCOW for implementation of the Phase I and Phase II Projects on strengthening of the Pan African Water and Sanitation Monitoring and Reporting System, and said that he was confident that the project would be successfully concluded. He called for intensification of efforts to increase collaboration with other partners in water and sanitation monitoring at local government, national and global levels.

While ending, he wished AMCOW staff and participants success with the WASSMO training and hoped that the strengthened WASSMO system would make a strong contribution to realization of 'The African We Want'.

With the above remarks, Mr. Christopher Munikasu, declared the AMCOW training on the updated WASSMO System officially opened.

3.3 INTRODUCTION TO THE WASSMO TRAINING

3.3.1 Background to the WASSMO System

Mr. Patrice Leumeni made a presentation that provided a background to the WASSMO system. The presentation covered the following points:

- The meaning of the acronym WASSMO.
- The history of the development of the WASSMO System.
- The reasons for establishment of the WASSMO System.
- The elements of the WASSMO System.
- The themes and indicators of WASSMO.

- The challenges faced by countries in water and sanitation monitoring.
- Status of preparation for the 2020 WASSMO data campaign and annual report.
- *The Phase II Support for The Establishment of a Monitoring and Reporting System for The Water Sector in Africa* project: its objectives, components and implementation arrangements, which were enumerated to include (1) a Project Unit within the AMCOW Secretariat; (2) a Project Technical Committee comprised of RECs (ECOWAS, SADC, IGAD), AU, AfDB, UN-Water and Universities; and (3) an AMCOW TAC Subcommittee constituted by TAC members from Botswana, Kenya, Ghana, Gabon and Tunisia.
- Key results so far, which included review, update and validation of the M&E framework in 2020; Phase II Project launched in 2020; preparation and validation of ToR for establishment of National Coordination Platform; establishment of the Project Technical Committee and TAC Advisory Committee; and launch of the training on the WASSMO System.
- The online WASSMO system.
- The Annual Reports.
- Reasons for the WASSMO Training.
- Content of the training.
- Timeline of WASSMO activities in 2020 (training, data campaign, report drafting, report validation).

3.3.2 Programme highlights

Mr. Patrice Leumeni gave a brief presentation that provided a highlight of presentations and activities over the three days of training for each group (there were two groups of countries – English speaking and French speaking countries). The presentation also explained the way the training would be organized, the days and duration of each session, how participants could join the sessions, interpretation services, and where to find training materials.



Figure 8: Mr. Patrice Leumeni explaining the WASSMO System.

3.3.3 Questions and Answers

After the introductory presentations on the WASSMO training, the floor was opened for questions from the participants. Below is the record of questions asked, and responses provided by the resource persons.

Qn. 1.1: Virtual training may not be a very effective method for knowledge and skills transfer. Has AMCOW considered conducting physical training for the countries?

Answer: The decision for virtual training was reached after consideration of the COVID-19 pandemic. It was preferable to have virtual training instead of totally closing down activities during the pandemic. Therefore, during the pandemic, training will be held virtually. If the level of infections and spread of the disease slows down, follow up physical meetings may be considered.

Qn. 1.2: In Nigeria, the launch of the data collection campaign coincides with the annual review of the water and sanitation sector. This may affect the ability of Nigeria to participate in data collection.

Answer: The National Focal Point for Nigeria can ask other members of the National Coordination Platform to participate in the data collection campaign on the days that he/she will be engaged in the sector review.

Qn. 1.3: Can we share the link for the training with colleagues from other collaborating agencies?

Answer: Yes, the link may be shared with other colleagues from the Water Ministry and from other collaborating institutions.

Qn. 1.4: The Focal Points for the SDG 6 indicators in Nigeria are not known to the AMCOW Focal Point.

Answer: The names of the SDG focal points in each country have been sent out to the country teams.

Qn. 1.5: The WASSMO indicators are too many. Due to weak national monitoring systems, countries may not be able to report on all 44 WASSMO indicators.

Answer: The WASSMO Framework was reviewed and updated in 2020. The review report recommended to reduce the number of indicators. However, during validation of the Framework and indicators in 2020, The AMCOW TAC took a decision to continue reporting on all of the indicators. The purpose of the present training is to explain the indicators to country teams to ease the collection of data, and reporting, against the indicators.

Qn. 1.6: There is no indicator on communication, but the WASSMO Phase II Project is expected to have many activities on communication.

Answer: Each country will have to decide on how to communicate the outcomes of the 2020 annual report nationally.

Qn. 1.7: The WASSMO Framework needs to be extended to include indicators for energy sector performance.

Answer: Energy indicators are already part of the WASSMO Framework.

Qn. 1.8: AMCOW should work on strengthening regional and international cooperation on the WASSMO System.

Answer: There is already ongoing collaboration between AMCOW and the UN caretaker agencies on

monitoring and reporting with respect to SDG 6 indicators.

Qn. 1.9: Morocco is not indicated on the Map that was used in the presentation.

Answer: Morocco is on the African Map. There has been no reason not to indicate Morocco on the map.

3.4 CLOSING OF THE LAUNCH EVENT

The launch event was brought to a close by Mr. Thomas Banda, Director of Administration and Finance at the AMCOW Secretariat. In his closing remarks, Mr. Banda said that the participation of country personnel at the launch and in the subsequent training was of great importance to AMCOW. With the successful launch of the training, Mr. Banda expressed his eagerness at seeing the follow-on training and data campaign commence. He ended by declaring the lunch event for the WASSMO training formally closed.

4. THE TRAINING

The training on the WASSMO System was successfully conducted as planned. There were two training sessions with exactly the same content: one was for English speaking countries and the other was for French speaking countries.

Before the training dates, all training materials, including PowerPoint presentations, indicator sheets and list of resources of the SDG caretaker agencies, had been sent by email to all participants. Furthermore, each training session was recorded, and the video recording was sent to participants after the training.

The detailed training program is attached as Annex 2.

5. QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS DURING THE TRAINING

During the training, participants were allowed to ask questions on the topics of the training, and on any other matter concerning the WASSMO System. Below is a record of the questions raised, and responses provided, over the course of the training. This covers both the English Speaking and French speaking training sessions.

5.1 GENERAL QUESTIONS

5.1.1 About WASSMO

Qn. 1.1: What do the acronyms WASSMO and AMCOW stand for?

Answer: WASSMO stands for the Pan African Water and Sanitation Monitoring and Reporting System; AMCOW stands for the African Ministers' Conference on Water.

Qn. 1.2: What is the year of reporting under WASSMO: calendar year or fiscal year?

Answer: The fiscal year will be used in reporting, for completeness of data.

Qn. 1.3: Can the WASSMO system be used offline for countries that have internet challenges?

Answer: YES, the WASSMO system can be used in offline mode, and data will be uploaded to the online system once connection is re-established. This will be explained in a presentation on the third day.

Qn. 1.4: Could you take us through a sample questionnaire to better understand how the WASSMO System works, and how indicators are defined under the system?

Answer: On the third day of the training there will be a demonstration on how to input data in the online WASSMO system. It is important to bear in mind that under the WASSMO system, no primary data



Figure 9: Ms. Genevieve Osuorji, AMCOW IT Officer, giving a presentation on the online WASSMO system during the training.

collection, during which questionnaires are administered, is required. Only secondary data is required to be collected. This is data already collected by a specialized national institution. All that is required is for the Focal Point to know where the data lies.

Qn. 1.5: To what extent is AMCOW making follow up to ensure that countries honor their commitments on water and sanitation?

Answer: AMCOW does not have the authority to compel countries to honor their commitments. Since the WASSMO targets are mostly voluntary commitments as opposed to legally binding requirements of an international treaty, the best approach is to bring the status of performance on the commitments to the attention of the Heads of State and Government, and ask them to renew their commitments. AMCOW is supporting this process through the WASSMO monitoring and reporting system, and WASSMO annual reports.

Qn. 1.6: Shall we get the video recording of the training?

Answer: Yes, the video recording will be sent to all participants after the training.

Qn. 1.7: The classification of sub-regions of Africa does not follow transboundary basin demarcations. For example, Egypt, which is part of the Nile Basin, is grouped under North Africa and not East Africa.

Answer: Yes, the WASSMO definition of sub-regions is based on the AU delineation of sub-regions of Africa.

Qn. 1.8: It is expected that countries will have additional questions about the WASSMO system once they start the data campaign.

Answer: AMCOW Secretariat will be available to respond to the questions as and when they arise.

5.1.2 Data quality control

Qn. 1.9: How can the National Focal Points know where to find (the source of) the different input parameters?

Answer: All participants have received the Indicator Sheets that contain information of indicator definition, how to compute indicators, the required input data, and suggestions of national and international agencies that collect or are in possession of the required input data. The indicator sheets are an important resource for successful completion of the data campaign, and countries are encouraging to use them.

Qn. 1.10: Is there baseline data against which to measure progress of indicator values?

Answer: The baseline for most of the indicators is the year 2015. A lot of effort was made by international agencies to document the water and sanitation situation in 2015. Therefore, there should be baseline information for most of the country. However, where baseline information is missing, the country must make its best effort to estimate the baseline value.

Qn. 1.11: What is the currency for reporting?

Answer: Each indicator has Indicator Sheets that contain information on the units of input parameters. For most indicators that involve monetary values, it is recommended for countries to report in USD to ease comparison of performance across sub-regions and the entire continent.

Qn. 1.12: How can AMCOW assure the quality of data provided by the countries?

Answer: There are several measures for data quality control. These include harmonization of indicator definition through the WASSMO Framework; automatic computation of indicator values by the online WASSMO system from input parameters to eliminate errors during indicator computation; comparison of freshly generated indicator values with values generated from previous campaigns, or values published in other national or international reporting systems; comparison of indicator values with values of other closely related indicators in the WASSMO System; checking the units used in reporting input parameters; and obtaining data from national and international agencies in digital format to eliminate errors that could arise during data transcription.

Qn. 1.13: Scoring on indicators where an expert judgement is required, such as under Themes 6 and 7, can be subjective. Another person responding to the indicator questions may assign a different score. How can this be avoided?

Answer: To make the assessment as objective as possible, it is recommended to engage a subject expert who is very well versed with the situation in the sector, for this purpose.

Qn. 1.14: Where national and global data sets exist, what data should a country use?

Answer: Ideally, the data in national and global sources should be the same, because data held in global sources is derived from national data. To ensure that there is no disparity in data, the focal points of the UN caretaker agencies for SDG6 indicators are members of the national coordinating platform for water sector monitoring and reporting.

Qn. 1.15: Capacity in the countries is generally weak. It is important for AMCOW to support a process for

capacity building for water and sanitation monitoring in the countries.

Answer: After the 2021 data campaign, AMCOW will work with UN caretaker agencies and other partners to explore ways of strengthening monitoring activities in the countries.

Qn. 1.16: There are some indicators that are difficult for countries to measure especially those relate to water use efficiency. How will countries report on these indicators?

Answer: The AMCOW TAC has recommended that all indicators in the WASSMO system be reported upon. Therefore, all countries are requested to make their best efforts at reporting. Thereafter, there will be a process to identify and build capacity of countries in the indicators that are most difficult for them.

Qn. 1.17: How should countries deal with indicators for which there is no input data? Should the countries report them as 'Not Applicable', 'No Data', or should they wait until the data is collected by the responsible national agency?

Answer: For indicators for which there is totally no input data, countries should report 'No Data'. If data for the reporting year is not available, but data from previous years is present, the country should report the latest available data (say 2016 data for the 2019 report, if that is the latest available data). This is better than reporting 'No Data' for the indicator, but the country needs to indicate the year of the data. Countries cannot wait until the missing data is collected because the campaign has to be completed in a short time. Countries should only report 'Not applicable' for indicators that do not apply to the country, for example a country that does not share any water resources with its neighbors (such as Madagascar) can indicate 'Not applicable' for indicators on transboundary water management.

Qn. 1.18: The borders of the map of Egypt in the presentation are not as they are nationally defined.

Answer: The map will be adjusted. In addition, each country is requested to provide a map showing borders as nationally defined.

5.1.3 The 2021 data campaign

Qn. 1.19: For which year will data be collected for the 2021 data campaign?

Answer: There has to be time allowance for compilation of data and reports by national agencies. So, the new campaign will focus on the year 2019 instead of the year 2020 for which some data may still not be in place.

Qn. 1.20: The previous data campaigns were not preceded with training, and countries ended up having challenges with indicator definitions. This approach of starting with the definition of indicators is much better.

Answer: The Phase II Project on the WASSMO System is focused on capacity building and will continue to lay emphasis on improving understanding of the indicators.

Qn. 1.21: From previous experience, the volume of work relating to collecting data and reporting on the WASSMO systems is a lot.

Answer: This is true. To manage the process well and lighten the task, the countries need to engage other sectors through the national coordination platform.

5.1.4 National Coordination Platform

Qn. 1.22: Countries request for the list of national focal points for SDG indicators.

Answer: The list was already sent to participants before the training. Those that have not received it can notify AMCOW Secretariat to re-send the list.

Qn. 1.23: Is it possible to change the National Focal Point for WASSMO? The present focal point is not from the appropriate institution.

Answer: The National Focal Points are not appointed by AMCOW, but are nominated by the countries. Any country wishing to replace its focal point is free to do so but the country should formally write to AMCOW Secretariat to communicate the change in National Focal Points.

Qn. 1.24: What is the process to engage with and obtain data from other sectors for WASSMO reporting?

Answer: There will be a presentation to provide guidance on this. The actual process will vary from country to country, but may include the Ministry of Water sending out formal letters to other line ministries and national agencies requesting for data; following up the letter to obtain the data; and incorporating focal points from all national agencies into a national coordination platform that, among other things, will validate the data and national report. In some countries, there may be a requirement for the Ministry of Water to sign Memoranda of Understanding (MoU) with different ministries and national agencies on data sharing.

Qn. 1.25: When will the process of setting up the national coordinating platform for the WASSMO System be implemented; and how will it be achieved?

Answer: The AMCOW Secretariat has been collaborating with UN-Water to support the establishment of the national coordinating platform. Countries will be notified of next steps in this process in due course of time.

5.2 THEME 1: FINANCE

Qn. 2.1: The indicators on water and sanitation financing seem to only capture national level data. What indicator captures financing at decentralized levels, and financing at household level? [*Indicators 1.1a, 1.1b, 1.1c*].

Answer: The data used in reporting should cover the entire country including decentralized levels of government. Self-supply financing is not captured in national reporting which focuses mainly in public financing, as well as private financing which is part of government coordinated water and sanitation development.

Qn. 2.2: The target for sustainable financing is not being realized. Many countries have not attained the target of 0.5% of their GDP committed to sanitation and hygiene, and 5% of their national budget committed to water supply, sanitation and hygiene. Furthermore, public allocations to WASH are stagnating while ODA share in WASH sector budget is rising. What strategies can be taken to help countries move towards sustainable financing for the WASH sector? [*Indicators 1.1a, 1.1b*].

Answer: The 2021 Annual Report will include an analysis of how well Member States are performing in terms of honoring their commitments regarding water and sanitation financing. The report will be brought to the attention of AMCOW and its partners including the AfDB, UNECA, NEPAD-AUDA and other development partners for advice on the best way to deal with the challenge.

In general, after the data campaign, an annual report will be prepared that will analyze reported data and give recommendations measures to address identified issues in the sector.

Qn. 2.3: What is meant by ODA? [*Indicator 1.1c2*]

Answer: ODA stands for Official Development Assistance, and is used to describe aid in the form of grants and soft loans provided by governments of

developed countries to developing countries, for purposes of promoting the economic development and welfare of the developing nations.

Qn. 2.4: How is the proportion of population benefitting from subsidies in tariffs computed? [*Indicator 1.2b*]

Answer: This indicator is computed as the population residing in urban and rural areas serviced by water and sanitation utilities that apply cross-subsidies expressed as a percentage of the total urban and rural population serviced by water and sanitation utilities.

Qn. 2.5: How do you compute the indicator value for cross-subsidy where there is a single national water utility responsible for provision of water supply and sanitation services to urban areas and larger rural centres? [*Indicator 1.2*]

Answer: We assume 100% access to cross-subsidy if the national utility applies cross-subsidy in all its areas of operation; 0% access if it does not apply cross-subsidies; and between 0-100% if it applies cross-subsidy in selected towns only.

Qn. 2.6: There is a considerable proportion of WASH activities that are financed by non-governmental organizations that are unknown to the government. How will these be reported? [*Indicator 1.4*]

Answer: Non-governmental financing for WASH activities only applies to those activities that are part of a government-coordinated budget and plan. Activities not coordinated with, and unknown to, the government are not reported on.

Qn. 2.7: Is there a specific tool for tracking contributions from private individuals to the water and sanitation sector budget? [*Indicator 1.4*]

Answer: No there is no specific tool for this. This refers to contributions from private individuals and businesses that is part of a government-coordinated budget and plan, and therefore that is known to, and monitored by, government.

5.3 THEME 2: WASH

Qn. 3.1: In Uganda, a basic drinking water source is defined as a source that is safe to drinking. Therefore, the indicator value reported under ‘access to basic water sources’, and ‘access to safely management water sources’, will be identical. [*Indicator 2.1a*]

Answer: The JMP definition of ‘basic’ and ‘safely managed’ drinking water sources will need to be followed in reporting under the WASSMO system.

Qn. 3.2: Will indicators 2.1a and 2.1b on drinking water supply be able to show performance in rural and urban areas?

Answer: The WASSMO Framework was reviewed and updated in 2020. Among other things, this review introduced disaggregation of WASH service access levels in urban and rural areas. Therefore, the next

WASSMO annual report will be able to show WASH performance in rural and urban areas.

Qn. 3.3: Some countries define basic sanitation differently. Ordinary pit latrines are not categorized as basic sanitation facilities. [*Indicators 2.2a1, 2.2a2*]

Answer: The WASSMO definition of the different types of sanitation facilities follows the JMP sanitation ladder. These are the definitions that should be applied in WASSMO reporting.

Qn. 3.4: The WASSMO system does not report on proportions of population using sanitation systems other than safely managed and basic sanitation facilities. [*Indicators 2.2a1, 2.2a2*]

Answer: The JMP report covers proportion of population at different levels of the sanitation ladder. However, for the WASSMO system, the focus is only on two levels: ‘safely managed’ sanitation and ‘basic’ sanitation.



Figure 10: Screenshot of the virtual training in session.

Qn. 3.5: In Cameroon, Sanitation lies in another ministry (Ministry of Health), not the Ministry of Water. Therefore, it will not be possible to report sanitation data. [*Indicator 2.2*].

Answer: The information required to report on the WASSMO system has to come from many sectors (water, energy, health, agriculture, environment, finance, etc.), and many national agencies. A national coordination platform bringing together experts from many agencies is required for the national reporting.

Qn. 3.6: Might the recent provision of handwashing facilities under COVID-19 control programmes in the countries not distort the indicator value for hygiene? [*Indicator 2.3*].

Answer: The indicator for hygiene is defined as having a handwashing facility with soap and water at home. So, any provision of handwashing facilities at public places like markets, banks, shopping malls and places of worship will not be considered to be making a contribution to this indicator. However, if the COVID pandemic has led to increase in handwashing facilities at household level, then genuinely the hygiene situation will have improved and should be reported as such.

5.4 THEME 3: WATER INFRASTRUCTURE

Qn. 4.1: The WASSMO indicator that looks at the proportion of agricultural area developed for irrigation does not consider that water, rather than economic ability, may be the limiting factor for irrigation development in some cases. [*Indicator 3.2b*].

Answer: It is true that this indicator is not suitable for areas experiencing physical water scarcity. It is mainly intended for Sub-Saharan countries that have considerable water resources but low level of agricultural irrigation development.

Qn. 4.2: Is there an international agency that is responsible for collection of data on water for industry? [*Indicator 3.3*]

Answer: The FAO is the caretaker agency for the indicator on industrial water use efficiency.

Qn. 4.3: How is the indicator on municipal water supply efficiency computed? [*Indicator 3.4a*]

Answer: It is computed as the volume of water supplied to consumers in urban and rural areas expressed as a percentage of the volume of water withdrawn for use by water utilities.

Qn. 4.4: Will transboundary infrastructure that is controversial like the GERD be considered in assessment of level of water infrastructure development in transboundary basins? [*Indicator 3.5*]

Answer: Yes, from objective application of the indicator input parameters, which do not include controversy considerations.

Qn. 4.5: Why is the indicator for transboundary water management only focused on infrastructure development, why does it not also include assessment of legal and institutional frameworks? [*Indicator 3.5*].

Answer: There are several indicators in the WASSMO framework that look at transboundary water management. Some of these assess the availability of policy, legal and institutional frameworks for transboundary water management.

Qn. 4.6: How is the indicator on infrastructure needed to effectively support growth computed? [*Indicator 3.6*]

Answer: This is computed by making an estimate of the required infrastructure from strategic planning documents like medium term plans, water sector investment plan, country vision report, etc., and comparing that with the infrastructure in existence.

5.5 THEME 4: WATER USE EFFICIENCY

Qn. 5.1: Most countries do not monitor non-conventional water resources, irrigation return flow and groundwater recharge. How will they report on indicators that require these input parameters? [*Indicator 4.1a*].

Answer: In a number of countries there are estimates in the FAO Aquastat Database that can be used for this purpose.

Qn. 5.2: How are environmental flow requirements computed under indicator 4.1a?

Answer: The FAO has produced a guide on a standard method of computing environmental flow requirement that is based on hydrological model simulations. The documentation is available in English and French, and the modelling tools are freely available online and can be used to estimate environmental water requirements for any part of the world.

Qn. 5.3: For the WASSMO Indicator 4.3 that is the equivalent of SDG 6.3.2 - *Proportion of water bodies that have good ambient water quality*, how will this indicator be determined for a country that has thousands of rivers since it will be difficult to measure all rivers; what criteria will be used to select which rivers to measure?

Answer: It is not required to measure every single river, but rather for have a monitoring system that has representative points in the major basins and subbasins of the country. It is the data from the national monitoring network that will be used for the indicator computation.

Qn. 5.4: What was the rationale behind selection of the five parameters for assessment of water quality? [*Indicator 4.3*]

Answer: The set of parameters was arrived at from a consideration of the most common water quality issues encountered at global level.

Qn. 5.5: Turbidity is a major water quality issue in Ghana. Why was turbidity not included among the water quality parameters? [*Indicator 4.3*]

Answer: Indeed, turbidity is a major water quality challenge across the continent, reflecting poor watershed management. A request could be sent by AMCOW Secretariat to TAC for inclusion of this parameter in the determination of good ambient water quality.

5.6 THEME 5: CLIMATE CHANGE

Qn. 6.1: Who is the caretaker agency for SDG 11.5? [*Indicator 5.2a*]

Answer: The caretaker agency of climate change and SDG 11 is the **United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction** (UNDRR). Nationally, there are ministries or national agencies responsible for managing disasters, relief or human welfare. Examples include the National Disaster Management Organization of Ghana; the National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA) of Nigeria; National Disaster Management Centre of South Africa; Centre de Veille des Crises of Morocco; Direction de la Protection Civile of Senegal and Direction de la Protection Civile (DCP) du Ministère de l'Administration Territoriale in Cameroon. These national agencies can be approached for national data on disasters. Internationally, there are databases on disaster such as EM-DAT that can be approached for similar data.

Qn. 6.2: How is a national disaster defined? [*Indicator 5.2a and 5.2b*]

Answer: Within each country, and at international level, there are specialized agencies for disaster management that keep records on disaster events. They may be approached for the required information for WASSMO reporting.

Qn. 6.3: Is there an indicator that tracks the measures taken in disaster prevention? [*Indicators 5.2a, 5.2b*]?

Answer: As of now, there is no indicator on the specific national measures taken for disaster risk reduction. The WASSMO framework has three indicators on climate change and disaster risk reduction, which monitor level of funding for climate change and disaster risk reduction; number of people affected, and level of economic damage from climate disasters.

5.7 THEME 6: WATER GOVERNANCE

Qn. 7.1: To be able to provide information on indicators under theme 6, it is necessary to get information from other sectors outside water.

Answer: Yes, this is the case. Reporting through the WASSMO System requires information from multiple agencies in the country coordinated under a national coordination platform.

Qn. 7.2: For indicator 6.1 and 6.3, what is the scale and timeframe for computation of the indicator? Is it a yes or no response to the input parameters, and assignment of a value of 'one' for yes and 'zero' for No?

Answer: There are nine input parameters required for this indicator. For each, a score from 0-100 is assigned. The average score for the nine input parameters is computed to provide the indicator value. The time is the year of reporting.

Qn. 7.3: Why is it necessary to have a separate indicator for Ethics [*Indicator 6.5*] when it is included under the management instruments for good water governance [*Indicator 6.3*]?

Answer: It is true ethics will be evaluated under Indicator 6.3. However, due to the importance of ethics in good governance and building trust amongst the donor community, and due to its emphasis in the AWW 2025 and PANAFCON 2003, it was decided to include

a standalone indicator on ethics in the WASSMO Framework.

Qn. 7.4: How will countries report on indicator 6.5 on Ethics? This information will be difficult to put together for the countries.

Answer: Within the water sector of each country, there are experts on ethics, accountability and transparency, who will be required to review the situation in the sector, and score the input parameters.

5.8 THEME 7: INFORMATION MANAGEMENT

Qn. 8.1: How is the country size used in motoring of coverage of the national monitoring system? [*Indicator 7.1a*]

Answer: The purpose of this indicator is to estimate the percentage of the country area where there are water resources (surface and ground) that are covered by monitoring networks.

Qn. 8.2: What is considered an adequate number of staff to manage the national WASSMO system? [*Indicator 7.1a*]

Answer: Typically, two to three persons are considered adequate to manage the national WASSMO system.

Qn. 8.3: The Indicator on Capacity Development [*Indicator 7.2*] only looks at the amount of funds disbursed to education and research. Could they be broadened to include other input parameters relevant to capacity?

Answer: Yes, there are other input parameters that could have been included, such as number of men and women who have undergone training, and number of key staff of different skills in the national institutions. However, in the design of the WASSMO, and in alignment to the AWW 2025, it was decided to use the level of funding for education and research as the indicator for capacity. This indicator can be broadened as the WASSMO system evolves.



Figure 11: Another screenshot of the virtual training in session.



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ANNEX 2: TRAINING PROGRAMME

OFFICIAL LAUNCH OF THE VIRTUAL TRAINING WORKSHOP ON THE WASSMO SYSTEM

Tuesday 2nd June 2021 | Coordinated from the AMCOW Secretariat in Abuja, Nigeria

**“Support for the Establishment of a Monitoring and Reporting System for the Water Sector in Africa
Phase II: Strengthening Capacity Building and Learning”**

Time	Activity	Responsible
Abuja Time	WELCOME	
8:45 - 09:00 am	Participants are admitted into the meeting room	AMCOW - IT
9.00 – 9.05 am	Welcome Remarks and Housekeeping Announcements	Mr. Patrice Leumeni – AMCOW Secretariat
9.05 – 9.10 am	Introduction of Dignitaries	Mr. Patrice Leumeni – AMCOW Secretariat
	PARTNER STATEMENTS	Session Chair:
9.10 – 9.20 am	Remarks from UN-Water	Mr. William Reidhead
9.20 – 9.30 am	Remarks from African Development Bank/ African Water Facility	Mr. Franz Höllhuber
9.30 – 9.40 am	Remarks from AMCOW Secretariat	Mr. Thomas Banda – AMCOW Secretariat
9.40 – 9.50 am	Remarks from African Union Commission	Mr. Harsen Nyambe
9.50 – 10.10 am	Welcome and Official Opening Remarks by AMCOW	Mr. Christopher Munikasu – AMCOW TAC Chairperson
	INTRODUCTION TO THE WASSMO TRAINING	Session Chair:
10.10 – 10.30 am	Background to the WASSMO System	Mr. Patrice Leumeni – AMCOW Secretariat
10.30 – 10.40 am	Introduction to the Training Programme	Mr. Patrice Leumeni – AMCOW Secretariat
10.40 – 11.00 am	Questions and Answers	AMCOW
11.00 – 11.05 am	Closing of Launch Event	Mr. Thomas Banda – AMCOW Secretariat
11.10 am	End of Virtual Session	
	END OF LAUNCH EVENT	

TRAINING DAY 1: June 2, 2021 (English Speakers); June 8, 2021 (French Speakers)

Time	Activity	Responsible
Abuja Time	WELCOME	
8:45 - 09:00 am	Participants are admitted into the meeting room	AMCOW - IT
9.00 – 9.10 am	Welcome Remarks and Programme Highlights	AMCOW
9.10 – 9.50 am	WASMO Framework – Theme 1: Financing	Consultants
9.50 – 10.00 am	Questions and answers	AMCOW
10.00 – 10.30 am	WASMO Framework – Theme 2: Water Supply, Sanitation, Hygiene and Wastewater	Consultants
10.30 – 10.40am	Questions and answers	AMCOW
10.40 – 11.00 am	HEALTH BREAK	Session Chair:
11.00 – 11.40 am	WASMO Framework – Theme 3: Water Infrastructure for Growth	Consultants
11.40 – 12.00 am	Questions and answers	AMCOW
12.00 – 12.30 pm	WASMO Framework – Theme 4: Managing and Protecting Water Resources	Consultants
12.30 – 12.40 pm	Questions and answers	AMCOW
12.30 – 12.40 pm	Wrap up of Day 1	AMCOW
12.45 pm	End of Virtual Session	
	END OF DAY 1	

TRAINING DAY 2: June 3, 2021 (English Speakers); June 9, 2021 (French Speakers)

Time	Activity	Responsible
Abuja Time	WELCOME	
8:45 - 09:00 am	Participants are admitted into the meeting room	AMCOW - IT
9.00 – 9.05 am	Welcome Remarks and Recap of Day 1	AMCOW
9.05 – 9.120am	WASMO Framework – Theme 5: Climate Change and Disaster Risk Reduction	Consultants
9.20 – 9. 25 am	Questions and answers	AMCOW
9.25 – 9.55 am	WASMO Framework – Theme 6: Governance and Institutions	Consultants
9.55 – 10.05 am	Questions and answers	AMCOW
10.05 – 10.20 am	WASMO Framework – Theme 7: Information Management and Capacity Development	Consultants
10.20 – 10.30 pm	Questions and answers	AMCOW
10.30 – 10.35 am	Wrap up of Day 2	
10.40 am	End of Virtual Session	
	END OF DAY 2	

TRAINING DAY 3: June 4, 2021 (English Speakers); June 11, 2021 (French Speakers)

Time	Activity	Responsible
Abuja Time	WELCOME	
8:45 - 09:00 am	Participants are admitted into the meeting room	AMCOW - IT
9.00 – 9.05 am	Recap of Day 2	Consultants
9.05 – 9.45 am	The Water Factsheet	Consultants
9.45 – 9.55 am	Questions and answers	AMCOW
9.55 – 11.15 am	The Online WASSMO System	Ms. Genevieve Osuorji – AMCOW Secretariat
11.15 – 11.25 am	Questions and answers	AMCOW
11.25 – 11.45 am	HEALTH BREAK	Session Chair
11.45 – 12.45 pm	Reporting Through the WASSMO System	Mr. Patrice Leumeni – AMCOW Secretariat
12.45 – 12.55 pm	Questions and answers	AMCOW
12.55 – 1.05 pm	The Next Steps in the 2021 Data Campaign	AMCOW
1.05 – 1.10 pm	Vote of Thanks	Participant
1.10 – 1.20 pm	Official Closing	Mr. Thomas Banda - AMCOW Secretariat
1.25 pm	End of Day 3 Virtual Session	
	END OF WASSMO TRAINING	