

AfricaSan 4 – The way forward to fill the Sanitation Gap



Written by Ms. Hanan E. Muddathir, Founder & Chairperson of Environmental Initiative Organization for Sustainable Development (EnvI), Sudan Focal point for SWA, EWP, ANEW National and International Member for Post 2015 & SDGs Dialogue.

AfricaSan is an African Ministers Council on Water (AMCOW) political initiative to encourage progress in sanitation and hygiene issues in Africa. This is an effective, political, technical knowledgeable platform for all water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) practitioners. The conference is organized by the AMCOW secretariat, moderated by the professional moderating team led by Mr. Piers Cross and is supported by donors and multi-donor agencies. I am so pleased to have participated in all of the AfricaSan's conferences; 1,2,3 and 4.

Africa faces a severe challenge on sanitation, with incredibly high percentages of the continent facing a severe lack of access to sanitation services. Open defecation has dropped in Africa since 2002 from 28% to 21%, but with very slow progress.

The objectives of AfricaSan's conferences were multiple:

- To assist African countries to adopt better hygiene behaviours, and fill the value chains to eliminate open defecation, and to reach the universal access with sustainability as a core vision.
- To sustain the momentum on WASH issues and to encourage African countries to further their political leadership role.
- To launch an appeal for all African leaders in sanitation to move from the MDGs to planning the implementation of the SDGs and post-2015 agenda.

AfricaSan is a political and scientific dialogue, with almost 55 sessions and side events. The sessions and side events deal with a wide range of issues on WASH. They examine relevant policies, human rights and inequalities between state and non-state levels, monitoring, ministerial dialogue, improving multi-stakeholder engagement, governance accountability and tackling corruption, building sanitation service to meet the demand, awareness and behavioural change, sharing information and capacity building. I had the opportunity to attend the country dialogues session, and joined the Sudanese group to be informed on the status and the plan forward for improving sanitation, based on experiences learned in the session from other countries in the region.



Jennifer Williams from EWP and Advisory for Sanitation and Water for All (SWA) CSO focal points, moderated a meeting for SWA CSOs focal points to discuss their roles and responsibilities, challenges and supportive needs. I gave a briefing during the SWA side event on my experience within the SWA partnership, and was also interviewed in a film by the SWA Communication & Advocacy Unit. I also visited the exhibition and learnt a great deal from the experience, such as technology applied on purification of water and hygiene issues.

Finally, I would like to thank very much EWP and SWA, especially Jennifer Williams, and WaterAid for supporting my trip to Dakar, and to have the honour of attending AfricaSan4 and participating in the events.



I have also visited the exhibition and got learned from the experiences, technology applied on purification of water and Hygiene issues, beside I collect some knowledgeable documents.



Environmental Initiative Organization for Sustainable Development (Envi) targets through its strategy in addressing environmental sustainability three programmes:

- *"The Environmental Citizenship" Program, which promote environmental sustainability among communities, and social inclusion.*
- *"Data Acquisition and Environmental Information Sharing" Program, in order to provide information for end users and decision makers, for effective decision making.*
- *"Peace building for Induced and displaced people" program, which target affected people by climate change, building their resilience, and conflict resolution.*