



MUSE: Findings in Action at KCCA

In December 2019-January 2020, Emory University and Athena Infonomics, in partnership with Kampala Capital City Authority (KCCA), administered a randomized household survey on sanitation and empowerment to 1000 women in ten parishes across all five districts in Kampala. The survey was designed to measure specific subdomains of empowerment, including health, safety and security, norms, time, and others, which were organized into three modules: Agency, Resources, and Institutional Structures. The survey comprised sixteen scales and five indices. After the completion of survey administration, a brief study including a document review and key informant interviews were conducted to understand the role of MUSE findings in KCCA's programming. The following are key findings based on that study:



Conversations on how gender can be mainstreamed in WASH began at KCCA in 2019. While research and recommendations existed at the national level about integrating gender into WASH programming and policies, it was challenging to translate these directly to the urban sanitation field.

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KEY FINDINGS

- MUSE quantitative baseline data have validated existing qualitative data from a gender analysis, as well as patterns observed from the experience and local knowledge of KCCA staff members
- Data have helped to identify specific gaps and barriers related to sanitation access and experiences, which can help influence future programming and interventions
- KCCA has used findings from these household level data to develop a checklist for the identification and resolution of problems at specific public sanitation locations as well as to inform the construction of new public sanitation locations
- Data provided information on open defecation and flying toilets in Kampala

With the support of the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, Iris Group conducted a qualitative gender analysis in 2019 to understand gaps and opportunities to inform KCCA's gender mainstreaming in sanitation programs. This analysis was valuable in understanding the barriers existing along the sanitation value chain and led to KCCA's gender integration plan for inclusive sanitation in Kampala. Shortly after the gender analysis, KCCA collaborated with Emory University's MUSE (Measuring Urban Sanitation and Empowerment) research team to measure women's empowerment in the context of urban sanitation in Kampala. MUSE data and the overall data collection process supported KCCA's gender mainstreaming efforts in the following ways:

1. MUSE research provided baseline data for gender and WASH in Kampala

The MUSE study generated baseline data and provided KCCA with a comprehensive understanding of women's empowerment with respect to WASH access, experiences, and services in Kampala. While the initial gender analysis spearheaded the identification of existing gaps in this area, and the MUSE survey provided clarity in understanding why these gaps exist through a detailed exploration of the sub-domains within the larger domains of women's empowerment. As there had not been extensive quantitative data collection surrounding urban WASH and gender in Kampala prior to MUSE, the MUSE findings have spurred conversation around gender and provided a strong foundation for future research and programming. The MUSE data also quantitatively validated the gaps that had been identified qualitatively through the gender analysis. A member of KCCA stated that the MUSE findings triggered conversation within KCCA for further efforts to focus on specific sub-domains of empowerment in their programming.

2. MUSE added narrative and context to understanding sanitation experiences through questions specific to domains and subdomains of empowerment

The empowerment model utilized by the MUSE team enabled the assessment of women's empowerment through domains (Agency, Resources, and Institutional Structures) and their respective subdomains. This assessment provided additional narrative and context to understand women's empowerment in relation to sanitation and what experiences were predominant among the women in their communities. KCCA staff have identified several challenges and barriers to WASH in Kampala, ranging from financial to gender to geographical aspects. Broad interventions that attempt to address all barriers at once have hindered opportunities for greater impacts, as opposed to more targeted interventions that seek greater impacts in narrower areas of interest. MUSE's domain and subdomain-specific data collection can allow team members to develop more targeted interventions to address micro-constraints or specific behaviors. MUSE's detailed surveys help target particular reasons for the gaps and make interventions more impactful, potentially leading to more efficient use of the program's resources.

3. The importance of gender-specific data is recognized

The MUSE study demonstrated the value of collecting gender-specific data. KCCA plans to collect gender-disaggregated data from now onwards, as gender-specific data provides more detailed insight into existing experiences and challenges with WASH in the city. For example, the MUSE data helped identify barriers to women's ownership and access to resources, as well as to their time, which influences their participation in sanitation services and initiatives. Additionally, while many women participated in decision-making activities, there were fewer women in leadership roles for sanitation-related initiatives. While KCCA had anecdotal reports and observations of these patterns, MUSE provided quantitative data to validate their observations. KCCA is also expanding its disaggregation of data on other demographic factors, such as age and disability.

4. Gender-sensitive adaptations have been made to toilet construction and renovation initiatives

KCCA is currently working on subsidizing toilet emptying services and toilet construction in Kampala, and the MUSE findings contributed to their addition of a targeted quota used to identify beneficiaries for subsidies that includes gender and vulnerability among its most important criteria. Additionally, the bodily integrity data identified challenges with privacy and safety at toilet facilities (such as sexual harassment or challenges with using facilities at night) for women. In response, KCCA is developing a safety checklist to advise on the design of facilities that are inclusive to ensure privacy and safety of users. KCCA is also working on renovating these services with lights or better safety measures. Supervisors of the public toilet and bathing facilities where privacy and safety issues were found were notified of these findings and encouraged to follow up and ensure that these issues are fixed during maintenance or reported to management. Findings of problems with existing toilets have also been used during the design phase of new facilities, so these facilities are thoughtfully constructed with these issues in mind.

MUSE findings also indicated long queues for toilets as a challenge. Women come to Kampala from outside the city for work during the day, which leads to these facilities being overwhelmed. KCCA is working towards addressing this issue through the guided construction of more facilities.

5. MUSE data are continuously referenced for gender and sanitation initiatives

The CWIS team at KCCA annually discusses and plans interventions to undertake for the following year, and the feasibility of each intervention and MUSE findings, alongside the gender analysis, were continuously referenced during this process. Data provided a baseline of the current situation, highlighted major patterns or themes, and helped to identify goals to strive towards. The data captured on specific aspects of WASH and menstrual hygiene management are also utilized throughout the year to guide decision-making and write concept papers, or presentations, and will eventually feed into policy guidance documents. The MUSE data were also shared with the Directorate of Gender Community Services and Production of KCCA and helped guide policy formulation and programming regarding gender and WASH.

KCCA hopes to continue utilizing the empowerment model and follow up on the situation in the communities periodically. Multiple phases of MUSE's data collection will also allow for understanding shifts, if any, in the sanitation-related experiences of women in their communities. KCCA is hoping to adopt similar themes, questions, and focus areas during their routine assessment and data collection.

6. The KCCA team valued the training sessions and cognitive interview method

The MUSE team provided introductory training sessions on gender and empowerment for all data collectors and KCCA team members, and these sessions were reported to be useful in unpacking gender and empowerment and understanding how to mainstream gender into WASH interventions. As these are complex concepts, trainings sessions were useful for data collection teams to understand the core ideas and aims behind this study.

The cognitive interviews, which were conducted before full survey deployment, had immense value. These interviews allowed for more perspectives and experiences to be shared about existing barriers and facilitators, which helped contextualize the quantitative survey results. Research teams at KCCA hope to be able to adopt this method, though it may not be possible due the time-intensiveness of the method and resource constraints.

7. The Need to Continue Efforts to Discourage Open Defecation Emphasized

MUSE findings re-emphasized the need to continue addressing open defecation practices and the ongoing use of flying toilets in local communities. KCCA is continuing sensitization efforts on open defecation and interventions to discourage the use of flying toilets.

Overall, the MUSE findings substantiated, validated, and further explored gaps identified in the gender analysis. MUSE provided quantitative data and numbers that informed decision-making in concrete ways, especially for efforts to integrate gender and WASH in Kampala by developing targeted interventions and services. KCCA is using the qualitative and quantitative data from MUSE to prioritize specific areas for programming and identify ways to further strengthen their gender mainstreaming efforts.

