

# Draft Mapping Report

## Mbarara University of Science and Technology (MUST)

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### **Collated and presented by the Water and Sanitation group:**

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### **Introductory note by the Water and Sanitation group at MUST**

The first Water and Sanitation group at MUST was formed in early May 2010 and was composed of 3 members namely; Edgar Mulogo, Charles Muchunguzi and Moses Ntaro. This group met on 4 occasions in May - June 2010. Following discussions during these meetings it was resolved that the group membership be expanded to enable representation from the Faculties of; Development Studies and Science where some staff had done work in Water and Sanitation. In July 2010, Elizabeth Kyamanywa joined the group. Charles Muchunguzi left for further studies in September 2010, so subsequently Barbara N Bukenya from the Faculty of Development Studies replaced him. Aventino Kasangaki from the Faculty of Science became a member of the group in October 2010. The members of the current group have had 3 meetings to date mainly to review tools, develop information gathering strategy and collate for the mapping report.

## **1. Research Management**

### **1.1. Organisation**

*[Provide the organisational chart/ structure of your university and describe which parts of the organisation are involved in research management within water, sanitation and environmental health – to the best of your knowledge if formal mapping is not viable.]*

The University organisational structure for research and research management is both at the Institutional and faculty levels. All research conducted at MUST Research Committee (MRC) which is a committee of the University Senate. The MRC develops guidelines to regulate undergraduate

and postgraduate research in consultation with the Faculty or Institute Research Committees. The MRC also provides guidance to Faculty or Institute Research Committees on matters concerning research.

The Faculty/Institute Research Committees create research plans for the respective Faculties/Institutes at MUST. These committees also guide postgraduate research activities in the Faculties or Institutes and link research activities of MUST staff to the MRC.

All research proposed to be conducted at MUST or linked to MUST first seek clearance from the Faculty or Institute Research Committee where the research based. The Faculty/Institute research Committee recommends research proposals for final clearance by the Institutional Ethical Review Committee (IERC).

*Describe how the financial management of externally funded research programmes is organised at your institution (relevant to e.g. a next phase of SNOWS).*

The financial management of externally funded research programmes is done through the MUST Grants Office (MGO). The MGO is responsible for receiving, managing, and disbursing all research grants for Staff and students of MUST. It is also responsible for management of funds accrued from overhead charges on research grants or any other forms of grants from external sources.

*Describe by which means your university maintains and develops research management capacity (e.g. research management courses offered to staff)*

The Research Policy is silent on development and maintenance of capacity for research management. Currently there are no structured courses on research management offered to staff at MUST.

## **1.2. Resources for SNOWS**

*[Describe the group you have mobilised for SNOWS, i.e. the SNOWS action group and resource persons (this group corresponds to the names you have included in the new template for SNOWS action group and resource persons- Annex 2-A).*

*You should qualify this description with an overview of current research projects of relevance to SNOWS (Annex 2-B).*

*Note the number of peer reviewed publications of relevance to SNOWS produced by the SNOWS action group 2005-10 (include the full list in Annex 2-C)*

*Describe whether the SNOWS action group and research persons have access to external resources complementary to those provided through the SNOWS project and which could be pooled towards common action/mutual benefits.*

*Provide information on sentinel sites which the SNOWS action group and resource persons use/have access to.]*

**This section is still being collated by the MUST Water and Sanitation Group**

## **2. PhD Programme**

### **2.1. Organisation**

*[Describe how the PhD programme is organised at your university. If there is NO formal structure, e.g. no PhD programme but you actually have PhD students, then explain the informal set-up for enrolling and supporting PhDs at your university, and give priority to describing areas which the Water and Sanitation group at your university identifies as potential SNOWS action for enhancing the PhD organisation. If the PhD programme is formalised describe the overall organisation briefly. Give priority to explaining those areas in more detail that the Water and Sanitation Group at your university identifies as areas that may be addressed by SNOWS action, e.g. revising policies; PhD rules & regulations; fundraising; monitoring & evaluation etc. As a minimum the description should provide information on the requirements for PhDs to complete their doctorate degree. (If this information is available in an updated PhD handbook/rules and regulations document you may refer to this document but then remember to attach it to the report or provide direct URL.)]*

The University has not established a graduate school. Most of the graduate programmes including PhDs are still being coordinated by the Academic Registrar's office. Each faculty has an office that coordinates graduate courses. However ultimate authority over these students rests with the Office of the Academic Registrar. Whereas the faculties of medicine and science have the associate dean in charge of graduate studies, the development studies has a graduate studies coordinator.

Rules and regulations for the PhD programmes have largely remain a preserve of the academic registrars' office. Respective faculties have remained mouth pieces of these programmes apart from the teaching. It is the academic registrar that enforces these rules in most cases. Most PhD programmes are funded by donors through scholarship bodies. However through the government, it is a University policy that every member of staff who registers for a PhD programme is exempted from paying school fees. In some faculties seed funds are apportioned for field work. Apart these funds it remains the obligation of the student to cater for other course requirements.

Monitoring and evaluation is largely the duty of the PhD supervisor who periodically avails a progress report to the respective departments and the office of the academic registrar.

## **2.2. Training & Research environment / infrastructure**

*[Describe your research environment for PhD students. This description should include whether there are any taught courses for PhD students and whether such courses are mandatory or not. The description should also include information on your framework for providing quality supervision, access to research infrastructure including labs, IT, libraries and other support infrastructure for PhDs. Describe by which means your university maintains and develops research supervisory skills, tutorial skills etc (e.g. PhD supervisor courses offered to staff).*

At the University development of research and other skills is through constant interface with the supervisor. In both the Faculties of Development Studies and Medicine there are no specialised courses at PhD. The PhD courses are by research and presentation of a thesis. Most of the research knowledge, skills and competencies used at PhD are those acquired at the Masters level. The burden of knowledge transfer and learning greatly depends on the PhD supervisor and the student.

Supervision of PhDs is still a great challenge at the University. Availability of competent supervisors is still a big challenge for many potential PhD candidates. In some faculties there is hardly any professor while where Professors exist, their areas of specialisation are not the very ones where candidates have interest and potential. Indeed a significant number of PhD students are being supervised by Professors in Western Universities. A good number of these professors are very useful and highly reliable because they have since retired. Our University respects and greatly utilises them.

Currently there is no structured programme at MUST for development and maintenance of research supervisory skills.

*Provide detailed description of those areas your Water and Sanitation group may wish to develop through SNOWS action.*

[This section is still being collated by the MUST Water and Sanitation Group](#)

## **3. Masters Programme**

*[This part should only be described if your university does not have PhD programmes. And would only cover the research part of the Masters programme, i.e. the thesis/dissertation part and research methodology courses of the Masters degree]*

*Describe the requirements for the Master thesis/dissertation. The description should also include information on research methodology courses and your framework for providing quality supervision, access to research infrastructure including labs, IT, libraries and other support infrastructure for Masters during their theses work.*

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Annex 1	SNOWS action group and resource persons
Annex 2-A	SNOWS-relevant research projects
Annex 2-B	Peer reviewed publications relevant to SNOWS
Annex 3	List of Core Documents
Annex 4	CV – scientific staff profile
Annex 5	CV – PhD student profile