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## Tackling Access to Water and Sanitation, and Gender-Based Violence: A Parallel Case Study of NGOs in sub-Saharan Africa

Maurice Dogoli

*University of Waterloo*, madogoli@uwaterloo.ca

Susan J. Elliott

*University of Waterloo*

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**Tackling access to water and sanitation, and gender-based violence: A Parallel Case Study of NGOs in sub-Saharan Africa.**

Maurice Dogoli (email:madogoli@uwaterloo.ca) and Susan J. Elliott

University of Waterloo, Ontario, Canada

Abstract:

Continued discourse and action on water and sanitation concerns highlight their importance to human wellbeing. However, approximately 844 million and 2.3 billion people still lack access to safe drinking water and improved sanitation, respectively, with women and girls bearing the greatest burden of household water provision and the greatest risk of water-related diseases. While attention has been focused on access to WASH over the past decades, the incidence of WASH-related violence and vulnerability to violence is an emerging area of concern that requires attention. Though progress is being made to improve access to safe water and improved sanitation across sub-Saharan Africa, NGO policies to address the plight of women and girls and how they are exposed to violence or vulnerable to violence remains understudied. This ongoing research investigates the in-country approaches of NGOs towards the water, sanitation, and gender-based violence by studying country strategy documents from WaterAid Ghana and Uganda. From the review, it was evident that the adoption of global positioning system (GPS) to map and monitor water points enables real-time problem detection and attention, enhancing service delivery in Ghana and Uganda. However, though gender constraints were acknowledged in water and sanitation access, specific policy interventions targeting violence or vulnerability to violence experienced by women and girls were seemingly absent. Country-specific policies such as technology (GPS) can be adopted across other countries to tackle water and sanitation concerns. However, these policies should incorporate gender-specific issues since women and girls suffer a disproportionate burden of violence from inadequate access to water and sanitation.

***Keywords:* Water, sanitation, and hygiene (WaSH), gender-based violence, vulnerability NGOs, Ghana, Kenya, Uganda**