



Intersecting complexities: an approach for WASH programs in challenging contexts

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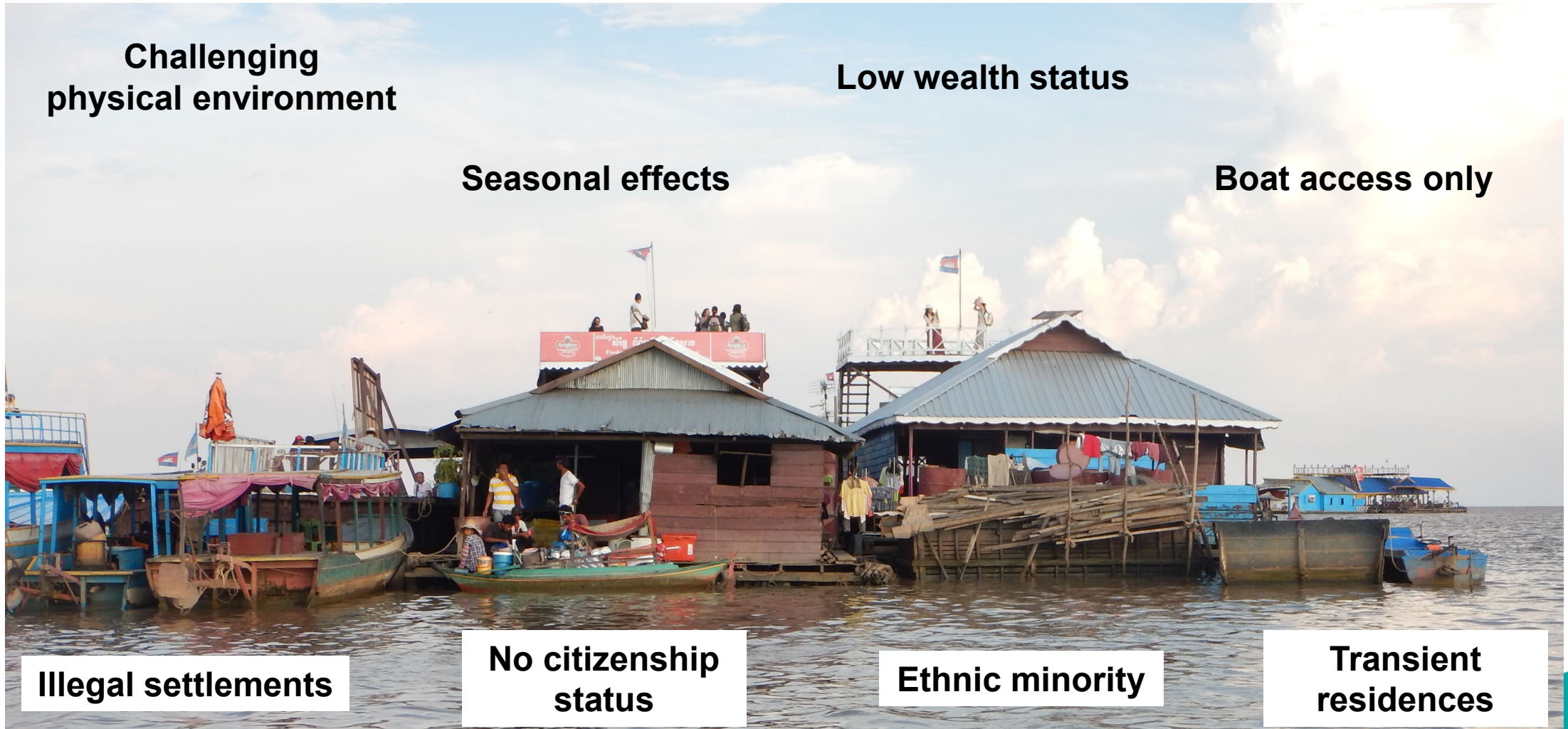
WATER
WASH 2023
FUTURES

Achieving SDG6 in a Changing Climate



#WaWF23

Complexity in WASH programs



Challenging physical environment

Low wealth status

Seasonal effects

Boat access only

Illegal settlements

No citizenship status

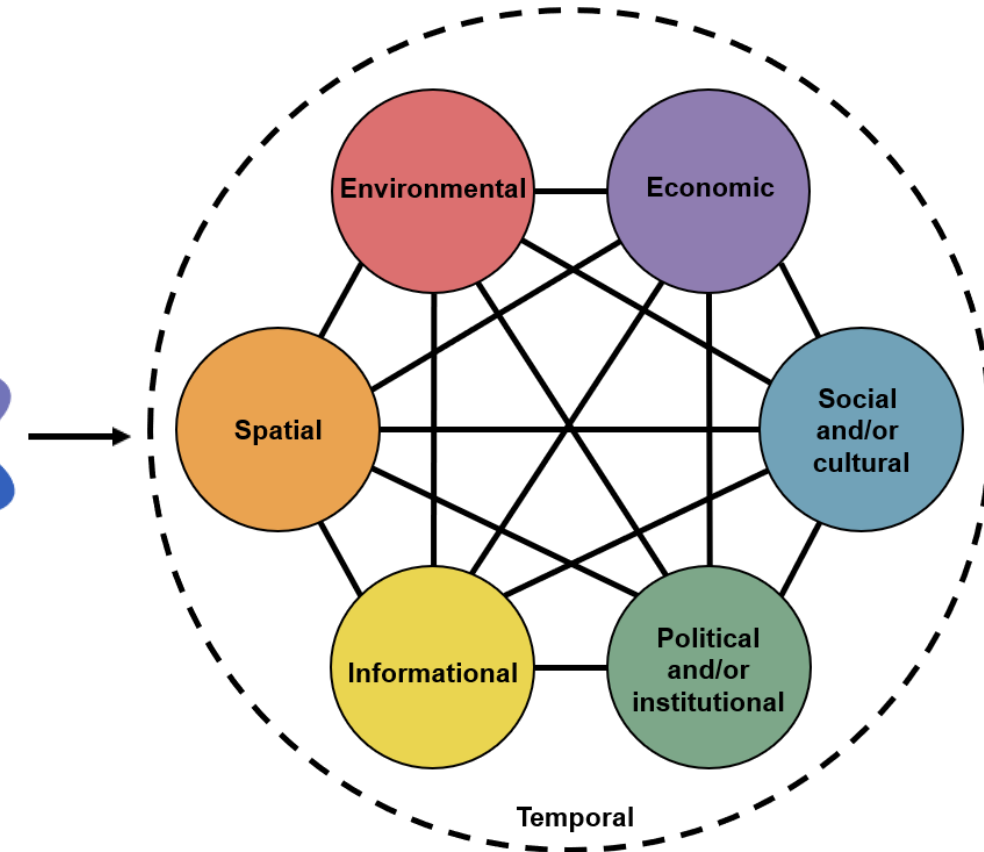
Ethnic minority

Transient residences

Floating community on Tonle Sap Lake in Cambodia

Intersecting complexities: our review

- Why a persistent lag in WASH access?
 - Failure to understand contextual **complexity**
 - Failure to understand **interconnectedness** of complexity
- Has resulted in WASH services that are not appropriate
 - Unaffordable
 - Not inclusive
 - Unsustainable



Intersecting complexities: our review

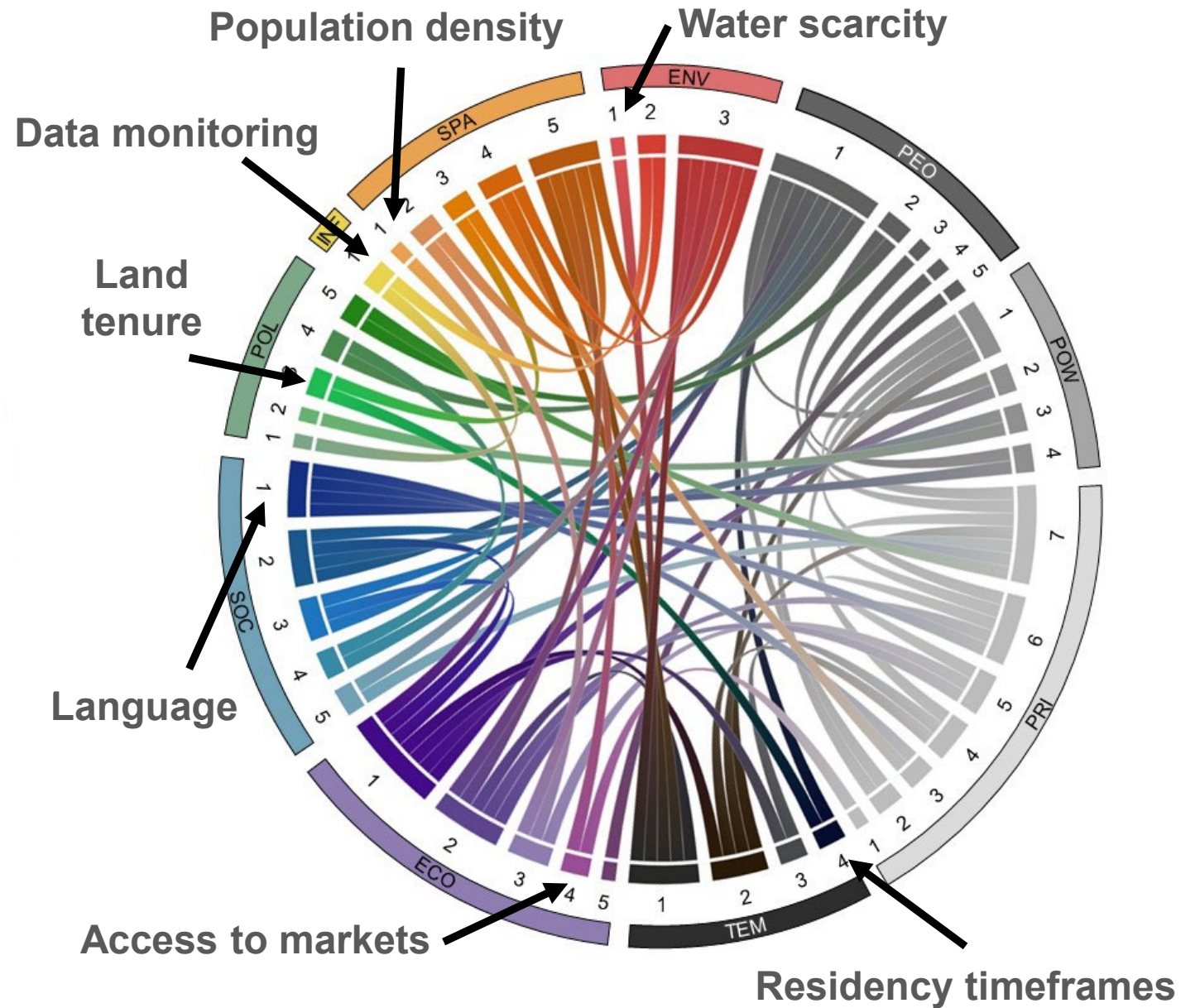
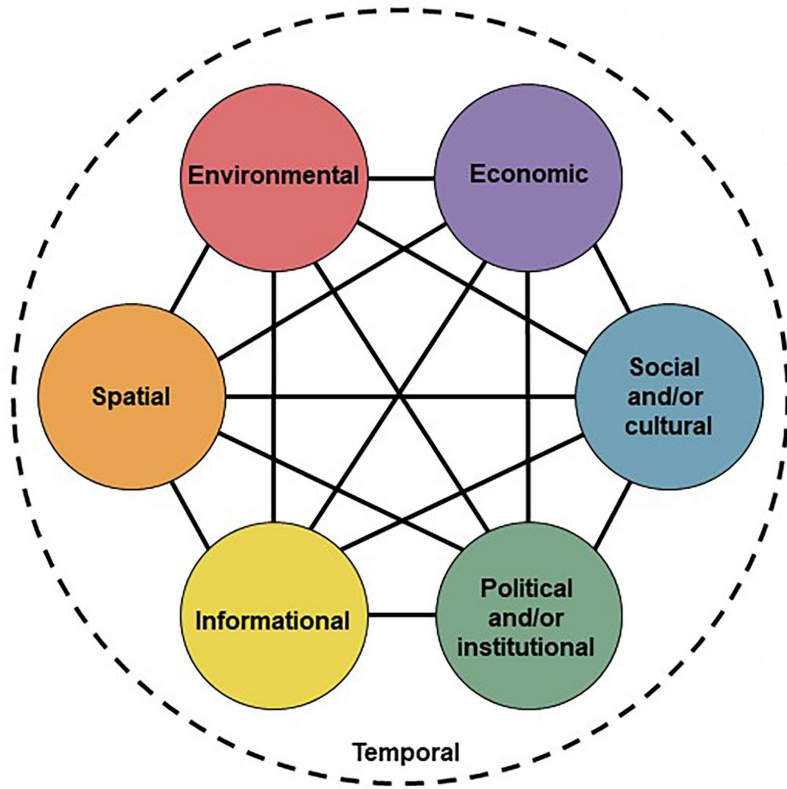
- Scope: challenging contexts
 - Populations that are hardest to reach with traditional WASH approaches
- Contributed to a growing call to arms:
 - **Embrace complexity and interconnectedness**
- Next:
 - How do practitioners perceive intersecting complexities?
 - How can practitioners move forward with embracing complexity?



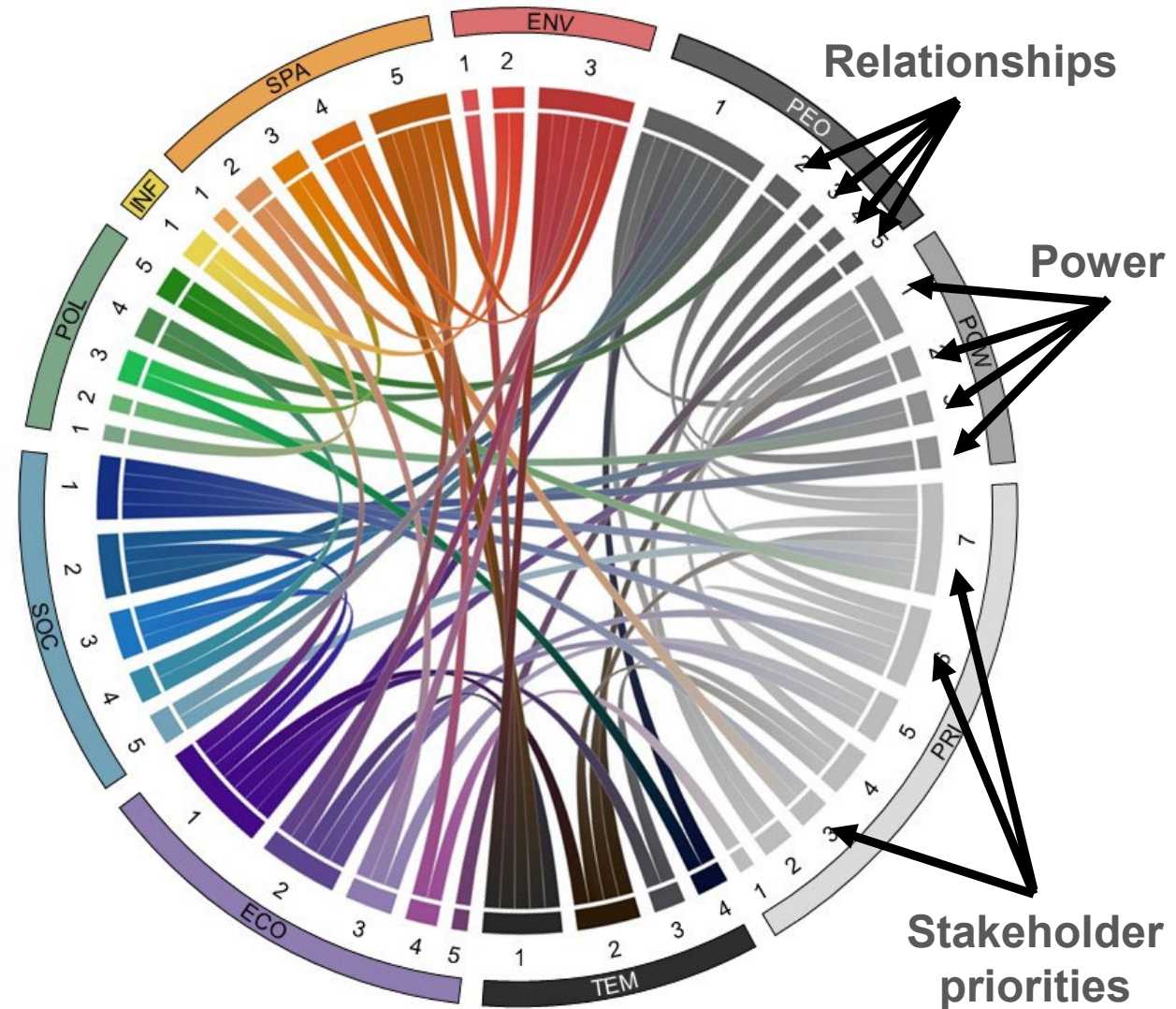
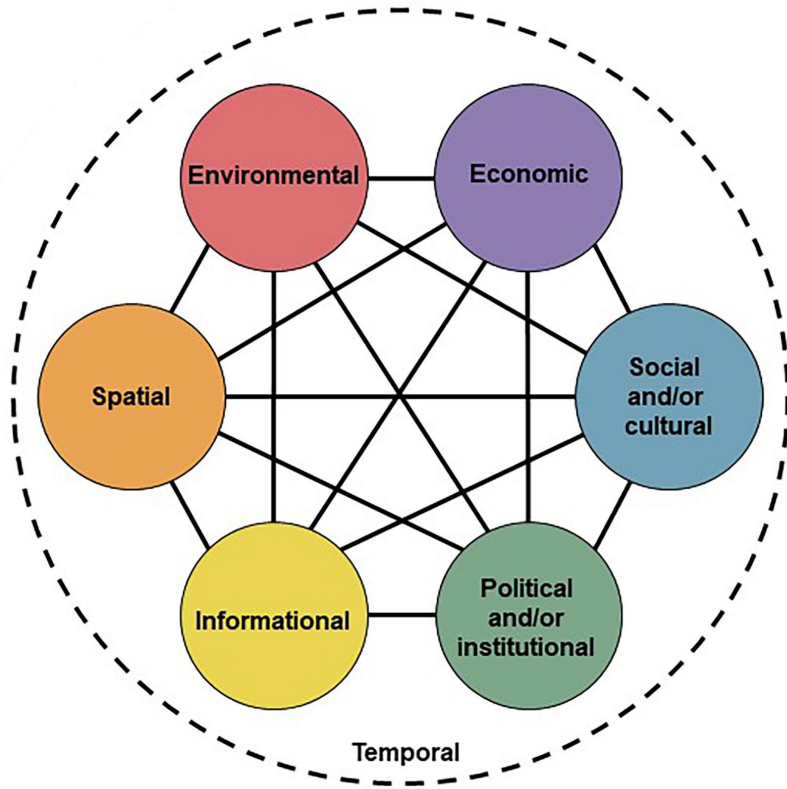
Methods

- Multiple research methods for a holistic mindset
 - Intersectionality
 - Decolonising methodologies
 - Strengths-based approaches
- Multiple data collection methods with WASH practitioners
 - Semi-structured interviews
 - Conference workshop
 - Focus group

Practitioners already think about *intersecting complexities*



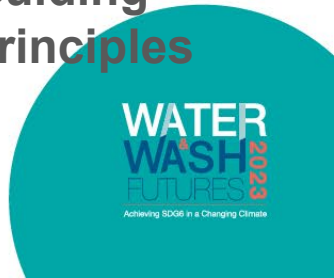
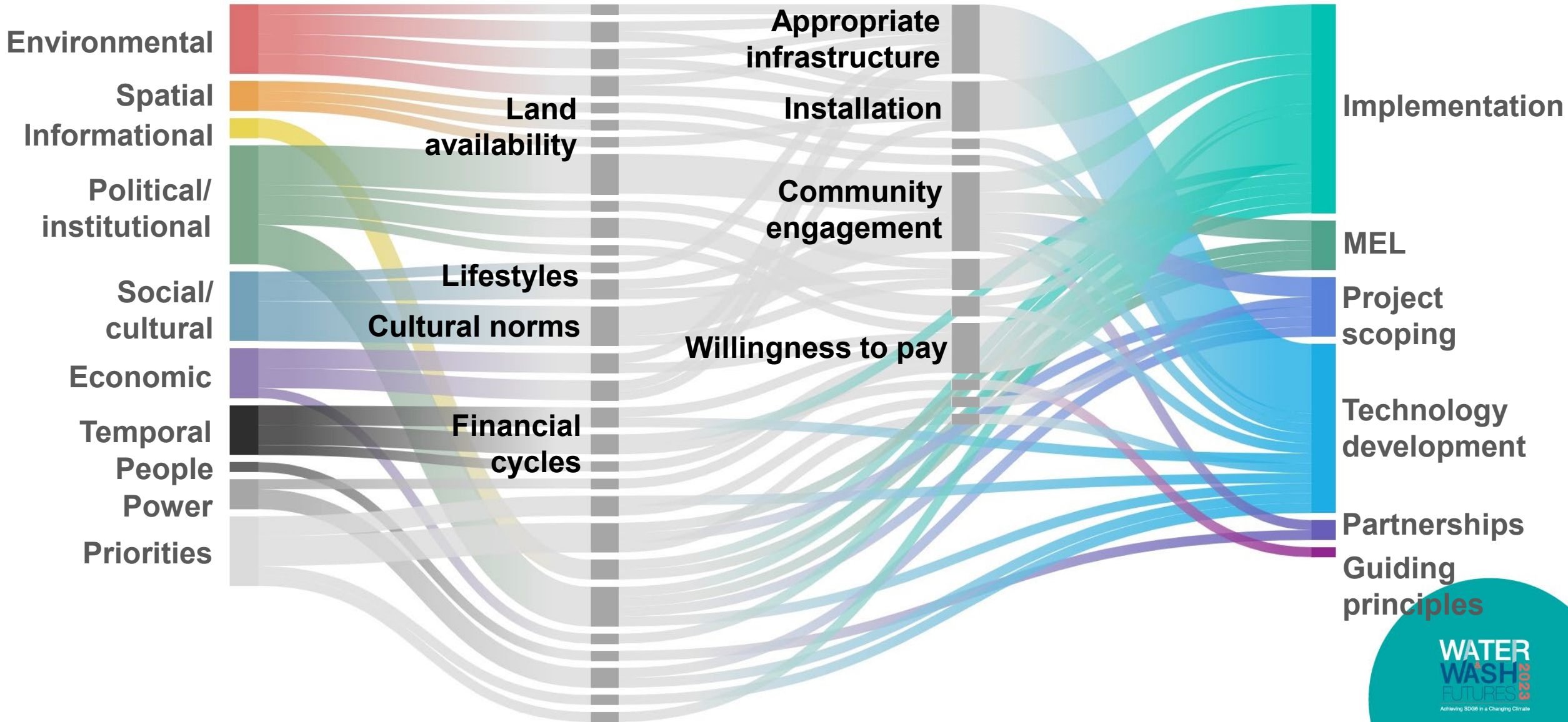
Practitioners think about *inter-personal dynamics*



Practitioners think about *different levels* of these dynamics



Practitioners relate complexities to *implications* for WASH



Embracing complexity: supports and hindrances

- Most of our mentalities or approaches value hard skills, demand a compartmentalisation of complexity
 - Mentalities to embrace complexity: e.g., strengths-based approaches
- Many tools for analysing complexity already exist:
 - Complicated
 - Quantitative
 - Demand that you already understand and appreciate that a situation is complex

“...that's the thing that probably a lot of people grapple with – is that it's just so complex, and then it can be hard to see through all of that.”

Thank you for listening!

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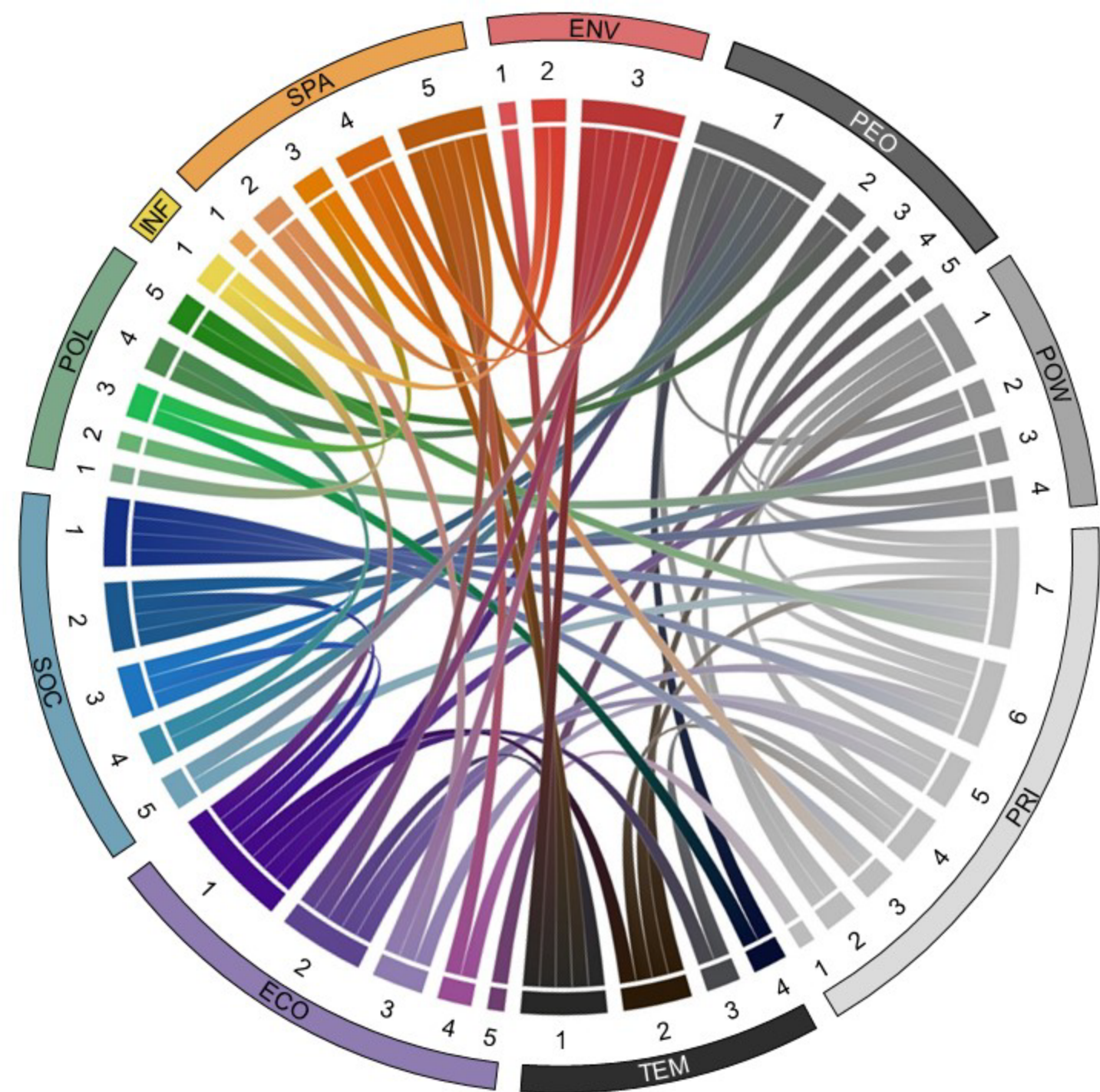
A partnership between:



Extra slides

The intersecting complexities approach





(ENV) Environmental

1. Water scarce
2. High groundwater
3. Floating on water

(SPA) Spatial

1. Population density
2. Road access
3. Peri-urban areas
4. Accessibility
5. Remoteness

(INF) Informational

1. Groundwater monitoring

(POL) Political and/or institutional

1. Displaced populations
2. Advocacy
3. Land tenure
4. Citizenship status
5. Organisational capacity

(SOC) Social and/or cultural

1. Gender roles
2. Language
3. Cultural norms
4. Ethnicity
5. Social marginalisation

(ECO) Economic

1. Available finances
2. User income
3. Cost of materials
4. Access to markets
5. Trade / social exchange

(TEM) Temporal

1. Seasons
2. Financial cycles
3. Emergencies / crises
4. Residency timeframes

(PEO) People

1. Government support for community
2. Relationships between partner organisations
3. Peer relationships
4. Relationships between organisations and government
5. Relationships within community

(POW) Power

1. Funder expectations
2. Government power
3. Country of origin
4. Position in groups / teams

(PRI) Priorities

1. Demand
2. Political agendas
3. Water use
4. Funder priorities
5. Toilet as status symbol
6. Communities' priorities
7. Organisations' priorities

