Sub-national government leadership for sanitation: lessons from ongoing participatory research

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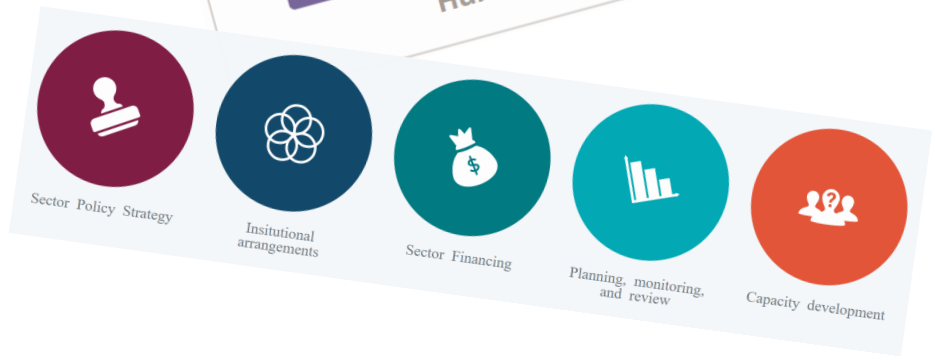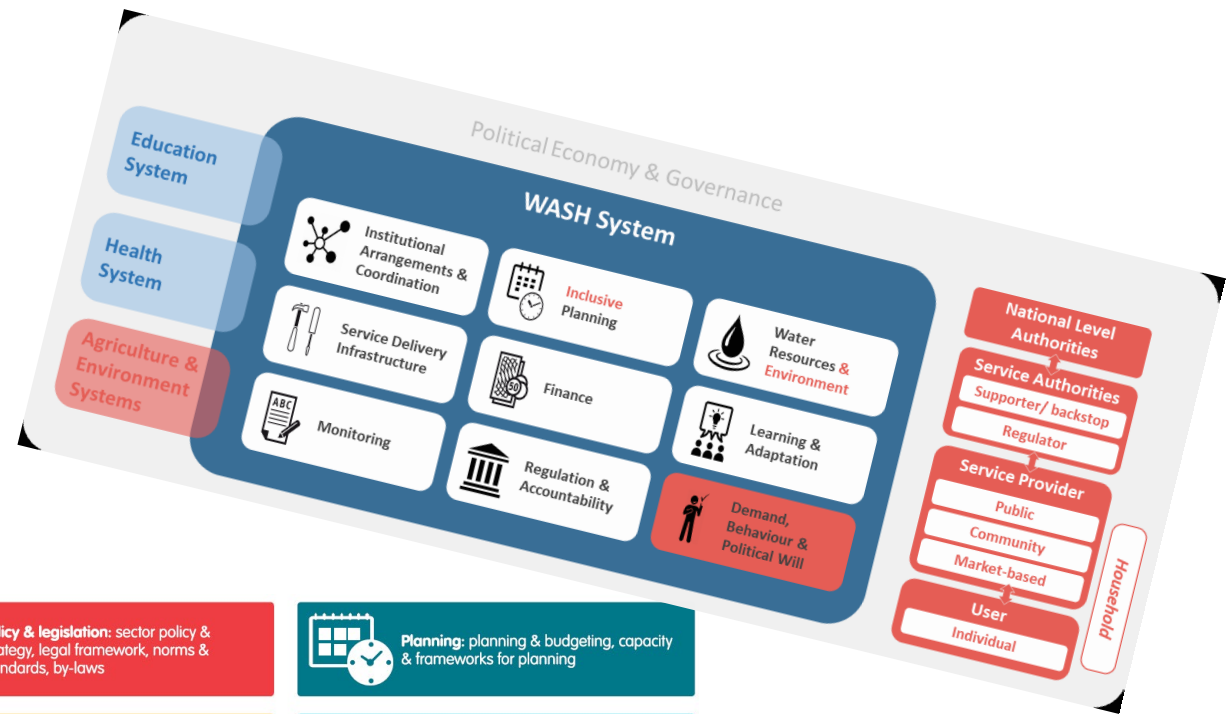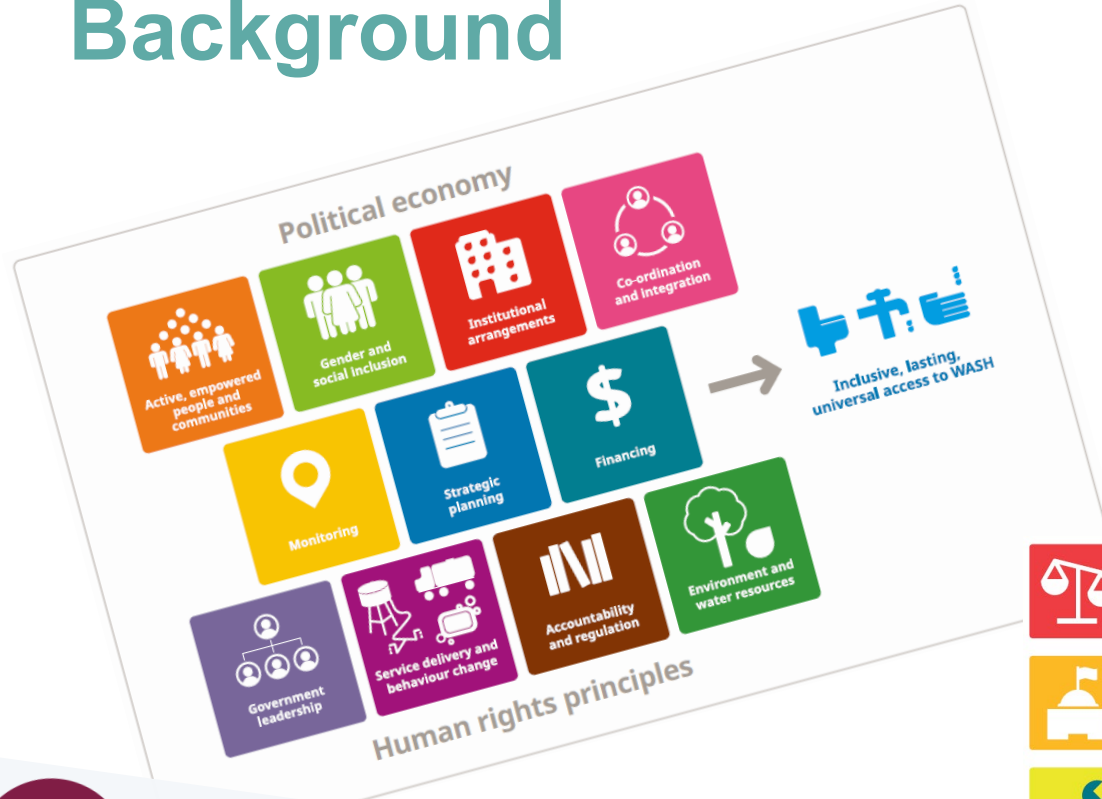Sanitation Learning Hub, Institute of Development Studies

UK

Background

- SWA: https://www.sanitationandwaterforall.org/about/our-work/priority-areas/building-blocks
- Agenda for Change: https://www.aguaconsult.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/ssi_SH-discussion-paper_final-1.pdf
- WaterAid: https://washmatters.wateraid.org/sites/g/files/jkxoof256/files/suswash-global-learning-report.pdf
- IRC: https://www.ircwash.org/sites/default/files/084-201813wp_buildingblocksdef_newweb.pdf
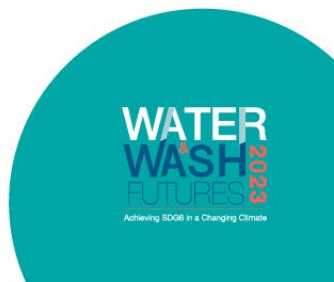
Methodology

Findings: building and maintaining political will

- Enablers
- Having a supportive national policy environment
- Engaging elected officials and technical staff
- Using data strategically
- Including sanitation standing agenda items in meetings

- Barriers
- Navigating political transitions/staff rotation

- https://verdemagazine.com/editorial-active-participation-in-local-politics-will-benefit-students
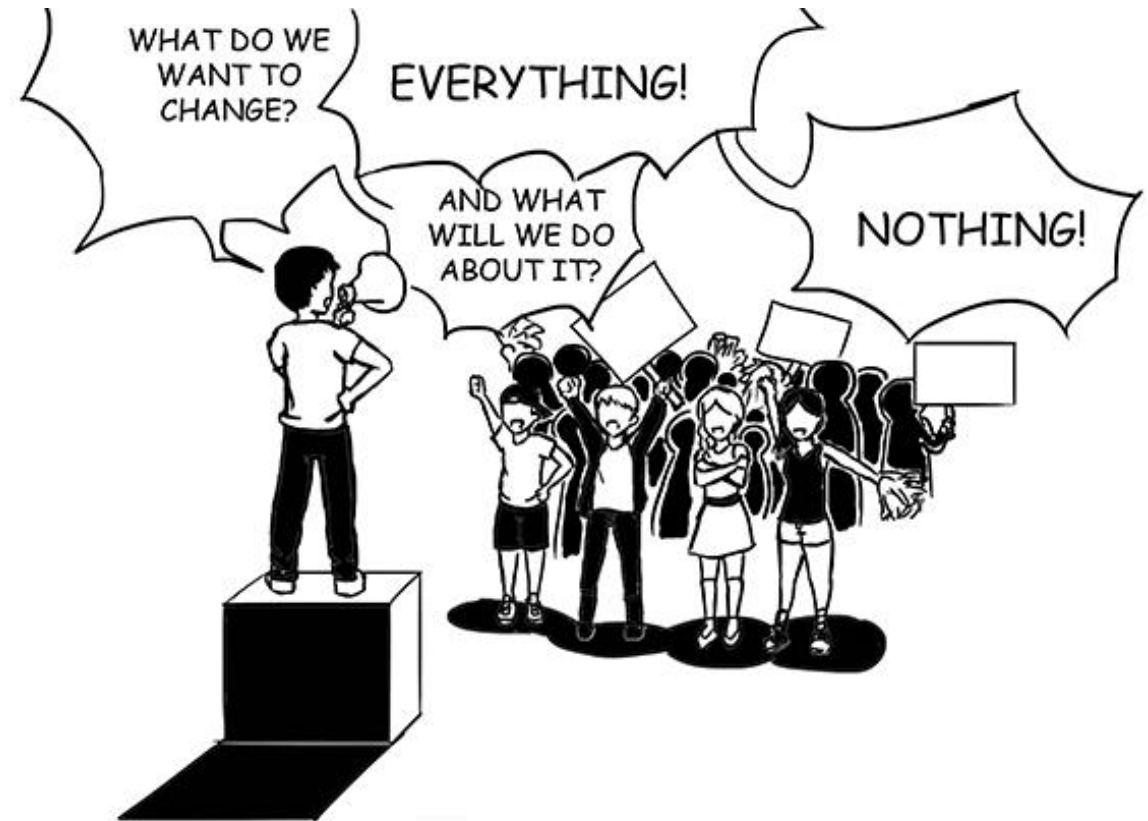
Findings: use of data

- Using data strategically to:
- Foster political will
- Inform programme design
- Advocate for resources

- Using learning activities to:
- Support implementation quality
- Motivate staff and officials

- https://www.webopedia.com/definitions/big-data-analytics/

Findings: resourcing commitments

- Enablers
- Including specific sanitation lines in budgets
- Mandating spending on sanitation
- Using results based financing
- Developing policies allowing sanitation funds to be drawn from a range of budget lines/sources

- Barriers
- Funds committed but released late
- Funding redirected
- Not enough funding available

Findings: Leaving no one behind

- A big gap!

- Ideas to test:

- Fostering LNOB champions

- Developing better methods to identify people who may be left behind

- Allocating budget for LNOB initiatives

- https://www.shutterstock.com/search/left+behind

Conclusions and next steps

- Lots of common themes emerged across countries and regions

- Participatory process had value as both a research and learning opportunity

- Practical ideas for supporting sub-national government leadership and prioritisation of sanitation, particularly around fostering political will

- More evidence on ways to improve outcomes for the most vulnerable is needed

- Planning to expand the research to Cambodia and Pakistan

Thank you. Any questions?

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