

Innovations regarding sanitation

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The hunter-gathering approach

Hunter-gathering is a process of rapidly collecting and collating information, experiences and contributions. In a workshop setting, hunter-gatherers self-select a topic they are most interested in championing and work together in groups to produce a short report (2-6 pages) by the end of the workshop – groups and topics will be decided upon on the first day. Each day, dedicated time is given for people to collect relevant information from one another. Over the course of the session the groups self-organise collecting contributions and feeding into other topics. Participants are asked to collect information informally through breaks and meals. They may also like to use the opportunity in plenary sessions to take notes on their particular topic and ask questions to presenters that could help them with their reports. Outputs are action-orientated, with groups asked to reflect on what should be done moving forward and recommendations for policy and practice.

The notes produced are not meant to be polished or exhaustive, and they are not peer reviewed. They are rapid explorations into priority topics, which are written and disseminated quickly in the hope that they will trigger further conversations, debate and interest. As such, they are not for citation.

This methodology is very much a work-in-progress. Comments and suggestions to strengthen and develop the hunter-gatherer process and method, as well as content and structure of the notes would be very welcome. Or if you wish to do a rapid exploration into a topic that interests you, please contact us: clts@ids.ac.uk

1. Problems

- Lack of quantitative data (number) and of qualitative data (standards and levers, etc.) in particular concerning disadvantaged groups;
- Insufficient funding, use and dissemination of data on sanitation;
- Failure to take into account equity and inclusion in sanitation strategies;
- Unsuitability of sanitation works' technologies;
- Failure to maintain ODF status and issues of regression;
- Lack of funding;
- Weak governance of sanitation (State, municipalities).



2. Solutions

In terms of approaches and strategies

- Initiatives for improving governance in sanitation.
 - Approach of « **government guidelines in support of the most vulnerable** » in **Ghana**: This involves the identification of the most vulnerable people according to the criteria defined by the government. For those identified the construction of fully latrines is fully subsidised. This support has been extended to food security issues, through a donation of USD38 per person per month, which enables them to meet their survival needs and also maintain the sanitary status of their households and latrines.
 - Setting up of **sanitation communal/territorial brigades**: these are government officials responsible for monitoring the application of sanitation measures and standards. Penalties are imposed on offenders.
 - Setting up of **communal or inter-communal water and sanitation technicians or rural development WASH practitioners in Burkina Faso**: the aim is to equip municipalities/territories with local skills to enable them to promote, implement and monitor sanitation actions in their own area.
 - **Delegation of sanitation services in Burkina Faso**: Given the lack of experience of municipalities and territories and of qualified staff dedicated to sanitation, the delegation of sanitation services is focused on engaging youth and women's associations at the local level in the promotion and management of hygiene and sanitation services. Municipalities/territories sign service delegation contracts with these associations. The strengthening of their capacity around sanitation approaches is thus achieved.
 - **WAR ROOM in Benin**: This is a monitoring-evaluation tool for data collection in Benin. A conference call between actors on the ground themselves with the coordination team enables vertical and horizontal communication with information at their disposal, and allows the sharing of information, success and failure factors as well as lessons learned.
- Approaches for the mobilisation of community members and leaders (promotion, financing, etc.).
 - **Total Sanitation Led by Leaders in Burkina Faso** is a tool for mobilising and engaging leaders (village communities, diaspora, etc.) that has proved successful in Burkina Faso.
 - The **FASO-TOILETTES campaign in Burkina Faso**, is a mobilisation initiative for communities members, which aims to build a latrine for their parents in their village.
 - **Setting up of solidarity systems in Senegal** enables finance for latrines for the most vulnerable or to borrow money.
 - The **community champions, which have developed in Senegal**, are leaders (prefects, etc.) who have been selected to mobilise the population and sustain the momentum towards behaviour change. They act as ambassadors for the promotion of sanitation at the local level.
- Approaches dedicated to take into account the specificities of disadvantaged groups and people.
 - Development of **MHM strategies** for menstrual hygiene management, especially in schools, in several countries, including Senegal and Burkina Faso;
 - **Subsidy for the most vulnerable**, in Ghana and Burkina Faso;
 - **School-led total sanitation in Togo or "Wash-Friendly Schools" and "WASH UNITED" games in Burkina Faso**: These targeted approaches on pupils consist of placing them at the heart of community behaviour change. A training for teachers is carried out to raise awareness among pupils. An up to date list is also created of pupils who have latrines at their disposal at home. The group that don't have a latrine at home puts pressure on their parents and latrine constructions are recorded. The certification is awarded to schools according to clearly defined criteria, in the context of "Wash-Friendly Schools".
- Initiative to reach ODF in abandoned villages.
 - Relaunch of community projects in Mali: this approach which has proved successful has re-energised the CLTS approach in demotivated non-ODF villages with the aim of making them reach Open Defecation Free status and certification. This remobilisation strategy takes place following different stages, such as the realisation of the inventory, community relaunch, CEHA revitalisation, supervision and close monitoring, community evaluation and certification.
- Actions to enhance sustainability.
 - Creation and implementation of **post-ODF strategies** in Mali, in Mauritania;
 - Development of **local committees, youth, women and children's associations in order to carry out actions with a view to staying present in several countries**;
 - **Implication of local authorities** and of local governments in a number of countries;

- **Motivation of traditional leaders** to support the process in Nigeria and Benin;
- Setting up and monitoring of regulations for maintaining ODF status of villages in Sierra Leone;
- **Formative research** on behaviour change in DRC enabled the identification of determining behaviour factors that can motivate change in the face of different barriers and adaptation of communication strategies;
- Development of a **Participatory Management System** in DRC to ensure the sustainability of hygiene and sanitation actions, in addition to water works by the associations of users of drinking water network (Associations des Usagers du Réseau d'Eau Potable (ASUREP)).
- Actions for research development
 - Setting up of funds for research at the national level in Burkina Faso (FONRID), which also finances research on sanitation through an agreement between FONRID and WaterAid Burkina Faso;
 - Partnership agreement between regional WaterAid and the regional institute for strengthening the capacity of stakeholders;
 - Collaboration with Abdoul-Moumouni University in Niamey and the national engineering school, Bamako;
 - Tripartite research collaboration between WSA, the university of Dakar (UCAD) and WaterAid.

In terms of technology

- Innovative technological approaches:
 - **Removable latrine** for peri-urban areas, developed by Burkina Faso;
 - **Elevated latrine** in rocky-ground environments in DRC;
 - **Local material used for latrine stabilisation** (used tires, sandbags, barrels for sandy unstable soils and landslides, and use of plastic drums in areas where the underground water reservoir is near the surface in order to stabilise the pit in several countries);
 - Use of **pots for persons with reduced mobility** in Benin;
 - **Participatory development of local technologies** in Mali and in Togo: during the monitoring, facilitators capitalise local practices and distributes the results to the coordination group, which works with local artisans to design slabs with local materials.

3. Emerging issues

- Should some innovations being implemented be certified by extensive research before becoming popularised?
- Is the introduction of sustainable sanitation technologies at the beginning of CLTS implementation beneficial?

4. Recommendations

- Develop formative research on:
 - Social transformation processes so as to optimise CLTS implementation in different countries;
 - Innovations being implemented before awarding them certifications and popularising them;
- Integrate results of research and innovation into our programmes;
- Offer a wide range of low price certified technologies adapted to the populations' needs and adapt technology to the difficult socio-economic and physical environment;
- Take into account the specificities of vulnerable people and of gender in the approaches but also in the technological devices offered (works, services, toilet blocks separation, etc.);
- Develop knowledge and research for quantitative and qualitative data on disadvantaged groups and people and develop approaches to identify truly disadvantaged groups and people;
- Define effective monitoring-evaluation, capitalisation and data dissemination on sanitation mechanisms, especially for disadvantaged groups;
- Promote the development of secured technologies elaborated from local materials and think about gradual change with local solutions as a starting point;
- Involve communities from difficult contexts and groups in decision-making and planning processes;
- Adapt CLTS and other approaches according to the context;
- Integrate the approaches.

