

Working with governments to increase sanitation funding: East and Southern Africa region

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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 are 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 mealtimes. 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The notes produced are not meant to be polished or exhaustive, and they are not peer reviewed.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 As such, they are not for citation.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 the 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. Description of issues/challenges

Access to sanitation in rural communities requires support from the government and other stakeholders working in that country. Adequate funding for sanitation programmes goes a long way towards ensuring scaling up and sustainability if the resources are effectively used and accounted for.

In order to achieve programmes at scale there needs to be coordinated mechanisms within the governments and partners working across different regions of each country to ensure coverage is realised throughout the country. Without this, there can be inefficient and ineffective ways of addressing the emerging issues and wastage of funds can occur thus resulting in a country lagging behind. Adequate funding, if effectively used, can help sanitation programmes go to scale.



2. Current solutions (including country/ organisation)

Various governments are working closely in a coordinated manner to implement sanitation programmes to achieve a common goal in target communities.

In countries such as Tanzania, Kenya, Ethiopia and Uganda where the government has funding for national sanitation campaigns, the public health department and partner organisations agree on which areas to cover with the funds and assign the partners to other villages to ensure coverage is achieved. In order to support the government increase in funding for sanitation programmes, the partners have coordination committees at the national level to advocate and lobby for allocations or coverage of other areas where the government has resources.

Advocacy and lobbying activities are geared towards sharing the evidence from the ground on the needs and gaps within the sanitation programmes and call for national/central government to allocate a budget for sanitation. An operational research project that generated good evidence for improved funding for CLTS was seen in Kenya where the Gates Foundation scalability project informed that, with effective capacity development of the local government officers in triggering and effective follow-up, the communities can achieve ODF faster than in areas where the capacity development has not taken place. This evidence supported the advocacy efforts where Plan worked with the local members of county assembly to draft sanitation bills that were used to advocate for CLTS funding into counties.

Institutional triggering is a type of advocacy where government departments are sensitised on the sanitation problem within the country (Uganda) and calls for support to sanitation programmes through allocating the level of funding required to implement the programmes.

At the local level and county level local advocacy forums are also held with the partners in relevant technical working groups to ensure that the available funds are used in areas that are needy and for the departments to allocate additional funds for these programmes.

Strengthening of local level policy frameworks and ensuring that local and county governments have existing sanitation acts in place to inform on allocation of sanitation funding is a long term solution for increasing the funding in the countries from the region.

Matching funds: There are other local innovative supportive solutions where donor-funded programmes provide matching funds of a similar amount if the county allocates funds to the sanitation programme thus increasing the funding for sanitation - as in the case of UNICEF in Kenya.

Continuous learning, sharing and knowledge management: Governments can further be supported to ensure continuous allocation of funding for sanitation programmes through ongoing learning and knowledge management with possible replication of solutions that have been seen to work across the region.

Regular coordination and collaboration mechanisms both at local and national level is required where partners and governments share ongoing progress on various sanitation programs to show gaps and achievements. This joint sharing will inform on where more support for funding is needed. In this way, the annual allocations from the government and county/local government can be realised and thus help sanitation programmes go to scale.

Sanitation and micro-planning and costing on how much it costs to reach ODF by 2020/2030.

3. Emerging questions

- Efficient utilisation of resources and accountability as the implementation of sanitation programmes goes on in countries.

4. Recommendations

In order to ensure support to governments to increase funding to sanitation, there is a need to do the following:

- Ongoing advocacy efforts using evidence based research on what is working that can be funded.
- Effective coordination with partners to ensure resources are spread across the country and certain regions to enhance coverage.
- Work with governments for continuous resource mobilisation efforts from donors for more sanitation programmes.

- Strengthen local level/county level policy frameworks for sanitation financing.
- Capacity development of MOH /public health government institutions on programme-based budgeting to ensure funds allocations.