

2014 WASH SUSTAINABILITY DAILY UPDATE

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KEY NOTE ADDRESS - Dick van Ginhoven, Sr. Advisor Water and Sanitation, DGIS

'We need to break out of the cycle of build, neglect and rehabilitate.'

Over the last 10 years the Netherlands has spent 1.5 billion Euros to provide water and sanitation to people without access. Van Ginhoven offered this statistic as evidence of the Dutch government's commitment to the WASH sector and of the scale of the failure when the benefits from those investments are not sustained.

While he lauded the progress made in reaching the MDG target on water, he also pointed out the challenge: '6.2 billion people have access, but that access is not secure.' He likened progress towards the goal of universal access to WASH services as an Echternach procession, where pilgrims take three steps forward and two steps back. 'Progress will be much slower', he said, 'if we focus only on providing access to new people, without making sure that people who have access are taken care of, that their services remain functional.'

He spoke of the Netherlands government's controversial sustainability clause, instituted in 2013: every implementing organisation that gets Dutch funding must guarantee that services will be sustained for at least 10 years. 'When you buy a car you get a guarantee. We think it should be the same for WASH investments.'

'This [issue of sustainability] is very serious,' added van Ginhoven during the Q&A. 'Serious for our tax payers, serious for our parliament, but most of all serious for the people who rely on the services provided by these partners. Implementers need to be much more involved with building local capacity to make sure that services keep running.'



Evolution of WASH Sustainability Fora



As presented by Brian Banks, Director of Strategic Initiatives, Global Water Challenge

KEY NOTE ADDRESS - Glenn Pearce-Oroz, Regional Team Leader Africa, WSP-World Bank

World Bank reorganises to encourage learning across regions



July 1 the World Bank will unveil a new way of doing business. As a way to 'strengthen regional presence with global knowledge', the Bank is reorganising its technical staff around 14 'global practices.' Pearce-Oroz explained, 'This reconfiguration is an attempt to break up regional silos and harness expertise, lessons and best practices around key development challenges – including water, sanitation and hygiene.' It is hoped that this reconfiguration will bring greater efficiency to the Bank's 35 billion US dollar water lending portfolio, which includes sanitation and hygiene.

Read more at: www.worldbank.org/water

FEEDBACK

'I'm presenting the sustainability metric for assessing safe water in healthcare facilities. Discussions at this forum will help us move forward with the tool, making it less project-oriented and allow for application in different contexts'

Katharine Robb, Public Health Program Associate at the Center for Global Safe Water at Emory University

HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE TRACKS

- A number of questions came up again and again in the sessions: How much does it cost to apply the tool? Is the use of the tool itself sustainable? Does it effectively link to action, and in particular action by government stakeholders? How do you prioritise among the issues the tool uncovers?

There were also a number of common lessons across tools. Perhaps none of them surprising, but still worth repeating: Keep it simple! Keep in mind the purpose of the tool. Collecting data when there is no capacity to manage or use it, is a waste of resources. Data well-communicated can be a powerful trigger for change.

Below a couple of takeaways from the different tracks.

Quote: What was the cost of creating the tool and was it worth that cost?

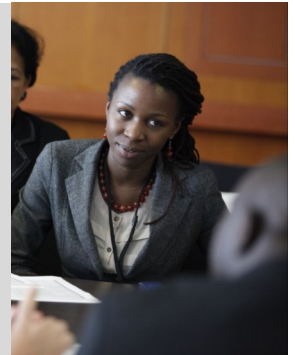
- The 'shit mapping' tool is useful for communicating and advocacy. Specific detail on what needs to be done requires additional planning tools.
- Most organisations don't know the cost of providing sustainable sanitation. The WASHCost tool can help determine costs and inform discussions about who will finance what.
- Tools are not an end in themselves. More than the tool it's about planning for sustainability and monitoring sustained outcomes and services.



HYGIENE

Quote: One of the worst thing that programmes can do is spend a lot of time collecting a lot impact data badly.

- We need to learn from other sectors, such as health, that are experienced in monitoring behaviour.
- We need to know if behaviour change is sustained. Unless you have consistent, correct practice at least 90% of the time, you are not getting the health impact and your money is being wasted.
- Measuring the formation of habits and social norms is a promising new approach but still in its infancy.



- Involving stakeholders in the formulation of tools and indicators makes for long, messy processes, but the buy-in and the suitability of the tool to stakeholder needs makes it worth it.
- We need to be careful when transferring tools from one context to another. There is a balance to be struck between reinventing the wheel and one-size-fits all solutions.
- Even the sexiest tools will only lead to improved service provision if they are supported by strong institutional frameworks.

Quote: In Uganda we practice crisis asset management. When it breaks down we replace it.

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