Introduction to Governance of Decentralized Sanitation

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At the end of the lecture you will be able to:

• Explain why governance of sanitation matters
• Define components of (sanitation) governance
• Analyse governance as a dynamic process
Access to sanitation in the international development Agenda

Sanitation 21 Framework

UNESCO-IHE Institute for Water Education

WaterAid
Access to sanitation in the international development Agenda

The Millennium Development Goal 7 (MDG7) Target 10 is to halve by 2015 the proportion of people without sustainable access to safe drinking water and basic sanitation.

By 2030, achieve access to adequate and equitable sanitation and hygiene for all and end open defecation, paying special attention to the needs of women and girls and those in vulnerable situations.

Support and strengthen the participation of local communities in improving water and sanitation management.
Why does governance matter?

Colonial legacy: Colonial sanitary interventions and post-colonial development programmes in urban sanitation were largely based on the construction and operation of large-scale, supply-driven and centralized networked systems to be operated in parallel with water supply infrastructures (Letema, 2012; Lüthi, McConville, & Kvarnström, 2010; Allen, Davila, & Hofmann, 2006). Colonial governments exclusively targeted wealthy minorities of colonial and local elites (Kooy & Bakker, 2008; McFarlane, 2008).
Why does governance matter?

Spatial organization of the city

Producing inequalities: spatial organization of the population in the city contributes to inequitable coverage and inadequate services in lower-income areas.

Lilongwe, Malawi
Water Supply Network
Why does governance matter?

Spatial organization of the city

Slums are often placed in vulnerable spaces to floods and other disasters such as landslides.

In flood prone areas, fecal material collected in latrines will mix with the floodwaters and cause widespread contamination.
Why does governance matter?

Uneven access

Sanitation services in cities in the global South are characterized by diverse and separated infrastructural configurations and service modalities. While high-income residents are usually served by a sewerage system or septic tanks, slum dwellers access different types and qualities of latrines or are forced to opt for other informal disposal methods (WSP, 2013, JMP, 2014).

Inadequate service

Often facilities are constructed without properly planning the entire sanitation chain (i.e. collection, disposal and re-use). In many cases latrines are not properly aligned or are difficult to access to allow safe and proper emptying and various unhygienic manual methods need to be used for the emptying.
Governance is at the core of so-called technical processes of sanitation service delivery. It determines:
- How cities are planned
- How and for whom the sanitation network is developed
- Who gets what type of sanitation facilities and services
- How prices are set, by whom, for whom
- Uneven access: who wins and who loses from a given service configuration; how risks of poor sanitation are distributed across urban spaces and urban dwellers.
Defining (sanitation) governance

Governance of sanitation can be defined as the way in which society organizes to develop and manage sanitation services in a given area and at a given scale.

**Values and guiding principles** of political, economic, cultural, religious nature that influence how a society organizes

**Institutions** are the formal and informal ‘rules of the game’ that shape actors’ behaviour

**Actors**: Social, political, economic organizations, and individuals, their role and relationship with other organizations

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Guiding principles, Ideologies/values, Beliefs

Institutions (policies, regulations, laws)

Actors (state and non state, organizations, stakeholders and individuals etc.)
Collaborative - The water and sanitation crisis will only be solved by collaborative action. Our engagement with other organizations, communities, staff and supporters underpins our success. We value their diversity.

Marketization of sanitation services
Public-private partnerships
Decentralization

Bakker, 2007
Actors (state and non-state, organizations, stakeholders and individuals etc.)
### Actors

**State/public sector**

Part of a given socio-economic system that is controlled by national, provincial, and local governments. This part of usually encompasses critical services such as regulation, national defense and security, including military and police forces, urban planning, taxation, and delivery of basic services such as sanitation.

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**Private sector**

Part of a given socio-economic system that is run by individuals or groups not owned or managed by national, provincial and local governments. It encompasses for-profit businesses, including companies, corporations, and individual entrepreneurs. Private sector also operates at different scales – i.e. global, national, local.

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**Civil Society**

Non-state, not-for-profit organizations (CSOs) or movements, voluntarily formed by people to achieve a given goal (e.g. gender equality, universal access to sanitation services).

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**Network of experts**

Experts are individuals, consultancy firms, academic institutions, education institutes or other organizations that have a extensive experience through research, practice and education in a particular field (i.e. delivery of decentralized sanitation services in urban areas).
Increasing emphasis on ‘governance’ highlights the “emergence, proliferation and active encouragement [...] of institutional arrangements of ‘governing’, which give a much greater role [...] to private economic actors on the one hand and to parts of civil society in the other in self-managing what until recently was provided or organized by the national or local state”

(Swyngedouw, 2005:1992)
Institutions

‘Rules of the game’ that shape behavior

- Formal Policies, Laws, Regulation
- Customs: Informal regularized patterns of behavior

Mediators of

- People and infrastructure relations
- People and organizations
- People and people

Diverse and working at multiple scales
Sanitation Governance

Values and guiding principles: marketization of sanitation, human right to sanitation, participation in the delivery of sanitation services: empowerment or efficiency?, small-scale private sector participation.
Beliefs: fear of elves.

Institutions: sanitation policies, municipal by-laws on individual responsibility of on-site sanitation, open defecation during night time (or flying toilets).

Actors: National government, municipalities, small-scale private sector, NGOs, users etc.
Governance as a dynamic process

- Interests between and within each sectors are diverse and heterogeneous.
- Continuous complex and messy interaction between the three sectors dependent on global forces as well as contextual specificity.
- Power asymmetries between actors and within actors

Adapted from Kemerink et al., 2012
Sanitation service delivery is political in nature, it deals with relationships involving power:

- Ability to influence behaviours of users, providers of sanitation services
- Ability to steer decision-making processes on sanitation strategies
Governance as a dynamic process
Summary: Governance as a dynamic process

- Decisions on sanitation infrastructure and service delivery are negotiated, established, reaffirmed, contested etc.
- Governance processes occur at multiple scales
- Change in values, dominant actors, institutions and decisions take place continuously and over time
- These changes are not linear

Adapted from Kemerink et al., 2012
On governance

On decentralized sanitation