



Presentation from  
**2016 World Water  
Week in Stockholm**

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# WASHoholics Anonymous Confessions of Failure and How to Reform

Stockholm World Water Week 2016





# WASHoholics Anonymous

## Setting the Scene: The Sustainability Crisis in the WASH Sector

Harold Lockwood, Aguaconsult





# WASHoholics Anonymous

## Implementing Partner Confessional: The Sustainability Challenge from a Practitioner Perspective and a Private Donor

Stephan Simon, Welthungerhilfe  
Christian Wiebe, Viva Con Agua



German Toilet Organization



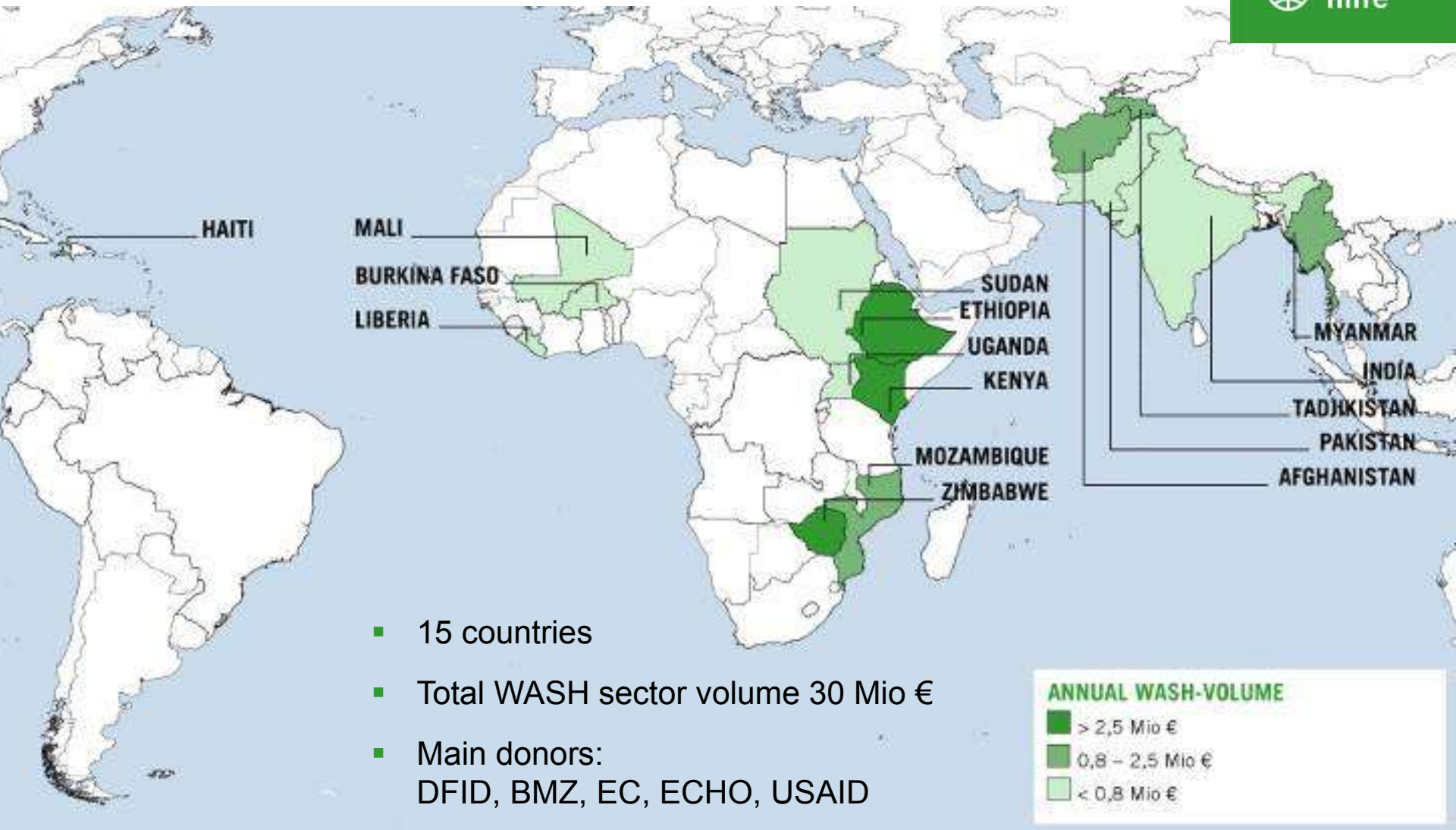
Government of the Netherlands



sustainable sanitation alliance



## Who we are...



What inspired us to confess...



# The naked Truth



summary report

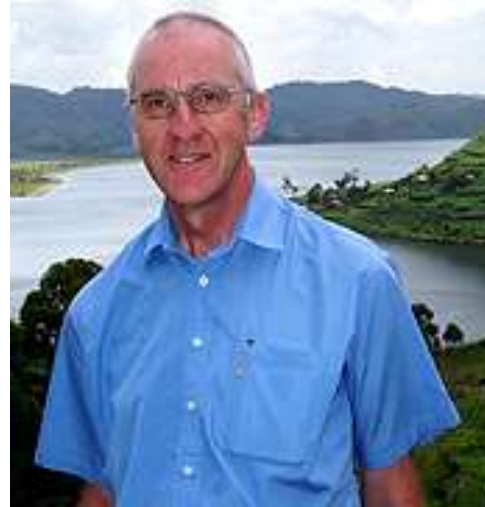
Algeria, Kenya, Zimbabwe, Liberia, Zambia, Ethiopia, Mozambique, Nigeria, Côte d'Ivoire, Sierra Leone

## What inspired us to confess...



*“Despite the best intentions, the fact is that we, sector professionals and practitioners, have contributed towards the problem in numerous ways.”*

Pro. R. Carter,  
WaterAID, RWSN 2010



## Our confessions in Water Supply

3-5 years after implementation ...

- 5-16 % are not functioning (no water)  
up to 50% are only partly functioning (provide water but minor techn. Issues)
- 11 % of the water supply systems are not in use although they are functioning !
- 4 years after construction 25 % of the water supply systems are not used any longer (→ no impact)





# Our confessions in Hygiene Behaviour Change and Sanitation



4-5 years after implementation...

Huge drop back in latrine coverage and hygiene behaviors;  
back fall in moving up the sanitation ladder:

- availability of latrines dropped by 20-40 %;  
toilet standard declined: only 5% are rated to be improved
- Only 18 % are really clean (fair condition 69 %)
- No handwashing facility available at toilets in 85%
- Signs of Handwashing after being at the toilet: 0%
- Water container cleansing practise: not adequate in 63%

## What we've learned from failure ....



- In most of our cases Ex-Post assessments triggered a mind change within our implementation teams for corrective actions improving project design (results were a healthy shock for the team)
- Implementers and Planners systematically need post implementation monitoring data to be able to permanently improve on future project designs
- Communication with donors: advocate for the importance for post construction support and the financing of it. We need innovative funding mechanisms to finance sustainability checks/monitoring

## We started the Sustainable Services Initiative ....



### **Sustainable Services Initiative**

- To complement and support other initiatives to trigger a broader discussion on the requirements for sustainable services
- To conceptualize and introduce tools to enhance long term service provision within Welthungerhilfe (including systematic post implementation monitoring)
- Financed by Viva con Agua



**VIVA CON AGUA**  
SANKT PAULI

**ALL FOR WATER AND SANITATION**



# What our (private) supporters want



- „Shopping list“ with a warranty.
- Internal survey: 95% want to know what happens after the official end of a project.



# Our confessions

- Ex post evaluations documented poor performance of water supply facilities and low uptake of toilets especially where there was no post construction support after the end of project.
- Our Marketing Department is increasingly reluctant selling „sustainable access to WASH services“ to our supporters without having evidence.



# What we learned from failure and what drives us to support the Sustainable Services Initiative

- We believe that more honesty is needed in the donor community: we owe taxpayers and supporters transparent information on the long term performance of systems.
- We believe that we as a donor have to take part of the responsibility and provide funding especially for post implementation monitoring.
- We believe that donors have to play an active role in „educating“ their supporters on critical challenges with regard to sustainability and communicate that costs for post construction support has to be included in a sustainable project design.
- In future VCA will only provide funding to implementers on the condition that post implementation monitoring is integrated in the project design right from the beginning.
- VCA decided to invest in the development of respective guidelines for its WASH implementers to be shared with the sector.





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## Research and Learning Confessional: The "Agenda for Change" – A Good Step into the Right Direction?

Dr. Patrick Moriarty, IRC



German  
Toilet  
Organization



Government of the Netherlands



sustainable  
sanitation  
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## Local Government Confessional: Local Governments and their Role to Ensure Sustainable Service Delivery

Aggrey Nayuhamy, Chairman of Kamwenge District in Western Uganda



# Local Government Confessional:

Aggrey Nayuhamyia

Chairman of Kamwenge District Local Government in Western Uganda

## Major role of district chair person:

- Monitor and supervise implementation of government programs and of external implementing partners
- Mobilise communities to embrace the WASH programs

# Local Government Confessional:

Aggrey Nayuhamyia

Chairman of Kamwenge District Local Government in Western Uganda

## Challenges:

- People think water is a free resource or are not able pay
- Need to raise financial capacity of households by promoting other income generating activities
- External organisations (implementers) should not only train technical staff but also capacitate political leaders to allow for political overseeing
- Internal rotation and high staff turnover leads to loss of capacity

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## Lessons Learned:

- Use whole systems approach
- Implementers should also capacitate local leaders



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## Donor Confessional: The “Sustainability Clause” – What it Can Do and What it Cannot

Dick van Ginhoven, Directoraat Generaal Internationale Samenwerking (DGIS)



German Toilet Organization

IRC



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## Questions & Answers





## Table Discussion

What **change in programming** would increase long-term sustainability of services?

What **incentives** are needed?