

Seminar: Governance of water and waste: a key to sustainable development?

Governance of sanitation: incentives for turning political will into action

Based on the research:

*Beyond political commitment to sanitation:
Navigating incentives for prioritisation and course
correction in Ethiopia, India and Indonesia*

www.wateraid.org/fromwilltoaction

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Overview

- Introduction
- Findings of the research
- Recommendations

Beyond political commitment to sanitation:

Navigating incentives for prioritisation and course correction in Ethiopia, India and Indonesia

Synthesis report



Introduction

- Political will is seen as the key driver to progress towards universal access to sanitation.
- With increasing political will, it is a good time to ask:
 - *What do we mean by ‘political will’?*
 - *What does it take to translate political will into substantial progress in sanitation?*



Unpacking political will



Political will



**Strong sector
→ progress
towards universal
access**



**Achieving total sanitation and
hygiene coverage within a generation
– lessons from East Asia**



Unpacking political will

- High level political commitment to sanitation
- Prioritisation through the government machinery
- Course correction, ie review and adaptation to tackle implementation challenges



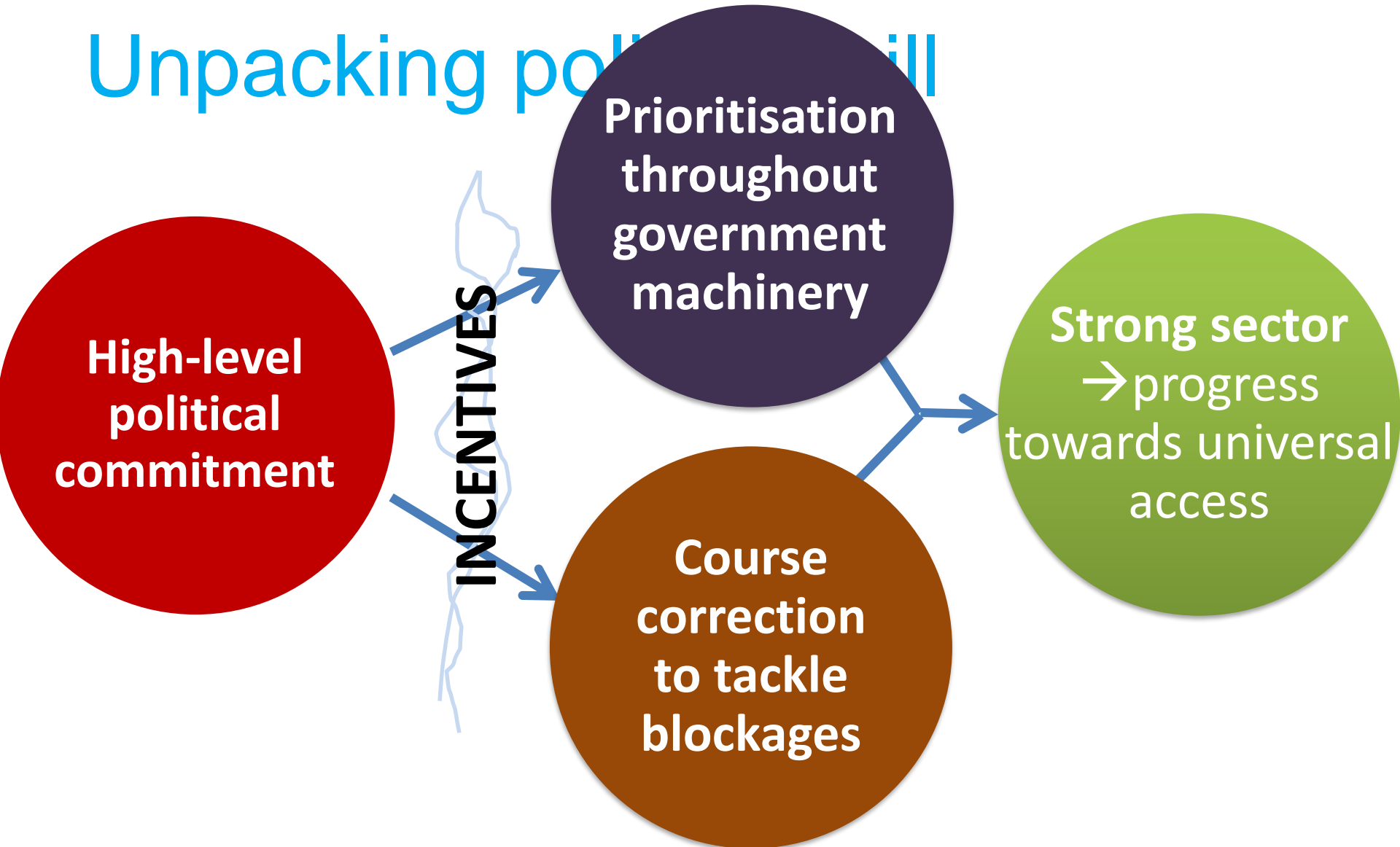
Unpacking political will

A diagram consisting of two circles connected by a horizontal arrow. The left circle is red and contains the text "Political will". The right circle is green and contains the text "Strong sector → progress towards universal access".

Political will

**Strong sector
→ progress
towards universal
access**

Unpacking political will



The research

- Aim: Examine how **high level political commitment** to sanitation translates into **prioritisation** through different layers of government, and into **course correction** to tackle implementation blockages
- Focus on incentives



The research

- Initial desk-based work
- Field research in three case study countries
 - Ethiopia
 - India (Chhattisgarh)
 - Indonesia
- Regular input from an advisory group



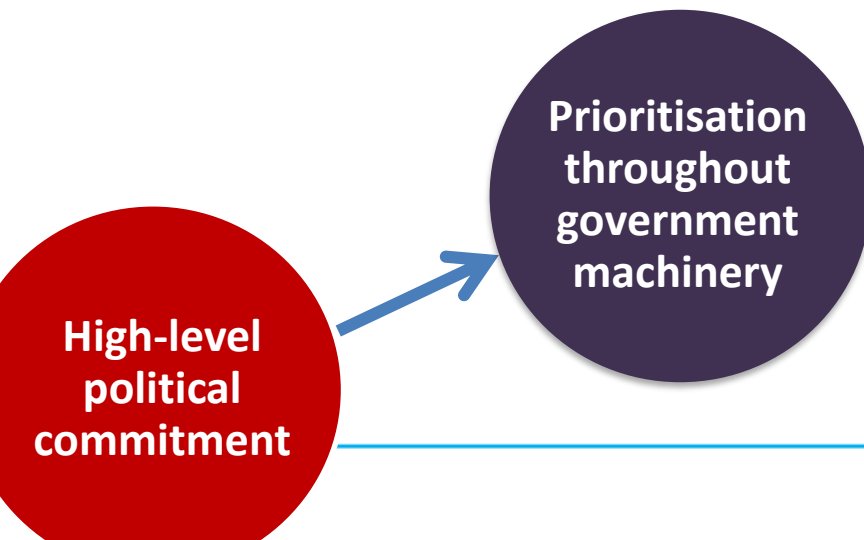
	Ethiopia (rural)		India (rural)		Indonesia (Urban)	
	2005	2015	2005	2015	2005	2015
OD	68%	34%	73%	61%	15%	13%

Findings

Incentives that tap into individuals' world views to build buy-in

'how does this align with my values?'

- Notions of modernity, economic competitiveness
- Historical-cultural heritage symbols



Logo of the Swachh Bharat Mission.

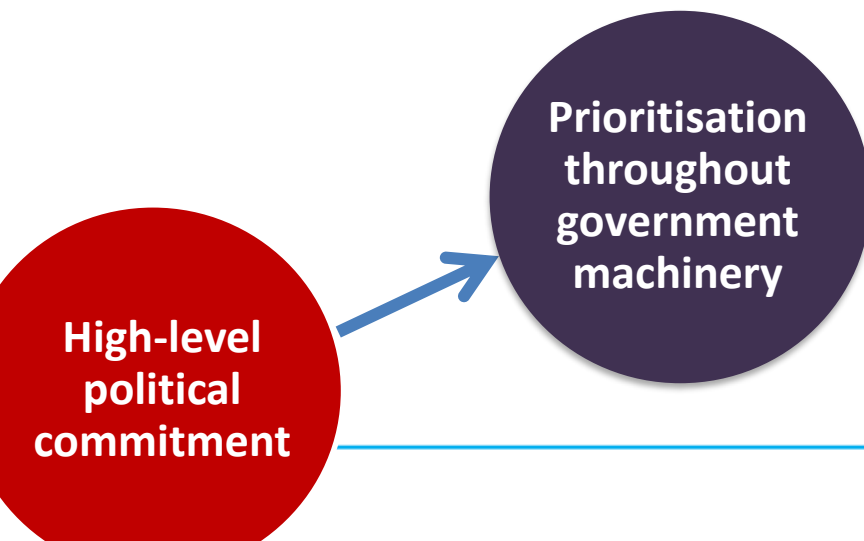
Findings

Incentives creating buy-in via the prospect of personal and professional reward

'what is in it for me?'

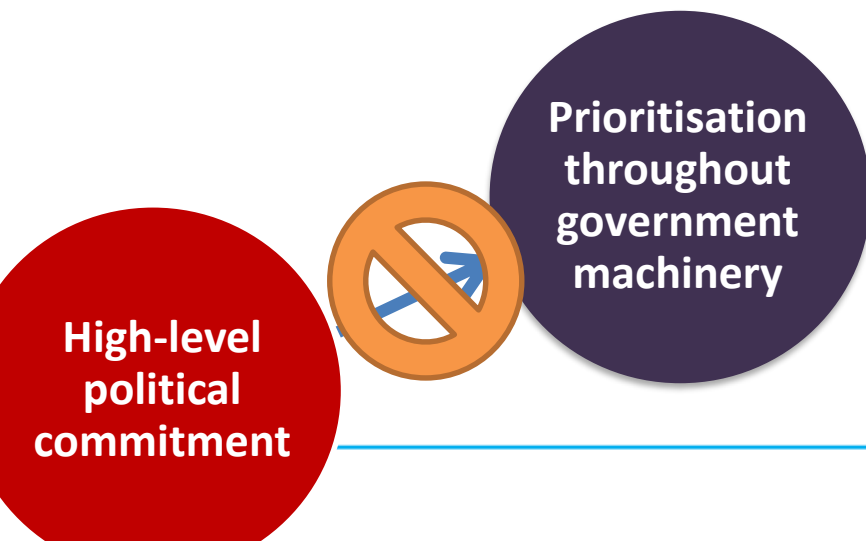
- Political return
- Career advancement

- Personal renown



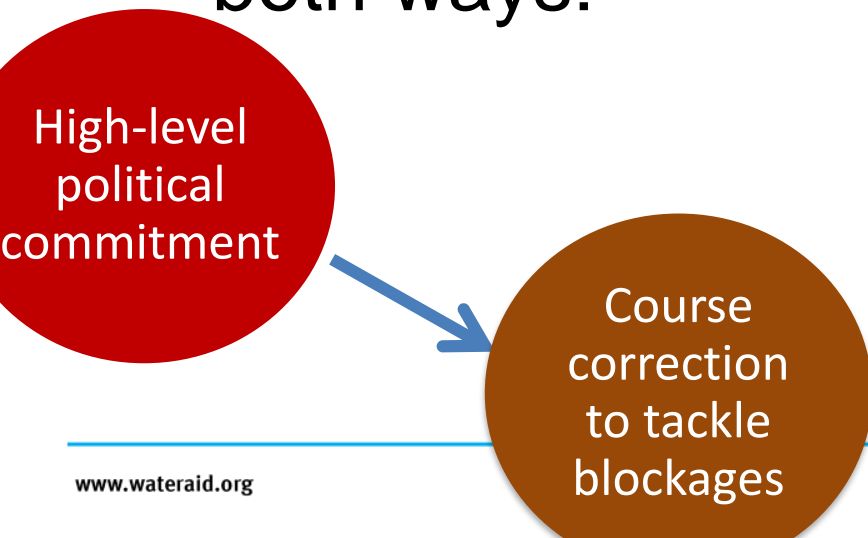
Findings

- Legal and political ‘rules of the game’ affect vertical prioritisation
- Horizontal prioritisation is hampered by differences of power and status



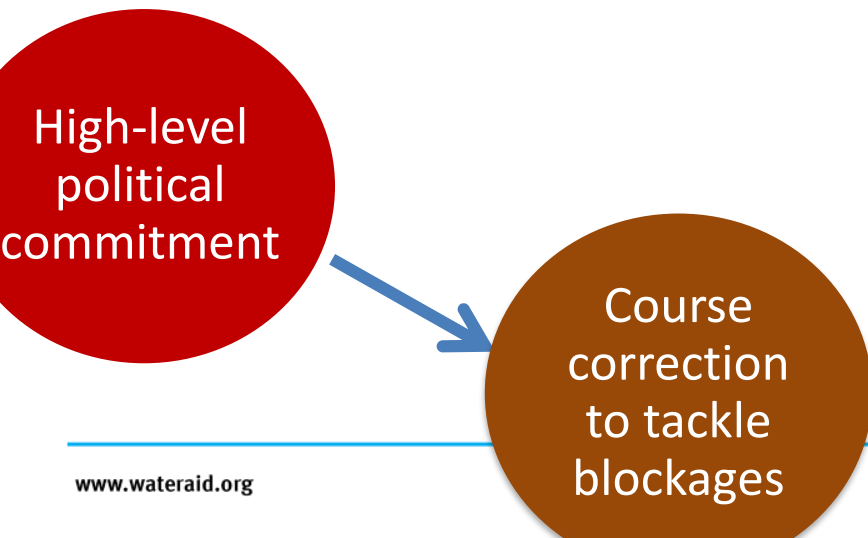
Findings

- Incentives linked to world views have a positive influence on course correction
- Incentives linked to professional and political return work both ways:



Findings

- In generating evidence for policy review
 - + They increase sharing of information across hierarchies
 - They lead to over-reporting to accrue prestige and under-reporting to attract resources (in the absence of verification and flexibility)



Findings

- In analysing and acting upon the evidence, sector learning and review mechanisms –also informal ones– play an important role
- But are many times ineffective
 - Too many! “dispersing attention and focus” ... “sense of effort duplication.”
 - Weak follow up, when participants lack sufficient power to ensure review decisions are acted on





Recommendations

To cascade political prioritisation to lower government levels and across relevant departments by:

- Fostering buy-in by **aligning with the world views** of those involved, linking sanitation with notions of modernity or other context-specific values.
- **Tapping into personal aspirations**, ensuring sanitation efforts receive public recognition and result in professional progression.





Recommendations

To cascade political prioritisation to lower government levels and across relevant departments by:

- Examining and **addressing** the **financial, legal, and political** 'rules of the game' that may help or hinder engagement and decision making at lower levels of government
- **Personally leading** or enlisting authoritative senior figures in promoting prioritisation in ministries and departments that are critical for sanitation but don't have a lead role

Recommendations

To invest in course correction to address bottlenecks by:

- Investing in reliable **verification** systems processes to reduce mis-reporting and build trust in data
- Nurturing a **culture of learning**, with space and flexibility at the local level for trial, error, and adaptation



Recommendations

To invest in course correction to address bottlenecks by:

- Tapping into **informal sharing** and reporting mechanisms – for example WhatsApp groups – that cut across hierarchies
- Setting up **review mechanisms**, but ensuring quality over quantity. This includes involving those with decision-making power, improving follow up in policy implementation



Thank you!

Download the research policy brief, synthesis report and case studies at www.wateraid.org/fromwilltoaction

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Making sanitation happen: turning ‘political will’ into action

Policy brief

In a change from historical trends, more and more governments are voicing their commitment to achievement of universal access to sanitation. How can governments take this beyond rhetorical political will

