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## What gets measured (by women), gets managed

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26<sup>th</sup> of August 2018

World Water Week, Stockholm

## **The Empowerment Dilemma**

"Best practice" when equity means different things in different communities?

"Empowerment" in sustainability projects as a means to different ends?

Does an intervention create space for female agency, or enforce participation in an artificial settings?

Action research: Local citizen monitoring as tool to empower women and marginalized groups





## Step 1: Localize & upscale data collection

Data collection is resource intense capacity to collect local and gender disaggregated data required?

Citizen monitoring: Data streams provided by local citizens using their own mobile devices, complementing existing data sets.



# Step 1: Localize & Upscale data collection

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## Step 2: Decide what gets measured

### Switch Perspective

Communities decide which issues and how to monitor



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**Co-Design** process to build monitoring that reflect stakeholder reality



# ...make compartmentalized management decisions...

#### **Urban Development**





Local Food Security



#### **Industrial Agriculture**







Energy



Proposed Mara dam, Kenya Source: EAWS

# ...with "collateral damage" relevant to local women invisible or monitored "somewhere else"













Groups and CRB Sesheke West, Zambia

## Step 2: Decide what gets measured

### Switch Perspective

Community decides which issues and how to monitor

Focus on local value

Reveal links, trade-offs and impacts of decisions



## Start on a blank page

**Co-Design** process to build monitoring that reflect stakeholder reality

Necessity for any measure requiring local collective action, local buy-in and <u>behaviour</u> changes

## Step 3: Challenge how we manage

Does decision-making structure reflect local realities?

Does participation in a genderbiased decision-making structure increase equality?

Pay attention to <u>sources</u> of agency and status



Source: World Bank WSP 2012 cartoon calendar http://www.wsp.org/content/2012-cartoon-calendar

# SDG "journeys" grounded in stakeholder reality?



"As a start it is necessary to recognize the distinctive nature of women's experience of poverty and disadvantage. It is not sufficient to simply extend socio-economic rights to women. Substantive gender equality goes beyond treating women in the same way as men and requires re-conceptualizing the rights themselves."

(Fredman, 2013)

Find out more e.pfeiffer@un-ihe.org @GroundTruth20 @wwcc\_project



Ground Truth 2.0 is a 3 year (2016-2019) H2020 project to deliver the demonstration and validation of six scaled-up citizen observatories in real, operational conditions, with 4 European and 2 African demonstration cases.











## Women & Water

for Change in Communities



Promoting women and youth as leaders, entrepreneurs and sustainability change agents in rural African communities





