

2015 Stockholm World Water Week

**Transforming the sanitation sector for achieving universal access by 2030**

# Opportunities, challenges and priorities on the road towards universal access to sanitation by 2030: an expert consultation

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# Outline

- Introduction
- Methodology
- Lessons from MDG period
- Looking towards 2030
- Conclusions

# Introduction

- Sanitation was one of the most off-track targets in the Millennium Development Goals
- To fulfil the 2030 universal access ambitions of the Sustainable Development Goals, a step change is required in the sanitation sector, but...

*What does this sector step change look like?*

# Methodology

- Interview to 18 sanitation sector experts
  - 7 international development agencies/ organisations
    - UNICEF, Gates Foundation, Plan, World Bank, IRC
  - 6 academics - WEDC, UNC, EAWAG, LSHTM, SEI
  - 5 consultants
- Questions on
  - Sector opportunities and blockages
  - Priorities towards 2030
  - Role WaterAid

# Lessons from the MDG era

- Low priority at local and political level
  - Taboo
  - Private issue
  - Low-performing and low-impact sector

→ Insufficient funding and inadequate financing mechanisms

→ Institutional fragmentation

*“Lack of demand or interest by communities and households and/or lack of high level political will to address this. I could argue either way about which comes first”*



# Lessons from the MDG era

- Collaboration and accountability
  - Globally, much more consensus and collaboration  
SDG consultation process, SWA, Sans
  - Levels of collaboration varied from country to country  
Interventions uncoordinated and not engaging governments
  - Funding mechanisms and organisations' agendas lead to:
    - Competition
    - Inadequate learning and sharing
    - Isolated solutions
    - Distorted accountability

*“Decision making is money-driven”*



# Lessons from the MDG era

- Inadequate approaches
  - Programmes focus on infrastructure, not behaviour, environment or services
  - Shift towards CLTS → collective behaviour and demand focus
  - Combination with Sanitation Marketing for sustainability
  - But what about the poorest?!  
And government responsibility?!
  - Complexity! Not acknowledged – programming inertia

*“Sometimes there are religions in sanitation and hygiene, [people] believe in one approach and exclude other approaches”*

*“there is too much programming where we continue to do things without seeing if it makes a difference”*

# Looking towards 2030

- Increasing global priority and consensus  
→ Potential to resolve the challenges faced to date
  
- Need to reach common vision on how to get there, including key priorities and knowledge gaps





# Looking towards 2030

- Knowledge gaps
  - Urban sanitation
  - Behaviour change
  - Working at scale
  - Working cross-sector
  - Reaching the poorest
- But a more open, inclusive, and learning-oriented mindset must also be adopted!



*“We know a lot but people don’t use it!  
There is a lack of dissemination and  
proactive learning, too”*

*“About what works, it is an honesty  
gap, really... we are too busy trying to  
deliver results based solutions”*

# Looking towards 2030

- Top 6 priority areas:
  - Urban sanitation
  - Governments' leadership and sector harmonisation
  - Sustainable Development Goals and indicators
  - Institutional mechanisms and capacities
  - Working cross-sector (health)
  - Learning and debating



# Conclusions

- A change agenda for the sector is emerging, most key sector actors share the view on
  - What needs to be done
  - How it needs to be done
- The 'how' seems more difficult to achieve, as it involves shifts among sector actors –mindsets, attitudes and ways of learning, collaborating and being accountable.

**Will we display the leadership required to undertake these changes successfully?**

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*Research summary available here: <http://goo.gl/sX7Fq8>*

**THANK YOU!**

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