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## Local governments in sustainable water services provision and water resources management



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- 1.2 billion people lack access to adequate water supply and 2.4 billion people lack access to safe sanitation facilities
- MDGs: reduce by half by 2015 the percentage of people without sustainable access to safe drinking water and basic sanitation
- Progress not on track in:
  - Africa
  - Sanitation
  - Rural areas



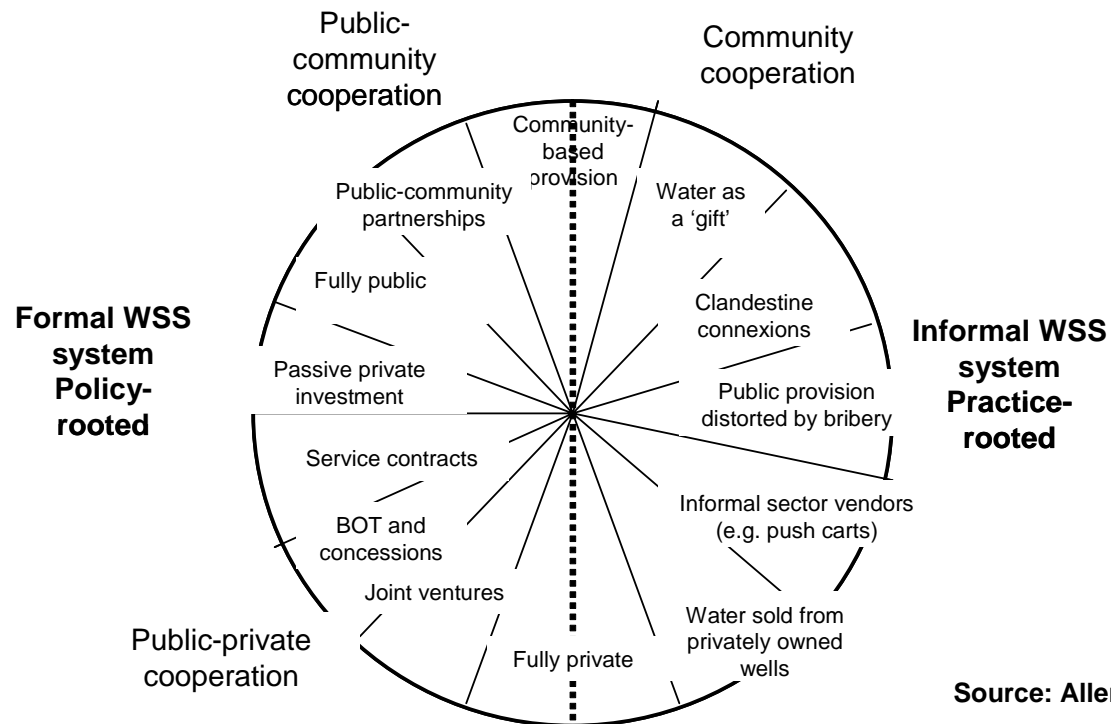


# Beyond the numbers

- Sustainability
- Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH)
- Fitting within integrated water resources management (IWRM) framework
- Water and poverty



- Difference between urban and rural
- Long tradition in urban areas
- Between regulation and services provision



Source: Allen et al., 2004



# Role of local government

- In rural areas role still evolving
- Lessons from the past:
  - Supply driven service provision from central government is not demand responsive
  - Local government is too far and too little capacity to directly provide services
  - Community management proves effective but requires support
  - Bypassing (local) government has led to organisational splintering and lack of coordination in the sector
- Local government's role is enabling:
  - Regulation
  - Planning and coordination
  - Contributing to financing
  - Support (training, monitoring, etc)
- Possibility for integration across sectors





## Support to communities: South Africa

- Alfred Nzo District Municipality
- Municipality as Water Services Authority, communities as service providers
- Appointment of support services agent
  - Back-up support to community
  - Capacity building
- Improved service delivery and economy of scale





# Constraints

- Decentralisation of responsibility but not of resources
- Lack of capacity
- Fragmentation
- Short-term interest
- Politicised
- Lack of transparency
- Often implementer only, not fulfilling other roles
- Poor relation with end users
  - Accountability
  - Credibility

# Lack of integration: Ghana

- Sanitation in Accra and Kumasi
- Low coverage in formal sanitation services
- Large amounts of wastewater from diffuse sources mixed with stormwater
- Widely used for (peri)-urban agriculture
- Addressing this implies integrated approach between different sections
- But... most never talk to each other







# From local government to local governance

- From passive implementer to active facilitator, supporter, funder and services provider
- Overcoming constraints requires improved local governance
- Local government cannot do it alone
- Developing relations with other government levels, communities, NGOs, research organisations and private sector





# From local government to local governance

## Enabling environment

- Leadership and political will from local and national government
- Break down barriers between sectors, agencies and institutional levels (IWRM)
- Coordination and harmonisation among stakeholders
- External programmes need to involve and empower local government





# From local government to local governance

## Internal operations

- Improve internal operations within local government
- Communication and coordination between sections within local government
- Integrated planning
- Out-of-the-box thinking



# Integrated planning: South Africa

- NGO AWARD in partnership with Bushbuckridge Local Municipality
- Participatory assessment of water services and water resources
- Involving
  - Water services
  - Agriculture
  - Social development
  - Integrated development planning
- New angles to look at old problems
- Joint solutions





# From local government to local governance

## Improving accountability

- Picking up the functions of planning, coordination and especially support to communities and end-users
- Multi-stakeholder participation
- Pro-active relations with communities, instead of reactive
- Promoting critical reflection





## We will do it ourselves: Colombia

- AQUACOL – association of community-based water supply service providers
- Lack of back-up support from rural (and urban) Municipalities to communities
- Community resource centres
- Voice vis-à-vis (local) government
- Support similar initiatives to enhance dialogue instead of avoiding confrontation





# From local government to local governance

## Learning to do better

- Capacity development through a learning-by-doing approach (incl critical reflection)
- Building upon the strengths of other organisations
  - Community-based organisations
  - NGOs
  - Knowledge institutes
  - (local) private sector



# Learning alliances: Middle East

- Euro Mediterranean Participatory Water Resources Scenarios (EMPOWERS)
- Three governorates in Jordan, Egypt and Palestine
- Improving IWRM at local level through multi-stakeholder process (learning alliance)
- Local governments benefit through access to research results
- Research more locally relevant





# Conclusions

- Local government has a key role in sustainable WASH service provision (and IWRM) for poverty alleviation
- But it cannot do it alone
- Need to fit in framework of improved local governance
  - Enabling environment
  - Internal operations
  - Accountability
  - Capacity development



## Conclusions

- Improving local governance does not come for free
- If achievements in improved WASH services are to remain sustainable, at least 10% of the funds made available for achieving the WASH MDGs must go into strengthening local governance (Dakar Statement)







## Want to know more?

- Global WASH forum, 29 Nov-3 Dec 2004, Dakar, Senegal ([www.wsscc.org/dakar](http://www.wsscc.org/dakar))
  - Sessions on local government involved over 50 people over three days
  - Background paper (Schouten & Moriarty, 2004; [www.irc.nl/page/16096](http://www.irc.nl/page/16096))
- Symposium Sustainable Water Supply and Sanitation: Strengthening Capacity for Local Governance
  - Delft, Netherlands, 26-28 Sep 2006
  - IRC International Water and Sanitation Centre and UNESCO-IHE Institute for Water Education