

LOCAL GOVERNMENT AND WASH SERVICE DELIVERY: A SOUTHERN AFRICA REGIONAL PERSPECTIVE BASED ON A PARTIAL ANALYSIS OF SELECTED SADC COUNTRIES

Kudzai Chatiza

Development Governance Institute

kudzai@mweb.co.zw;

+263 772 908 160

Structure & message



- A detour to Domboshawa (Ward 4, Goromonzi District, Zimbabwe);
- Highlights of the continent's institutional set-up for WASH;
- Sector status highlights (Southern Africa and some selected countries);
- Institutions for WASH (Lesotho, Malawi, Mozambique and Zimbabwe with some insights on common issues);
- Challenges and some lessons;
- The 'institutional constraint': a suggested way of understanding where efforts to unblock scaling and sustaining delivery are critical;
- Conclusion

WASH institutional & practice framework

1. African WASH institutional design generally informed by current sector thinking (*decentralization, participation, private sector involvement and redesigning state role*)
2. MDG 7:10c;
3. Africa Water [Vision](#) 2025 of 2000 & Framework for Action;
4. Abuja Ministerial Declaration & estab. of AMCOW (2002);
5. EThekwinini Declaration & Sharm El Sheikh pledge to accelerate WASH MDG targets (2008);
6. SADC Water Policy of 2005 esp. 4.2.1 (safe water for basic needs), 4.2.4 (pro-poor cost recovery), 4.2.5 (sustainable sanitation) and 4.2.7 (public awareness & hygiene ed.);
7. National constitutions, policies, laws and organizational/implementation arrangements;

Backlogs huge (even if data 'lied')



- 174 million (basic latrines);
- Above 100 million (safe water);
- 120 000 under-fives dying from diarrhoea caused by unsafe water and sanitation;
- (<http://www.theguardian.com/global-development/2014/mar/03/southern-africa-leaders-failing-prioritise-water-sanitation>).

WASH Status (JMP 2014; UNECA 2014)

Country	Water coverage (%)		Sanitation coverage (%)		Open defecation rate 2012 (%)
	1990	2012	1990	2012	
Lesotho	77.5	81.3	-	29.6	34
Malawi	42.1	85.0	9.6	10.3	7
Mozambique	33.6	49.2	8.5	21.0	40
Zimbabwe	79.2	79.9	40.6	39.9	25
Africa	-	69	-	45	25

Country-level WASH institutional arrangements: framing of Local Government roles

1. Lesotho:

- a. General proposals for devolution in Const (S106) and 1996 LGA & Policy
- b. Const S27 (b and e) & S36 i.e. public health & environmental hygiene;
- c. Water & Sanitation Policy : principles D- 'lowest appropriate level of govt', E-women and girls & F universal access;
- d. Water Committees, District & Community Councils;

1. Malawi:

- a. Const & 1998 LGA propose devolution (elected Councils, popular partic. in development planning);
- b. Reforms stalled, fiscal & admin decentralization;
- c. Consultative Fora in place of Councils & donors (with some SWAp's) & MPs filling gaps;
- d. 2014 local elections and 'revitalisation' of LG;

Country-level WASH institutional arrangements: framing of Local Government roles

1. Mozambique:

- a. Laws 9/96 (dec.), 11/97 & 8/2003 (local resource raising powers) & 2005 Const propose multi-tier system (national to locality);
- b. Centre-local sharing of certain taxes;
- c. All four levels (central, provincial, district & Municipal) with WASH functions (& variable competences);

1. Zimbabwe:

- a. WASH relevant Const provisions (S29; 73 & 77) complementing Water Policy and relevant sector laws;
- b. LG with distinct WASH responsibility (defined in law) & set for boost with Const defining devolved governance;
- c. Multi-actor responsibility beyond LG esp. for small urban & rural LGs

Common institutional trends with WASH delivery implications

1. Growing importance attached to sector & design of institutions consistent with global trends (dec., participatory, private sector involvement etc);
2. WASH leadership generally assigned to a Water Ministry with nominal role for LG (often coordinating different actors) in context of stalled decentralization;
3. Non-state involvement generally evolves from a humanitarian & pro-poor focus (with some design impairments for scalability & sustainability);
4. Sector suffers from weak economies- poverty –weak WASH public institutions and rapid urbanization;
5. Mixed delivery models but with distinct donor funding, public sector ‘control’ & nascent private sector;

WASH challenges and Lessons

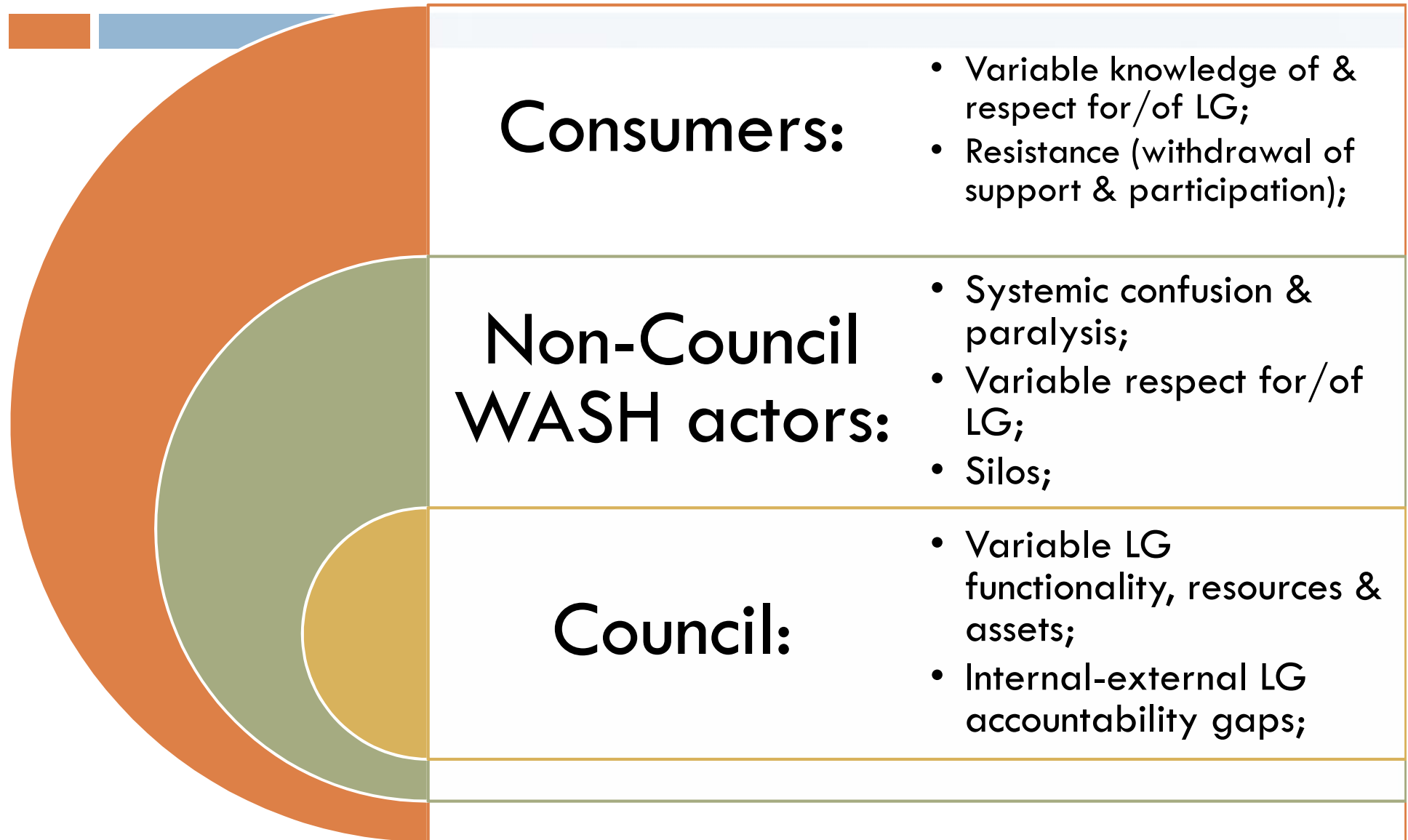
Challenges

1. Urbanization & poverty stress;
2. Falling household sizes amid fast household formation;
3. Service affordability (income and technology) issues & rural-urban service gaps (INEQUITY);
4. Learning, scaling up and sustainability gaps;
5. Inadequate political will e.g. on slum tenure, planning & WASH standards;

Lessons

1. Top-level & long-term political (& policy) commitment to WASH;
2. Clear legislation to guide and give confidence to sector agencies;
3. Devolution of authority to local government and communities for programme accountability;
4. Involving local institutions and media to empower communities & stimulate local development;
5. Sensitive, flexible, and country-specific external support.

Capacity Issues (DEGI & WHH 2014)



Conclusion



1. Clear institutional framework and formal commitment on water and sanitation as human rights (& critical realizing other MDGs: poverty, gender, education and health goals);
2. Institutional design inadequately decentralized making for difficult coordination by LGs in their areas and weakening overall collective performance;
3. Citizen responsibility (and informed participation) inadequately mobilized (itself an indication of weakly established local governance);

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