



## Issue 187 | April 17, 2015 | WASH and Enabling Environments

An article in a 2015 issue of the journal *Water* defines an enabling environment for drinking water services as the inclusion of a favorable culture of internal coordination and communication; policy and institutional guidelines that direct the behavior of water service providers with clear and enforceable service standards; and resources to provide effective water services. Resources and studies in this issue include examples of tools to assess the enabling environment of WASH services, components of an enabling environment, case studies from Malawi and Guyana, and other studies.

### GENERAL/OVERVIEW

**Rethinking Sustainability, Scaling Up, and Enabling Environment: A Framework for Their Implementation in Drinking Water Supply.** *Water*, 7(4) 2015. A Urooj, The Water Institute, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. [Link](#)

The terms sustainability, scaling up, and enabling environment are inconsistently used in implementing water supply projects. To clarify these terms the authors develop a framework based on Normalization Process Theory, and apply the framework to a hypothetical water supply project in schools. The resulting framework provides guidance on how these terms could be implemented and analyzed in water supply projects. They conclude that effective use of the terms sustainability, scaling up, and enabling environment would focus on purpose, process, and perspective. This is the first known attempt to analyze the implementation of the three terms together in the context of water supply services.

**Looking Beyond Technology: An Integrated Approach to Water, Sanitation and Hygiene in Low Income Countries.** *Env Sci Tech*, July 2014. E Tilley. [Link](#)

The concept of an enabling environment (developed in the context of planning processes) has six key elements: government support (including political will); the legal and regulatory framework, with appropriate standards and codes at national and municipal levels; institutional arrangements that can support planned technological interventions; effective local skills and capacity for sustainable use, operation, and maintenance of the planned technologies; financial arrangements that facilitate the mobilization of funds for implementation; and socio-cultural acceptance such that prevailing attitudes are aligned (or at least not fundamentally incompatible) with the technologies or practices to be implemented, which should be matched to the user's perceptions, preferences, and level of commitment.

### COMMUNITY-LED TOTAL SANITATION

**Community-led Total Sanitation Research Brief: Implementation Context in Kenya, Ghana, and Ethiopia**, 2015. J Crocker, The Water Institute, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. [Link](#).

Contextual factors may affect how local actors influence sanitation outcomes. In 2012, prior to working with local actors in Kenya, Ghana, and Ethiopia, researchers characterized the national context for implementing CLTS in each country. This publication synthesizes the research findings and shows how they illustrate the conclusions of the UN-Water GLAAS 2014 report, as they relate to political processes, implementation, and monitoring and evaluations systems. Decision-makers may utilize the information to guide CLTS policy and strategic plans.

**Community-led Total Sanitation in Kenya, Ghana, and Ethiopia: Findings from Situational Assessments**. J Crocker, The Water Institute, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. | [Kenya Summary](#) | [Ghana Summary](#) | [Ethiopia Summary](#) |

A situational assessment can inform program planning and evaluation. In 2012, researchers assessed national policy, institutional arrangements, and monitoring systems for CLTS in Kenya, Ghana, and Ethiopia prior to evaluating Plan International CLTS projects involving local actors. The authors found that in these three countries, the national government shows strong support for CLTS, non-government actors play key roles in implementation, and improved monitoring is needed to assess program efficiency and effectiveness. Three individual research summaries provide a baseline reference for CLTS policy-makers and practitioners working in Kenya, Ghana, and Ethiopia.

## CASE STUDIES/TOOLS

**Sustainability and Scale-Up of Household Water Treatment and Safe Storage Practices: Enablers and Barriers to Effective Implementation**. *Intl Jnl Hyg Environ Health*, Mar 2015. E Ojomoa, The Water Institute, University of North Carolina Chapel Hill. [Link](#)

This study maps out enablers and barriers to sustaining and scaling up household water treatment and safe storage (HWTS) practices. Interviews were carried out with 79 practitioners who had experience with HWTS programs in more than 25 countries. A total of 47 enablers and barriers were identified. Findings can assist governments, NGOs, and other organizations involved in HWTS to approach programs more effectively and efficiently.

**Strengthening Public Sector Enabling Environments to Support Sanitation Enterprises**, 2014. Water For People (WFP). [Link](#)

Water For People is piloting sanitation business approaches and seeks to discover under what conditions these approaches are successful. Public sector influence is one condition that has the potential to facilitate or hinder private sector sanitation endeavors. This study aims to understand: how the public sector enabling environment can facilitate or hinder low-cost sanitation enterprises and how NGOs can effectively engage the public sector to support sanitation businesses.

**Drinking Water Quality Governance: A Comparative Case Study of Brazil, Ecuador, and Malawi**. *Environ Sci & Policy* 48: 2015. G Kayser, The Water Institute, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. [Link](#)

This study analyzes drinking water governance challenges in three countries – Brazil, Ecuador, and Malawi – as perceived by government, service providers, and civil society organizations. It finds that access to safe water could be improved if certain water governance challenges were

addressed: coordination and data sharing between ministries that deal with drinking water services; monitoring and enforcement of water quality laws; and sufficient technical capacity to improve administrative and technical management of water services at the local level. From an analysis of our field research, the authors also developed a conceptual framework that identifies policy levers that could be used to influence governance of drinking water quality on national and sub-national levels, and the relationships between these levers.

**Developing a National Framework for Safe Drinking water—Case Study from Iceland.** *Int Jnl Hyg Environ Health*, 218: 2014. M Gunnarsdottir. [Link](#)

The national framework for safe drinking water in Iceland sets out legislated roles and responsibilities for key actors. The Water Institute at UNC analyzed implementation performance and concluded that the main components are in place, including water quality surveillance and mandatory water safety plans. However, enforcement of legal requirements and guidance by central authorities need improvement. Lessons are transferable to other European nations and provide insight into the development of national frameworks for water safety.

**Integrated Approaches to Tackling Sanitation Challenges in Rural Cambodia, 2015.** The World Bank. [Video](#)

The Royal Government of Cambodia, through the Ministry of Rural Development, has released a National Strategic Plan to promote sanitation in rural areas. To help achieve the Cambodian National Strategic Plan, The World Bank's Water and Sanitation Program has adopted an approach focusing on: increasing access to and use of improved sanitation facilities, creating demand for improved sanitation facilities, and strengthening the enabling environment for sustained and large scale sanitation programs. This video illustrates how three water and sanitation pilot programs—sanitation marketing, sanitation finance, and behavior change communications—are helping households, particularly the poor, gain access to sanitation.

**Enabling Environment through Public Policies: Achieving Universal and Sustainable Access to “Adequate” Sanitation in Guyana and the Wider Caribbean, 2014.** D Shako, School of Civil Engineering and Geosciences, Newcastle University. [Link](#)

Creating an environment where stakeholders at all levels have the ability, authority, and resources to take action is considered one of the best ways to achieve universal and sustainable access to adequate sanitation.

**Enabling Environment Assessment, 2014.** R Schweitzer. [Link](#)

This tool is one of 25 tools for WASH sustainability reviewed as part of the Triple-S project and further elaborated on in the working paper [Mapping of Water, Sanitation and Hygiene Sustainability Tools](#) (Ryan Schweitzer, Claire Grayson, and Harold Lockwood). The one-pagers describe sustainability assessment tools for WASH interventions.

**Sustainable Solutions in Peri-Urban Areas of Bolivia, 2014.** WFP. [Link](#)

This study analyzes the introduction of the Ecological Dry Toilet (BES in Spanish) as a sanitation cycle market opportunity in peri-urban areas of large towns in Bolivia. Through specific projects and the promotion of an enabling environment WFP has adopted this focus in areas that are not covered by conventional sewerage networks.

**Egyptian-Swiss Research on Innovations in Sustainable Sanitation: ESRISS.** EAWAG. [Link](#)

The ESRISS project investigated existing small-scale sanitation initiatives and the current

“enabling environment” in Egypt. After numerous interviews with key sanitation stakeholders and field visits, small-scale sanitation challenges were identified and ways forward recommended.

**Analysis of Water Governance in Malawi: Towards a Favourable Enabling Environment?** *Jnl Wat San and Hyg Develop*, 4(2) 2014. W Quinex, Water Research Node. [Abstract](#)

This paper examines the enabling environment for effective water governance in Malawi by specifically determining the extent to which the water acts and policies of Malawi reflect international water governance principles of participation, accountability, and transparency. It is argued that governance issues determine the extent to which sound and equitable water sharing is achieved among competing uses.

**Water, Sanitation and Hygiene Bottleneck Analysis Tool (WASH-BAT)**. UNICEF; The World Bank. [Link](#)

WASH-BAT is a sector analysis and monitoring tool developed in 2011 by UNICEF and The World Bank as part of the Marginal Budgeting for Bottlenecks approach. It aims to assess the enabling environment of WASH delivery by tracking the removal of barriers to sustainable and efficient services at national, regional, service provider, and community levels. The performance of enabling factors is scored and activities for the removal of each bottleneck are identified, sequenced, and prioritized.

**Sanitation Monitoring Toolkit**, n.d. UNICEF. [Link](#)

One section of this toolkit defines and explains the components of an enabling environment for sanitation and explains how this is monitored. Links and headline information are provided for the Country Status Overview, the WASH Bottleneck Analysis Tool, the eThekwini commitments, the UN Water Global Analysis and Assessment of Sanitation and Drinking Water, the monitoring of high-level meeting commitments under Sanitation and Water for All, and the pan-African sector monitoring mechanism of the African Ministers’ Council on Water.

**Investing in Water and Sanitation: Increasing Access, Reducing Inequalities: Global Analysis and Assessment of Sanitation and Drinking-Water (GLAAS) Report**, 2014. WHO. [Link](#)

Ten key findings emerge from GLAAS 2014. The results show that to improve access and reduce inequalities beyond 2015, much needs to be done to effectively implement and monitor WASH policies at national level, including to: secure, absorb and target sustained international and national financing; renew focus on health facilities as a priority; to strengthen action in the crucial area of hygiene promotion; support the operation and maintenance of existing infrastructure and services; and expand efforts in neglected rural areas where the need for improved services is greatest.

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WASHplus Weeklies highlight topics such as Urban WASH, Household Air Pollution, Innovation, Household Water Treatment and Storage, Hand Washing, Integration, and more. If you would like to feature your organization's materials in upcoming issues, please send them to Dan Campbell, WASHplus Knowledge Resources Specialist, at [dacampbell@fhi360.org](mailto:dacampbell@fhi360.org).



**About WASHplus** - WASHplus, a five-year project funded through USAID's Bureau for Global Health, supports healthy households and communities by creating and delivering interventions that lead to improvements in access, practice and health outcomes related to water, sanitation, hygiene (WASH) and household air pollution (HAP). WASHplus uses at-scale, targeted as well as integrated approaches to reduce diarrheal diseases and acute respiratory infections, the two top killers of children under five years of age globally. For information, visit [www.washplus.org](http://www.washplus.org) or email: [contact@washplus.org](mailto:contact@washplus.org).