



Issue 212 | Oct. 30, 2015 | Focus on Enabling Environments

A generic definition states that an enabling environment is a set of interrelated conditions—such as legal, organizational, fiscal, informational, political, and cultural—that impact on the capacity of development organizations to engage in development processes in a sustained and effective manner. This issue contains 2015 and earlier reports and studies from The World Bank, the Water Institute at UNC (University of North Carolina), Water For People, and other organizations.

2015 Studies and Reports

An Enabling Environment for Urban Sanitation, 2015. L Medland. SPLASH Urban Sanitation Research Programme. [Link](#)

This briefing note discusses the institutional, policy, and other factors that create an enabling environment for urban sanitation.

Against the Current: How to Shape an Enabling Environment for Sustainable Water Service Delivery in Nigeria, 2015. H Doula, The World Bank. [Link](#)

Nigeria has enough surface and ground water to meet domestic demand, but as of 2004 half of its urban population did not have access to piped water. And for those who did have access, water taps flowed only a few hours a day. Rapid urban population growth of 5.7 percent per year heightened the difficulties faced by state water agencies in meeting the need for piped water and expanding production capacity. Poorly maintained and aging pipes were subject to frequent leakages, and some newly built pipes carried no water owing to intermittent power supply.

The WASH Performance Index Report, 2015. R Cronk, The Water Institute at UNC. [Link](#)

The Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene (WASH) Performance Index is a comparison of country performance in realizing universal WASH. The WASH Performance Index assesses performance in the following components: water access, water equity, sanitation access, and sanitation equity. Progress toward equity in sanitation is significantly associated with governance indicators including control of corruption, government effectiveness, regulatory quality, and rule of law. These results suggest the enabling environment for WASH contributes to progress in sanitation equity.

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 at UNC. [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.

Testing the Waters: A Qualitative Comparative Analysis of the Factors Affecting Success in Rendering Water Services Sustainable Based on ICT Reporting, 2015. K Welle, IDS. [Link](#)

The potential of Information and Communication Technology (ICT) services in improving service delivery is well recognized. In the water sector, there has been a growing interest in supporting the sustainability of services in recent years. The sector has also witnessed an increase in ICT initiatives, including those that aim to improve and sustain water services. The objective of this research is, therefore, to better understand the factors that facilitate and inhibit the success of ICT-based reporting to improve rural water supply sustainability.

Strengthening Public Sector Enabling Environments to Support Sanitation Enterprises, 2015. Water For People. [Link](#)

This study aims to understand: 1) how the public sector enabling environment can facilitate or hinder low-cost sanitation enterprises and 2) how NGOs can effectively engage the public sector to support sanitation businesses.

Engaging Private Sector Actors in WASH in School Work, 2015. J Tiberghien, Partnerships in Practice. [Link](#)

This study focuses on international and domestic private companies and their foundations. It examines these partners, reveals their incentives to join WASH in Schools multisector partnerships, uncovers trends and patterns in their contributions, and the benefits they derive from such partnerships.

What Factors Affect Sustained Adoption of Safe Water, Hygiene and Sanitation Technologies? 2015. K Hlland. [Link](#)

To further their understanding of the barriers to and facilitators of sustained adoption and use of water and sanitation technologies, the researchers conducted a systematic review of studies concerning both initial and sustained adoption of WASH interventions at the individual,

household, and community levels in low- and middle income countries.

EARLIER STUDIES AND REPORTS

Mapping of Water, Sanitation and Hygiene Sustainability Tools, 2014. R Schweitzer. [Link](#)

This paper contains the findings of a mapping of WASH sustainability tools currently in use, as well as the outcomes of a survey looking into demand: in short assessing the current state of the market for sustainability tools and identifying the gaps.

Sanitation Monitoring Toolkit. UNICEF. [Link](#)

This website provides sanitation and hygiene sector professionals with access to current approaches to sanitation monitoring, including guidance on how to use various monitoring instruments and links to the latest tools and resources. The focus is on rural sanitation.

Sanitation Monitoring Toolkit: Monitoring the Enabling Environment. UNICEF. [Link](#)

This toolkit provides an overview of the main tools for monitoring the environment that enables large-scale sanitation programs to be developed and sustained. There is growing attention to monitoring the enabling environment.

Creating the Enabling Environment, n.d. World Health Organization. [Link](#)

Changing the enabling environment so that WASH investments are more effective is a challenging task.

Service Delivery Indicators and Monitoring to Improve Sustainability of Rural Water Supplies, 2014. H Lockwood. [Link](#)

One of the first steps is a monitoring system that is able to track the level of service over time and the performance of key technical, financial, and management functions so that problems can be anticipated and addressed.

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](#) (R Schweitzer, C Grayson, and H Lockwood). The one-pagers describe sustainability assessment tools for WASH interventions.

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.

UNICEF Sanitation Marketing Learning Series: Enabling Environment: What Roles and Functions Are Needed in the New Sanitation Market? D Pedi. [Link](#)

This note discusses the role of the market within sanitation programming, what roles and functions different actors can play to support the new sanitation market, how local government can be involved in linking supply and demand to grow and sustain local markets,

and Practical tips for UNICEF in identifying and supporting actors to take on new roles.

Community-Led Urban Environmental Sanitation Planning: CLUES Complete Guidelines for Decision-Makers with 30 Tools, n.d. EAWAG. [Link](#)

This updated set of planning guidelines is based on the lessons learned from piloting the household centered environmental sanitation (HCES) approach. The name change from HCES to CLUES highlights the importance of broad community involvement (beyond the household level) in the planning and decision making processes. It includes a summary checklist for a preliminary assessment of the enabling environment.

Enabling Environment for Handwashing, n.d. PPPHW. [Link](#)

To achieve handwashing behavior change, the determinants of handwashing, or the enabling environment, must facilitate sustained handwashing behavior. These determinants are sometimes described as “hardware” and “software,” respectively. The so-called hardware components that comprise the enabling environment for handwashing include available soap; access to water that can be used for handwashing; and access to appropriate and desirable handwashing stations. The software components of the enabling environment include knowledge about handwashing; motivation to adopt the behavior; and the social context.

Enabling Environment Endline Assessment: Indonesia, 2011. A Robinson. [Link](#)

This report presents the main findings and recommendations from the endline assessment of the ability of the enabling environment to scale up, sustain, and replicate sanitation improvements in East Java, Indonesia.

Challenges for the Future of Urban Sanitation Planning: Critical Analysis of John Kalbermatten’s Influence. *Journal of Water, Sanitation and Hygiene for Development*, Jan 2014. R Kennedy-Walker. [Link](#)

During the 1980s, John Kalbermatten and his colleagues at The World Bank revolutionized urban sanitation planning. During the last 30 years urban sanitation planning theory has evolved from an engineering focus to a more participatory, multi-disciplinary and user focused future, informed largely by the work of John Kalbermatten. This paper looks at a number of the most important urban sanitation planning approaches that have emerged post Kalbermatten and seeks to trace the influence of his work on their theoretical underpinnings and characteristics.

Guidelines for Assessing the Enabling Environment Conditions for Large Scale, Effective and Sustainable Handwashing with Soap Projects, 2008. L Cogswell, The World Bank. [Link](#)

The purpose of these guidelines is to provide guidance to programmatic staff in the water supply and sanitation, health, and other sectors on how to carry out an assessment of the enabling environment for large-scale, effective, and sustainable handwashing programming.

WASHplus Weeklies highlight topics such as Urban WASH, Household Air Pollution, Innovation, Household Water Treatment and Storage, Handwashing, 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.



About WASHplus - WASHplus, a multi-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 or email: contact@washplus.org.