

## **Rapporteur Reporting for Sessions at AfricaSan 4**

**Name of Session: Tackling Sustainability of sanitation investments: Looking beyond technology and behaviour.**

**Session number: G**

**Convenor(s): WaterAid and WSSCC**

**Approx number of participants: 100**

**Name of Rapporteur: Ceridwen Johnson/Matilda Jerneck**

**Copies of all slides collected?**

**Please give a short summary of the session: its objective, highlights of speakers and conclusions (max 300 words)**

The session aimed at sharing experiences from various countries on how sanitation and hygiene programmes are addressing issues of sustainability of investments made to sustain sanitation and hygiene with consideration to not only technology and behaviour change. In the presentations, it was clear that in addition to technological options available, there is need for collective action from various institutions i.e. governments, development partners, community leaders, community members to invest in collective behaviour change.

While working on sanitation and hygiene programmes, there is need to clearly articulate the roles of various players and an appeal was made to consider a district as a manageable administrative level for decision making and implementation.

Use of champions to spearhead change in sanitation and hygiene programmes is likely to influence positive change and achieve sustainability and scale. For example, institutional triggering at the highest level brings in place unprecedented support for sanitation and hygiene and ensure resource allocation for programme delivery in the long term.

Multispectral approach to sanitation and hygiene – no success in sanitation and behaviour change if implemented in isolation – health, education, water etc. must work in harmony and continue to consciously invest in both institutions and communities.

Rights and not need should be used as a basis for decision making on investment on sanitation and hygiene.

**What were the 3 main messages/essential points made at the session?** (these could come from the summing up, from consensus in the discussion, points made by key speakers or your judgement on what was most important)

1. It is crucial to put the community at the centre and focus on their rights. It is important that we don't only think about institutions. We need to ensure that people know about the change they want to see and are able to strengthen the change. The WSSCC GSF experience in Madagascar highlights the power of the community in sustaining the change. The approach has ensured continuity

in the change that they are part of. The people have development in their own hands.

2. Gathering different people from different institutions ensures impact. Decentralisation and mobilisation at district or commune level is more likely to bring sustainability – long lasting and quality services. The key is to involve all stakeholders and ensure a connection is made towards an agreement to change the lives of the people.
3. Sustainability should not come at a certain point in time. It has to start at the beginning (or even before the beginning) of the implementation. It should not be an ‘add on’ but be included in the entire process. In addition, we need to provide the means to ensure that sustainability happens – e.g. capacity, institutional framework. Planning for this should be done in a systematic manner.

### **Any recommendations for Ministerial commitments from the session?**

- Donors to integrate WASH in to development programmes e.g. HIV. Donors and INGO focus on long term development. Funding should target poverty to avoid resources addressing inequality
- Avoid subsidy approaches.
- A combination of subsidy and non-subsidy
- Community should be at the centre of the approaches so they own the approaches
- Community capacity development
- Focus on capacity development of the communities, local government and NGOs
- Sector wide approach needed
- Increase learning and sharing
- National system of M&E is required
- Promote local solutions

### **Any good quotes by speakers that capture the essence of the discussion or the state of the topic?**

*‘Where does sanitation belong? This is politics. This is about power and how power is used and how power is applied. This is about power and how people access it to make decisions. We need to play politics and power in a way that ensures sustainability will be achieved and maintained.’* **Paul Obura, WaterAid**

*‘Be innovative and take risks. How can you get the leaders to be involved but not just involved but to ACT. And monitor that...Let them see that sanitation is a huge problem holding back process and keep them engaged.’* **Mariame Dem, WaterAid**

### **Any other comments on the session?**