

25th SanCoP Event



Towards SDG 6.2 - Reflecting on and Responding to the Pandemic and ODA Cuts

Background



SanCoP Aims to strengthen and develop the watsan sector in the UK by:

- sharing evidence-based knowledge and experience
- encouraging multi-disciplinary and multi-sectoral dialogue
- providing opportunities for the participation of young professionals

2 workshops per year

- Virtual (in-person again?)
- Topics suggested by the community
- Join our mailing list (sancop.uk@gmail.com and Twitter [@sancopuk](https://twitter.com/sancopuk))
- Get in touch with the coordinators (*Jonathan, Christine, Sally*)

Chatham House Rule



Sanitation
Community
of Practice

‘Participants are free to use the information received, but neither the identity nor the affiliation of the speaker(s)’ – Chatham House

Simply means - we ask that you don't attribute information to a person or organisation without their permission

Aim is to encourage openness and the sharing of information

Agenda – 25th SanCoP



Sanitation
Community
of Practice

TIME	EVENT
11.00-11.05	Welcome
11.05-11.15	Session 1 – Implications of COVID-19 pandemic for WASH sector partnerships, Joseph Thompson and Ruhil Iyer, Institute of Development Studies (IDS)
11.15-11.25	Session 2a – Implications of ODA funding cuts and FCDO merger for WASH sector, Tim Brewer (Water Witness)
11.25-11.35	Session 2b – Implications of ODA funding cuts and FCDO merger for WASH sector, Abel Dugange, Shahidi wa Maji, Tanzania
11.35-12.05	BREAKOUT ROOMS (30 minutes, key questions)
12.05-12.10	<i>Break</i>
12.10 – 12.25	Breakout Rapporteurs (Water WISER Team)
12.25-12.55	Panel Discussion & Wrap-up
12.55-13.00	AOB & Close

Breakout rooms

Room	Chair	Rapporteur	Questions	Key Questions
Pandemic 1	Joseph	Hannah Ritchie	1+2	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> New ways of working <ul style="list-style-type: none"> What are the benefits of the new ways of working? What impacts could this have on the sector more broadly?
Pandemic 2	Jemma	Georgia	3+choice	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Decolonising the sector <ul style="list-style-type: none"> What impact has the increased localised response had on actors and the power dynamics at play? How can we translate conversations on decolonisation into positive change?
ODA 1	Alison	Hannah Robinson	1+2	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Progress towards SDG 6.2 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> How has the pandemic / cuts affected sanitation and hygiene (access, management, investment, sustainability etc)? How can we build on this momentum to elevate the profile of sanitation and hygiene?
ODA 2	Christine	Reychel	3+choice	

Breakout Room 1 - Pandemic 1 Notes

1. New ways of working

What are the benefits of the new ways of working?

More opportunities for people living outside of cities and in different countries and those already working from home – enabled access to webinars and networking – have been able to learn more and feel more involved

Potentially even bringing new people into the sector that wouldn't have had access before

More awareness globally about the importance of hygiene

Researchers thinking more about how they can work remotely and cope with fieldwork data collection

Negatives

Feel quite isolated, Miss socialising and talking about work and networking

Emphasised the disconnect. Feel unconnected to projects – emphasised concerns about whether our work is filtering down to where our work is based.

Projects taking so much longer. Not being with communities and partners has been difficult

Validation of work is getting slower. Can't do fieldwork – impacts research and completeness of projects

Difficult to work in labs also – slows down progress

Post Covid world / broad impacts

To think more critically about when travel is essential and about who does what in research

Hopefully more prepared for anything like this happening again. Remember and learn from this experience

2. Decolonising the sector

What impact has the increased localised response had on actors and the power dynamics at play?

Localised response should be more organised. Learn from other sectors. E.g. need social distancing.

Reduced inequalities as less western researchers in the field so more opportunity for local actors to collect data etc.

Local actors have more work now in the research field, more involved in data collection, more power.

Easier with well-developed partnerships

Relationship with in-country partners is more difficult in new projects where foundations weren't already established

How can we translate conversations on decolonisation into positive change?

How we actually make meaningful change is challenging.

Some ideas about potentially useful changes:

- For projects to include much more capacity building
- Structure of funding needs to change: impenetrable funding system for partners: very inaccessible for partners / different to how they work and time consuming
- Set of written principles about what donors etc. should be engaging with
- Aid conditions need to be flexible.
- Need pilot study when implementing any projects – critical to think what people on the ground actually want
- Monitoring and maintenance of services needs to improve

Breakout Room 2 - Pandemic 2 Notes

3. Progress towards SDG 6.2

Hygiene training for COVID response - wasn't accessible before

Sanitation under appreciated sibling of water access, hygiene had a less privileged status but now has a tangible awareness of its importance

Challenge - framing funding going forward, sense of immediate need for good hygiene in response to covid but we're now moving past that?

Uneven rolling out of vaccine - will be a problem in large parts of the world for the next 2 years and beyond

Distributions of handwashing facilities was a new aspect of the work, behaviour change, Looking more at system strengthening

Kenya looking at 3rd/4th wave - when is it not an emergency and protracted - Need to make clear that it's a continued epidemic in other places

Frontline response are shattered, no vaccines

UK based people are looking at longer term things - hard to balance the two (emergency response and long term strategy plans)

Can't rely on short-term planning now

WASH finance - Maharashtra, projects were delayed, taxes were not collected (property) big impacted on finances

FSM - schedule for desludging still operating, service delivery good, but just finances were affected

Social responsibility grant - setting up 20-30 hand washing stations in the city where they works, took initiative for putting in pumps for the handwashing systems

Stations will continue post-pandemics

Looking for sustainable solutions

2. Decolonising the sector

Without so much technology, we could have achieved more levels of decolonisation if this had happened 10 years ago. Although more responsibility given to in country teams, westerners can still hold a lot of power and dictate from their home seats

Great opportunity to interact and collaborate with people around the world through conferences etc.

What do we mean by decolonisation? Very contested, delegation of power and decision making powers

Problems cannot be solved with european viewpoint, need local ideas and local leadership

Sharing practical ways of being mindful to not put pressures on local researchers through collaboration

Has brought the ideas of colonisation to the forefront of our minds to how intrinsic and insidious it is in dictating how the sector works

Articulation of power structures, who holds the purse strings

How can we as individuals work in a way where we're dismantling the archaic structures

Sharing authorship, ethical collaboration, wherein power is shared evenly

Breakout Room 3 - ODA 1 Notes

1. New ways of working

What are the benefits of the new ways of working?

Very limited benefits to come out of these cuts – Projects now being cut have massive ramifications in terms of ‘value for money’ and there are countless negative impacts from the removal of this funding

If we are able to help shape the way they effect sector, there may be a possibility to limit the ‘damage’ but no clear positives at this stage

What impacts could this have on the sector more broadly?

We could have increased joined thinking between governments (internationally)

Increased policy coherence (strategic thinking around WASH and health priorities generally)

Amplified focus on climate change in relation to sanitation systems (due to increased focus)

Change in use of terminology to fit with the political narrative in terms of reporting outputs

Possible opportunity for sector to change the rigid lines that funders use (however, it may then become harder to track deliverables)

Generally there are many current uncertainties on end-term ramifications for the deliverability of current programmes

Breakout Room 4 - ODA 2 Notes

Challenges

- Cuts have affected the confidence, the planning and monitoring activities:
- The overall impacts have affected the economy, food security, education, and the industrialization agenda (water allocation).
- Programmes have been impacted: Follow up, cut of programmes, strength and sustainability.
- Pandemic have exposed the need of baseline data, for efficient use of the resources.
- Decolonizing is not only not traveling: But the impact on data, researchers and engaging.

Positive Impacts

- Handwashing Compendium
- More efficient meeting (level up the game in a global perspective).
- More handwashing facilities.
- Better Training
- WASH has a global voice