

Perceptions of Sustainability: Planning Sanitation Projects in West Africa

*The Sanitation Challenge
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Why Sustainable Sanitation?

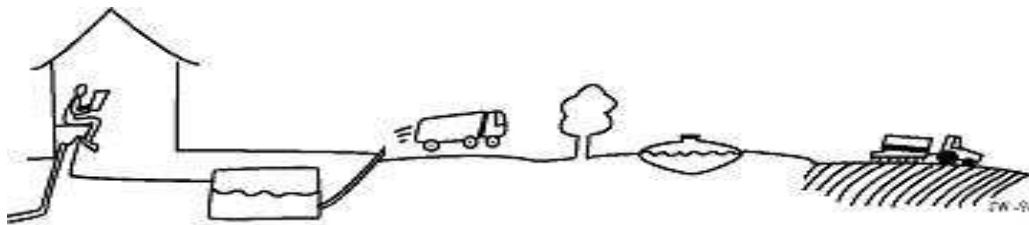
- ❑ Strong link to environmental and public health, economy, and human dignity
- ❑ 2.6 billion people without toilets/latrines
- ❑ Enormous amount of funds need to be invested in sanitation to meet the MDGs
- ❑ Important to invest in sustainable sanitation systems



What is Sustainability Sanitation?

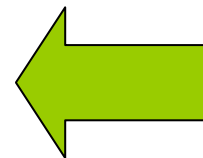
□ **A sanitation system that is sustainable...**

...protects and promotes human health, does not contribute to environmental degradation or depletion of the resource base, is technically and institutionally appropriate, economically viable and socially acceptable (Bracken *et al.*, 2005)



□ **Health gains only accrue if...**

- User adapt to using the facility
- The facility is managed properly
- System users adopt good hygiene practices



**More Than Just
Infrastructure**

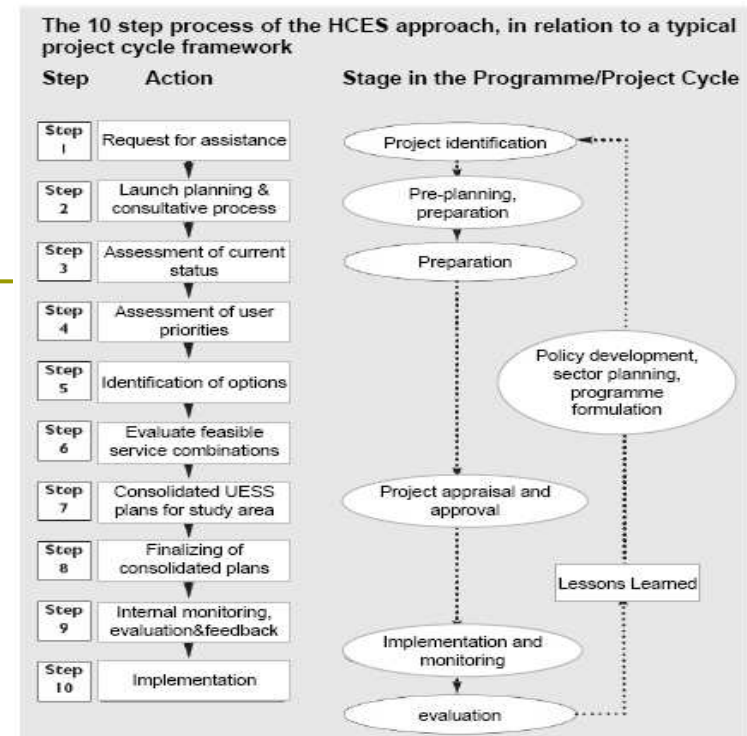
How to get there?

- Decision-support models
 - Criteria Approaches
 - Planning frameworks (HCES, Sanitation 21)

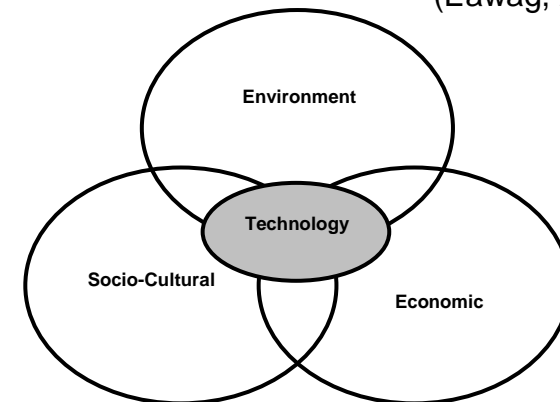
However,

- Few cases where frameworks have been fully implemented
- Knowledge gap between the "global" and "local" contexts?

→ Explore local perceptions of sustainability



(Eawag, 2005)



Methodology

- Interviews with local actors
 - 20 interviews with key informants in Burkina Faso and Mali
 - Meaning categorization of responses
- International literature review
 - Academic and international development organizations
- Cases of planning practices in sanitation projects

Interview Results

Different Definitions of Sustainable Sanitation

"sustainable sanitation systems are ones that will endure and continue to provide benefits after the initial stimulus, support, and funding have ended"

"community exhibits ownership, people put hygiene/sanitation lessons into practice, and there is general cleanliness in the village"

Criteria from Interviews

□ **Socio-cultural**

- Capacity Building
- Institutional Communication
- Laws & Policy
- Cultural Acceptability
- Awareness-Raising for Behaviour Change

□ **Technical**

- Adaptation to local community
- O&M requirements

□ **Economics**

- Affordable
- Marketing
- Financial Management

□ **Process**

- Participation
- Planning
- Monitoring & Evaluation

Interviewees emphasize Processes related to Behaviour Change

Literature Review

- Literature in international journals and conferences tends to be technically oriented

	Identified in Interviews	Technical Literature	“Best Practice”
Environment		X	
Economics <small>jrm3</small>	X	X	
Socio-cultural	X	X	
Health		X	
Technical	X	X	
Process	X		

Slide 8

jrm3

It is also interesting to note that criteria related to health and environmental factors were rarely mentioned related to sustainability in the interviews. Perhaps it is assumed that a functioning, sustainable system will provide these benefits, and that by fulfilling the other criteria, specifically technical ones, health and environmental improvements will be achieved.

Jennifer; 17-5-2008

Literature Review

- Literature from project reports:
Lessons-learned and best-practice recommendations

	Identified in Interviews	Technical Literature	“Best Practice”
Environment		X	
Economics	X	X	X
Socio-cultural	X	X	X
Health		X	
Technical	X	X	X
Process	X		X

Slide 9

jrm5

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Case Study

National Office for Water and Sanitation (ONEA)

Burkina Faso

□ Success

- Institutional arrangements (financial mgmt)
- Households given choice of on-site technology
- Awareness-raising program

□ Challenges

- Little emphasis on O&M
- High program & technical costs
- Inequalities in subsidy distribution

	Socio-cultural	Economic	Technical	Process
Preliminary Accords	Institutions			Participation
Situational Analysis	Institutions Acceptable	Financing	Adaptation	Participation
Pilot Phase	Capacity Institutions Awareness	Marketing	Adaptation	Participation
Stakeholder Workshops	Awareness			Participation M&E
Strategic Plans (including M&E)			Adaptation	Planning
Finalize Plan	Laws & Policy			

Conclusions

- Need to reach a common understanding on the goal of Sustainable Sanitation
- Requires technical requirements and social change processes
- Future Research
 - Understand existing decision-making/planning situation
 - How can local and global perspectives be merged?

Thanks for Listening

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