

Participatory planning
with a municipality for
sustainable sanitation
solutions:

Experience from Babati, Tanzania

Joanne Beale
Freelance WASH specialist

14 June 2019



WaterAid

Contents

1

Context

2

Building
partnerships

3

Engaging and building
capacity with municipalities

4

Shifting mindsets

5

Challenges

6

Takeaways

1

Context

1

Context

- Research-based participatory planning for sanitation in a small town
- 3-year project as part of the SHARE (Sanitation and Hygiene Applied Research for Equity) consortium
- Designed from the beginning as a research-into-use project
- Research location chosen: Babati, Tanzania (population ~100,000)

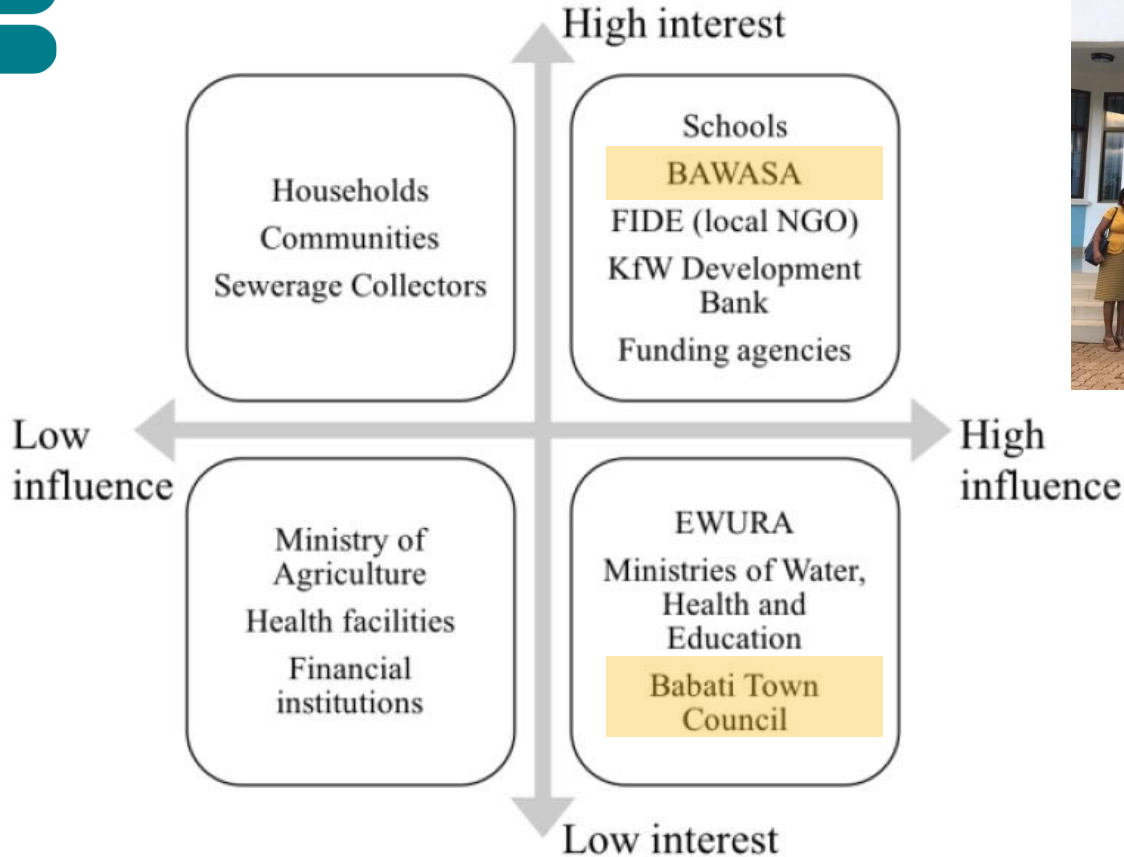




Building partnerships

2

Building partnerships





Engaging and building capacity with municipalities



Engaging and building capacity

- Key activities
 - Involving key staff in research (data collection, validation, discussion of findings, reporting back to communities)
 - Introduction of participatory tools (e.g. Shit Flow Diagram) to help engage and stimulate discussions (from local to national levels)
 - Several meetings and discussions to feedback on findings, agree on next steps, clarify roles and responsibilities (even between BTC and BAWASA)
 - Exchange visit to Temeke municipality (including DEWAT plant)





Engaging and building capacity

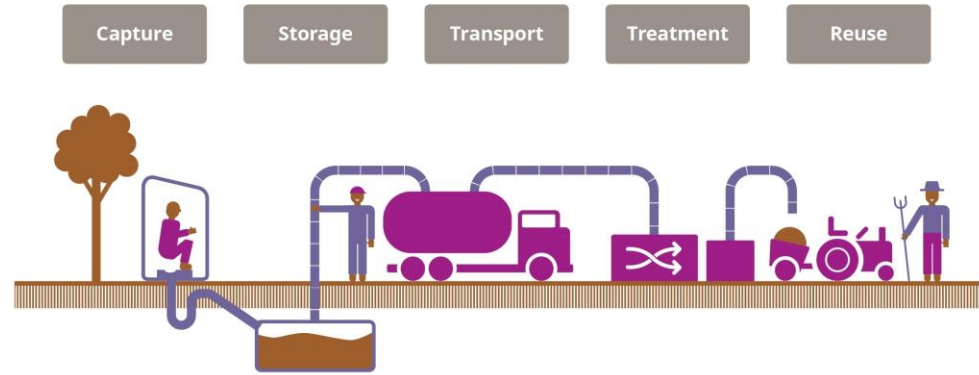
- Additional phases of engagement:
 - High level meeting with national ministry officials to introduce the research study
 - Summary of research project provided to all stakeholders
 - Quarterly meetings updating stakeholders on research progress (Joint Sector Reviews and Technical Working Group meetings)



4 Shifting mindsets

4 Shifting mindsets

- Increased engagement in and ownership of the research
- Invitation by BTC to engage with consultant responsible for the development of the Spatial Master plan for Babati – contribution of content related to sanitation and hygiene to this plan
- Increased awareness of specific Babati context and appropriate treatment options
- Participatory planning process leading to a Scenario Building workshop with acceptance of decentralised sewerage as the chosen scenario
- Now working with BTC and BAWASA to develop business plan to implement selected scenario



5 Challenges

Challenges

- Time!
- Convincing of need for engagement (first in understanding context)
- Partnership development with Babati Town Council (BTC) and Babati Urban Water Supply and Sanitation Authority (BAWASA) – a full year of discussions, development of partnership agreement, expectation management
- External processes and need for adaptation

Challenges

- Despite collaborative partnership, competing priorities and timelines can challenge coordination (on all sides)
- Bringing the partners up to speed on how the sector is progressing (e.g. challenging the conventional thinking around sanitation approaches)
- Capacity vs quality – building capacity of local academic institutions
- Still a long way to go to implement

6 Takeaways

Takeaways

- Time!
- Complexity of relationships and history of interactions between stakeholders
- Hidden (or not-so-hidden!) drivers: finance and personal motivation and/or recognition
- Need for multi-level, multi-sectoral influencing
- Repetition, persistence and patience – can see results!

Questions?

