



Workgroup Event: Mitigating Poor Urban Sanitation and Health Impacts

EVENT SUMMARY

Online via Zoom

Thursday, December 3, 2020 | 9:00 AM - 10:30 AM

Moderator

[Martin Gambrill](#) | *Lead Water & Sanitation Specialist, World Bank*

Speakers

[Elizabeth \(Liz\) Jordan](#) | *Water and Sanitation Specialist, USAID*

[Nandita Kotwal](#) | *Water and Sanitation Consultant, World Bank*

[Kate Medicott](#) | *Team Sanitation Leader, World Health Organization*

[Kariuki Mugo](#) | *Director WASH Sector Support, Water and Sanitation for the Urban Poor*

[Dennis Mwanza](#) | *Senior Water, Sanitation and Hygiene Services Advisor, RTI International*

[Laurence Yese](#) | *Institutional and Policy Development Specialist, RTI International*

Event Description

Globally, 4.2 billion people live without safely managed sanitation[1]. In urban areas alone, over 700 million residents do not have access to sanitation management services. The lack of access to affordable and safe sanitation services and products and unhygienic practices such as open defecation have contributed to diarrheal diseases, and the connection between such poor sanitation and public health is evident. Municipalities with poor sanitation systems often have the highest mortality rates among children under five years old along with high levels of malnutrition and poverty.

Every year, the U.N. and development partners call for increased awareness to address the challenges associated with sanitation services delivery through World Toilet Day. In 2020, World Toilet Day focuses on “Sustainable Sanitation and Climate Change” to draw attention to how climate change impacts like floods can negatively affect sanitation management infrastructure and services, and in turn, threaten the release of poorly-treated or untreated waste that contributes to diseases and malnutrition via enteropathy.

Addressing these challenges requires continuous advocacy, coordinated urban planning, strategic policymaking, and investments in infrastructure and service delivery that link sanitation and health. The City Wide Inclusive Sanitation (CWIS) planning approach is an emerging effort to recognize the complexities and varied solutions that urban policymakers and practitioners are applying to advance sustainable sanitation management, benefitting public health. The CWIS planning process also presents an opportunity to determine the risks from climate change impacts in sanitation management.





Event Description

Through selected presentations and moderated panel discussion, speakers addressed field-based lessons and practices around sanitation management awareness-raising, planning, and service delivery in urban areas that take health-related perspectives into account and leverage efforts of public health stakeholders to reduce disease transmission.

[1] JMP report Progress on Drinking Water, Sanitation and Hygiene Update and SDG Baselines, 2017

Key Takeaways

1 State of the World's Sanitation: An urgent call to transform sanitation for better health, environments, economics, and societies

Kate Medicott (World Health Organization) started her presentation with an overview of current sanitation efforts. Medicott shared that the world is alarmingly off-track to deliver universal access to safe sanitation by 2030. Despite progress, 2 billion people will still lack basic sanitation services by that time. Access to adequate sanitation is important for the individual and the community because sanitation heavily impacts the environment. Recognizing that the consequences of poor sanitation include illness and disease, expensive financial costs, and affronts to dignity, safety, and equality, WHO will accelerate sanitation services ensuring effective governance, financing, capacity, data and information, and innovation.

Key Takeaways:

- Progress for sanitation requires addressing the entire chain of sanitation including toilet, storage, convenience, treatment, disposal.
- Sanitation is a foundational public service for healthy populations and prosperous societies.
- Sanitation is in the realm of government responsibility, not household.
- Achieving universal access to safe sanitation will be expensive, but inaction brings greater costs.

2 Urban Sanitation at USAID

Elizabeth Jordan (USAID) reviewed USAID's technical guidance notes on Urban Sanitation. Jordan emphasized Medicott's point that the development community must focus on the entire sanitation chain to advance the sector. After assessing the fecal flow sanitation service chain, she discovered that 99 percent of the population have access to household sanitation, however, of that 99 percent, 54 percent of people dispose of their waste unsafely in the environment.

Key Takeaways:

- USAID's impact on sanitation services includes a mixture of approaches focused mainly on containment and environmental impact.
- Private household sanitation is the goal for USAID and governments; however, it is not always possible due to monetary and environmental factors.
- The USAID programming takes market-based approaches and acts as a facilitator for local businesses involved in sanitation, promoting entrepreneurship.
- USAID focuses on bridging the financial gap through continuous engagement with providers and the country's institutions like banks.
- Effective urban sanitation is city-wide and inclusive, aiming for strategic incremental improvements through service provision and commercial principles.



Key Takeaways

3 Citywide Inclusive Sanitation (CWIS): A Global Perspective

Nandita Kotwal (World Bank) reiterated Medlicott and Jordan's overview about challenges in urban sanitation. She noted that urbanization is often rapid, informal, inequal, and unplanned. Kotwal explained that the World Bank has focused on achieving the Sustainable Development Goals and figuring out how to implement urban sanitation as quickly as urbanization occurs.

Key Takeaways:

- The World Bank and other key development actors developed the CWIS approach to open sanitation.
- The approach operates differently because the programs connect housing to existing sanitation services focused on the financial, legal, political, social, and technical aspects of urban sanitation.
- The planning tools and resources the World Bank uses to assess the impact of sanitation on health includes countywide inclusive sanitation initiatives, the CWIS Costing and Planning tool, and Sanitation Rapid Assessment Tool.
- The four pillars of the CWIS work are knowledge and learning, operational support, tools and resources, and building partnerships.

4 Groundwork for Urban Sanitation Plans and Governance: Lessons for Nigeria

Dennis Mwanza and **Laurence Yese** (RTI International) gave an overview of the sanitation situation in Nigeria and its impact. Nigeria does not have a clearly defined institutional home for sanitation services or a centralized sewage network. Additionally, there is not fecal sludge treatment plants in all states.

Key Takeaways:

- Nigeria needs a dedicated Ministry for Sanitation because the government needs clear and coherent political messaging regarding sanitation.
- The Ministry for Sanitation will effectively plan sanitation financing with strong coordination and focused oversight.
- RTI International implemented USAID E-WASH Program in Nigeria and adopted the World Bank's Citywide Inclusive Sanitation approach.
- The USAID E-WASH program supported the development and approval of WASH policies and convinced the state government to define the institutional home for sanitation—the Ministry of Water Resources.
- RTI International helped each State Water Board assume responsibility for sanitation service delivery.
- The CWIS Planning tool established a high-level city Sanitation Task force to coordinate a sanitation intervention and undertake sanitation mapping.

5 Influencing an Enabling Environment for CWIS

Kariuki Mugo (Water and Sanitation for the Urban Poor (WSUP)) explained the important connection between sanitation and environment. Citywide Inclusive Sanitation can only thrive where institutional mandates, policies, regulations, planning systems, and financing mechanisms exist.

Key Takeaways

5 Influencing an Enabling Environment for CWIS (cont.)

Key Takeaways:

- During citywide sanitation planning at local level, it is important to layout institutional frameworks.
- WSUP addressed national and subnational legal gaps in Kenya by designing county and national sanitation policy focused on inclusive sanitation investment services.
- Planning Mechanisms include committee formation, situation analysis, solution shortlisting, and investment action plans.
- WSUP facilitated compositions around financial mechanisms and resources with specific focus on local resources.
- The private sector and public sector worked together to enforce training, licensing, and regulation to strengthen the entire sanitation chain.