



Society for International Development
Washington Chapter

FY 2021

ANNUAL REPORT

Environment & Sustainability Workgroup

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Dear Members of the Environment & Sustainability Workgroup,

We are happy to report that we had another productive year, with programming that was entirely virtual! As we reflect on the past year, the Workgroup produced one great event **Mitigating Poor Urban Sanitation and Health Impacts**. We are currently working on a new and exciting slate of events for FY 2022, so stayed tuned for more information!

We would like to thank outgoing Co-Chair **Amy Gambrill**, who put on many fantastic events during their tenure. We wish them well in their future endeavors! We would also like to welcome new Co-Chair **Jeremy Swanson** who joins us this year.

After 5 years with our team, **Paul Sherman**, our Director of Programs, will be stepping down from his role to pursue graduate studies. Paul is still involved with SID-Washington as a Consultant. Thank you, Paul, for your effort and commitment to the Workgroups and their programming!

Stepping into Paul's role, we would like to welcome **Malavika Randive** as our new Program Coordinator. Malavika will be working closely with our Co-Chairs in planning events for the Workgroup.

Thank you for your continued interest and support of the Workgroups. We hope to see you at future SID-Washington events! If you have any questions or suggestions, please feel free to send an email to events@sidw.org.

Best regards,



A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Katherine Raphaelson".

Katherine Raphaelson



A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Malavika Randive".

Malavika Randive



Amy Gambrill

Senior Specialist, Environmental
Incentives ,

Amy is a Senior Specialist for Environmental Incentives, bringing nearly 25 years of experience in international environmental development and domestic water protection. Amy has spent the past 10 years supporting USAID's water, forestry and biodiversity, energy, climate change, and engineering programs. Previously, she worked in two national parks – Gorongosa National Park in central Mozambique and the Eastern High Atlas National Park in Morocco. Amy also has experience at EPA's Office of Water, working to curb polluted runoff and develop watershed protection plans. Amy holds a Masters in Environmental Sciences and Policy from Johns Hopkins University.



**Arijanto (Arie)
Istandar**

Senior Water Resources Program
Manager, RTI International

Arijanto (Arie) Istandar is a Senior Water Resources Program Manager at RTI International. He is a Civil and Water Resources Engineer, specializing in WASH development, urban water services reform and improvements. Over the past 15 years, Arie has led various projects in South and Southeast Asia that established policy framework for urban water and environmental services, enabled peer-to-peer partnerships to build capacities of water service providers, and supported utility operational efficiency improvements.

Arie previously served as the Water and Sanitation Team Leader for USAID's 7-year regional Environmental Cooperation – Asia (ECO-Asia) project and COP for USAID's WaterLinks project.

Thursday, December 3, 2020
9:00 AM - 10:00 AM ET | Online via Zoom

Mitigating Poor Urban Sanitation and Health Impacts



Mitigating Poor Urban Sanitation and Health Impacts

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.

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 Medlicott'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.



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, unequal, 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.

**Society for International Development
Washington Chapter**

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FY 2021 Workgroup Co-Chairs

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Photo Credit

Paul A. Sherman - Director of Programs
Screenshots from various SID-W events
Stock images from Canva

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