

Watershed
empowering citizens

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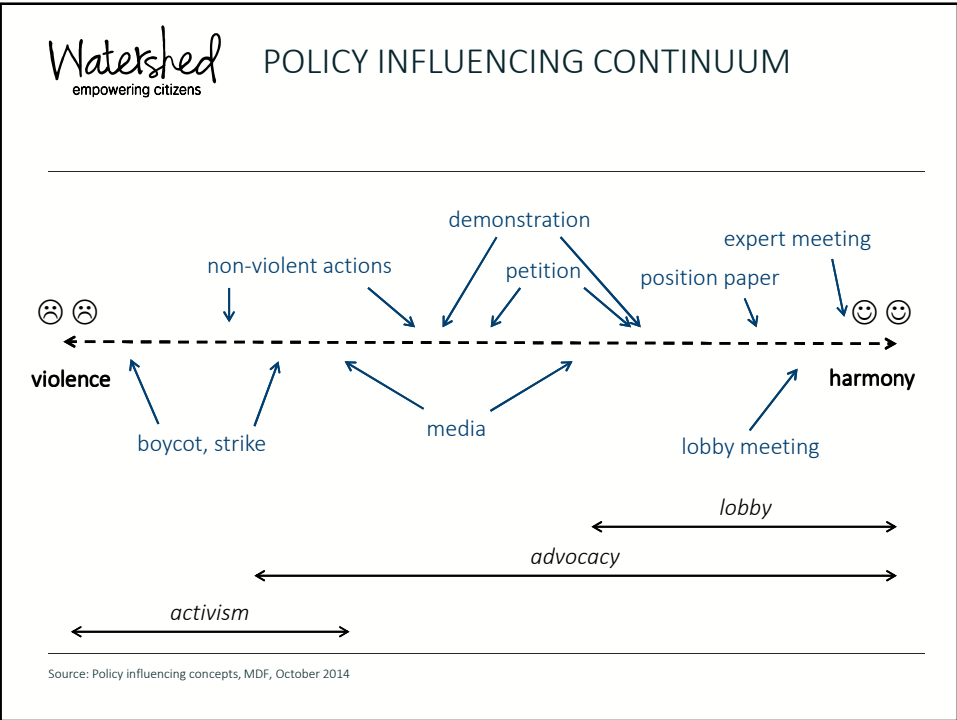
Watershed
empowering citizens

INTRODUCTION

Watershed, 5 year programme (2016 -2020) to:

- improve WASH governance, responsive to the interest of marginalised groups,
- by strengthening local civil society organisations.

2+4 countries: Kenya + Uganda (main), Ghana, Mali, Bangladesh, India



POLICY INFLUENCING PRINCIPLES

CLASP principles:

1. **Credibility:** Why would people trust us, believe in us?
 2. **Legitimacy:** Who or what gives you the right to interfere?
 3. **Accountability:** How can you be transparent towards decision makers, back donors, constituency, and beneficiaries alike?
 4. **Service-oriented:** How are you being helpful, and do you focus on win-win solutions?
 5. **Power:** What is your power base and how do you use it?
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DIFFERENT LEVELS OF ACCOUNTABILITY

Accountability is key concept in Watershed:

1. **Social:** accountability that relies on civic engagement, participation of citizens, communities and/or civil society organizations.
 2. **Financial:** reporting on allocation, disbursement, and utilization of financial resources.
 3. **Political:** has the government delivered on electoral promises, and responded to societal needs and concerns?
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Source: Social Accountability for SRHR - what does it involve? Renu Khanna, SAHAJ, April 2014

DIFFERENT LEVELS OF ACCOUNTABILITY

To be effective, WASH advocacy is almost always needed at different institutional levels. Top-down vs bottom-up.



Examples of accountability at three levels:

- National + local: budget tracking in Bangladesh
- International: Sanitation and Water for All partnership
- Netherlands

Source: Social Accountability for SRHR - what does it involve? Renu Khanna, SAHAJ, April 2014

DIFFERENT LEVELS OF ACCOUNTABILITY LOCAL LEVEL – BUDGET TRACKING

Budget tracking project in 6 upazilla's in Bangladesh (March 2011 – Feb 2014)
Simavi & Development of the Rural Poor (DORP)

Goal: to increase governmental WASH budget allocated on basis of community needs & increase account over WASH policies and planning at nat'l & local level





DIFFERENT LEVELS OF ACCOUNTABILITY LOCAL LEVEL – BUDGET TRACKING

Strategy:

1. Campaigning and awareness raising:
 - Awareness raising among communities about their WASH rights and government budgeting process
 - Banners, posters and calling to pre-budget and open budget meetings using mobile mics
 2. WASH budget tracking:
 - Pre-budget dialogues to assist the communities to better voice their needs;
 - Facilitate open budget dialogues between the Union Parishad and community members (this year Ups have done this without our support);
 - Assist Union Parishad to organize WASH budget public hearing meetings where they inform the community about the budget they proposed to national government and the budget which has been approved
 - Wall painting the budget at Union Parishad Offices (showing both budget and expenditure of current and previous year)
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DIFFERENT LEVELS OF ACCOUNTABILITY LOCAL LEVEL – BUDGET TRACKING

Strategy (continued):

3. WASH service monitoring tracking:
 - Developing WASH budget monitoring tool
 - Collecting data using WASH budget monitoring tool in 'AKVO-Flow' and then analyse the data for evidence based WASH budget advocacy
 4. Advocacy:
 - Collaborating with other actors who also work on WASH budget monitoring and advocate together for increased pro-poor WASH budget
 - Advocacy meetings with local & nat'l govt, television & radio talk shows
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DIFFERENT LEVELS OF ACCOUNTABILITY LOCAL LEVEL – BUDGET TRACKING

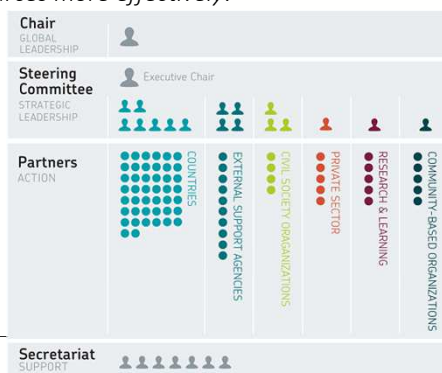
Results:

- In all unions, monitoring public expenditure and people's participation in the budget preparation process is ensured.
- In two years, the realisation of the WASH budget was increased with 12-18%.
- Surrounding communities and government officials see the success and are also apply need based bugetting process



DIFFERENT LEVELS OF ACCOUNTABILITY NATIONAL + INTERNATIONAL LEVEL

Sanitation & Water for All = global *partnership* of over 100 country governments, external support agencies, civil society organizations and other development partners working together to *catalyse political leadership and action, improve accountability and use scarce resources more effectively.*





DIFFERENT LEVELS OF ACCOUNTABILITY NATIONAL + INTERNATIONAL LEVEL

SWA is a multi-stakeholder platform for:

1. Coordinated action: political prioritisation, promote the development of a strong evidence base & strengthen nat'l government-led planning processes.
2. **Global high-level dialogue: High-level commitments dialogue, High-level Meeting during World Bank spring meeting.**
3. Implementing the aid effectiveness agenda in the WASH sector
4. Strengthening mutual accountability



DIFFERENT LEVELS OF ACCOUNTABILITY NETHERLANDS LEVEL

NL is main WASH-donor globally - Dutch CSO's holding the MFA to account:

- Continuous tracking the planning, budget and reporting cycle of the Dutch MFA to monitor both WASH services (e.g. FIETS sustainability) and budgets for WASH.
- Form input for blogs ("*Minister Ploumen moet op herkansing*"), position papers (e.g. *11 recommendations for Ploumen*), questions from MP's
- Aimed at sufficient WASH budget, pro-poor focus (who rather than how many) & sustainability of WASH services



KEY MESSAGES

1. Lobby & advocacy spans a wide range of actions, both in terms of attitude (violence – harmony) and geographic level (local – nat'l – internat'l)
 2. Accountability has different forms: social, financial & political. Important to understand they are interlinked!
 3. Accountability over WASH implies on the one hand monitoring services (who gets what level of service) and on the other hand monitoring budgets / financial flows. Both are important for evidence-based advocacy.
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