

Community-driven Water Development: Global Trends

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Global trends in community-driven water development: outline

Global trends of past 'wrongs' and new 'rights' in public sector rural and peri-urban development, in:

- General development programs and employment creation programs
- Water sector (services & water management)
- Opportunities for South Africa's water sector



General past ‘wrongs’

Development programs:

- top-down planning for passive ‘beneficiaries’
- silos with upward accountability for a single, specialized dimension of wellbeing
- once-off ‘projects’
- impacts: abandonment (‘voting with the feet’)

Employment programs:

- passive laborers for other people’s benefits



General new 'rights'

Putting the poor in the driver's seat of longer-term, bottom-up planning, so:

Planning cycles of identifying needs, prioritizing, compiling own action plan, implementing, monitoring

Four combinations:

- Main goal: development or employment creation
- Implementation: by local government or by implementing agents with local government



New 'rights': examples

By local government:

- India National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme; employment creation
- South Africa: Community Work Program: employment creation
- Tanzania Opportunities and Obstacles to Development Tool: development

By implementing agents:

- Various countries: Community-Driven Development (Worldbank & others): development



Past 'wrongs' in the water sector Even worse?

Development programs:

- top-down planning for passive 'beneficiaries',
 - *technology-driven (instead of 'services')*
 - *communities hardly in planning but just in operation & maintenance*
- silos with upward accountability for one single, specialized dimension of wellbeing
 - *assuming single water use (although often aware of people's multiple water needs and their factual multiple uses of single-used designed schemes)*



Past 'wrongs' in the water sector

Even worse? – ctd

Development programs - ctd:

- once-off 'projects'
 - *over-time 'spaghettis' of infrastructure*
- impacts: abandonment ('voting with the feet')
 - *waste of costly investments*

Employment programs:

- passive laborers for other people's benefits
 - *ignoring communities' own management and their need for services for multiple livelihood benefits*



Past 'wrongs' in the water sector

Even worse? – ctd

Water resource programs:

- *'management' as a goal on its own*
- *weak link with infrastructure development and services*
- *ignoring communities' indigenous and informal water management for livelihoods and own priorities*



New 'rights' in the water sector

*Community-driven water development:
putting communities in the driver's seat*

- Water components in general development and employment programs:
 - ! Water asset creation a preferred choice e.g., in NREGA !



New 'rights' in the water sector -ctd

- In the water sector:
 - Global, incl. South Africa:
Multiple-use water services (MUS):
domestic-plus (= higher service levels) and
irrigation-plus (e.g. FAO guidelines)
 - SADC/Danida: community-driven IWRM pilots
 - Nepal: village water resource management project
(Finnada)
 - Africa: community-driven MUS (USAID & Winrock)
 - Ethiopia: MUS project (led by UNICEF)



New 'rights' in the water sector Even better?

Three new sets of benefits
in community-driven water development

- a) Participatory planning
- b) Multi-purpose infrastructure
- c) Combining multiple conjunctive sources



New 'rights' in the water sector

Even better? - ctd

a) Participatory planning

- Building on local water needs, opportunities and constraints, so better and more sustainable
- Tapping age-old local water management practices, so cost-effective and more sustainable



New 'rights' in the water sector

Even better? - ctd

b) Multi-purpose infrastructure

- More uses, so more livelihood benefits
- Cost-effective investments: low incremental costs for high livelihood benefits
- No damage from unplanned uses, so more sustainable



New 'rights' in the water sector

Even better? - ctd

- c) Combining multiple conjunctive sources
 - More efficiency and sustainability from recognition of the local water cycle of harvesting, storage, uses and re-uses, recharge, and waste management
 - Stronger livelihood resilience and coping strategies by combining multiple sources, especially under climate change



Conclusions: opportunities for the water sector in South Africa

- Innovate robust and scalable **methodologies for community-driven water development**, linked to IDPs, with solutions for inclusive planning, informed technology choice, democratic accountability, etc
- **Scale up** within the water sector, with CoGTA
- **Support robust water asset creation** in large-scale programs (e.g., CWP, infrastructure, public works projects)
- Tap expertise of the **global MUS Group** www.musgroup.net



Thank you for your attention

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