Better Planning for Better Sanitation

Dr. Darren Saywell, Development Director International Water Association

BGR Symposium: Coupling Sustainable Sanitation and Groundwater Protection Wednesday 15 October 2008







• • Overview

- Better Planning = Better Sanitation
 - The failure of past approaches
 - Innovations in sanitation planning
 - Consensus points
- Sustainable Sanitation Alliance



• • Need

- Importance of accelerated sanitation coverage recognized – impacts
- 400,000 people daily to be reached until 2015
- Creativity needed to support better planning and implementation



• • The failure of past approaches [1]

- Mindset based on colonial urban planning principles
- Large parts of cities neglected by mainstream planning
- Town planning dominated by top down, technocratic approaches – e.g., Master Plans



• • The failure of past approaches [2]

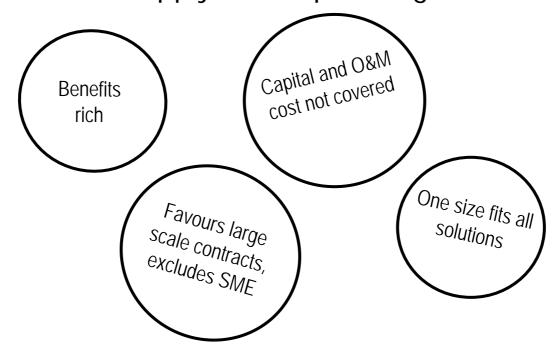
Also:

- Vested interests and powerful elites skew planning approaches
- Inflexibility in form and content. Procedures to amend plans are bureaucratic
- Restrictive nature of master plans
- Regulations and legislation favour planning of centralized sewerage systems – carry with them technology lock in...



The failure of past approaches [3]

Led to supply driven planning as a norm





Newer thinking on sanitation planning

- 3 approaches worthwhile review
 - Strategic Sanitation Approach
 - Household Centred Environmental Sanitation
 - Sanitation 21



• • Common elements...

| | Strategic Sanitation Approach (SSA) | Household-centred Environmental Sanitation (HCES) | Sanitation 21 - Simple approaches to complex sanitation |
|--|--|--|---|
| Comprehensive approach | - socio-economic - technical - institutional set-up | - socio-economic - technical - environmental aspects | - socio-economic - technical - environmental aspects |
| Stakeholder involvement & methods used | - community consultation - core group of experts | all stakeholders should participate include community in all planning steps | focus on planners & experts institutional mapping, understand the drivers at each level |
| Technology choice | unbundle solutions by zone or neighborhood mostly disposal oriented | - open to all system options - waste seen as a resource | open to all system options integrated solutions across boundaries |
| Special features | - cost-recovery important - contingent valuation survey – willingness to pay | waste diluted as little as possible integrated solutions: environmental sanitation | holistic: From households to downstream domains |



Better planning = better sanitation?

- Ensure effective participation
- Realistic about complexity of sanitation
- Build partnerships reach consensus
- Understand power relations
- Understand what drives sanitation



Sustainable Sanitation Alliance

sustainable sanitation alliance





 Motivated by United Nations International Year of Sanitation – number of organization form open alliance on sustainable sanitation



• • Sustainable Sanitation Alliance

- Contributes to IYS by promoting systems that take into consideration all aspects of sustainability
- Raise awareness of what sustainable sanitation systems are and promoting them at large scale
- Highlights the role of sanitation for achieving a whole series of MDGs.
- Focusing strongly on range of options, including reuse and recycling.
 Multi criteria approach to understanding sustainability



• • | Further details

 Beginning in January 2007 – series of networking meetings, roughly each quarter

Activities:

- Focus on vision documents
- Advocacy and awareness raising
- Formation of series of working groups
- Global database for sustainable sanitation projects and capacity development institutions
- www.susana.org



• • Contact

Darren Saywell
 International Water Association

darren.saywell@iwahq.org

