

Dear friends and colleagues,

This newsletter, in one form or another, has been going for ten years now! Time for a change! From now on, the newsletter will be shorter, come into your inbox on a monthly basis and have more selective content rather than listing everything that is new on the website. Given that we are all so busy and our inboxes are so full, we hope that this makes sense to you and makes for more focused reading. If you have any feedback or suggestions, we would love to hear from you (clts@ids.ac.uk) and if you discover an article or report that you find valuable, feel free to recommend it to us!

In this edition of the newsletter we have some top reads- recommended reading selected by us and people working in the sector. And we have an exciting call for papers from early career researchers and professionals at the end of the newsletter.

This is the last newsletter of 2016. The CLTS Knowledge Hub wishes those who celebrate a festive season and everyone a good start to 2017.

Top 5 reads this month

1: Sustainability and inclusion



On the 22nd November 2016, the CLTS Knowledge Hub launched its book *Sustainable Sanitation for All* in the UK. The following day, the Hub brought together over 20 experts on sanitation (CLTS and WASH) to discuss the challenges and opportunities for making sanitation sustainable and inclusive and to elicit views on how to better meet the needs of the sector through its activities. You can read about some of the topics that the discussions touched on [in this news story](#). The book *Sustainable Sanitation for all experiences, challenges and innovations* is [available for free download](#) or you can [purchase a hardcopy](#)



"... a state of the art check-in on the problems that we face and the solutions that have been found around the world. Every sanitation practitioner, indeed anyone interested in sustainable approaches to public health, needs to read this thoughtful book." (Val Curtis, Director of the Environmental Health Group at the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine)

"This book puts forward a mix of innovative thinking based on experience and evidence that is useful and relevant whether working with communities on programmes or with governments on policy." (Sanjay Wijesekera, Chief of Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene, Unicef)

2: Child Health



The Public Library of Science (PLOS) journals provide a steady source of peer-reviewed, open access research and policy papers that regularly challenge our thinking. One of the latest papers in PLOS ONE (by Paul Hunter, UEA/WHO and Annette Prüss-Ustün, WHO) asks “Have we substantially underestimated the impact of improved sanitation coverage on Child Health?” using a panel analysis of global data on child mortality and malnutrition.

The researchers find that the relationship between sanitation and diarrhoea mortality is not linear - their models find public health gains as improved sanitation coverage increases to about 20% and then few if any gains

until coverage increases above about 70%. The authors conclude that this may explain why some studies find only limited health impact from interventions that achieved improved sanitation coverage levels in the 20%-80% range. The article suggests that “improving sanitation coverage may be one of the most effective means to reduce childhood mortality, but only if high levels of coverage are achieved”. They also suggest that impact studies that only examined individual use of improved sanitation, rather than community coverage, have severely under-estimated the impact of improved sanitation. They conclude that “most of the health gains would be achieved by increasing coverage above about 80%”, and that studies should use community coverage with improved sanitation as the primary predictor rather than personal access.

While the authors raise some cautions about their findings, the article greatly strengthens the case for including community-wide targets in sanitation and hygiene programs (in addition to the impetus already provided by the SDG requirement to eliminate open defecation by 2030), and suggests that sanitation and hygiene programs should be designed to achieve 80% or higher improved sanitation coverage in target areas to ensure higher impact and greater benefits.

[Read the full article here](#) (selected by Andy Robinson, independent consultant)

3: India's Swachh Bharat Mission



The [Swachh Bharat Mission](#) is the well-publicised government-led sanitation campaign currently underway across India. We have included two must-reads for everyone working on it, selected by Robert Chambers and Jamie Myers, CLTS Knowledge Hub:

The [Accountability Initiative](#) surveyed almost 7,500 households across 5 States in India. The report shows that 48% of households did not have a complete toilet, the same number had at least one member defecating in the open and Information, Education and Communication activities made up only 1% of the total budget. The report shows the need for more attention to be focused software approaches

and campaigns at the local level. [Download the Budget Brief here](#)

The Community Incentive Model lets communities decide together how to best distribute the 12,000 rupees given to only certain households giving communities the choice of how to use the incentive. The aim is to mobilise, incentivise and monitor the journey towards ODF focusing on ensure use and sustainability. [This new Learning Paper](#) discusses how and why this particular model evolved and how it works.

4: Urban CLTS



For some years now, at most of our Sharing and Learning workshops, there has been much interest in and discussion on whether CLTS can be used in urban settings, and if so, how to proceed. Six years ago, we featured Sammy Musyoki's diary-style ongoing blog that documented the [urban CLTS initiative in Mathare](#), Kenya. We have come a long way since then, with documented urban and peri-urban CLTS initiatives in India, Ethiopia, Eritrea, Ghana, Kenya, Madagascar, Mauritania, Nigeria and Zambia.

My colleague Jamie Myers has been synthesizing these different adaptations over the last year and published a number of papers (eg [The Addis Agreement](#), the [Update on Themes and Trends in urban CLTS projects](#) etc) and recently contributed [this article](#) to the [Waterlines Journal](#). His article helps to articulate and better define urban CLTS as well as giving practical guidance for those wanting to use this kind of approach. And next year, Jamie supported by others working in this area, will be putting together an urban CLTS toolkit- so watch this space! In the meantime, take a look at [Urban community-led total sanitation: a potential way forward for co-producing sanitation services](#).

(chosen by Petra Bongartz, CLTS Knowledge Hub)

5: Translating demand into good sanitation outcomes

[Are we doing the right thing? Critical questioning for city sanitation planning](#): The aim of this Learning Paper by SNV and the Institute of Sustainable Futures (Sydney) is to provoke practitioners, policy makers and development agencies to reflect on their approaches to city sanitation planning and the assumptions that underlie them.

[Making sanitation happen: turning political will into action](#): In this policy brief, WaterAid reflects on how governments can take their commitment to achievement of universal access to sanitation beyond rhetorical political will and drive real progress.



Both reports are concerned with the processes by which demand for sanitation, by both citizens and politicians, translate into sector outcomes. And each highlights a gap between intentions expressed in commitments/plans and achievements. Models for improving policy, financing, institutions and other aspects of the enabling environment often adopt a 'rational' problem solving approach using diagnostic tools and prescriptive thinking. These reports are reminders that there is no straight line from political will to policy formulation to implementation to outcomes. Instead the delivery of sanitation services is constructed and negotiated according to who is involved in the process, how, and on whose terms. Ultimately, sanitation for all

necessitates that the poor have more political influence over resource allocations as well as the actions of public institutions. In the meantime, we should not always rely on top-down processes for sanitation; solutions can come from 'below' as much as from 'above'. *(chosen by Sue Cavill, independent consultant)*

Support for early career researchers to attend the International WEDC Conference 2017



The CLTS Knowledge Hub is pleased to announce that we have funding available to support a small number of early career practitioners and/or researchers to attend and present at the 40th WEDC International Conference 24-28 July 2017 at Loughborough University, UK. The theme of this

year's conference is Local Action With International Cooperation to Improve and Sustain Water, Sanitation and Hygiene Services. The funding will cover all costs related to conference registration, travel, accommodation and food. Those selected will be expected to write a paper and present it at the conference, attend the CLTS Knowledge Hub's pre-conference Sharing and Learning Workshop on July 23rd, help support the Hub's CLTS related stall throughout the week and write a blog about your experiences and reflections from the conference.

Papers should focus on innovations, experience, ideas and learning contributing to further thinking about CLTS and other community-wide behaviour change approaches. We are most interested on papers that focus on:

- Implementing CLTS at scale
- How CLTS programming has ensured equity and inclusion
- Challenges to and lessons learnt using CLTS
- Ways of linking CLTS to other programming
- Using CLTS in different contexts
- Building learning into CLTS programmes

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