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## The Sanitation Learning Hub Newsletter

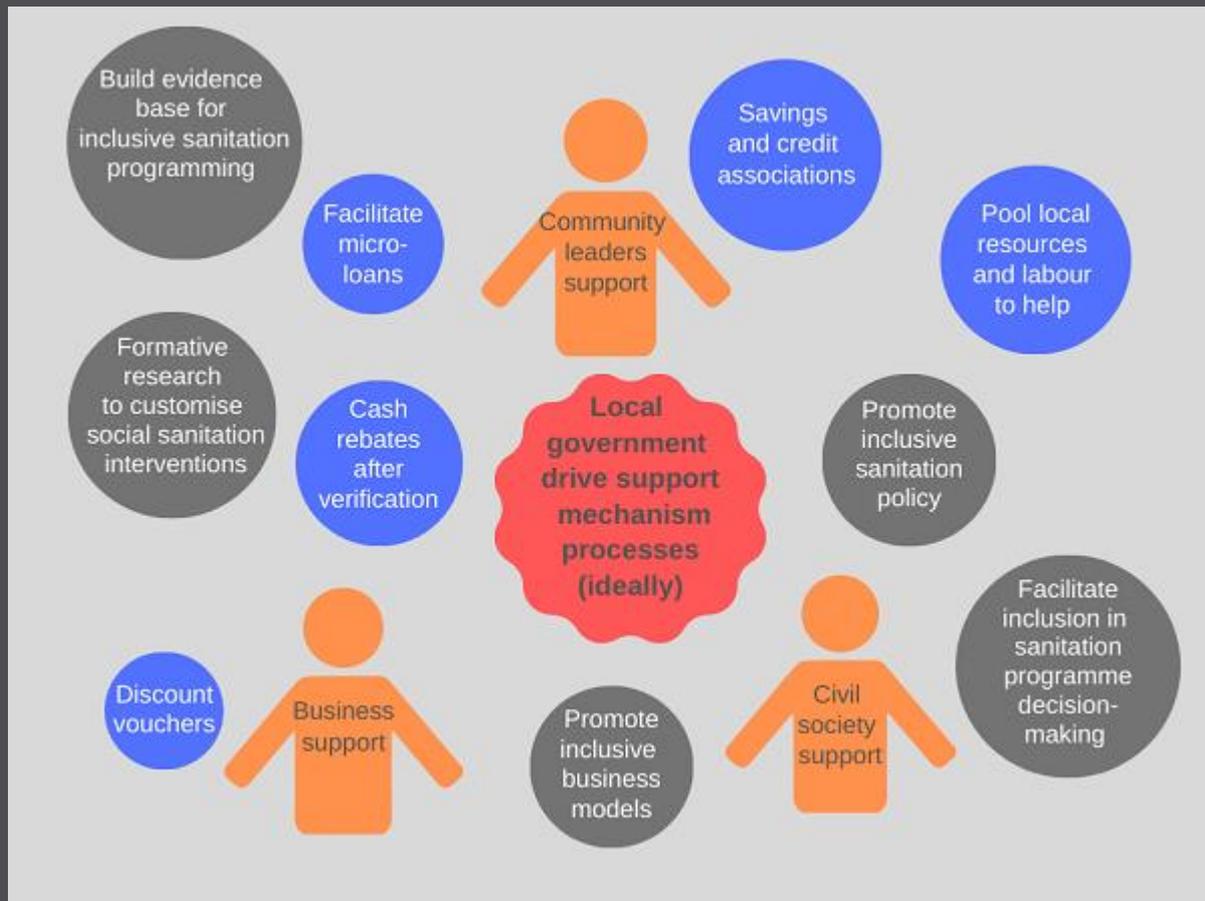
November 2019

### What do successful support mechanisms look like in practice?

**Our latest newsletter provides recommendations for introducing additional support mechanisms into rural sanitation programming.** It includes great case studies from Vietnam, Zambia and Tanzania where support mechanisms have been successfully combined with community-led processes to support the most disadvantaged people to gain access to sanitation facilities. This newsletter is inspired by our recent edition of [Frontiers: Support Mechanisms to strengthen equality and non-discrimination in rural sanitation \(part 2 of 2\)](#).

#### Support mechanisms: what are we talking about?

Support mechanisms encompass both 'hardware' mechanisms (for example, financial and physical subsidies) and 'software' approaches (for example, inclusive sanitation training, research or policies), as well as various combinations of the two.



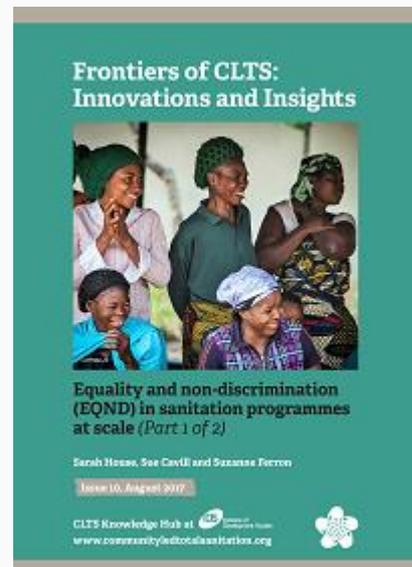
(Adapted from ISF-UTS and SNV 2018, WASHPaLS 2018, and Willets and Powell 2016.)

## How do support mechanisms strengthen community-led processes?

Sustainable sanitation is a human right, therefore **everyone** should have equal and safe access to adequate sanitation and hygiene.

The need to include support mechanisms into programming has grown stronger given recent evidence that in some circumstances disadvantaged households have been found to be more likely to revert to open defecation or fail to build and use a good quality latrine in the first place.

The first half of this two-part series, [Frontiers: Equality and non-discrimination in sanitation](#)



[programming at scale \(part 1 of 2\)](#), builds on learning from the Global Sanitation Funds Equity and Non-Discrimination study. It highlights the challenges CLTS faces if it does not actively involve and consider the most disadvantaged and suggests good practices that would strengthen processes to benefit all.

## Why are learning processes vital to successful support mechanisms?

Although targeted support for disadvantaged people is valuable, the evidence base on what works and what doesn't is not as strong as it could be. Effective monitoring, evaluation and knowledge sharing processes are key to building this evidence base.

These processes also help tailor programmes to better fit their contexts and ensure that the right combination of support mechanisms are in place, that hardware or financial subsidies aren't undermining demand creation and that outcomes are sustainable over the long-term.

Having a stronger and accessible evidence base will ultimately help to scale up successful support mechanisms.

(Photo: Grandmother from Gendaa stands proudly in front of her newly built Safi latrine. Photo credit: SNV Tanzania)



## What do successful support mechanisms look like in practice?

### Case study one: Sustainable Sanitation and Hygiene for All (SSH4A) in Zambia and Tanzania

This SNV programme focused on districts that had low rates of sanitation coverage

and received little support during recent national sanitation campaigns. Within these districts the poorest quintile, female-led households and people with disabilities, were targeted with support mechanisms and activities.

In Zambia these included community champions advising households on government standard latrines. Sanitation marketing groups were developed to pool financial resources at the village level and behaviour change messages were customised through research and tailored for specific audiences.

The programme in Tanzania also supported local business entrepreneurs to market and construct low-cost durable latrines and upgrades to basic latrines. Booklets were distributed to help households make informed decisions about inclusive sanitation designs for people with disabilities.

As a result, in Zambia, open defecation across the districts fell from 50 to 5 per cent overall and in Tanzania it fell from 36 to 2 per cent for all households.

(Photo: Local entrepreneurs in Tanzania building Safi latrine rings. Photo credit: SNV Tanzania)



**Want to know more about the SSH4A programme?** Read more about the combination of support mechanisms used and the impact they had in these two briefs: [Tanzania Endline brief](#); [Zambia Endline Brief](#). Also read about Tanzania and Zambia alongside other SSH4A programmes in Bhutan, Nepal and Cambodia, in this

### **Case study two: Community Hygiene Output-Based Aid (CHOBA) in rural Vietnam**

In this East Meets West programme a key support mechanism was the provision of a cash rebate for the poorest 40 per cent of the population who had installed a hygienic latrine confirmed by an independent verification agency.

The programme further supported the training of local masons to construct latrines and engaged the Vietnam Women's Union to promote latrine ownership, good hygiene and assist poor households with accessing loans. Commune People's Committees (local government body) were also engaged to provide political and administrative support.

The creation of a robust and comprehensive monitoring and evaluation database was critical to the programmes' success along with rigorous research to demonstrate the impact of the support mechanisms.

As a result, 113,500 verified latrines were built by the target population of 125,000.

(Photo: CHOBA household living in Tra Vinh. Credit: Morgan Ommer)

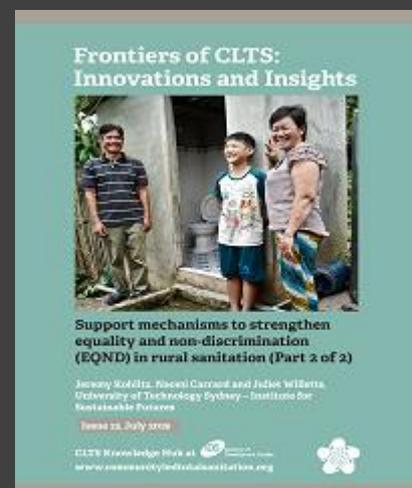


**Want to know more about the CHOBA programme?** Read about the research and planning involved in establishing this programme in this [discussion paper](#). The [project completion report](#) synthesises lessons learned from the implementation of CHOBA. Lastly, this [independent verification report](#) looks at the support mechanisms and verification processes used in the programme and why they were so effective.

## Looking for practical recommendations?

This recent edition of [Frontiers: Support Mechanisms to strengthen equality and non-discrimination in rural sanitation \(part 2 of 2\)](#) provides five steps to success when setting up your programme:

Step 1: Define 'what success looks like' for your programme in terms of equality and inclusion aims and objectives.



Step 2: Plan strategies for identifying which people might need support.

Step 3: Apply a combination of support mechanisms.

Step 4: Set up monitoring systems that track progress towards objectives.

Step 5: Set up processes for knowledge sharing and learning.

(This is the second half of a two-part series. The first half is [Frontiers: Equality and non-discrimination in sanitation programming at scale \(part 1 of 2\)](#))

You can also [listen to this recent webinar](#) (1hr 26mins) by the authors of the Frontiers mentioned above, Dr. Jeremy Kohlitz and Professor Juliet Willetts. They talk about different types of mechanisms, how they can be adapted, how to monitor and share findings, general recommendations for practice as well as answering specific questions from the audience.



**Your thoughts please!**

Are you using support mechanisms in your work? Or maybe thinking about it? We would love to hear from you! Tell us about the issues you face, approaches you've used (or plan to use), successes you've had and the questions that you are grappling with. It would be great to open up a discussion!

Many good wishes

The Sanitation Learning Hub Team

[CLTS@ids.ac.uk](mailto:CLTS@ids.ac.uk)

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