Frontiers of CLTS: Support Mechanisms for Rural Sanitation Programmes

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Poll #1

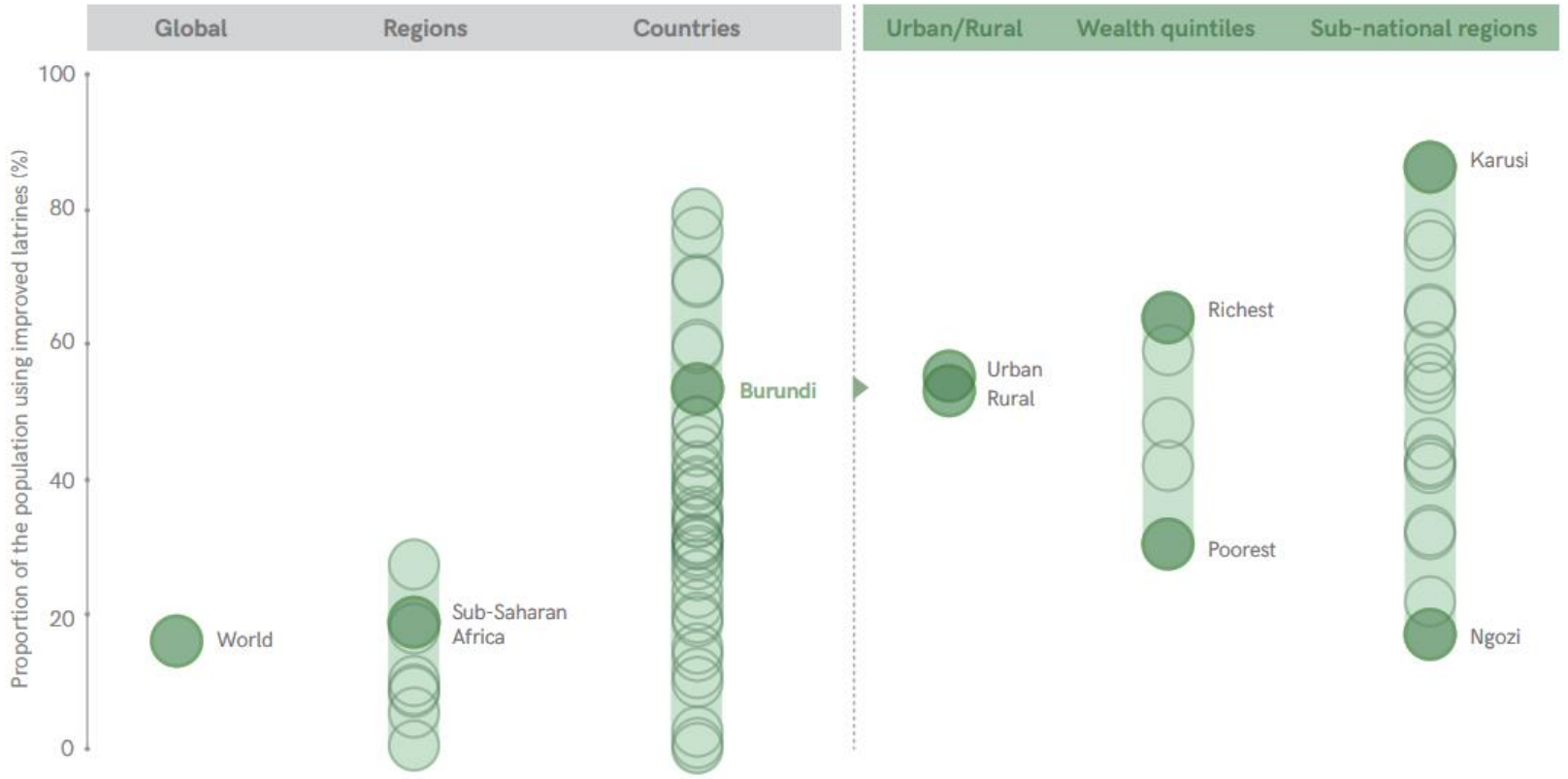
Agenda

1. Why support mechanisms?
2. Identification of disadvantaged groups
3. Combinations of support mechanisms
4. Monitoring success and sharing knowledge
5. Takeaway messages for practice

Why are support mechanisms needed?

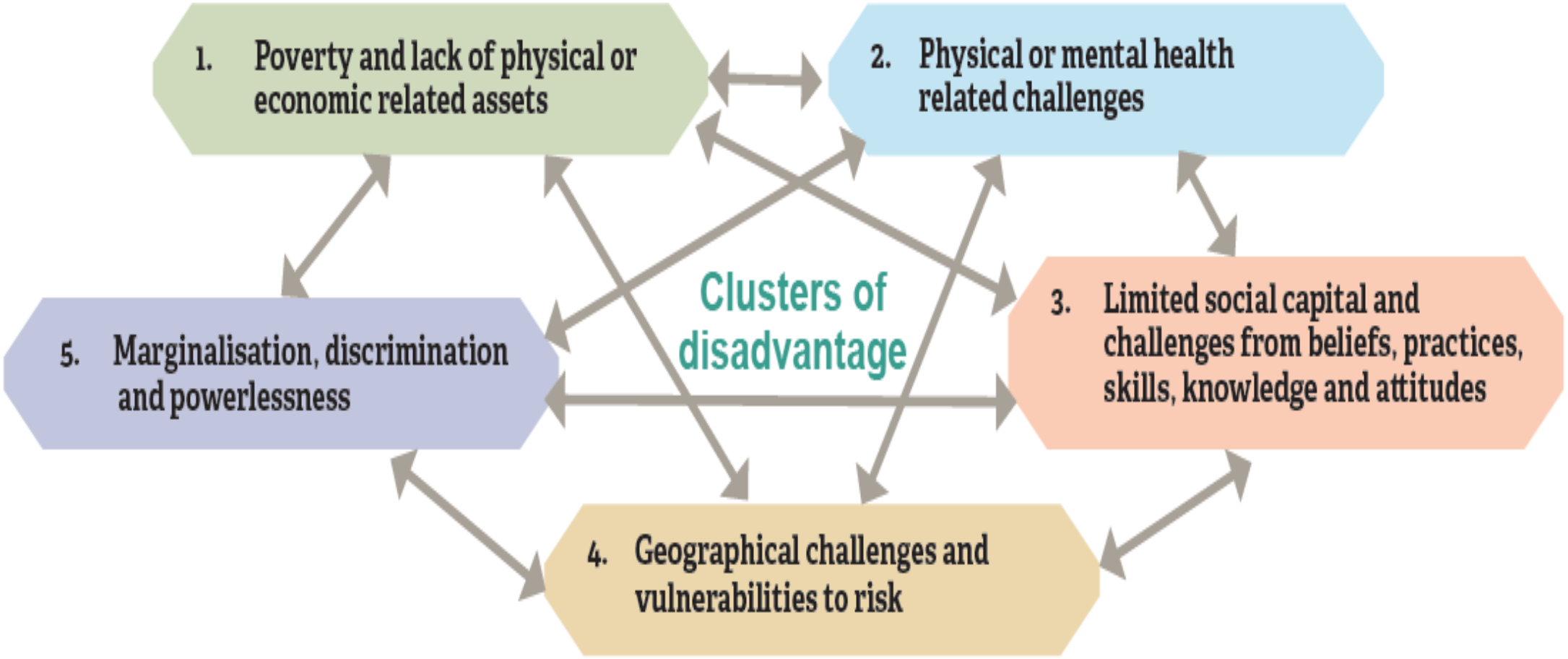
- SDG6 and the Human Rights to Sanitation call for equitable progress toward sanitation for all
- Groups of people are being left behind, or more likely to revert to open defecation
- However, there is a lack of granular data and evidence for what works

Inequalities in access to latrines and other improved facilities



Source: Progress on household drinking water, sanitation and hygiene 2000-2017. Special focus on inequalities. New York: United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) and World Health Organization, 2019.

Who might need support?



Source: House, S., Cavill, S. and Ferron, S. (2017) 'Equality and non-discrimination (EQND) in sanitation programmes at scale', Part 1 of 2, Frontiers of CLTS: Innovations and Insights 10, Brighton: IDS

Poll #2

Support mechanisms

- Support mechanisms are financial, in-kind or non-material and work best in **combinations**
- Directed at addressing the challenges faced by potentially **disadvantaged groups**
- Involve a range of key actors – **Government** is the duty-bearer

Institutionalisation example

Identification of potentially disadvantaged groups

- There are many methods for identifying disadvantaged groups
  - Existing datasets (e.g. census or DHS data)
  - Household-by-household, or community-by-community assessments
  - Community- or government-led self-assessment
  - Guidance from relevant local organisations (e.g. advocacy organisations)
  - Geographical/zonal targeting

Three lessons to bear in mind:

1. Question **assumptions** and draw on evidence where available
2. Acknowledge and balance **trade-offs** between simplicity, transparency, and comprehensiveness
3. Identification should not be a one-off event, but an **ongoing** process

Case study 1 - CHOBA

Case study	Mechanisms used	Salient lesson
Community Hygiene Output-Based Aid (CHOBA) – Vietnam	• Rebates for poor households • Government administered loans to households for latrine construction • Conditional cash transfer to communes • Financial incentive to implementing partners and local government • Training of local masons to construct latrines • Engagement of local government agencies • Promotion of good hygiene and toilet use	There is a trade-off between ensuring a high rate of reporting accuracy in verification and cost. For example, training local implementers to reliably and accurately conduct M&E activities took significant time.

Case study 2 - PhATS

Case study	Mechanisms used	Salient lesson
Phased Approach to Total Sanitation (PhATS) Haiyan Recovery Programme - Philippines	• In-kind hardware subsidies and vouchers to poor and vulnerable households for latrine construction (in emergency situations) • Financial rewards for upgrading sanitation services • Support to local businesses to create sanitation supply chains • Training of local masons to construct latrines • Engagement of local government agencies in progamme planning, implementation and monitoring • Development of WASH plans and sanitation budgets within local government units • Sanitation and Hygiene promotion and demand creation	Even in a post-emergency context, support to strengthen the overall WASH enabling environment should be prioritised. Where advocacy with local leaders was incorporated from the start, there was a positive impact on the level of institutionalisation of the programme into local government political priorities, plans and budgets.

Case study 3 – SSH4A

Case study	Mechanisms used	Salient lesson
Sustainable Sanitation and Hygiene for All (SSH4A) – Zambia and Tanzania	In Zambia: • Community champions advised households on latrines that meet government standards during CLTS triggering sessions; • Sanitation marketing groups were developed to pool financial resources at the village level to purchase latrine materials in bulk, thus lowering costs for poorer groups; • Behaviour change messages were customised through formative research and tailored for specific audiences. In Tanzania: • Local business entrepreneurs were supported 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	Focused studies on identifying vulnerable groups in collaboration with local government and civil society was key for targeting support and disaggregating data to monitor progress.

When to apply support mechanisms

- Non-financial mechanisms are often better applied early on in an intervention
- The timing of financial- or hardware-focused support depends on the context

	Advantages	Disadvantages
Subsidy available near beginning of intervention	• Helps enable targeted households to mobilise immediately • Allows for bulk transport of materials / products from suppliers	• May undermine behaviour change and locally-driven solutions • Potential to distort local markets
Subsidy available only after certain ODF threshold has been met or after other activities or outcomes have been achieved	• Incentivises demand for sanitation and rewards behaviour change • Facilitates continued engagement with communities post-ODF	• Poor households may feel ashamed and make harmful decisions (e.g. selling off assets to pay for latrine) • Can delay the movement of disadvantaged groups to ODF

Poll #3

Monitoring success of support mechanisms

1. **Everyone, including disadvantaged groups, gains access to suitable and acceptable sanitation facilities**
   - Disaggregation of data is essential
2. **Everyone consistently uses sanitation facilities that are sustained over time**
   - Ask people about latrine use in the last 48 hours using “balanced” questions.
   - Compare self-reports with observations of latrine conditions
3. **Support mechanisms are institutionalised in government, private and other sector processes**
   - Interview local government authorities or other key informants, and review government documents

Monitoring success of support mechanisms

4. **Financial or hardware support mechanisms to increase sanitation access in one area do not inadvertently hinder progress in other areas or undermine WASH markets**
   - Interview local government authorities about attitudes in other communities
   - Interview suppliers or other key informants about changes in sanitation product prices and willingness-to-pay
5. **The cost of support mechanisms are not be prohibitive to scaling up**
   - Work out the total costs of implementing the mechanisms and extrapolate

Knowledge sharing

- Evidence and knowledge sharing is needed. There is much we don't know enough about:
  - Disaggregated data on progress toward achieving sustained use of hygienic sanitation facilities
  - Common evaluation indicators for measuring equitable progress toward achieving SDG 6.2
  - Evidence of when it is appropriate to introduce support mechanisms to conventional CLTS processes
  - Evidence of which combinations of support mechanisms work for whom and in what contexts
  - Evidence of appropriate timing of introducing support mechanisms
- Budgeting and planning for monitoring and knowledge sharing should be included in programme/service design

Actions for supporting equitable rural sanitation

- Create specific targets for programmes and service delivery to achieve open defecation free status area-wide with equitable progress made across all groups. Budget and plan for disaggregated monitoring.
- Involve the local government and other sector actors in the design, implementation, and monitoring of support mechanisms, making clear plans for how support mechanisms can be institutionalised
- In the design of support mechanisms, manage the programme costs and complexity of implementation so that they can institutionalised and taken to scale
- Form partnerships between implementers and researchers to create evidence to determine which mechanisms work in which contexts
- Document and share findings on success and challenges associated with supporting equitable outcomes

Thank you

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