

Achieving universal and equitable access to WASH for all

Practitioner perspectives and perceptions

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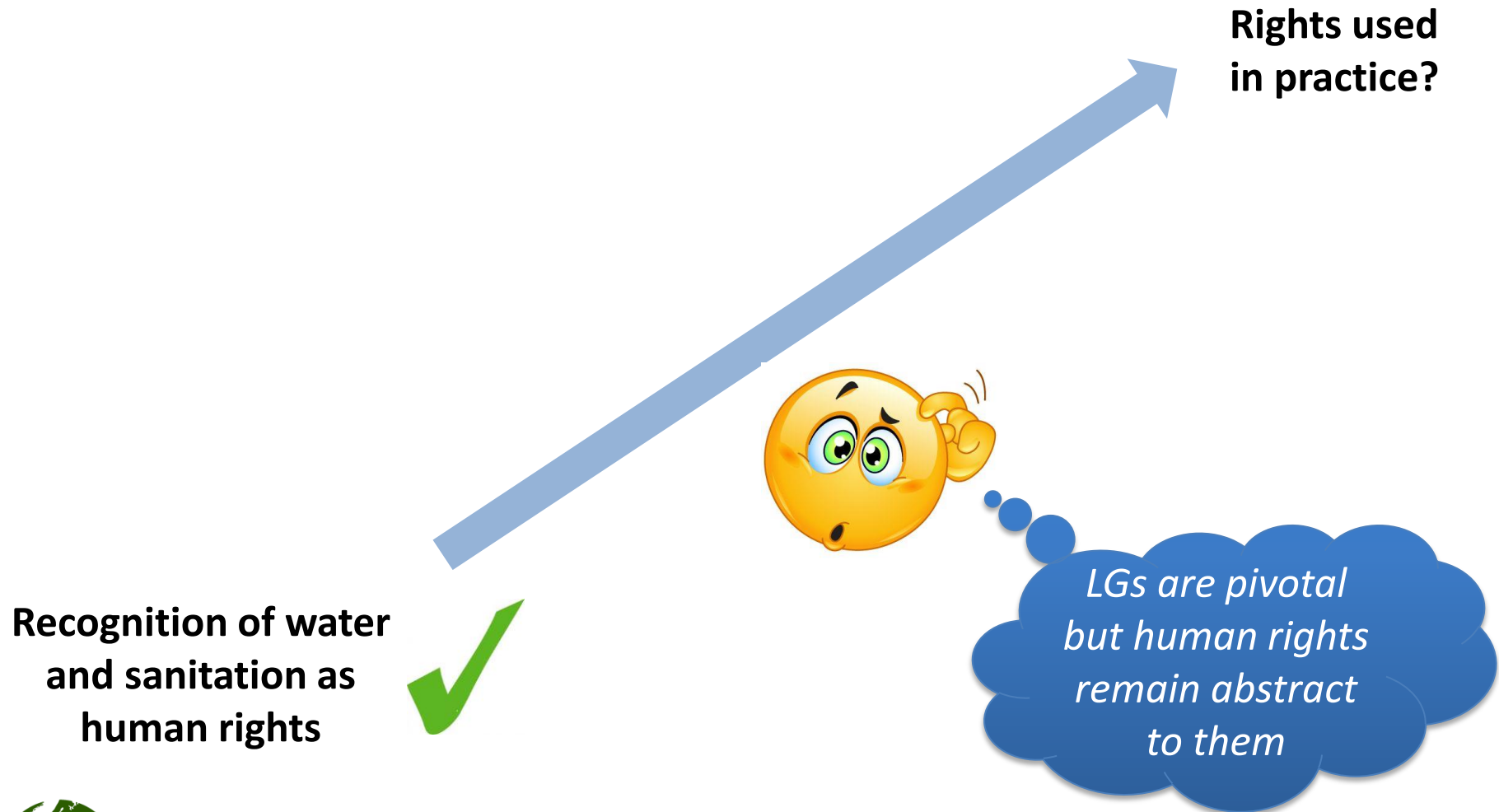
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Achieving universal and equitable access

Where do we stand?



The “Making the rights real” project

Materials on the HRTWS for LGs



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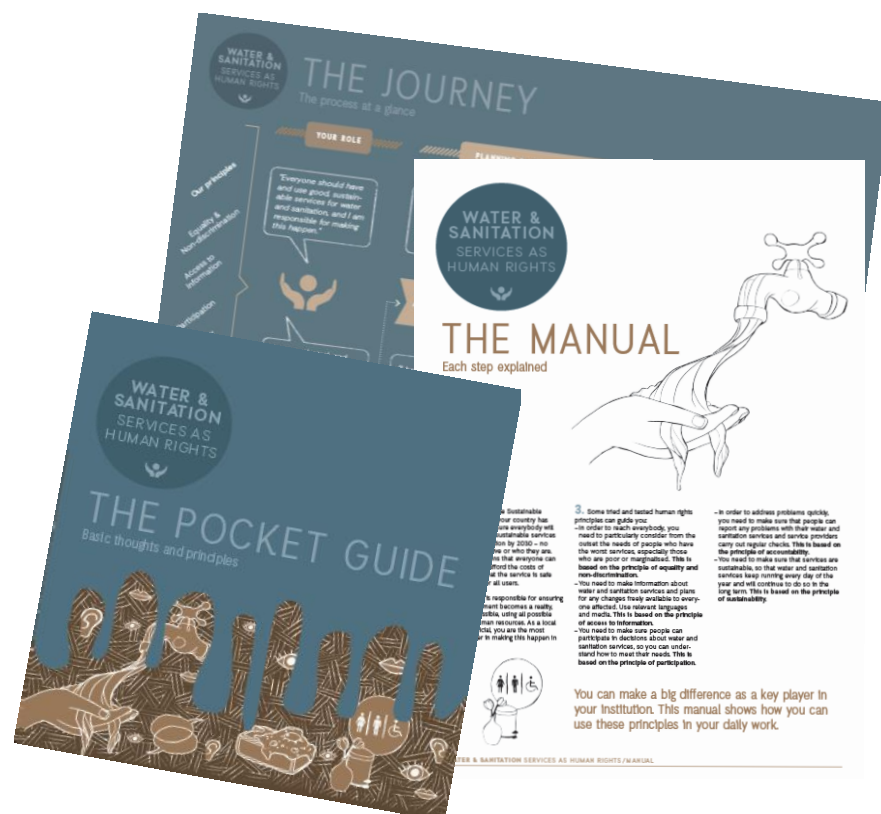


We know the rights are useful. How can we create something that is accessible, easy to understand and motivating for LGs?



Understanding the materials' target audience

- 42 semi-structured interviews (LG, national govts, CSOs, donors, international orgs)
- E-discussion on “Local government and rural water services that last” April-May 2015



Findings

How are the rights perceived by LGs?

- Low level of understanding of services for all and connection with the human rights not readily made
- Language of rights not widely used and (**mis**)understood
- Human rights seen as burdensome and confusing
- LG officials don't necessarily see themselves as duty bearers

"This broad international goal has not been really explained to local government or local people"

"When a project is carried in a given community, we think it's a gift rather than a right that is being satisfied.?"

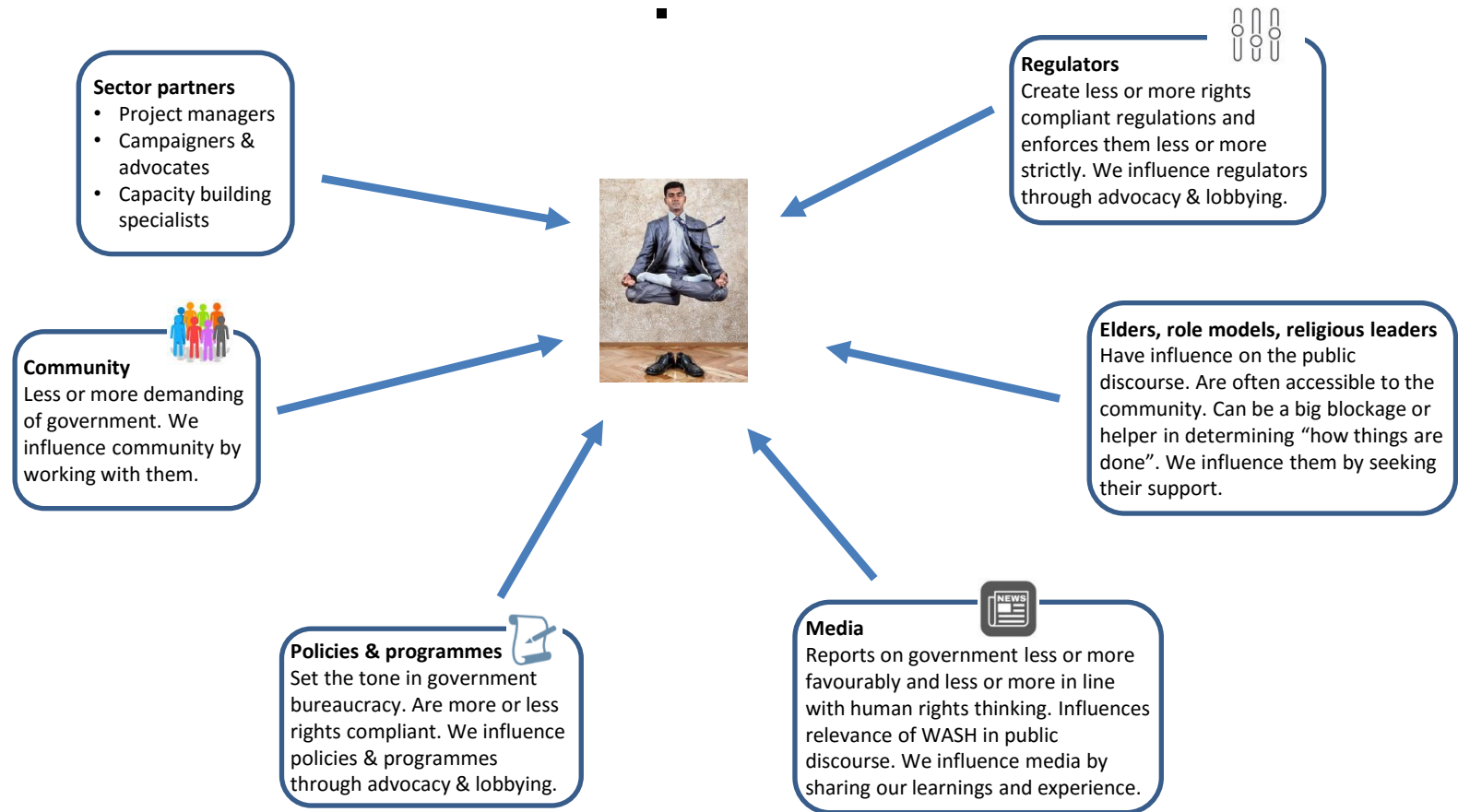
Findings

What influences decision making about service delivery?

- Political influence is much more influential than efforts of donors and/or formal service planning processes
- Growing influence of rights-holders but awareness of rights doesn't always translate into action
- Development agencies can play an important influential role as they often engage with LGs

"I may know that I have the right to demonstrate when I am not happy, but knowing that I will be tear gassed, then I may not do it. So a spirit of apathy... for that one [right], I let it go, I have no time for it."

Who influences local government officials?



Findings

Challenges for achieving services for all

**Human
resource and
skills/capacity**

**Financial and
cost-recovery**

**Community
awareness and
behaviour
change**

**Lack of clear
institutional
responsibility for
reaching
excluded people**

Lack of
implementation
of inclusive
policies and
strategies

Limited local
government
authority or lack of
an appropriate
local government
unit

**Lack of a legal
framework and
policy direction**

Lack of legal
recognition
of slum areas

**Lack of
political will
and
leadership**

**Political
interference
and
corruption**

Geographic
and
technical/tech
nology issues

Sustainability/long-term
functionality of water
and sanitation systems

Conclusion

- LGs are familiar with the notion of services ‘for all’ but have low understanding of what this really means in practice and it relates to rights
- There is a need to clarify and translate the rights into language that is meaningful for LGs - consistent with policies, frameworks
- Development organisations that work closely with LGs can play an important influential role in this
- The materials developed through the ‘Making the rights real’ project are aimed at assisting development organisations in doing this
- This will be critical to ensure LGs see themselves as duty bearers and understand how the human rights can help them become local heroes by achieving services for all
- **Recognise support and nurture local government champions**

