Human Rights based approach in WaterAid

Louisa Gosling,
Senior WASH manager – Accountability and Rights,
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Mainstreaming human rights in WaterAid WASH programming

Introduction – HRBA in WaterAid’s journey

1. Early years: WASH poverty seen as technical issue – Solution is to provide more facilities

2. But to reach everyone we need to influence sector beyond target communities – focus on policy advocacy and campaigning

3. Policies are not implemented because of sector blockages: finance, skills, coordination, planning, monitoring – focus on sector strengthening

4. Marginalised people still depend on the benevolence of outsiders for services - empower people to recognize WASH services as rights and demand them from the duty bearers

The ultimate goal is to focus on the systemic changes needed to guarantee services are delivered sustainably and equitably
Human rights based approach: the relationship between duty bearers and rights holders

Change in capacity, mindset and behaviour of people who are marginalised and excluded

Change in capacity, mindset and behaviour of the government and service providers

Change in the systems
What are the steps?

**Institutional preparedness** – orientation for staff and partners

**Analysis and planning**
- Who is excluded and how
- Capacities of rights holders and duty bearers to claim and fulfil rights,
- Existing laws, systems, platforms, mechanisms for engagement

**Training on rights**
- for duty bearers, rights holders,
- parliamentarians, media, service providers, regulators

**Accountability tools and platforms**
- Guidelines, information, training, accompaniment

**Empower rights holders**
- Focus on people who are marginalised

**Systems strengthening**
- Partner with relevant stakeholders
Challenges and discussion points

- **Technological focus** in the sector – less time and money on engaging and mobilizing

- **Lack of sense of entitlement**: "people feel they have to beg government and government does things for you, even if it is not good quality and breaks down – you have to thank them"

- **Equality and non-discrimination, participation, empowerment**: Need to partner with organisations representing the rights of marginalised

- **Roles and responsibilities** of State, communities, NGOs, agencies

- **It looks different** in different contexts – need Power Analysis, Political Economy Analysis, Analysis of rights and responsibilities
Equality, Inclusion and rights framework

Guidelines on embedding and integrating a human rights based approach

How to embed a human rights based approach into sustainable water, sanitation and hygiene programming: Blog from Nepal

Make rights real: Approach for engaging with local government on human rights
https://human-rights-to-water-and-sanitation.org/

Blog on the importance of human rights based approach in the WASH covid response
The benefit for me knowing my rights is that I am not afraid to ask about my rights to the local authorities.