

Human Rights based approach in WaterAid

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WaterAid/ Dennis Lupenga



Mainstreaming human rights in WaterAid WASH programming

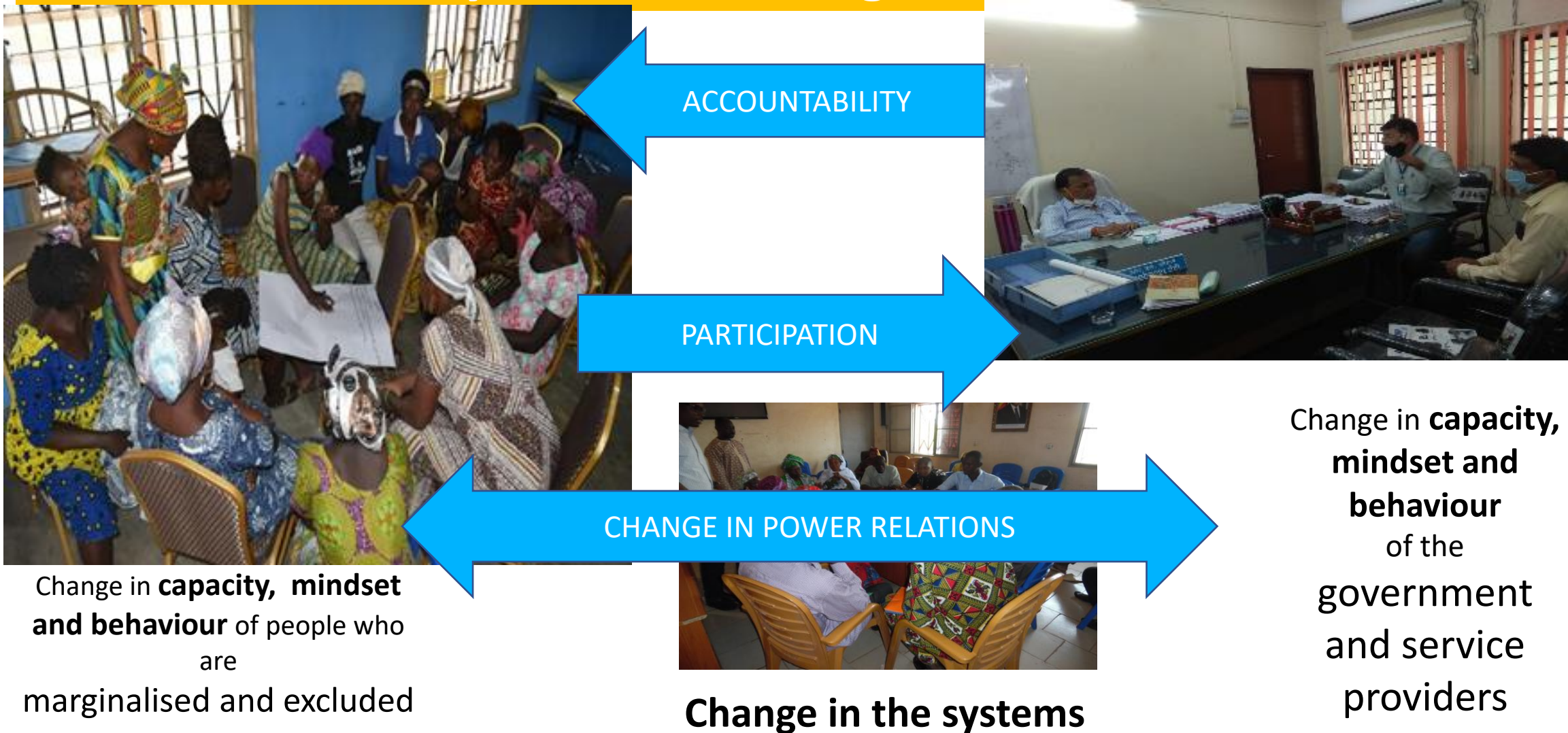
Introduction – HRBA in WaterAid's journey



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



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

Resources

Equality, Inclusion and rights framework

<https://washmatters.wateraid.org/publications/equality-inclusion-and-rights-framework>

Guidelines on embedding and integrating a human rights based approach

<https://washmatters.wateraid.org/publications/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

<https://washmatters.wateraid.org/blog/how-to-embed-a-human-rights-based-approach-sustainable-water-sanitation-hygiene>

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

<https://washmatters.wateraid.org/blog/five-human-rights-principles-people-centre-stage-water-sanitation-hygiene-covid-response>

The benefit for me knowing my rights is that I am not afraid to ask about my rights to the local authorities

