



**The role of civil society in increasing investments in
water and sanitation
and how the FWG can help advance this**

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Civil Society Roles & EUWI Aims



Civil Society roles			
EUWI aims			
	Aid Effectiveness		MDGs focus
Campaigning/ Making the case for water			
On the ground examples	✓		
Demand-side perspectives	✓		
Cash contributions (INGOs ↔ Households)			
Joint Working (SWAps – or other way to meet responsibility to coordinate work)	✓	✓	✓
Action/ Implementation	✓		



- **Word of caution - Stretch/Overload**
 - EUWI
 - CSD-13
 - PSP-MSR
 - Africa Commission
 - MDGs summit
 - DFID Water Sector Diagnostics Group
- **Tearfund already left, IRC not present today**
- **So serious interest in making FWG meaningful ...**



Joint Sector Working – Planning (*MDGs*)

- **What regions/countries should be prioritised ?**
- In spirit, the MDGs are meant to address the root causes of poverty, and to halve absolute poverty for those living on < \$1
- Extending water and sanitation coverage to the middle class in China, for example, is claimed to contribute to achieving the MDGs, but it is improvement for water coverage, and not necessarily for poverty reduction
- So need to focus on things which will work in Sub-Saharan Africa and South Asia



Joint Sector Working – Planning (*Effectiveness*)

- **What finance mechanisms are playing the biggest roles ?**
- 85% of the investments in the WASH sector are from public national finance.
- In the poorest countries up to 90% of this public financing is from external agencies
- But interventions in the water and sanitation sector have had little impact on the scale of the problem, hence low coverage .
- So need to focus on increasing quantity and quality of public - especially aid – financing (for quick wins on MDG timescales)
- Key quality issues for raising sector performance are sustainability and effectiveness in reaching the poor

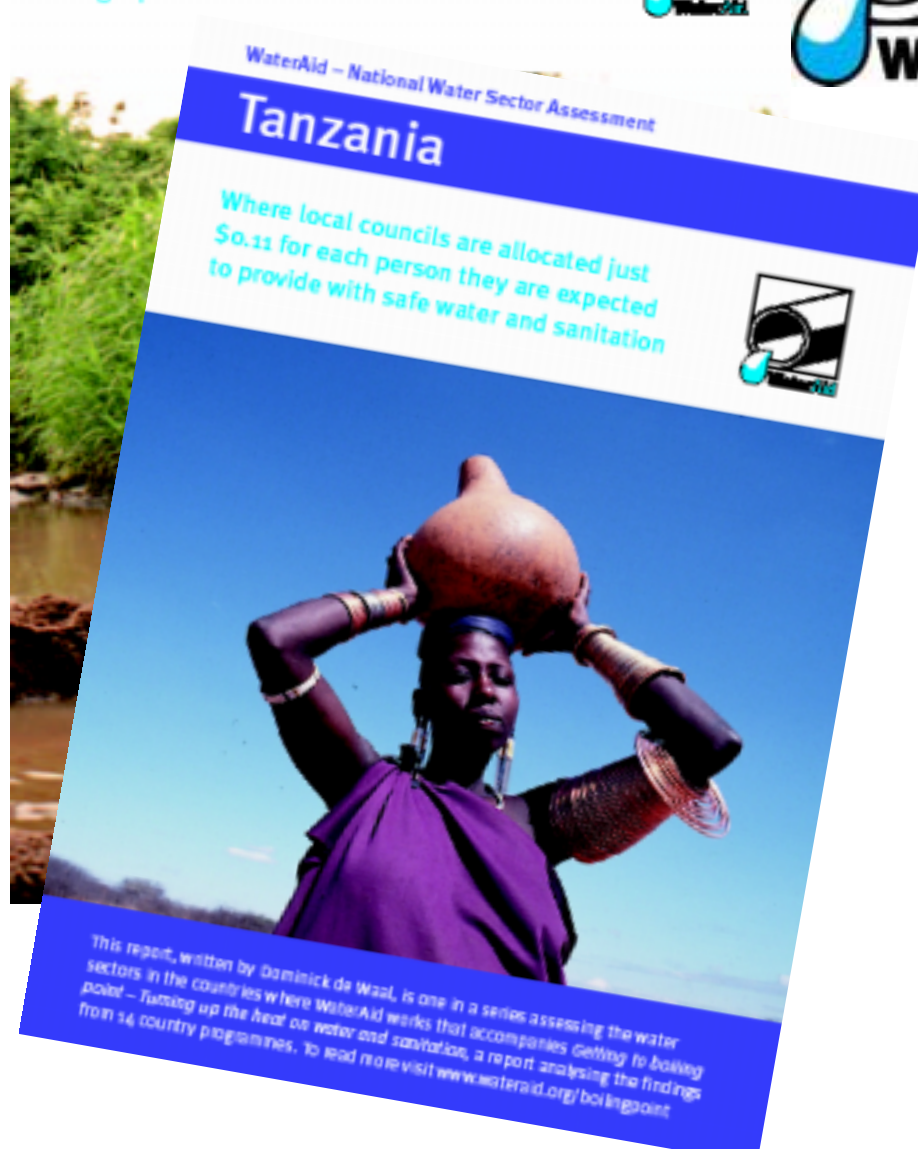


Demand-side

- What are the principal blockages to progress with the MDGs ?
- Which issues are water sector professionals on the ground really wrestling with ?
- What are the “low-hanging fruit” ?

Getting to boiling point

Turning up the heat on water and sanitation





Demand-side

- Decentralisation

- Lack of fiscal decentralisation
- Lack of capacity to identify new finance approaches and to ensure cost recovery from existing services
- *Solution ?* Scale up finance approaches which target the poorest





On the ground examples

- Finance approaches which target the poorest

- CREPA Côte d'Ivoire
- LAGEMYAM Ouagadougou
- Soozhal Initiative India
- Community-Led Total Sanitation Bangladesh
- 2005 is UN Year of Micro-credit - excellent opportunity to inform and advocate for micro-finance solutions adapted to the water and sanitation sector
- Promote examples while remembering that their sustainability requires links to participation & empowerment



Action/Implementation

- Participation in FWG “advice service” - FWG members stepping “outside the box” and becoming a learning organisation. If we stop “reinventing the wheel” we can offer (eg to Africa Working Group Country Dialogues) economies of scale in supporting implementation
- NGO inputs in support of credit provision: mobilise start-up funds, feasibility studies, training in participatory tools, monitoring
- South-South visits
- Civil society mobilisation/use of information



Summary

- Roles of civil society in water and sanitation range from campaigning/mobilising, through pro-poor delivery, to research and analysis
- Civil society's comparative advantages are its closeness to the ground and its freedom from natural constraints of political or commercial institutions
- Civil society can therefore help the FWG by (i) raising awkward issues, (ii) providing pro-poor (ie MDG) finance examples & (iii) helping implement recommendations
- FWG can help advance civil society's role by starkly prioritising for the EU the priority countries and the priority finance mechanisms it should adopt for a serious effort to deliver the water & sanitation MDGs