

NAME OF SESSION: Monitoring Sanitation Progress

SESSION NUMBER: Session 3, Theme 2/2

CONVENER (S): IRC and WSUP

NAME OF RAPPORTEUR: Lydia Mirembe

Approximate number of participants: 40

Copies of slides collected: Attached

Short summary of session:

Main objective of the session was to share lessons from country experiences in monitoring, focusing on financing and equity. There were questions around who is responsible for monitoring and evaluation in the sector; who is responsible for collecting data at different levels.

From the country experiences, there were specific questions on: How they got to the point of putting in place monitoring system and how the governments can improve such systems. There were also questions on how governments can do to specifically improve equity monitoring.

It was observed that there has been great improvement in sanitation monitoring in Africa with more countries reporting in 2015, as compared to 2011. The level and quality of presentation of data has also improved. More African countries are monitoring progress beyond just toilets. The main gaps observed was in equity monitoring; lack of data on hygiene; and failure to share financial data from NGOs. Key factors affecting monitoring of sanitation gravitated around sector reforms; conducive and enabling environment; financing; political will and leadership; capacity of personnel.

It was concluded that countries with an enabling environment perform progressively in terms of monitoring sanitation.

Three main messages/essential points made at the session

1. There is need to track progress beyond just toilets. Especially there is need to track equity: Who does not have access and why?
2. An enabling environment is essential for effective sanitation monitoring. The necessary sector reforms should be undertaken where need be.
3. Leadership is also essential to ensure effective sanitation monitoring. Political and traditional leaders should be involved in monitoring. Additionally, political will is good but should be translated into commitment and accountability in order to have impact.

Recommendations for ministerial commitments from the session

1. Government should invest in monitoring and evaluation by increasing financing. It should not be an afterthought
2. Ensure feedback loops at all levels.
3. Harmonise frameworks for monitoring and evaluation. Frameworks should be standardized, transparent and automated reflecting the common parameters being tracked. These should apply to both government and non-government actors.

4. Accountability is key. Even with standardised and automated frameworks, actors should know that there are some repercussions if they fall short of expectations.
5. Empower traditional leaders to support sanitation monitoring. They should be given necessary logistics
6. Finance and equity: should be able to include these attributes on the monitoring and evaluation tools

Good quotes by speakers that capture the essence of the discussion or the state of the topic

1. “Accountability is key. Even with standardised and automated monitoring frameworks, actors should know that there are some repercussions if they fall short of expectations.”
2. “If countries want to improve monitoring, governments should create an enabling environment”

Other comments on the session

The session was very well attended and the discussion vibrant. Participants were given more information about monitoring tools at www.sanitationmonitoringtoolkit.com