

Rapporteur Reporting for Sessions at AfricaSan 4

Name of Session: Creating an Enabling Environment – Leadership: Vision to action

Session number: A

Convenor(s): GIZ, WHO, USAID

Approx. number of participants: 80

Name of Rapporteur: Anna Kristina Kanathigoda

Copies of all slides collected - yes

Please give a short summary of the session: its objective, highlights of speakers and conclusions (max 300 words)

Theme 1 is structured in 4 consecutive sessions that look at the various aspects of creating an enabling environment for sanitation.

Objective: What progress has been made regarding the eThekweni commitments for creating an enabling environment?

Key Question for Session A: Is the strategic bundling of sanitation sector functions a way forward to improve leadership for better results?

“To ensure that one, principal, accountable institution takes clear leadership of the national sanitation portfolio; establish one coordinating body with specific responsibility for sanitation and hygiene, involving all stakeholders...” (Commitment 5); “To establish, review, update and adopt national sanitation and hygiene policies... to establish one national plan ... and ... ensure national sanitation programs are on track” (Commitment 3).

Presentation 1 – Liberia – Ministerial effectiveness in promoting sanitation coverage (Mr. George Woryonwon, , Ministry of Public Work)

Presentation 2 – Strengthening the Enabling Environment to scale up and sustain rural sanitation service delivery: Global and SSA examples (Eddy Perez, Senior Sanitation Advisor)

Liberia’s sanitation policy and implementation lies in several Ministries and Agencies of Government, but progress has been made to clarify disaggregated responsibilities and improve coordination of the stakeholder in the sanitation sector. Leadership and reduction of bureaucracy helped to make good progress in 5-8 of the 14 commitments made by Liberia in 2008. However, the impact of Ebola in 2014 has pushed Liberia’s progress on WASH back. But the Ebola crisis also brought the sector and its many institutions together. ODF communities were less prone to the spread of Ebola (Zero Ebola cases reported in 284 ODF communities).

Global studies show the need to have strong government leadership from the top supporting and leading the country to make good progress on sanitation. In order to

enable universal access there is need for countries to transform their policies and address the sanitation issue like they have not done before. A systematic and comprehensive reform of the enabling environment and strong leadership from the top creates the environment that local government levels need to provide better services.

What were the 3 main messages/essential points made at the session? (these could come from the summing up, from consensus in the discussion, points made by key speakers or your judgement on what was most important)

- There is need to have strong government leadership. Sanitation service delivery depends on the enabling environment for the local government level to provide services.
- In order to enable universal access there is need for countries to transform their policies and institutions; this requires strong decision making leadership and time.
- Champions and leaders are important, but what happens when there is a change in government? Several strong institutions that are coordinated in a good way are a possible answer to changes in government

Any recommendations for Ministerial commitments from the session?

We need systematic and comprehensive reforms of the enabling environment. This takes time and a lot of coordination.

Any good quotes by speakers that capture the essence of the discussion or the state of the topic?

- We need systematic and comprehensive reforms of the enabling environment. This takes time and a lot of coordination.
- Champions and leaders are important, but what happens when there is a change in government? Sectors need to establish implementation systems to follow-up on policies.
- You need leadership, whether it is political or on the technical level. The key is decision making leadership.

Any other comments on the session?

Please send this form and all slides to piers.cross@gmail.com on the day of the session. For the Wednesday sessions, please send them as soon as you can after the end of the session.

Many thanks

Piers Cross

AMCOW AfricaSan Advisor