Why Water supply and Sanitation Interventions Fail in LDCs (A case of Uganda)

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Introduction

- Urban centres with high population growth due to perserved "opportunities"
- Increased pressure on resources including WSS
- Capital city poorly located in a wetland: high water table
- Physical planning lagged behind expansion of the cities

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- Types of interventions
  - Mainly on-site based technology-driven interventions:
    - Pit-latrines, VIPs, Septic tanks, Ecosan
    - Hand-washing stations
    - "Protected" Wells
    - Stand taps (that are paid for)
- Cost of piped water at stand taps high
- Research shows safe latrine use in urban cities less than 30%

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- Research showed:
  - *Where international and national agencies implemented more on-site interventions diarrheal disease prevalence was higher*
- Less where Community Based Organisations, NGOs, Youth groups were involved
  - *Higher functional sustainability, acceptability and adoptation*

Main Challenges

- Poor financing of local government
- Poor institutional framework
- Lack of a single entity to manage, plans projects and programmes on WSS and waste management
- Socio-political issues
  - Votebank politics
  - Tagging WSS to political favors
  - Cultural beliefs
  - A fear for new technologies
- Lack of community participation in planning and implementation

Way forward

- ✓ Implementation of options that are functionally sustainable
- ✓ Strong community involvement at all stages of the project cycle
- ✓ Emphasize importance of traditional knowledge
- ✓ Set goals and targets that are tailor-made to fit local context (national or regional)