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 persisting "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 adoption*
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)