

Leaving no one behind: meaningful participation and indigenous peoples

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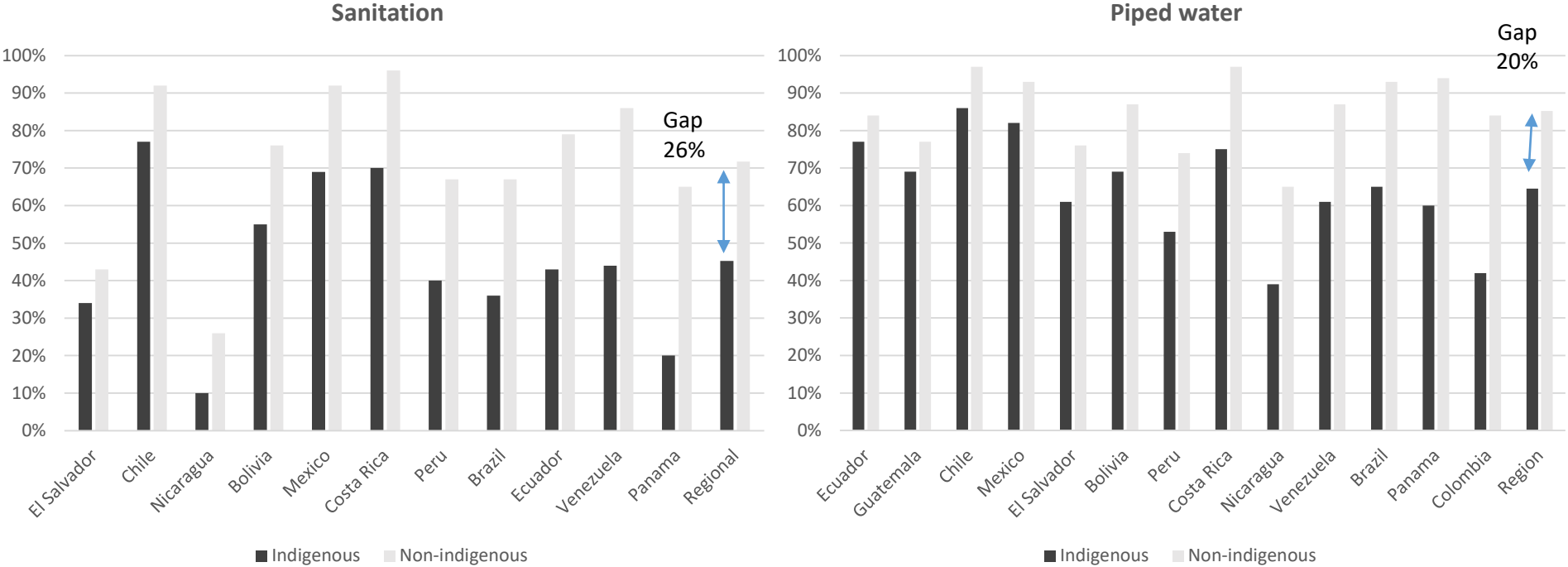
Indigenous peoples

- 5% of global population, but 15% of population living in poverty
 - Weak participation and representation in politics and decision making
 - Low economic power, and barriers to education and language use
 - When data exist, access is lower to W&S services:
 - Nicaragua - RAAN/RAAS 27% vs. National 75%
 - Paraguay - Chaco 65% vs. 80% National
 - ByH - Romaní 32% vs. National 82%
- Lack of systematic information

“Like with many other human rights, indigenous peoples suffer disproportionate violation of their human right to water and sanitation”

Catarina de Albuquerque, Special Rapporteur on the Human Right to Water, 2011

Access Gap: example from LAC



Water and indigenous peoples



“Water and land are our mother, and our quality of life depends on them.”

(Testimonial, comunidad Saklwas, Nicaragua)


- Close spiritual and cultural relationship between indigenous groups and water
- Hold extensive and detailed knowledge of ecosystems and environmental conditions
- Livelihoods depending on natural resources and ecosystems
- From remote places with high biodiversity- currently threatened

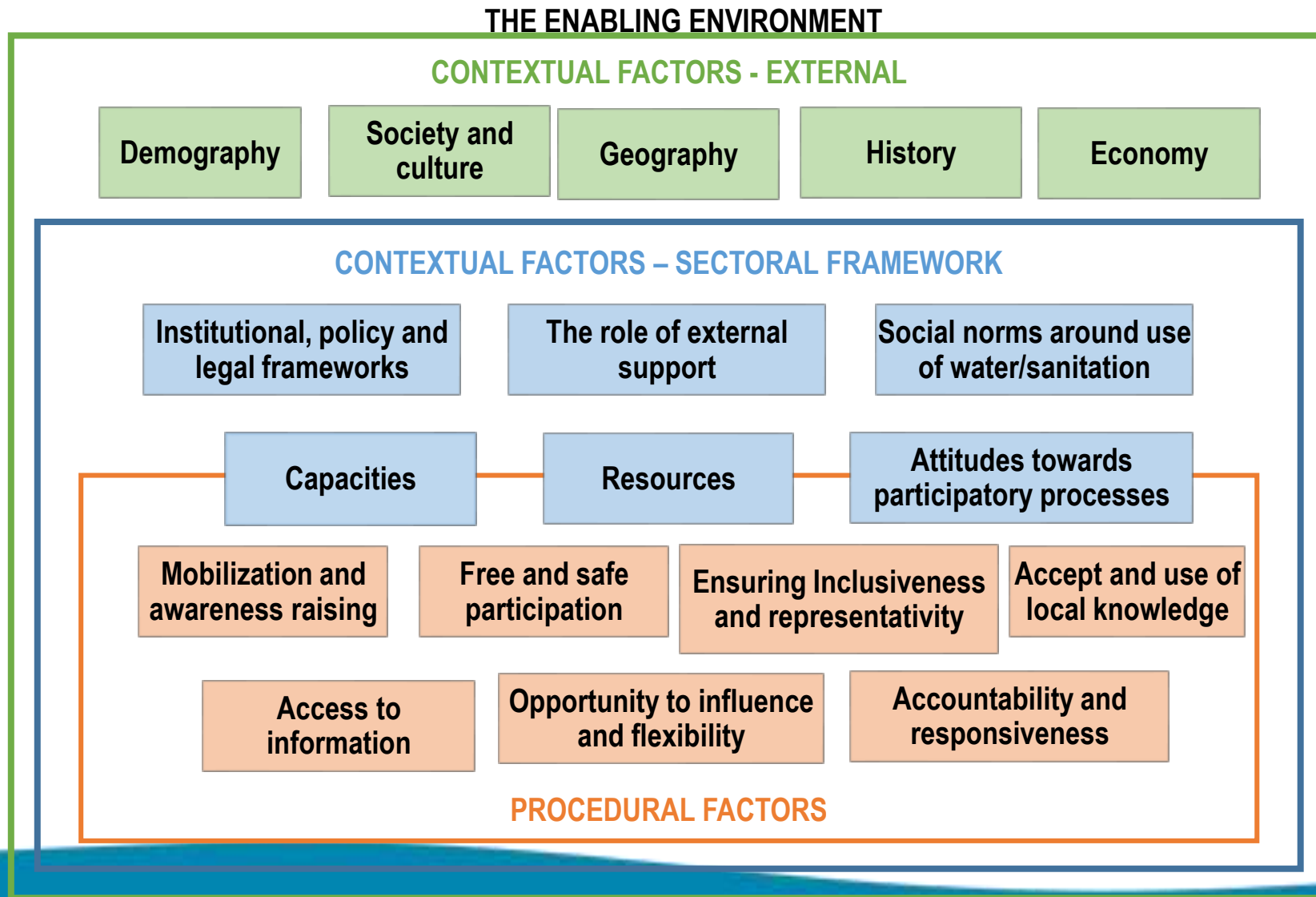
Principles of human rights

- States are duty bearers. People are right holders.
- Principles of:
 - Universality
 - Indivisibility
 - Non- discrimination
 - Transparency
 - Participation
 - Accountability
 - (Sustainability)



Objectives of participation

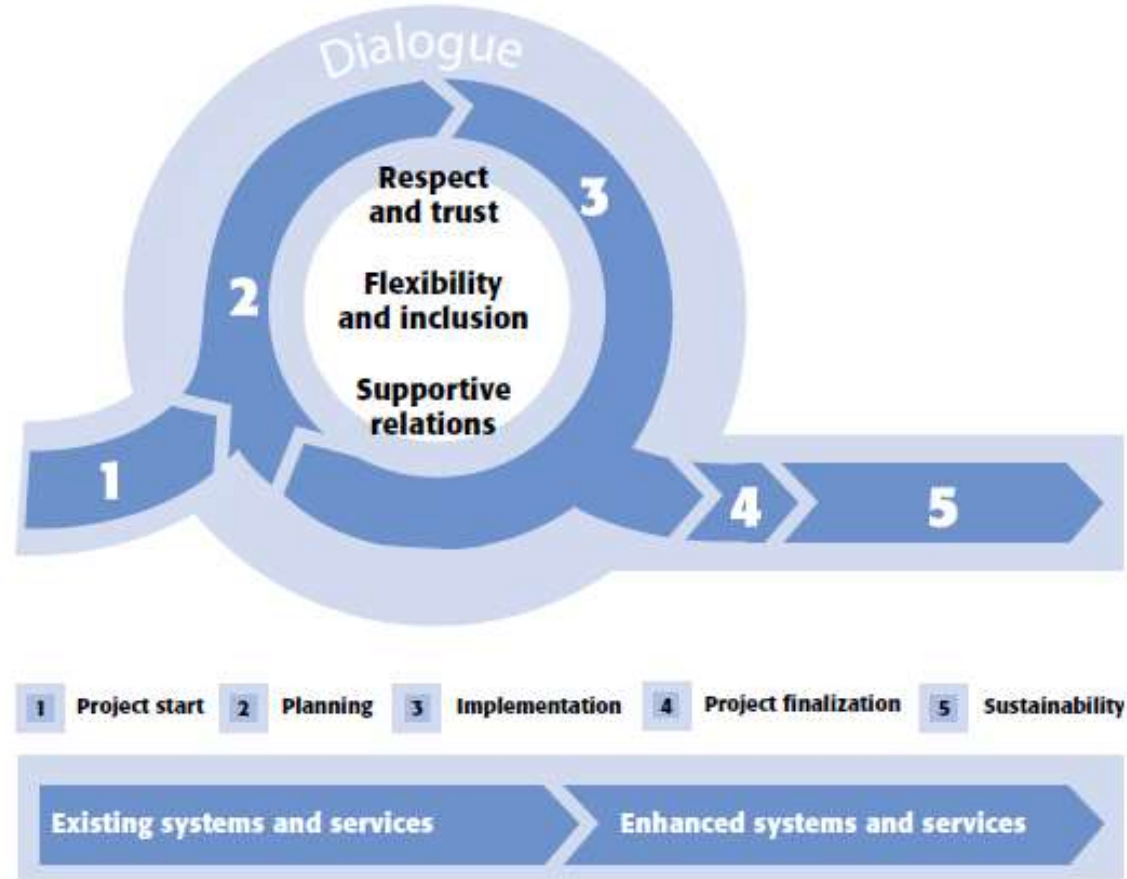
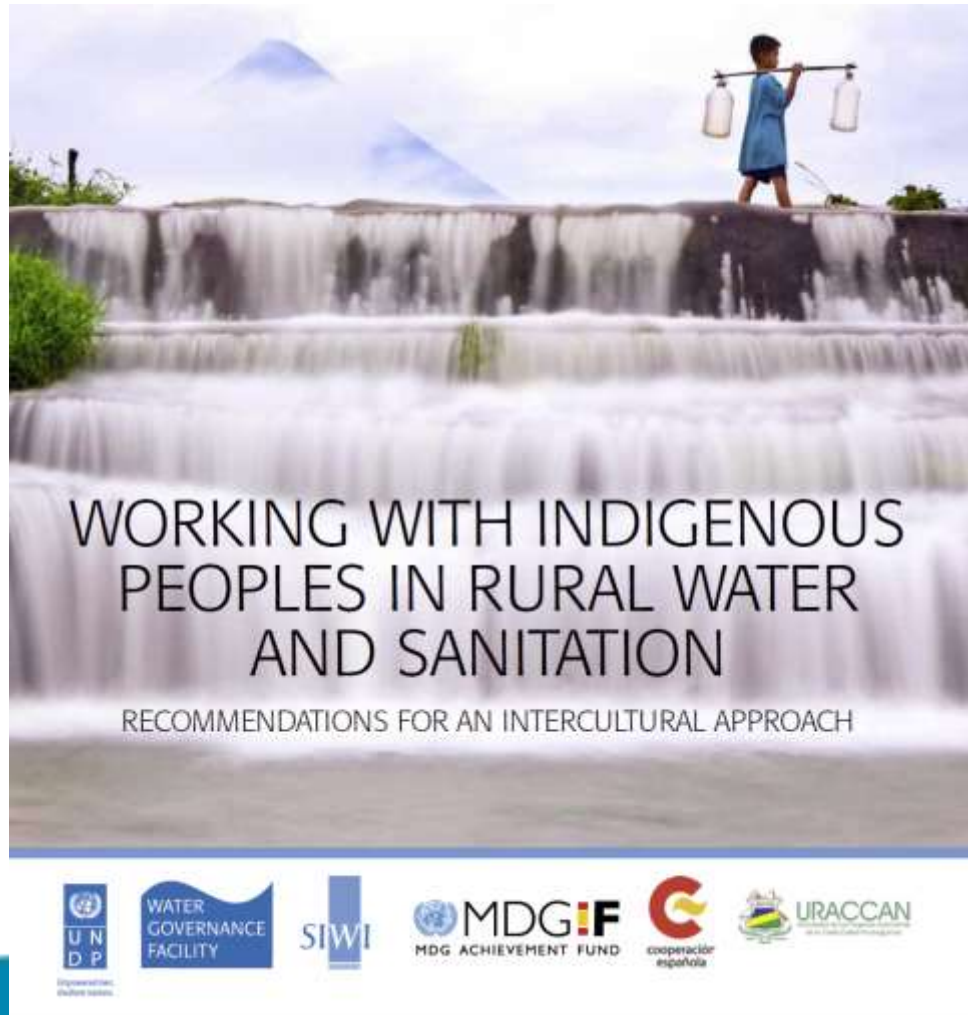
- Legitimacy
 - Increased awareness
 - Participant empowerment
 - Better management and accountability
 - Improved sustainability
- 



Framework for participation

(Jimenez et al, Water Journal, 2019)

Access to services: an intercultural approach



Meaningful participation and indigenous peoples

- Identify, recognize and involve autochthonous authorities -
- Use suitable language and type of communication (audio, visual, etc.)
- Recognize, visualize and integrate other values and worldviews
- Include local knowledge to ensure ownership of plans and designs with local climatological and ecological conditions
- Implement the Free and Informed Prior Consent (ILO 169), and the possibility of withdrawing it in case of disagreement over the execution
- Use culturally appropriate spaces for dialogues with communities and collaborate with local facilitators
- Flexibility in the design of the interventions so that the proposals of the communities can be integrated in the final design of the project.
- Create permanent mechanisms of dialogue and technical support between indigenous peoples and government authorities

Thank you

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