

The Impact of CSO/NGO Work in The WASH Sector

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Outline

- Introduction
- Definition and context of NGOs in WASH
- Type of NGOs in the WASH sector
- Role of NGOs/CSOs in the sector
- Achievements
- Challenges/Limitations
- Issues and Suggestions

Definition/Categories

Generally NGOs/CSOs position themselves with communities to assist in their development or for influencing development processes:

- Community Based Organisations,
- Non-Governmental Organisations,
- Community or Groups/representative bodies.
- Churches and church groups
- Social and Development oriented groups.

CSO is / should **not** a formal part of Government and State Machinery

Categories

NGO/CSO

Networks
Social knowledge
Community
Representation
Developmental
processes
Communication
skills
Credibility/
legitimacy

National /Local Gov

Policy
Regulations
Procedures
Integrated planning
Funding

Private Sector

Resources
Competitive
approach
Risk management
Technical
knowledge
Management
Flexibility



The United Nations: Partners in Civil Society



"The United Nations once dealt only with Governments. By now we know that peace and prosperity cannot be achieved without partnerships involving Governments, international organizations, the business community and civil society. In today's world, we depend on each other."

-Kofi Annan, UN Secretary-General

The World Bank says it "welcomes the opportunity to work with civil society".

WTO Director-General Mike Moore says he welcomes scrutiny from civil society and that their engagement with the WTO "informs us and encourages us to do better." 2005

CSO/NGO Impact in the WASH Sector of Ghana

- Empowered/ working with communities.
- Community advocates.
- Service delivery /Filled a gap in the rural WASH:
 - Remote/difficult to reach communities.
 - Economically less viable areas.
- Created opportunities for dialogue in the sector
- Alternative and appropriate solutions

Achievements

- Played a crucial watch dog role.
- Created jobs.
- Research and sector learning.
- Advocacy and Policy influencing:
 - budget reviews and recommendations.
 - 5% upfront apical Cost contribution.
 - involvement communities in decisions.
 - Important role in the creation of Rural Water section of GWCS (CWSA).
- Mobilized resources for WASH.
- Provided flexibility and rapid response to WASH Emergencies
- Training and capacity building of NGOs
- Development of guidelines and tools for training capacity building.

Challenges

- Effects of mystery / pocket NGOs
- Infiltration and rogue /single purpose NGOs
- Duplication of efforts
- Leakage of scare resources
- Little or no supervision and the resultant
- Lack of quality in some situations.
- Poor coordination within and amongst NGOs.
- Little or no accountability by some NGOs
- Transparency is on the low side.
- Technology is applied without recourse to context.
- Implementing with Government /private sector could be problematic.
- Sustainability of NGO WASH services is suspect.

Suggestions

- Effective Monitoring and Evaluation
- Documentation and learning
- Further Capacity Building
- Regulation and Compliance:
 - Self regulation
 - Enforcement
- Need effective Coordination & Collaboration
- Transparency and Accountability
- Play more of the “watch dog” and emergency WASH roles.

Observations

What should be the role of CSO/NGOs in WASH Today and the future?

Over emphasis of service delivery – WASH at the expense of other roles

There was a suggestion that NGOs should be consign to software and leave hardware to Government.

- Subtle way of absolving government of its responsibility towards software component of the sector.
- Perhaps the thinking is that software is the easiest component – Which is true.
- Government has neglected the soft component for various reasons including
 - lack of capacity and
 - Little appreciation of the elements and implications of the soft component of WASH component.

Government speeches suggest that the absence of Cholera is a yard stick to measure access to WASH especially sanitation.

- it reveals the reasons behind some postures and directions which may be worrying.



Question

What should be the role of CSO/NGOs in WASH Today and the future?

Thank You