

# **Governance in rural sanitation**

## **The role of local governments in the community based approaches**

Sanitation Governance Seminar  
February 2015

# Background to rural sanitation

- 2,500 million without access to basic sanitation; 70% of them live in rural areas (90% of OD happen there)
- Sub-Saharan Africa has the lowest rural coverage (23%), and made the poorest progress in the last 20 years (4%).
- Sanitation has gained political momentum in SSA: 35+ of the countries having a policy.
- The policy change: 1) Gvmt does promotion, and household must pay for their toilet; 2) responsibilities are decentralized; 3) Community based approaches to raise demand, and develop sanitation market for supply side.

# Tanzania: the history

- Tanzania Rural: some kind of access 88%, but only 7% is improved; 16% of OD.
- Why? Mtu ni Afya Campaign in the 70s.
- Since then, supply side approaches: subsidies for demonstrative latrines; no adoption by non subsidized people.



# The National Sanitation Campaign

- **Target:** 1.3 million households (15% of rural population) and 700 schools all over the country.
- **Approach:** Community Led Total Sanitation (CLTS) and Sanitation Marketing.
- **Who will implement:** District staff will trigger CLTS and train masons (follow WSP model)
- The first phase covered **42 districts** and 100,000 HH

**CLTS** entails the facilitation of the community's analysis of their sanitation profile, their practices of defecation and the consequences through a "triggering" exercise (based on shame, fear and disgust) which aims at leading to collective action and peer control to become ODF (Kar, 2003)

**Sanitation Marketing** sees potential sanitation users as clients who need to be motivated to invest in a latrine; and the services and products must be available at an affordable price in the right place. Normally it focuses on creating the adequate supply side that can match peoples' aspirations.



# What is aimed for...



# Changes for LGAs

- The triple shift:
  - 1) change in department-from infrastructure to public health
  - 2) changing the role(from subsidy to promotion, and training)
  - 3) LGA become directly responsible for results through approaches that have also severe constraints at scale

Topic	Some facts
<b>CLTS short term success rate</b>	SubSaharan Africa (39%), review 18 countries-Bevans (2011) East Asia and Pacific (21%), in 12 countries- UNICEF (2013)
<b>CLTS long term</b>	ODF Sustainability Study in 4 countries in SSA (2014): Latrine still there in 87% of cases; Reversion estimated at 21% at least. Clean toilets plus handwashing only in 8%!
<b>Sanitation Marketing success</b>	Tanzania: 75% of masons became inactive almost immediately, 20% were somehow active and below 5% made a living out of it (Robinson, 2011)

# The research project

What are the major constraints for the effective promotion of sanitation at LGA level, and how to overcome them?



# Methodology and locations

- Problem driven governance and political economy analysis
- Information was obtained from 3 regions, 6 districts, 9 wards and 15 villages (81)



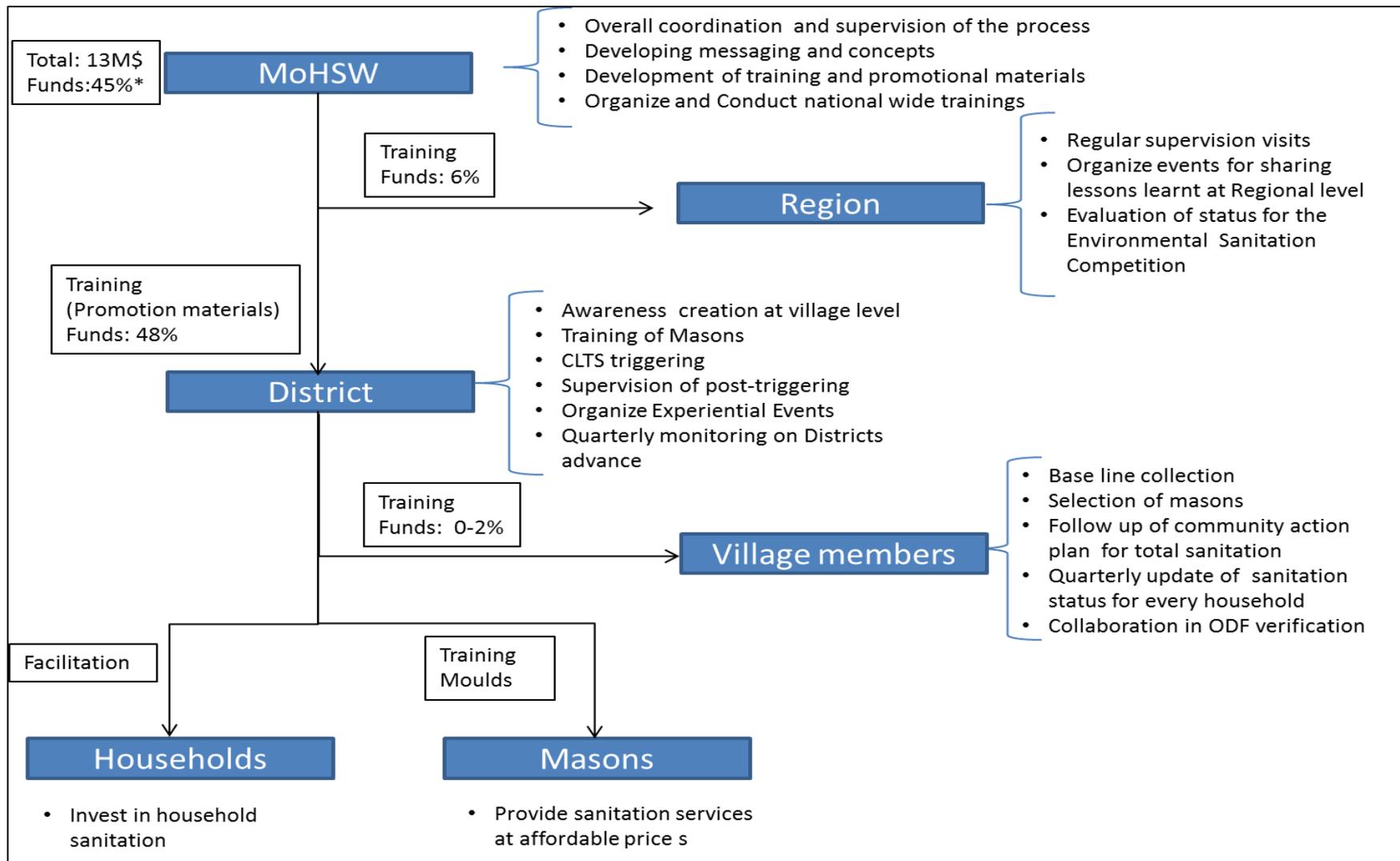
# The dynamics of LGA

- 90% of their funds come from central level with clear guidelines: Very **limited flexibility** to adapt to changing circumstances
- Reporting only upwards: **little downwards accountability** from the District to citizens.
- The tensions between appointed and elected parts of the government: **the lack of trust**
- **"Hunting for Per diems"** disease: visits to communities are determined by the amount of per diems available
- Villagers are continuously asked to do **voluntary work**: they feel undervalued and "cheated"

# What did we find at LGA level?

- **Commitment** from the District Health Department, and the DHO personally involved!
- For the first time in two decades, **sanitation coverage targets** are into District Planning!
- **Limited coordination** between departments: Lost of interest from Water Department and limited in Education
- Districts have **delegated key tasks** within the campaign (e.g. data collection, post-triggering follow up) to village authorities and groups.

# The resulting roles and the means



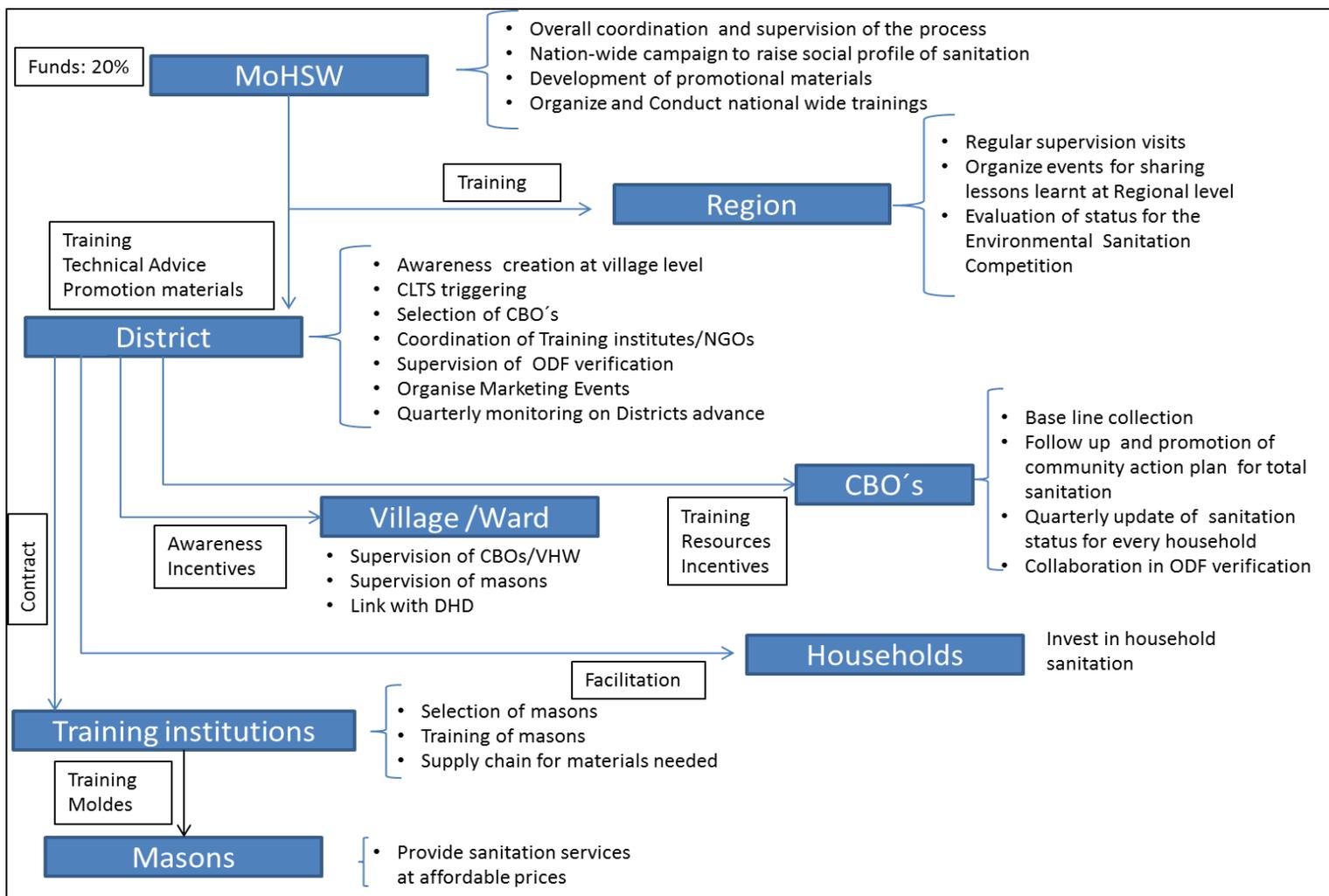
# At the end of the day...

- **Too little funds** to be used at local level (aprox 5 USD/HH) and late disbursement!
- Funds firstly used **for own costs** (per diems! and fuel): this determines the **limited presence at community level** and the availability of funds to train and/or incentivize communities
- **Communities must do very time consuming tasks** (baseline, post triggering support, etc...) without incentives for it and/or training

# Improving how to do it...

- Improve the **coordination, the coherence** between the supply and demand sides of the programme.
- Ensure the **adequate quality of the implementation of both components** of the programme, through good facilitators and expert institutions for the development of the supply side
- **Balance the role of districts** between direct execution, coordination and supervision

# How could that look like...



# A few take home messages

- **Understanding the dynamics of Local Governments in each country determine what are they fit for.**
- In rural sanitation, **current methodologies are not working sufficiently well at scale**; costs will be much higher and long term continuous support and presence is needed.
- Avoid two very common **syndromes**:
  - “the oversimplification and packaging of methodologies”,
  - “community is a magic homogeneous entity that can solve it all”
- If long term effort is required, we´d better continue to **support the appropriate role of LGA, even if short term results are not very satisfactory**

“They promised to come back to review latrine by latrine, but they never did, and people lost motivation” (statement from village leader)

**Thank you**

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# References

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What role for local government in sanitation promotion? Lessons from Tanzania

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RESEARCH REPORT

**The role of Districts in the implementation of Tanzania's National Sanitation Campaign**