New-wave social interventions for shared water security: insights from Africa

Nick Hepworth, Water Witness International
IWRA Congress May 2015
1. Activate WRM institutions to improve water security (lack of tenure, pollution, flood/drought, conflict etc)

2. Track institutional responses to diagnose performance (barriers & opportunities for delivery)

3. Constructive advocacy to improve WRM: Evidence-based, legitimate and locally owned

- Increased accountability and public and political demand for WRM. Stronger incentives for performance

- Making duty bearers accountable for water security
Fair Water Futures: Theory of Change
Applying citizen agency and social accountability to activate pro-poor water resource management & water security for poor communities in East Africa

Output 1: Poorest water users identified and priority water security problems assessed
Output 2: Action research: water rights application process, water security procedures defined and promoted
Output 3: Public expenditure tracking survey to diagnose barriers and opportunities to pro-poor performance
Output 4: Constructive advocacy package developed and implemented

Impact: Water security for poverty reduction, economic growth & climate resilience

Outcome: Water resource use by 270,000 is legally recognised and protected against degradation and depletion.
Indicator 1: Increase in numbers of water rights held by poor communities and water sources protected
Indicator 2: Institutional performance, investment and responsiveness of duty bearers to water resource management needs of the poor increased

Global Learning: New approaches for activating pro-poor NRM
Consultancy & external contractors
TZS 11.8 bn
Uhakika - achievements

• 250,000 reached with action to improve water security at £1/head
• Mashahidi model, ownership by partners, beneficiary evaluation and strong relationships with MoW and donors
• Traction for early advocacy:
  – Enforcement training and warrants for Basin staff
  – Minister publicly committed to national review of permitting process and pollution enforcement
  – United platform for national advocacy on water security
  – National TV and media interest and coverage
• Scaling in Kenya, Zambia (Malawi, Rwanda, Uganda planned)
Uhakika - challenges

- Translating advocacy, action and tenure to greater water security
- Reaching the most vulnerable
- Conflict mitigation
- Engaging with the INGOs
- The tyranny of allowance culture
- Politicisation
- Detangling attribution
Uhakika - achievements

You have brought new information about pollution and the law which will help us to protect the health of this community.

Kigogo Ward Councillor, Dar es Salaam, Tanzania

For the first time people are demanding their rights on water. This will help things change.

Praxeda Paul, Wami Ruvu Basin Water Officer, Tanzania

Uhakika has raised the political profile of water resource management in Tanzania

Lukas Kwezi, Water Advisor, DFID

Shining a light on performance, on how money and resources are used has not happened before. It is a big step forwards.

Secretariat, Donor Partner Group on Water