Morning session

Water Changemakers Meetup

Group 1
Communication for social change

Issues

Working in local communities where they did not have easy access to water. Communication was used to bring lectures and some understanding of the project.

Difficulty with perception (E.g. we don't like tap water)

Challenges

Community embracing the culture

Change the perception of people

Success

Embracing the culture is key for communication

Test trial with different types of water. "try on your own"

Educational tools sent to teachers to use in the classroom

Scientific tests with water

Education coaches that contribute in communication

Teachers as respected stakeholders

Partnership with a tap-water related organisation (through combined efforts)

Praising & encouraging people for them to be encouraged

Need to improve

Acknowledging everyone & give everyone in the network a place to share.

Group 2
Mobilizing resources

Issues

The government don't want private company to share the Date with anyone else. They want to have the data and do what they want with it.

Water law basis for good Water governance.

Challenges

Difficult to work ith politics in Kenya and Mozambique. Scary for them to see data and do something with it.

Difficult to adapt Water tracking tool. Tools take data related to climate change, also for Water utilis

Brazil: Difficult to deal with a lot of partners. Coopertion agreements with obligations of each institutions very clear. No owner of the project, and this has to be repeated all the time.

Gov make budget. Private companies sell tools to government to meet demand. Gap between goernmentant and private secort without connection, cannot reach them.

Government pay for farmers to diminish water use etc, to pay for better water treatment plan.

Sometimes difficult to show the benefits of nature based

Success

All the decisions made by everyone. Coordinated by company. Governance structure best thing they have. otherwise could not mobilize all these institutions and farmers. People come to Brazilia to see the projet. Best place to know about this kind of projects.
Governments, NGOs, scientific intitutions, etc. are part of this network.

230 sq km basin with a lot of station paid by private sector in Brazil. Money coming from many places.

Need to improve

Important to have a very structured Project.

Government should try to improve the issues they have.

Group 3
Political buy-in

Issues

What is the difference between participation and engagement? Participation not enough -> collective action and responsibility

Challenges

getting time to get the trust of the communities, political leaders

coordination between all stakeholders

sustaining the change (other priorities in their lives)

get the people feel the ownership of what they´re being taught

Not only the right but the ability

collaboration between state and non-state actors
- usually only led by government

Success

having multi-stakeholder platforms, training and workshops

investing time and attention to communities

Transparent process and availabilty of the information

ownership by the beneficiaries

Need to improve

strenghen the position of GWP at country level

identify stakeholders strenghs, and their contributions

Terminology and understanding of IWRM

Group 4
Stakeholder engagement

Group 5
Catalyzers for change

Issues

- approaching the problem from bottom level
- stakeholder mapping
- the underlying causes for existing problem
- forgotten natural reserves
- competing problems in same region
- conflict of interest among end users

Challenges

- how to know what can be a catalyst?
- how to identify the problem?
- gaining support
- motivating the community
- lack of updated data
- different approach to same issue

Success

- create a space for the community for analysis
- encourage community brainstorm solutions
- explain the cause
- reliable data to support the cause
- get different perspectives to balance expectations
- public awareness via community leaders

Need to improve

- long-term studies
- theory of change
- focus on what can move us forward
- continuous discussion
- bring lessons learned from others
- taking more people onboard

Group 6
Ensuring inclusiveness

Issues

Climatic events: Monsoons & Landslides → Most affected: Tea plantation workers

↓

Schools are affected

Tea plantation workers women between 30-50 yo

Challenges

Political conflicts between the tea plantation and the govt → Lifeline is broken (due to monsoons)

↓

Challenging to secure political buy-in of solutions/technologies → Mobilizing funding

Water is undervalued: Address the 'hidden cost' of water → Water utilities

Success

Social media: a force for good

Securing buy-in and engaging govt officials

Technological solutions

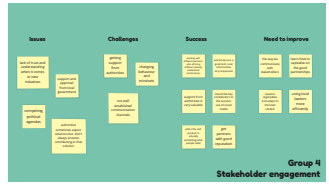
Need to improve

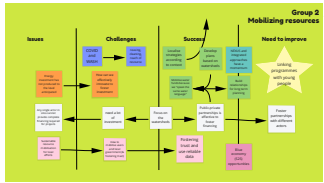
Engagement with govt → Political will and incentive to ensure buy-in

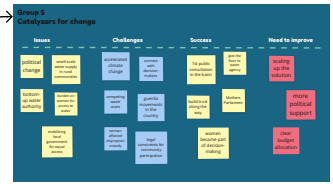
Creating platforms (e.g. through GWP) to bridge the gap between the govt actors & solution providers

Afternoon session

Water Changemakers Meetup







Group 1
Communication for social change

Issues

Climate change topics are related to politics and hence they become sensitive

Challenges

How to "sell" what we do as non-profits?

People did not agree to the project

Success

Advocating with other organisations in the field

Making the message simple

Communicating about values/emotions linked to the community

Writing blogs

Writing articles either in the native language or English

Creating videos

Need to improve

Not only evidence and data

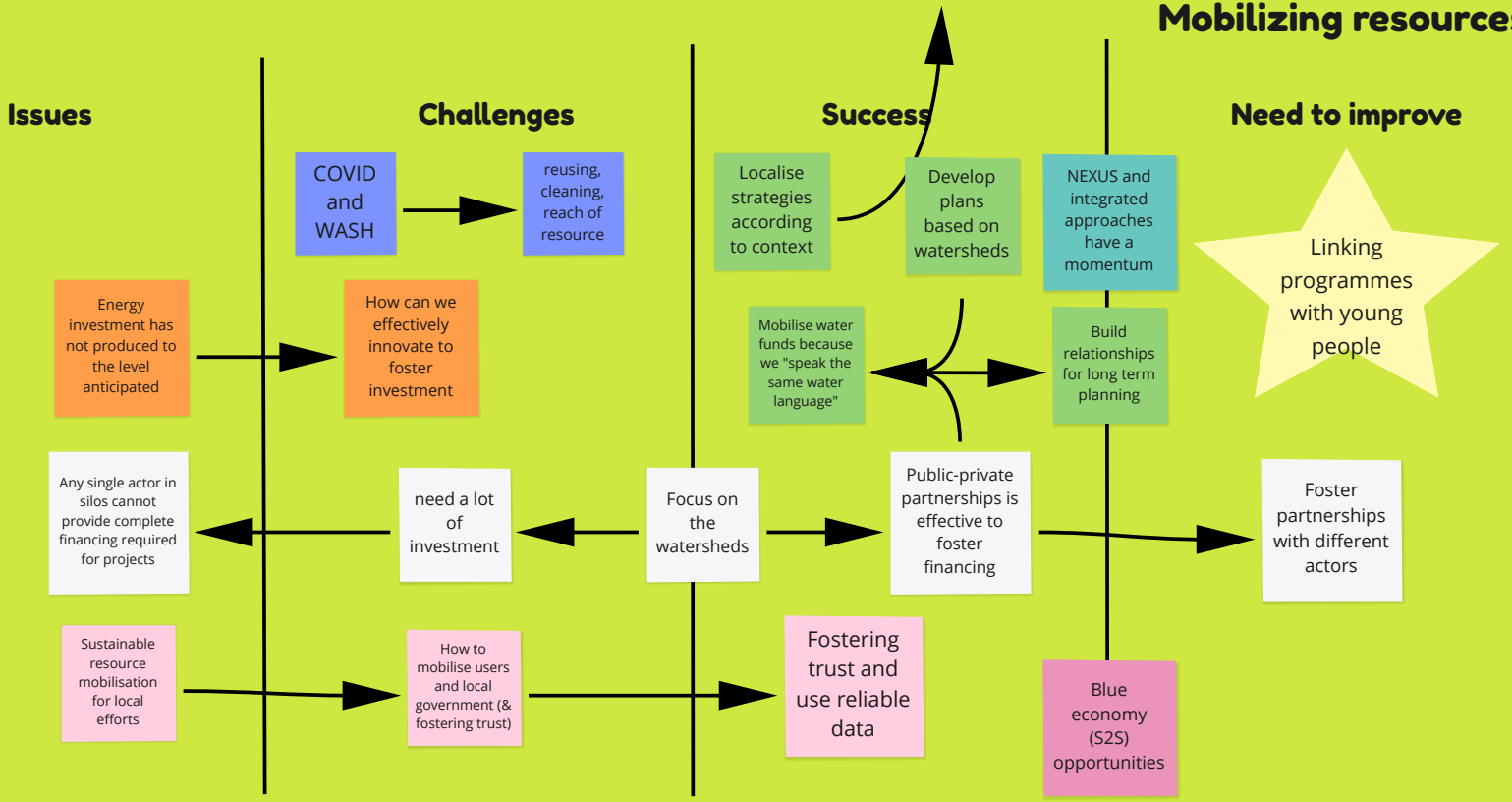
Focus on values and emotions

Making the message digestible

Decide on the importance of communicating about it

How to best use social media as non-profits

Group 2
Mobilizing resources



Issues

short period in government.

Challenges

not working together with governments. Industries and governments sometimes don't work together

When government change, projects change, and you have to start again

government people are too busy and don't have enough staff.

having to convince governments that a project is necessary.

Success

by working together and having government be part of the stakeholders

Citizens appropriating the project, so the government has to follow the citizens will and go with the project

Need to follow up with them. Have to convince government, make them happy

Space for ministers to speak with other policy makers, but also with different funds

Citizens analyze the situation and implement the initiative

Bring the science in the discussions with these ministries so policies and science are not separated

Need to improve

Organizations/companies can put themselves as a platform for governments to achieve projects. Companies can achieve things faster. We can be a catalyzer for change

Take interests of every actors into account. Try to talk the same language

Take context of initiative into account.

Government needs to be part of initiatives, and work hand in hand with the other stakeholders.

Group 3
Political buy-in

Issues

lack of trust and understanding when it comes to new initiatives

support and approval from local government

competing political agendas

authorities sometimes expect solutions but don't always envision contributing to that solution

Challenges

getting support from authorities

changing behaviour and mindsets

not well established communication channels

Success

working with different partners, who all bring different already established relationships

workshops are a good tool: rural communities very responsive

support from authorities is very valuable

one of the key contributors to the success: use of social media

when the end product is actually something what people need

get partners with good reputation

Need to improve

the way we communicate with stakeholders

learn how to capitalize on the good partnerships

need to regionalize and adapt to the local context

using local leaders more efficiently

Group 4
Stakeholder engagement

Group 5
Catalyzers for change

Issues

- political change
- small-scale water supply in rural communities
- bottom-up water authority
- burden on women for access to water
- mobilizing local government for equal access

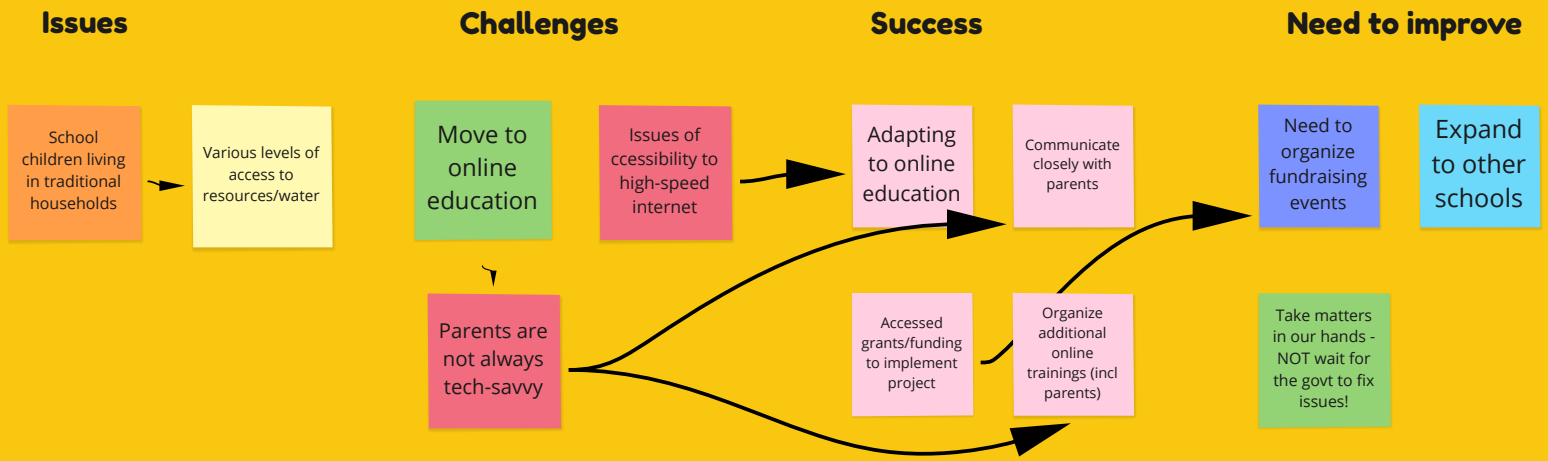
Challenges

- accelerated climate change
- connect with decision-makers
- competing water users
- guerilla movements in the country
- women affected disproporti onately
- legal constraints for community participation

Success

- 1st public consultation in the basin
- give the floor to water agency
- build trust along the way
- Mothers Parliament
- women became part of decision-making

Need to improve

- scaling up the solution
- more political support
- clear budget allocation

Group 6
Ensuring inclusiveness