Research In Private Sector Participation In The Delivery Of Sanitation And Hygiene Services
(RESEARCH/SHARE/MALAWI/2013/1)
for
The Government of The Republic of Malawi Ministry of Water Development and Irrigation

Dr. Rochelle H. Holm, Principle Investigator
Mzuzu University Centre of Excellence in Water and Sanitation
26 June 2014
Overview

• Project Objectives
• Method
• Results and Discussion
• Conclusion
Project Objectives

• The project is funded by the UK Department for International Development through the SHARE Research Consortium. The project will specifically address the following components:
  
  • Identification of private sector institutions and their roles
  • Identification of the potential opportunities, barriers and threats within the sector in taking up sanitation as a business
  • Identification of funding mechanisms for private sector participation and provision of household sanitation facilities, which among others would include creation of a Sanitation Fund
  • Identification of initiatives that the district councils are taking to encourage the medium to high-scale entrepreneurs to take up sanitation as a business as stipulated in the National Sanitation Policy
  • Identification of the reasons why lending institutions are not willing to provide financial services
Area of Investigation – Nkhata Bay District
Method

- Interviews with key informant questionnaires and in-depth interviews, focus group discussions, household surveys, and non-participant observation.
- Data collection tools received ethical clearance from the National Commission for Science and Technology.
- Trained research assistants and supervisors were employed for data collection.
- Training sessions, including mock interviews, were conducted prior to field collection with enumerators from Mzuzu University.
Results and Discussion

• Examples of sanitation as a business in Malawi
  • UNICEF Malawi
  • Malawi Homeless Federation Nkhata Bay Chapter (MHPF)

“People want these latrines for free because they are used to getting free things from organizations”
Low cost sanitation – Corbelled Latrine
Malawi Homeless People’s Federation (MHPF)
Conclusion - Opportunities

1. Low cost technologies suitable for rural areas.
2. Improved sanitation for public facilities.
3. Pit latrine emptying.
4. Tourist facilities.
5. Entrepreneurs.
6. High population growth rates.
7. Partners.
8. Monitoring and evaluation.
Conclusion - Barriers

1. Willingness to pay.
2. Culture.
3. Physical environment.
4. Political interference.
5. Funding.
Conclusion - Threats

• Population growth.
• Lack of financing mechanisms.
• Limited research.
• Available national and district policies and structures.
Conclusion

• There are significantly more opportunities than there are barriers or threats for entrepreneurs to take up sanitation services as a business.

• With appropriate training and funding it is possible to bring in new entrepreneurs to provide sanitation services in a rural setting without service subsidy.

• The barriers that have been identified can be overcome with improved training for potential entrepreneurs, as well as the creation of a sanitation fund to enable further scale-up of private sector sanitation services in the District.
Thank you
Questions

Rochelle Holm, Ph.D., PMP
Mzuzu University
Centre of Excellence in Water and Sanitation and SMART Centre Manager
P/Bag 201, Mzuzu 2, Malawi
Cell: +265992159079 or +265882725730