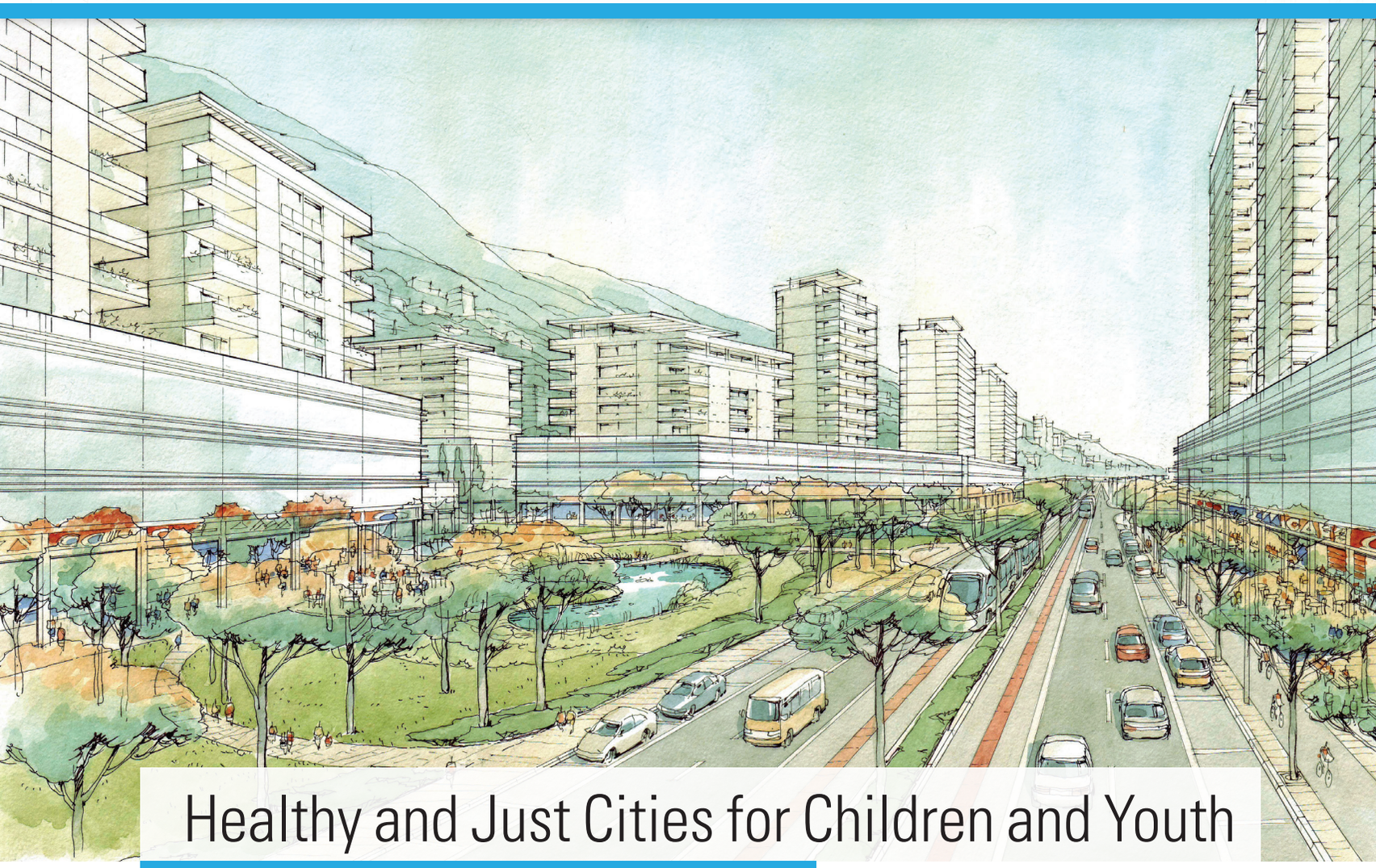
URBAN THINKERS CAMPUS

UTC 09



Healthy and Just Cities for Children and Youth

28 October 2015

Geneva, **Switzerland**

World Vision

WORLD URBAN CAMPAIGN

UN HABITAT
FOR A BETTER URBAN FUTURE

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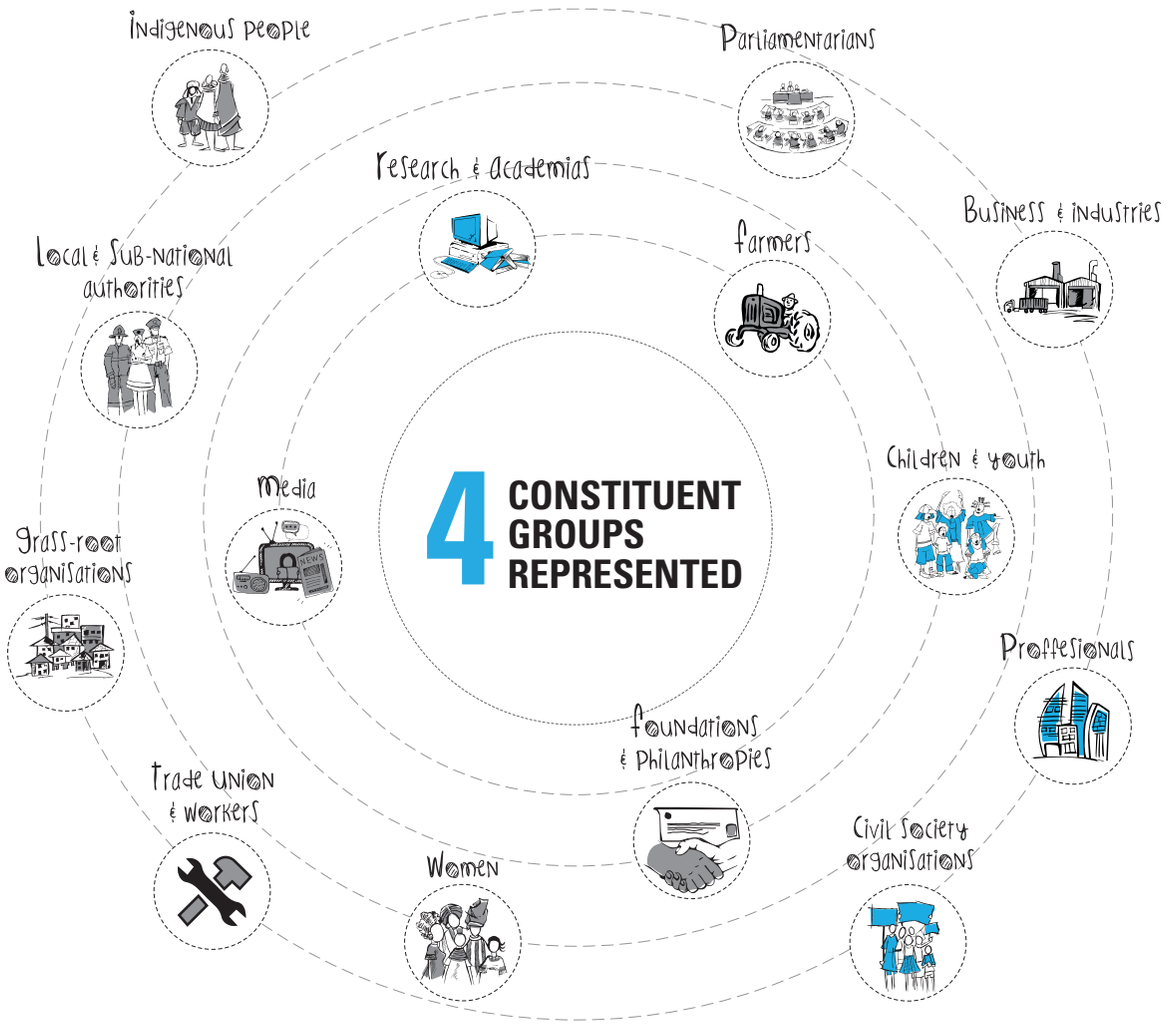
16 COUNTRIES REPRESENTED

51 PARTICIPANTS

36 ORGANIZATIONS



Introduction to UTC

Cities of the future need to promote healthy, economically vibrant and inclusive environments for children and youth. This call to action provided a platform for debate and discussion between urban experts from diverse fields during World Vision's "Healthy and Just Cities for Children and Youth" Urban Thinkers Campus in Geneva, Switzerland, on 28 October 2015.

The Campus focused on principles, policies and action planning aimed at the provision and improved access to water, waste management and sanitation within informal settlements, to contribute to making our future cities healthy, inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable. It aimed to inform The City We Need principles addressing social inclusion, planning, regenerative urban areas, economic vibrancy, and affordability and equity.

The event explored potential business models for engaging young people in safe and dignified employment within the waste and water sectors. Participants discussed opportunities to improve child and youth wellbeing through the conceptual lens of World Vision's *3W approach – water, waste and work*. This approach proposes that increased benefits can be realised when water, waste and work are intentionally integrated in urban programming interventions.

The City We Need principle(s) addressed

The city we need is a healthy city
The city we need is a safe city
The city we need is socially inclusive
The city we need is economically vibrant and inclusive
The city we need is affordable and equitable
The city we need is a regenerative city
The city we need is well planned, walkable and transit-friendly
The city we need is managed at the metropolitan level

World Vision
@WorldVision 26 Oct 2015

@WorldVision to lead debate on #TheCityWeNeed for children & youth http://ow.ly/TmBeK @urbancampaign #UrbanThinkers #NewUrbanAgenda

https://twitter.com/WorldVision status/658562539920474113?lang=en

Matrix of linkages - TCWN 1.0 vs. new recommendations

This section provides ways in which The City We Need original principles can be adapted in The City We Need 2.0, and how they can be manifested in practice regarding the provision of water, waste and work.

- ***The city we need is socially inclusive*** – Inclusion is broader than ensuring access to essential services for all members of the community. Cities should also promote inclusive decision making, planning and implementation. This can be achieved through processes such as community consultation, and collective engagement, exploring contracting and participatory budgeting.

- ***The city we need is well planned, walkable and transit-friendly*** – Safe public space for children and youth to play and grow is critical for their health and mental development. Migrant youth need access to friendly environments where information and opportunities are easily accessible.

- ***The city we need is a regenerative city*** – Increased attention on solid waste management, especially recycling, and the reuse of treated wastewater effluent will help cities of the future become more resilient and regenerative. Cities should encourage the use of green infrastructure to advance urban water management and provide ecosystem services to urban communities.

- ***The city we need is economically vibrant and inclusive*** – System and service provision should be encouraged to be economically sustainable where all users pay fees, which are affordable. This will improve financial viability of service provision and government activities. The private sector, through both multi-national corporation involvement and small-medium enterprises, is encouraged to provide essential services to complement government services. This can be strengthened by providing formal recognition to the informal sector and engaging them as community sub-contractors. Innovative approaches that include the most vulnerable in service provision need to be explored.

- ***The city we need is a safe city*** – Safety should be promoted everywhere: home, work, school and in public. Clean and safe water and sanitation services must be accessible to all city dwellers at all times. Those involved in water/waste related work areas need to be adequately protected with occupational health and safety treated as a priority. The provision of decent working environments, especially for youth, is a core principle for a safe city.

- ***The city we need is a healthy city*** – Public health must be positioned as the key determinant for a healthy city, which covers service provision, environmental health and biodiversity. Cities must provide universal access to basic infrastructure requirements and health services must meet both quality and reliability standards.

- ***The city we need is affordable and equitable*** – The most vulnerable must not be priced out of essential infrastructure access. Access to decent work with suitable minimum wages improves the livelihoods of vulnerable families. Cities must be governed in a just and transparent manner that incorporates the views and needs of the entire community. Sound economic principles such as affordability, accessibility and financial sustainability must be applied to the waste and water sectors.

- ***The city we need is managed at the metropolitan level*** – The roles of local government, key partners and NGOs at the municipal level are critical for the provision of water and waste services and employment creation. Communities, including children and youth, must be active participants in decision making.

Key outcomes of the UTC

Expert presentations and group discussions provided the following information to enrich the main themes of The City We Need 2.0. Key areas discussed included: (i) Addressing informality; (ii) Ensuring health and safety for children and youth; (iii) Supporting innovation; and (iv) Sustainable infrastructure provision.

Addressing Informality

Group discussions highlighted two critical areas where informality/formality impacts service provision:

- Informal land tenure and the provision of essential services: To address this issue, it was unanimously recommended that governments must recognise and formalise informal settlements to ensure inclusivity, which also promotes land security. Participants proposed that municipalities need to explore innovative approaches and apply greater flexibility to ensure basic urban services are provided to vulnerable and marginalised groups.

- Formalising informal service providers: The informal service sector plays a critical role in managing waste streams in cities. Participants agreed that the formalisation of informal/community-based service providers into city planning would result in improved environmental management at the local level, improved worker occupational health and safety, decreased municipal costs, fairer wages, and improved worker livelihoods.

Ensuring Health and Safety for Children and Youth

Attendees acknowledged children and youth living in fragile pockets of cities are especially at risk of disease, injury and exploitation, and proposed the following solutions:

- Adaptive schooling for children at risk of exploitation: Education is a fundamental right of a child, and a child engaged in labour is unable to have a full education. Governments and other stakeholders need to ensure children's access to education. However, due to unavoidable circumstances, those children involved in informal labour must be provided with alternative methods of access. Participants also proposed that education policies need to be adaptive to include marginalised groups into mainstream education.

- Suitable employment for youth: The Youth Delegation stated that youth are often physically not fully developed for hard manual labour, typically inexperienced to the labour market, and therefore at greater risk of injury and exploitation. Local governments need to ensure that youth are offered suitable employment and jobs that match their physical abilities and experience. It was also proposed that employment plans and training for youth match market demand, and that youth need to be given thorough occupational health and safety training and appropriate protective equipment.

Supporting Innovation

Participants recommended that different innovative models of service provision are explored to promote more flexible delivery approaches:

- Technology: Create a cloud-based information platform for knowledge sharing of new business ideas, which is accessible to the public, especially to youth entrepreneurs.

- Private sector partnerships: Greater engagement and partnership with private sector is critical to ensure the inclusion of informal settlements.

- Enterprise establishment: Support the establishment and operation of small-medium enterprises to promote innovation, allowing trial and error, including community-based water kiosks and waste management cooperatives, especially those that are youth-led.

- Support government service providers: To coincide with different models of service provision, local councils, municipalities and utilities will require long term mentoring, on-the-job training, and assistance with both technical and institutional/financial management.

Sustainable Infrastructure Provision

- The provision of suitable water, sanitation and solid waste infrastructure is central to sustainability, health and wellbeing. Participants agreed that infrastructure is critical to achieve sustainable urbanization, requiring a special focus on engagement with community structures such as:

- Community contracting: This approach empowers communities to access increased livelihood opportunities from municipal, donor or development bank based infrastructure projects.

- Participatory budgeting: This tool enables the community to be actively involved in lobbying for municipal budgets and projects based on their needs and aspirations.

Key recommendations

During the Constituent Group sessions, participants developed and proposed the following recommendations for The City We Need:

1. Ensure that local governments integrate sanitation and solid waste management into city planning processes, revising urban service policies that are supportive of universal coverage. The central need for human health must be one of the top principles for The City We Need 2.0.

2. Ensure that research and data collection for water sanitation programmes, including technical, social, economic, environmental information, are shared across diverse stakeholders to promote knowledge sharing, thereby influencing local government planning.

3. Ensure service provision addresses the entire service and treatment chain for water sanitation, and advocate for the role of partners such as the private sector and small-medium enterprises in improving urban service delivery.

4. Ensure flexible and diverse funding mechanisms are considered to provide water sanitation services to informal settlements and those living within the fragile pockets of the city.

5. Ensure water and waste interventions generate training and dignified livelihoods for vulnerable groups, including youth.

6. Acknowledge the importance of public open green spaces to ensure health outcomes for people of all ages and stages of life, promoting social integration in the city.

7. Acknowledge that actionable targets are required to implement the principles proposed in The City We Need 2.0 and the Sustainable Development Goals.

Key actors

Within the urban water, waste and work sectors, there will be an ongoing need for diverse stakeholder participation to contribute to The Future We Want - The City We Need.

National and Regional Governments:

- Update laws, targets and policies to prioritize the provision and access to essential urban services such as water, sanitation and solid waste management.
- Effectively manage public finances in its planning cycle, ensuring service provision to all groups, especially the most vulnerable.
- Educate government service providers about the importance of equal access to basic services for low income communities, addressing growing disparities.
- Engage the public in community-led decision making and participatory municipal budgeting.

Local Governments:

- Increase collaboration with local communities, NGOs and academia to co-design and co-plan urban water and waste projects to create employment opportunities.
- Seek more partnerships for additional resources to augment their services to all city dwellers.
- Formalise the informal economy and allow for the subcontracting of informal waste collectors or sanitation businesses within the municipality budget.
- Apply an inclusivity principle by including the informal sector in their urban planning and policy development.

NGOs and Academia:

- Act as a strategic facilitator amongst key city stakeholders to support services reach into the most vulnerable communities.
- Invest in research, document best practices and share knowledge with city stakeholders to influence urban planning and budgeting.
- Co-design waste and water projects in collaboration with local governments and community members to ensure citizen participation.

Community Members:

- Be able to participate, under the leadership of the local municipality or utility provider, in budgeting, priority setting and distribution processes.
- Meaningfully contribute to and implement local water, waste or sanitation activities through mechanisms such as community enumeration, community contracting and community advocacy.
- Determine and articulate ranked needs and priorities for the community, especially the most vulnerable.

Children and Youth:

- Children and youth should be encouraged to engage with urban service provision discussions, planning and implementation as knowledge experts of their local communities. Children and youth can play a key role through the following:
- Be part of setting the development agenda for their communities.
- Be active participants in proposing and realizing the vision for improved urban environments.

Outstanding issues

Issues which were addressed as concerns – but which were not able to be finalized within the UTC and therefore continue to remain as outstanding issues include the following:

- The role of local councils, governments, utilities and civil society in providing essential urban services to the urban poor;
- The policy, governance and institutional arrangements to enable transformative change;
- The challenge of integrating the formal and informal sectors for effective waste management;
- The challenge of child labour and issues regarding child protection in the water, waste and informal work sectors;
- How to better enable meaningful and safe youth employment within the waste management sector.

Urban solutions

1. Mathare Environmental Conservation Youth Group and UN-Habitat

Solution Youth Led Environmental Development

Enabling youth to be leaders in their community through empowering them to transform the local context by implementing sustainable solid waste management and other community development programs.

This has been implemented within the suburb of Mlango Kubwa within the Mathare informal community in Nairobi, Kenya. The intervention began in 1997 and has continued to expand over the last two decades.

In 1997, the Mathare community was characterised by poor urban environmental health. There were no services or transport systems for municipal waste, resulting in waste piling up in streets and along drainage lines, and high disease incidents. There were also social issues with high levels of youth under- or unemployment leading to participation in gangs, crime and other dangerous activities.

This youth led environmental development model is innovative through the approach of empowering youth to proactively address solid waste for the purpose of enabling youth participation, increasing public open space and advancing community cohesion.

i. Value Chains and Business Models for Solid Waste Management: Through ensuring that households pay a suitable monthly collection fee, it is possible to ensure that those who are employed to collect solid waste from households can be paid a viable wage. When this service provision aspect is then utilised to collect recyclables, additional value can be added to the waste business. E.g. when the youth group were able to introduce a plastic shredder into their activities the value of the plastic they collected was able to increase as it was sold in a more refined and valuable form.

ii. Utilising Community Participation and Engagement to Grow Social Capital: All aims and objectives within the project were developed by the members of the youth group, thus creating their ownership of the project and its outcomes. They also invited wider community participation for the creation of the public open space and the youth served as role models for the younger members of the community. These youth were able to engage younger members in activities and demonstrate positive behaviours.

Mathare community is an informal community of 600-800,000 people in Nairobi, Kenya. Mlango Kubwa is a suburb within Mathare with a population of approximately 40,000. In 1997, Mlango Kubwa was characterised by a lack of security (no public lighting or public open space) and without adequate environmental sanitation (poor coverage of toilets and waste collection services). Community wide impacts have been achieved through the following activities:

- In a response to the unhygienic environment and high levels of youth crime and violence, members of a local football club formed a youth led environmental group to address the twin issues of unemployment and waste;

- Using systematic and sustainable approaches to waste collection and management, including waste value addition through recycling, the group has been able to provide viable employment opportunities while improving the local environment;

- The group has provided a reliable income for waste service providers through the regular collection of a monthly fee (150 ksh) from households using the service. Waste is taken to a transfer site where it can be further sorted for reclaiming recyclables. From this transfer point the government is responsible for waste collection and disposal; and

- The youth felt empowered to advocate local politicians for support in the lead up to elections to promise to invest in the creation of public open space with adequate drainage and waste services.

The Mathare Environmental Conservation Youth Group has created the only public open spaces in the community by advocating politicians and mobilising community participation to remove solid waste. These public spaces are now used as a meeting place, sports field, community garden and community centre for young people.

The youth group continue to reduce the amount of waste present and provide increased liveability for many young people within the Mathare community.

The project has had educational benefits through the community centre, safer communities through public open space and lighting, and increased agency and status for young people.

The high level impacts have been increased social capital through inclusive programming, community engagement, social cohesion and resilience.

2. Solution Sanitation Business Development

Most cities in low-income areas rely upon on-site sanitation systems. Since it is not financially viable to extend sewered systems across these cities, building up the private sector to manage onsite sanitation services and faecal sludge management have the greatest potential to achieve public and environmental health impacts.

WSUP and Eawag-Sandec presented a number of case studies- some which they had supervised and other best practice from other organisations.

'The Clean Team' began as an innovative sanitation business in Accra, Ghana in 2011. In Zambia, 'The Dream Team' began operating Lusaka in 2013. iDE Cambodia began a sanitation marketing and supply business in 2008. IRC Water and Sanitation Centre has reported on the work of the Bangalore Honeysucker micro-businesses. Many cities in low-income areas rely on onsite sanitation systems, not sewers, to manage the city's wastewater. These systems generally involve some form of onsite collection, storage and/or treatment. Liquid waste is often then discarded – possibly into the groundwater or through illegal connections into the drainage system. The semi-solid waste continues to be stored onsite - building up over time. Without regular emptying and removal these sanitation systems end up overflowing or being abandoned. Therefore faecal sludge management (FSM) is very important for the sustainability of cities. In many cities FSM is inadequate– emptying methods expose workers to high health and disease risks; transport of waste is difficult; treatment is non-existent; and disposal of untreated sludge is regularly into the local drain, river or dumpsite.

Eawag SANDEC and WSUP presented case studies of utilising innovative business models including (i) Sanitation branding and marketing methodologies; (ii) Human centred design processes; (iii) innovative technologies; (iii) innovative treatment processes; (iv) sale of treated products and (v) innovative business models. These approaches utilize emerging and best practice knowledge throughout the entire life of the project – both engineering and social science innovation - to ensure the best technical solutions and processes of community engagement, design and implementation. They intentionally use models which are able to be replicated and multiplied in different contexts to increase probability of growth and greater impact.

This solution is based on the concept that developing private sector participation in urban sanitation, will achieve superior outcomes for public and environmental health compared to those achieved when only government/utility providers are involved in urban sanitation. Private sector involvement is known to advance innovation as they seek to be more efficient, to provide a greater number of services and at a decreased cost. This, therefore should result in a sanitation industry that is more willing to try new innovation and see if it increases profits, and thus results in more agile and flexible institutions that are able to provide reliable service provision while striving for financially viability.

i. Sanitation branding and marketing – the management of sanitary waste is regularly considered a shameful job, making workers more vulnerable to low wages, abuse and harassment. Marketing sanitation services as a professional service, where employees have uniforms, protective equipment and registration cards can result in increased willingness to pay by customers and increase reputation among the community. Effective marketing can also increase the community's awareness of need for tank emptying and thus increase business demand and improve business viability.

ii. Human centred design – the HCD idea suggests that rather than developing a technical solution first and require the community to adapt to the solution, that problem solving should start with the community that a solution is designed for an end purpose with the new solutions that are tailor made to suit their needs.

iii. Innovative Technologies – In one example WSUP implemented dry toilets which collected the waste on site. This waste was then transported to a neighbourhood holding tank, before transfer and treatment. This project therefore, demonstrated models and approaches which are in direct contrast to the traditional water based transport or onsite treatment models. Technological innovation can occur at any stage in the faecal sludge management process: user interface (type of toilet); onsite storage and treatment (eg. source separating toilet); transport approaches; or treatment approaches.

iv. Sale of treated products – When the waste product is able to be valued by a sector of the community, it increases the viability of sanitation businesses as they can generate income both through the provision of a service (emptying/waste collection) and through the sale of the end product.

v. Innovative business models using decentralised entrepreneurship to replicate and mobilise sanitation markets.

- Exponential growth of the desludging micro-businesses in Bangalore providing sustainable management of faecal sludge. –
- Improved livelihoods and dignity of sanitation workers in Ghana and Zambia
- Growing awareness and interest in the improvement and replication of sanitation business models. This can be seen through the centrality of business development in meetings such as the South Asian Conference on Sanitation (sacosanvi.gov.bd)

3. Solution Social Plastic

Through the Social Plastic® initiative, The Plastic Bank seeks to monetise plastic waste. They encourage residents in developing contexts to see plastic as currency. Collected waste can be traded at local transfer stations for other goods and services, the collected plastic is then recycled and sold internationally as Social Plastic®.

The Plastic Bank has been working in Haiti since 2015 and are currently investigating opportunities to scale up and expand into different low-income areas and contexts.

Plastic Bank seeks to make plastic waste a currency to help reduce global poverty, while stopping plastic from entering the ocean. Globally over 8 million tons of plastic enter the ocean each year. This has significant environmental impacts, endangering the lives of marine creatures and sea-birds.

Additionally, in low income communities municipalities and governments often fail to provide adequate solid waste services. Therefore, in these communities solid waste, including plastics, form large piles of waste which has detrimental impacts on human health, local aesthetics and the environment

i. Monetising waste plastic so that anyone can collect and trade waste plastic

ii. Setting up business opportunities for local entrepreneurs through decentralised recycling depots.

iii. Marketing Social Plastic® internationally as a form of corporate social responsibility._

The concept of Social Plastic is to reveal the value in plastic as it is collected and to transfer that value into the hands of the collector. When people can see and know the value in plastic, they can transform their thinking and practices – what was previously viewed as a waste product can now be viewed as a source of goods and services.

Given the amount of plastic waste currently in the streets, drains, rivers and oceans of the earth – if these plastic resources can be harvested in a way that provide a living to those living in poverty - a system can emerge that contributes recycled feed stock to the growing demand for plastic while improving the earth's environmental health.._

The Plastic Bank sets up micro- recycling depots where residents who collect plastic waste (from the environment, from households or from industry), then can take the plastic to trade it in for cash, goods or services. The plastic is transferred to local plastic recycling plants where it can either be recycled into virgin plastic ready to be sold to international companies under the Social Plastic® brand, or it can be used as feedstock for 3D printers to make items needed within the community

Creation of demand for Social Plastic® within global organisations

- Communities in Haiti now using The Plastic Bank to generate income and trade plastic for other goods and services.

4. Urban Solution Research then Action for Solid Waste Management

Solid waste projects can fail due to an inadequate understanding of local waste generation patterns, the potential for local value chains and local communities' ability and willingness to engage in waste management activities. This approach identifies the pre-implementation research as the most critical determinant for the likelihood of success and sustainability of project implementation.

This urban solution is based on the work completed in conjunction with the Brikama Area Council, Concern Universal and WasteAid UK in The Gambia (West Africa). The project was initiated in 2013 and has been continuing until now

At the start of the project in the Brikama area the disposal facilities for municipal solid waste were inadequate (and almost non-existent), there was very limited collection capacity and growing pressure from the population for change.

The traditional municipal model of waste collection in many developing countries is failing – communities are already being left to manage their own waste. Therefore, a better model based on value chains that empower the waste producer to be responsible for their waste is required. This can be achieved through local value chains that create value in waste materials. But to understand and maximize these value chains in-depth local and contextualised knowledge is required.

The innovation in this urban solution is the degree to which WasteAid UK emphasize the importance of local research and knowledge generation before investing in solid waste management interventions. This is innovative because, while most grants and solid waste management project allow for pre-implementation research and planning, not many projects invest the degree of time, energy nor resources that WasteAid UK advocates for. WasteAid suggests that this results in many sub-optimal program outcomes.

The concept of this solution is that through allowing more significant resources than the traditional research component (WasteAid UK advocates for a minimum of 6 months and suitable associated budget) to collect and analysis location specific knowledge there will be increased economic viability, community and political commitment, and overall rates of project success. Before beginning any practical intervention, this approach suggests that research should be completed to address each of the following four points:

i. Understand the character of waste generation
ii. Understand the local attitudes towards waste and waste handling
iii. Understand the governance of waste and its dynamics
iv. Understand the opportunities and constraints for reprocessing and value chains for business development.

WasteAid UK invested 7 months in initial research – this included the manual sorting and analysis of 2.5 tons of waste that had been collected from household and markets.

The analysis showed that there were surprising lower amounts of glass, paper, PET bottles, metals and organics than would traditionally be expected in municipal solid waste. This demonstrated that had WasteAid not undertaken this research and if they pursued the traditional recycling choices of glass, PET bottles and paper, these recycling schemes may have struggled.

Rather, WasteAid and their partners were able to share the results of the waste composition study to identify four key technologies that would be able to address about 60% of the waste that was produced.

i. Carbon rich organic waste into charcoal briquettes;
ii. LDPE plastic into floor tiles;
iii. Fish waste into fertilizer and animal feed; and
iv. Composting for horticultural and residential purposes.

While these solutions are not prescriptive for other locations they demonstrate the value of investing in adequate research prior to beginning any solid waste management project.

UN-Habitat Europe
@UNHabitatEU 28 Oct 2015

Today's #urbanthinkers in Geneva on youth, waste and work: infrastructure projects need to invest in communities' priorities @ WorldVision

https://twitter.com/UNHabitatEU/status/659314823176585216

- Training for 40 waste entrepreneurs – ongoing training and mentoring of these and other entrepreneurs; Ongoing funding, provided locally and internationally, has allowed the partner organisation to train upwards of 150 entrepreneurs and this is ongoing,
- Development of community waste capacity; and
- Partnership with universities and interest from Senegal and The Gambia to replicate in other areas.

5. Urban Solution Youth Entrepreneurship and youth led urban service provision

Through facilitating a number of informal youth groups involved in waste management together into a formalised cooperative and providing them with business skills, entrepreneurship training and technical advice, this model has the potential to improve the financial viability of using waste management as a tool for improving youth livelihoods.

This project has been implemented in the Korogocho and Kariobangi informal communities in Nairobi Kenya from 2008-2016.

Kenya faces rapid urbanisation, growing urban poverty and a steadily increasing level of unemployment. Urban unemployment is higher than 25% and 67% of those looking for work are between 15-34.

Additionally, there is a lack of essential services provided by the government. Poor sanitation and solid waste management are causing major public and environmental health risks.

Informal youth groups identified solid waste management as a potential service that they could undertake to earn an income – they began but remained exposed to health and disease risks. World Vision identified that they could partner together to improve the youth groups' income through the development of viable value chains, and through training in business and entrepreneurship.

This project used a three tiered approach to empower young people to ensure a viable livelihood and improve solid waste management within the community.

1. Formalising and institutional strengthening of the urban youth groups into a recognised Waste Management Alliance;

2. Enhanced technical and entrepreneurial empowerment for effective solid waste management and business development; and

3. Advocacy for youth engagement in urban basic services within the government's policy units.

The institutional strengthening and formalising of the youth groups focussed on creating social capital and improving the reputation of the Waste Management Alliance. Aspects such as formalising the alliance and the introduction of a governance constitution enabled clarity, transparency and potential for expansion.

1. Through enhanced technical training the Waste Alliance members are empowered to move up the value chain and become competitive in their industry. By increasing the value of their products they are able to avoid being exploited by middlemen. Technical training also increases the Waste Alliance's capacity to process a greater quantity of waste and provide reliability of supply.

2. Entrepreneurial training connects the youth in the alliance with mentors and provides business skills training so that they are able to grow and sustain their respective business opportunities.

3. The Alliance provides the youth to have greater capacity to advocate for youth-friendly waste management policies within the relevant government agencies. The youth face challenges regarding access to suitable space for waste sorting and value addition, and the high costs of registration and licences to allow them to work formally in the waste management sector.

UN-Habitat Europe
@UNHabitatEU 28 Oct 2015

Norwegian Youth Envoy to @Habitat3UN: with Mathare slum waste collection project Youth gained status and recognition #urbanthinkers Geneva.

https://twitter.com/UNHabitatEU/status/659330314666405889

There were 13 youth groups, representing 300 youth, who were working independently of each other, who have chosen to join together to form the Kariobangi Waste Management Alliance. These groups work in a diverse range of solid waste based businesses – recycling and up-cycling plastics, organics, papers, fabrics and metals.

Through working closely with the youth, along with the Nairobi City County, the Alliance has been developed in such a way that the youth are able to lead and run the waste management programs. They set the goals and direction for the program, ensuring that it is business driven and will be a viable economic model. Through working closely with the decision makers, they can ensure that it promotes youth engagement in decision making processes.

The program partners with local CBOs, existing business leaders and markets to ensure that the training process is relevant to their businesses and are providing the capacity needed to upscale and transition to more profitable business models.

The impacts of this project and approach include the following:

1. Increased the economic viability of the youth groups' activities through connections with local and international markets for products such as recycled plastic products, bags, jewellery, clothing, rugs, blankets, charcoal briquettes and recycled virgin materials like glass.

2. Increased respect and reputation for those involved in urban solid waste management in the Kariobangi and Korogocho districts.

3. Increased income for the members of the youth alliance – and associated health and livelihoods outcomes.

4. Increased involvement of youth in decision making processes relevant to their lives and their area.

Organizations represented

1. ALNAP
2. Centre For Socio-Economic Development
3. Doublethink Foundation
4. Eawag-Sandec
5. F K Architects 7 Associates
6. FIDIC
7. General Assembly Of Partners - Constituent Group - Professionals
8. International Institute for Applied Systems Analysis
9. Global Wash Cluster
10. Gold Standard Foundation
11. IFRC
12. International Labour Office, United Nations
13. International Peace And Cooperation Center
14. ITESM
15. JMP
16. MI Consult
17. National Coalition Of Civil Society Organizations Of Liberia
18. Shiraz University
19. SKAT Consulting
20. Stockholm International Water Institute
21. The Graduate Institute Geneva
22. The Plastic Bank
23. UN Major Group for Children and Youth
24. UN-HABITAT
25. UNHCR
26. University Of Geneva
27. University Of Texas At Austin, Lbj School Of Public Affairs
28. UNOG
29. Urban Planning Institute
30. WasteAid UK
31. World Vision Bangladesh
32. World Vision Canada
33. World Vision International
34. World Vision Kenya
35. WSUP Advisory
36. Youth For Public Transport (Y4PT)

Speakers

Joyati Das, World Vision International
Jon-Andres Solberg, UN-Habitat
Annika Lenz, UN-Habitat
Mesfin Teklu, World Vision International
Michael Poustie, World Vision International
Marianne Kjellén, Stockholm International Water Institute
Graham Alabaster, World Health Organization
Edmundo Werna, International Labour Organization
Mike Webster, WasteAID UK
Régis Garandeau, WSUP Advisory
Kevin Mugenya, World Vision Kenya
Philippe Reymond, Eawag - SANDEC
Sanjay Gupta, SKAT
David Katz, The Plastic Bank
Tone Vesterhus, UN-Habitat

First Name	Surname	Organisation
Leah	Campbell	ALNAP
Lichia	Yiu	Centre For Socio-Economic Development
Raymond	Saner	Centre For Socio-Economic Development
Jana	Konstantinova	Doublethink Foundation
Philippe	Reymond	Eawag-Sandec
Faustin	Kahatano	F K Architects 7 Associates
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