The Contribution of Civil Society-generated Evidence to the Improvement of Sanitation Services in Ghana

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The Case

- Environment where consultation and participation of CSOs in policy processes is valued and enabled
- Effective waste management and access to improved sanitation services is a major challenge in urban and rural Ghana
- Historically low levels of attention to sanitation by the state (limited budget allocation, limited capacity)
- Space created was taken up by diverse CSOs, who are major evidence generators but operate at project level
- Civil Society have been key change agents in getting government to use evidence for service delivery improvements
- International pressure, with evidence-based advocacy campaigns driven by large INGOs, such as WaterAid, UNICEF, SNV, Coalitions like CONIWAS and local CSOs led to increased Presidential commitment to sanitation reforms
- As part of civil society advocacy, CDD-Ghana began 2 projects: the “I am Aware” (IAA) and the District League Table (DLT) projects
Evidence Generation Process

- Various surveys, studies, evaluations of donor-funded programmes have fed into policy process

- CDD-Ghana’s IAA and DLT projects disseminate up-to-date, government-produced information on the state of public goods and service delivery in Ghana, including sanitation

- They use administrative data collected at national level, as certified by central government agents from district → regional → national levels.

- The IAA project has a data facility centre that helps assemble, archive, and disseminate the information.
Consequently ...

**Interventions**
- Access to data and analysis in user-friendly formats
- CSOs use information for advocacy through social marketing
- Evidence generation directly linked to service delivery performance
- Etc.

**Mechanisms**
- Individuals understand data and analysis (evidence) related to their own priorities
- Government officials are aware of sanitation priorities and needs
- Government officials motivated to recognise value evidence for their own performance

**Outcomes**
- Increased collaboration and use of the evidence for social accountability
- District Assemblies take critical actions for more equitable distribution of national resources
- Increased use of evidence in decision making, in planning and budgetary allocation
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<thead>
<tr>
<th>FACILITATORS</th>
<th>BARRIERS</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>CSO consultation and active participation in policy processes</td>
<td>Inter-agency coordination problems</td>
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<td>Popular pressure for change (both international and internal)</td>
<td>Outsourcing of service delivery responsibility to private sector with limited support and oversight</td>
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<td>Prevailing policy narratives (including President’s statement)</td>
<td>Limited resources and administrative red tape on generation of data</td>
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<td>Established mechanisms to enable flow of information and involvement of CSOs in decision making processes (eg. Water Conference)</td>
<td>Knowledge that evidence is not always used for decision making is a disincentive</td>
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<td>Building Capacities (of CSOs and Development Partners) to use evidence</td>
<td>Lack of sustained advocacy</td>
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<td>Incentives (allocation of budgetary resources based on provision of data &amp; reports)</td>
<td>Timeliness of data generation</td>
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<td>Receptiveness of District Assembly personnel to use evidence</td>
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<td>Evidence champions and mentors</td>
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Lessons for Ghana and Beyond…

• Strengthen and harmonise the data ecosystem

• Non-state data producers (CSOs/academia) need to improve their understanding of how, when and which government institutions and other actors use evidence for policy design, implementation and monitoring for better use of these opportunities

• Need for increased recognition and use of CSO-generated evidence in policy interventions by state institutions

• Evidence is used when government and key stakeholders are involved in the evidence use change process from the design stage.

• Developing and building on an inclusive culture is paramount in promoting evidence use at all levels of society.

• Uptake of evidence is better when championed by a senior Statesman, eg. the President, with adequate resources and institutions to sustain it.
ME DA MO ASE! THANK YOU