

Scaling up the DRA model of RWS service delivery in sub-Saharan Africa: A rapid assessment of experience

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◆ With thanks to:

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Key Questions



- ◆ What is the preliminary experience with implementing DRA for RWS in SS Africa?
 - Expectations for the DRA approach
 - Implementation experience: time requirements, successes and challenges
- ◆ Is the DRA approach scaleable? What, if any, are the principal bottlenecks?

Rapid survey approach

- ◆ Eight countries*
- ◆ Key informants
- ◆ Questionnaire prepared by
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DRA in theory



Communities make informed choices about:

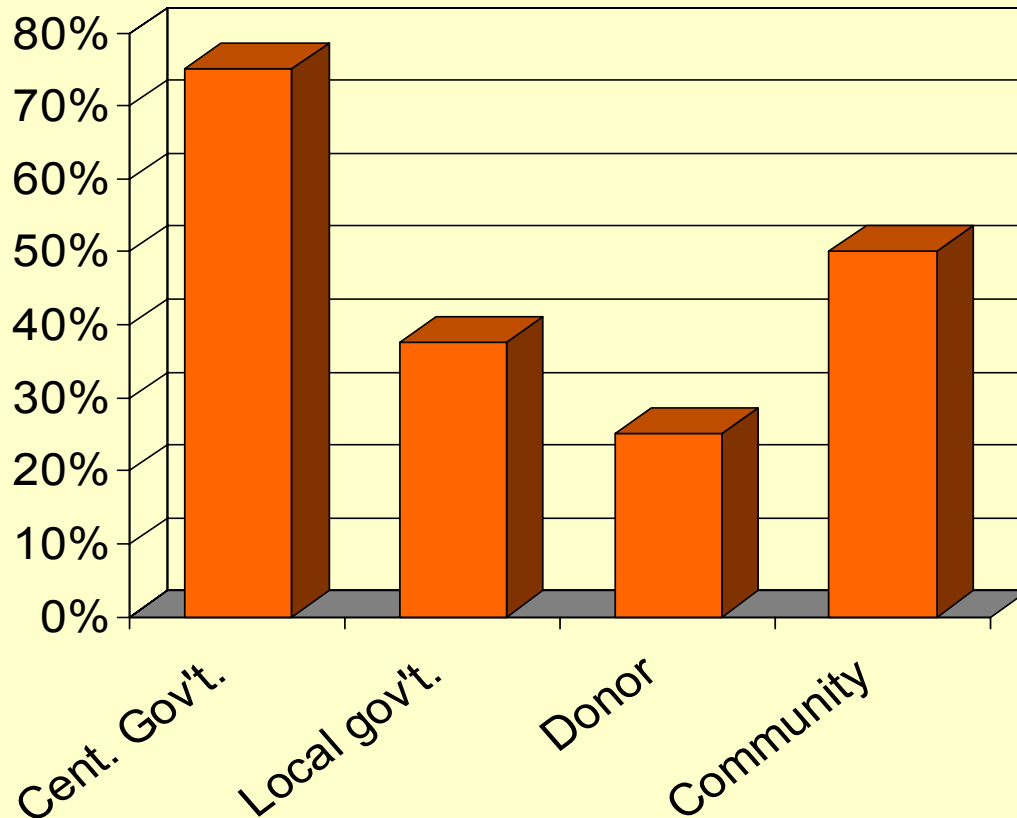
- ◆ which service improvements they want, based on effective demand (willingness/ability to pay)
- ◆ institutional arrangements for construction, O&M, funds management

Objectives include:

- ◆ cost-sharing by users→source of RWS finance
- ◆ promoting appropriate levels of service and, by extension, long-term sustainability

DRA in practice: Decision-making

- ◆ Who makes decisions about level of service?



"Communities... participatorily decide on the level of service demanded based on adequate information on issues such as the initial cash contribution required and future operation and maintenance costs to the community."

"The program decides...and then explains to community why they can't have what they preferred."

Decision-making: Linking supply and demand?



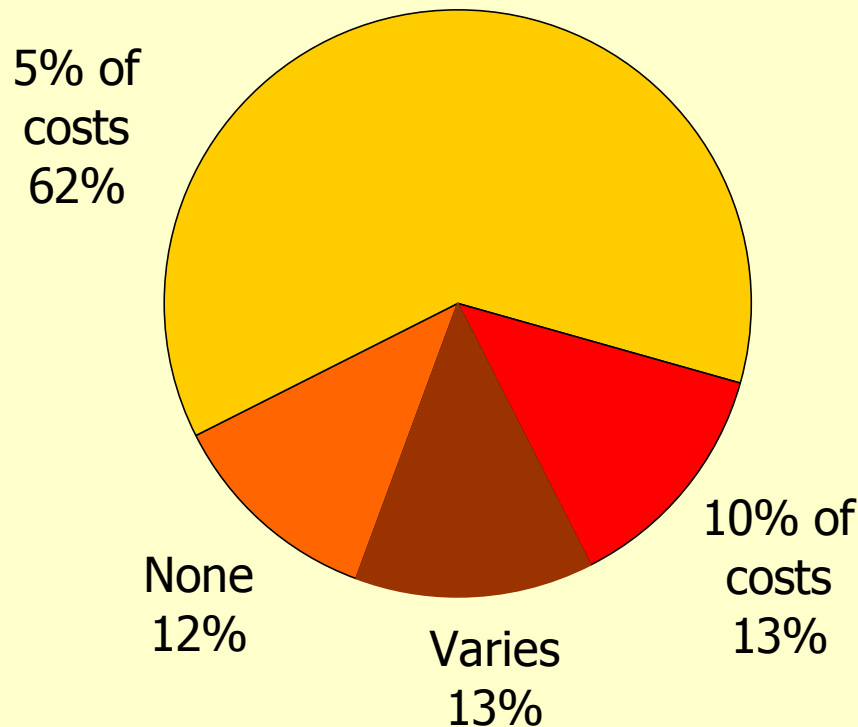
- ◆ Ideally, communities should choose based on:
 - Preferences/priorities→Current situation/options
 - Willingness / ability to contribute to capital costs
 - Willingness / ability to maintain infrastructure
- ◆ Programs have not substantially increased the LOS options for communities

Example 1: Private connections in Uganda

Example 2: Protected wells in Mozambique (Breslin)

DRA in practice: Cost-sharing

- ◆ What proportion of capital costs do HHs contribute?



- ◆ Were these guidelines informed by willingness-to-pay studies?

Yes: 25%

No: 75%

In-kind contributions



- ◆ Communities have the option of providing labor contributions in lieu of cash in most cases

"Project staff...resort to all sorts of strategies to cook the books such that labor and other contributions meet the five-percent requirement."

- ◆ Demonstrates demand, but not necessarily ability to maintain installed infrastructure
- ◆ Breslin notes that, unlike financial contributions, in-kind contributions have no consistent relationship to sustainability

DRA as a new source of RWS finance

- ◆ What were the principal reasons for adopting the DRA approach in RWS planning?

<i>Pressure from external donor/financing agency</i>	75%
<i>Improved service sustainability through beneficiary ownership</i>	75%
<i>Domestic resource mobilization to increase resources available for RWS</i>	12.5 %

- ◆ 3 of 4 respondents report an increase in per-capita costs of service under the DRA approach

The major challenge for scaling up



- ◆ Political resistance to DRA cited in almost all cases, most often related to cost sharing (at least nominally)
- ◆ Experience with obtaining household capital cost contributions has been variable
- ◆ DRA does not compete favorably with other programs (*e.g.*, social funds, basic needs)
- ◆ In a few cases, other donors resist or ignore cost-sharing guidelines

Scaling up: The prospects



“How much time is needed to work with a community before construction begins?”

Mean: 25 months Median: 21 months

(Possibility of learning-curve effects in future)

“The rate of infrastructure delivery is much slower with DRA.”

Problems were cited with *“community fatigue”* and a process that is *“too long for many people.”*

What DRA delivers



Respondents view main benefits of DRA as:

- ◆ Enhanced local government capacity (*e.g.*, contracting, procurement, planning) cited by many respondents
 - possible confounding of DRA with larger decentralization process
- ◆ Too early to say much about sustainability of installed infrastructure: See E. Breslin (WaterAid) paper on Mozambique experience as one of the few empirical investigations

Questions for discussion



- ◆ If scaling up requires an increased rate of coverage expansion, is DRA the best strategy for SS Africa?
- ◆ Which elements within the DRA approach drive documented benefits (*e.g.*, capacity building, sustainability)?
- ◆ What has field experience taught us about the scalability of DRA to communities with very different financial, human, and institutional capacities?

Discussion groups



- ◆ Group 1: Identifying target populations in RWS planning
- ◆ Group 2: Addressing resource constraints in scaling up
- ◆ Group 3: Addressing knowledge/informational constraints in scaling up
- ◆ Group 4: Addressing resistance to scaling up
- ◆ Group 5: Untested implementation conditions and scaling up
- ◆ Group 6: The scalability of DRA