

# Co-ordination and collaboration: East and Southern Africa region

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## The hunter-gathering approach

Hunter-gathering is a process of rapidly collecting and collating information, experiences and contributions. In a workshop setting, hunter-gatherers self-select a topic they are most interested in championing and work together in groups to produce a short report (2-6 pages) by the end of the workshop – groups and topics are decided upon on the first day. Each day, dedicated time is given for people to collect relevant information from one another. Over the course of the session the groups self-organise collecting contributions and feeding into other topics. Participants are asked to collect information informally through breaks and mealtimes. They may also like to use the opportunity in plenary sessions to take notes on their particular topic and ask questions to presenters that could help them with their reports. Outputs are action-orientated, with groups asked to reflect on what should be done moving forward and recommendations for policy and practice.

The notes produced are not meant to be polished or exhaustive, and they are not peer reviewed. They are rapid explorations into priority topics, which are written and disseminated quickly in the hope that they will trigger further conversations, debate and interest. As such, they are not for citation.

***This methodology is very much a work-in-progress. Comments and suggestions to strengthen and develop the hunter-gatherer process and method, as well as the content and structure of the notes would be very welcome. Or if you wish to do a rapid exploration into a topic that interests you, please contact us: [clts@ids.ac.uk](mailto:clts@ids.ac.uk)***

## 1. Description of issues/challenges

- Organisations are not following government strategies and protocols.
- Implementation is done in silos, not sharing lessons learnt or best practices.
- Most organisations target easy-to-reach communities.
- Prioritisation of activities by the local government and the implementation partners.

## 2. Current solutions

For sustainability and scale up of sanitation activities to take place, there is a need for effective



coordination between organisations and the government. Three levels of coordination could possibly be:

- Within the government and the implementing partners;
- Within the different sectors (ministries) e.g. sanitation, water, health, finance and planning;
- Integrating sanitation with other programmes such as on water, nutrition, health, HIV and agriculture, among others.

The coordination mechanisms that have been put in place and are successfully working include:

- WASH stakeholder forums in different countries as the technical working groups.
- Learning forums within organisations and local governments where they can share the progress of sanitation programmes.
- Networks and alliances.

### 3. Recommendations

- Share innovations, lessons learnt and best practices among the implementing partners.
- Document evidence.
- Plan ahead and develop action plans for continuous and coordinated planning.
- Engage the local government to lead the coordination of all sectors and partners in order to achieve sustainability and accountability.
- Disseminate information through shared information systems.