



IMPROVING WATER AND SANITATION IN DEPRIVED URBAN NEIGHBOURHOODS: CHALLENGES AND OPPORTUNITIES

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STRUCTURE OF THE PRESENTATION

1. Water, sanitation and the Millennium Development Goals
Admirable aims, silly statistics
2. Water resource stress
Why do water-stressed countries have better access statistics?
3. Public-private debates
The jury is still out – and isn't coming back any time soon
4. The importance water and sanitation for the urban poor
And why they tend to be neglected
5. The importance of the local and of community engagement
What works and what doesn't



The Millennium Development Goal:

Ensure Environmental Sustainability

The Targets:

- Integrate the principles of sustainable development into country policies and programmes; reverse loss of environmental resources
- Reduce by half the proportion of people without sustainable access to safe drinking water (and basic sanitation) by 2015
- Achieve significant improvement in lives of at least 100 million slum dwellers, by 2020



MISLEADING STATISTICS

WHO/UNICEF 2000 estimates:

Without improved Water 2000	173 million urban dwellers (6%) 926 million rural dwellers (29%)
Without improved Sanitation 2000	403 million urban dwellers (14%) 2,000 million rural dwellers (62%)

Consider the “improved” technologies

- A public standpipe within a kilometre of home
- A shared simple pit latrine



MISLEADING STATISTICS II

2000 Report

	Urban Without Sanitation
	1990–2000
Kenya	6%–4%
Malawi	4%–4%
Tanzania	3%–2%
Uganda	4%–4%
Africa	15%–16%

2004 Report

Urban Without Sanitation
1990–2002
51%–44%
48%–34%
49%–46%
46%–47%
46%–45%*

* Sub-Saharan Africa



Two Crisis Narratives from the 1990s

Environmentalism

Water Resource Management

Increasing water stress



Difficulties accessing water (and sanitation?)



Need IWRM and DSM

Neo-liberalism

Private Sector Participation

Public sector failures



Difficulties accessing water (and sanitation?)

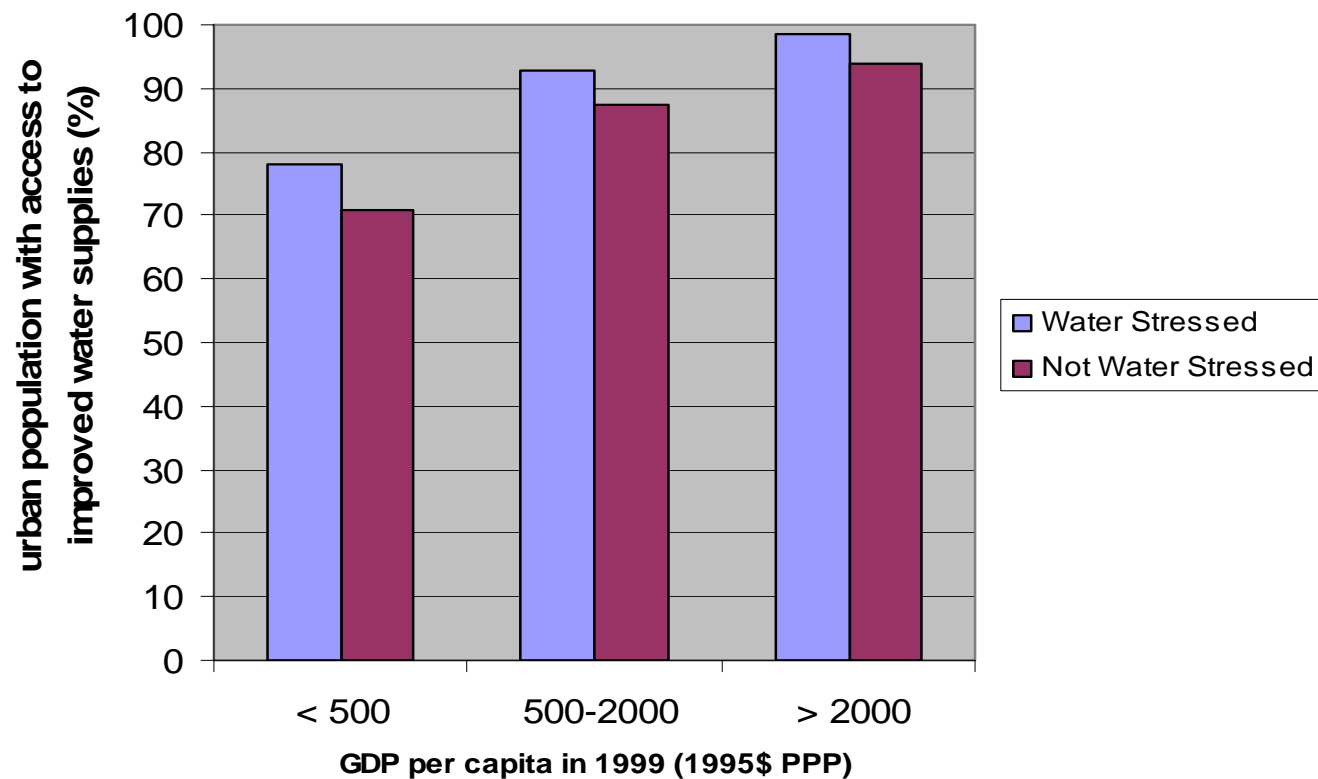


Need PSP and PPPs



But Is Water Resource Scarcity Causing the Access Problems?

Relationship between urban household water access, national water stress and national GDP per capita





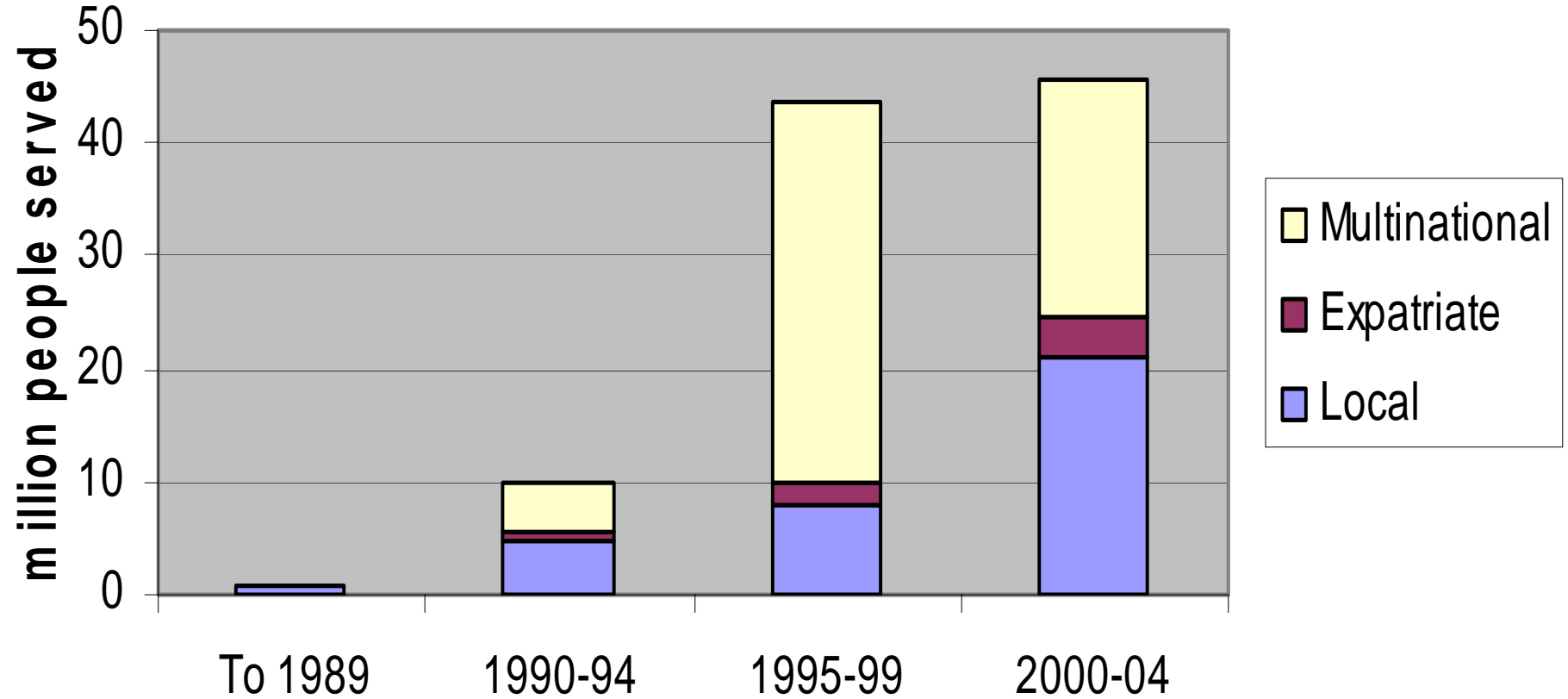
Or are Public Failures Causing Access Problems?

Many criticisms of public provisioning are true,
But

- The large private water companies were oversold
- The difference between private and public was exaggerated
- The challenges common to private and public operators were ignored
- The private operators most relevant to the urban poor were ignored



New Asian Private Water Contracts





Why are the Water and Sanitation Problems of the Urban Poor Neglected?

- The localization of water and sanitation burdens
- Misplaced concern about urban bias – many donors
- Fears of over-urbanization – many government authorities



What can make community-driven initiatives work?

- Sound principles – rather than best practices
- Affordability
- Building on what works locally
- Close links to government (ie rarely just community)
- Participatory processes – if countervailing powers can make them effective
- Recognizing the importance of women and of gender relations
- Strong community organization / supportive NGOs
- Ability to handle finance