Translating the human rights to safe drinking water and sanitation into operational terms

Gérard PAYEN
President of AquaFed,
The International Federation of Private Water Operators
Chair of IWA Strategic Council

Nairobi, IWA Development Congress, 15 October 2013
Workshop on the Human Right to safe drinking water and sanitation

Operational & Organisational challenges

- Defining the content of the right in practical situations
  - Making the right possible through appropriate organisation
  - Planning action, Setting priorities and Measuring progress

Implementing the Human Right to Drinking Water and Sanitation

Governments to provide progressively

Water that is

Safe
Acceptable
Accessible
Available
Affordable
In sufficient quantity
Without discrimination, etc

Operational & Organisational challenges

The dimensions of the Right to safe drinking water

Professionals

Right

safe Compliance to standards
acceptable Colour, odour
accessible, available 24/7, distance of source
affordable Tariffs, subsidies
in sufficient quantity Minimum pressure, etc
without discrimination Equitable access

Ensuring progressively a multi-dimensional right at home, at workplace, in schools, etc

Success requires a precise organisation

Operational & Organisational challenges

Defining the content of the right in practical situations
- Making the right possible through appropriate organisation
  - Planning action, Setting priorities and Measuring progress

G. Payen, IWA Development Congress, Nairobi, 15 October 2013
Translating the human rights to safe drinking water and sanitation into operational terms

Organisational challenges

- Allocating tasks to the different public authorities
- Ensuring appropriate means of action
- Organising effective interaction between right-holders and State agents
- Organising rights and responsibilities

Who takes care of each HRWS criterion?

Central government

Local governments

Providers of public services

Alternative service providers

Other obligations than service delivery

Chile: an ad hoc mechanism for Affordability

Supply

Affordability

Other local authorities

Providers of public services

Alternative service providers

Organisational challenges

- Allocating tasks to the different public authorities
- Ensuring appropriate means of action
- Organising effective interaction between right-holders and State agents
- Organising rights and responsibilities

G. Payen, IWA Development Congress, Nairobi, 15 October 2013
Translating the human rights to safe drinking water and sanitation into operational terms

Securing financial means

- Finance Ministry
- Water infra Ministries
- Health Ministry
- Social affairs Ministry
- Other National authorities
- Local water authorities
- Other local authorities
- Providers of public services
- Alternative service providers

Organisational challenges

- Allocating tasks to the different public authorities
- Ensuring appropriate means of action
  - Organising effective interaction between right-holders and State agents
  - Organising rights and responsibilities

Organising effective interaction

The implementation chain only works if everybody performs his duties (organisations and individuals)

Operational & Organisational challenges

- Defining the content of the right in practical situations
- Making the right possible through appropriate organisation
  - Planning action, Setting priorities and Measuring progress
Translating the human rights to safe drinking water and sanitation into operational terms

What priorities for action?

Acceptability  
Sufficient quantity  
Safety  
Accessibility  
Availability  
Equity  
Non-discrimination  
Affordability

Planning action and setting priorities

The HRWS legal framework does not prescribe the rules governing priority setting.

Setting Priorities is a political decision
- Improving water quality or reducing leaks?
- In which areas should the network be expanded first?
- Investing to upgrade existing networks or to expand coverage?

Progress is non-linear and cannot be uniformed, equally balanced between all criteria and all parts of the population. Non-retrogression should be ensured.

No simple indicator of progress
Every “dimension” must be monitored

Thank you