



Approaches to reaching the 'last mile' in sanitation access

Sustainable Sanitation and Hygiene for All (SSH4A)

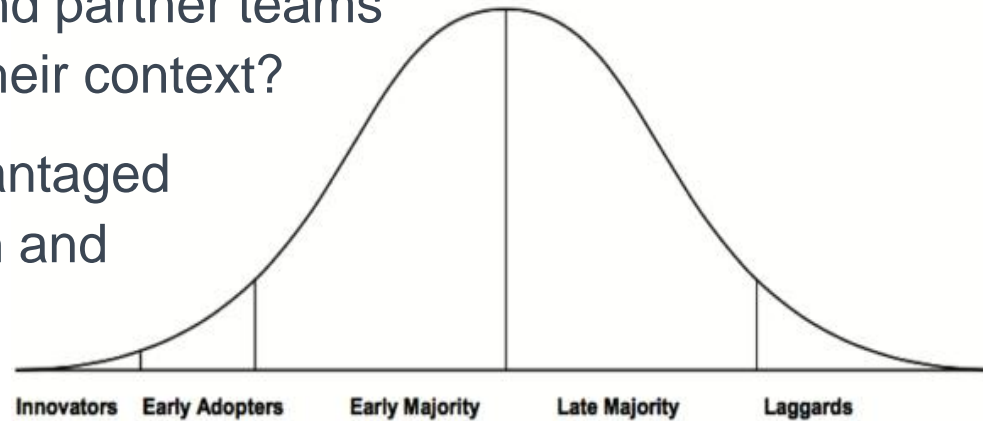
Gabrielle Halcrow | Juliet Willetts | August 2017



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Understanding and reaching the last mile

- How do the in-country SNV and partner teams understand the “last mile” in their context?
- Which groups may be disadvantaged in gaining access to sanitation and why?
- What are the barriers that these groups within the “last mile” face in uptake (including affordability and other non-affordability issues)?
- What strategies have been used to develop and tailor sanitation approaches to reach the “last mile”, including involvement of government, private sector and community?
- Have these approaches been institutionalised and how?



		Bhutan	Nepal	Cambodia	Zambia	Tanzania
Total rural population		476,000 ppl	23,146,000 ppl	12,423,000 ppl	9,169,000 ppl	34,838,000 ppl
National rural sanitation goal	%	100% improved sanitation by 2023	100% improved sanitation by 2017	100% access to basic sanitation by 2025	100% access to basic sanitation by 2020	70% improved sanitation by 2015
	Nr people	318,920 to access improved sanitation	13,193,220 to access improved sanitation	7,453,800 to access basic sanitation	2,017,180 to access basic sanitation	?
Access to sanitation in rural areas (2015)	OD	4%	37%	60%	22%	17%
	Improved sanitation	33%	43%	30%	36%	8%
Progress from 1990 - 2015	OD	8% reduction	56% reduction	34% reduction	19% reduction	7% increase
	Improved sanitation	19% increase	42% increase	30% increase	7% increase	1% increase

Sanitation financing for equity & social inclusion

ISF
literature
review

WASH sector debates on sanitation financing

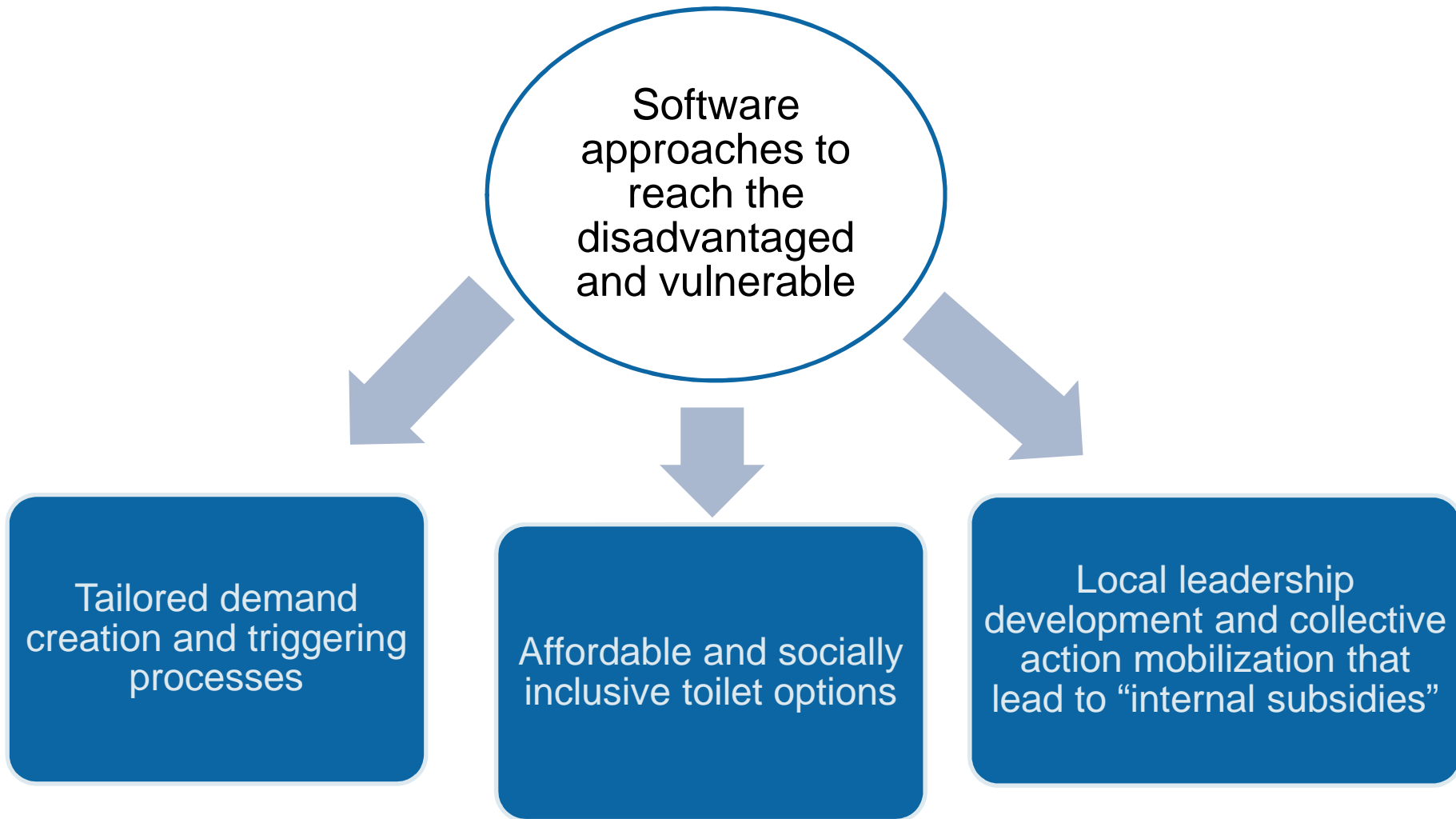
Polarized views

that mutually exclude hardware and software centered approaches

Pluralistic views

that combine hardware and software centred approaches

“In an environment of scarce public money the question is not about hardware subsidies but about the best possible allocation of public funds”
(WSSCC, 2009, p.6)



Approaches to understand the “last mile”

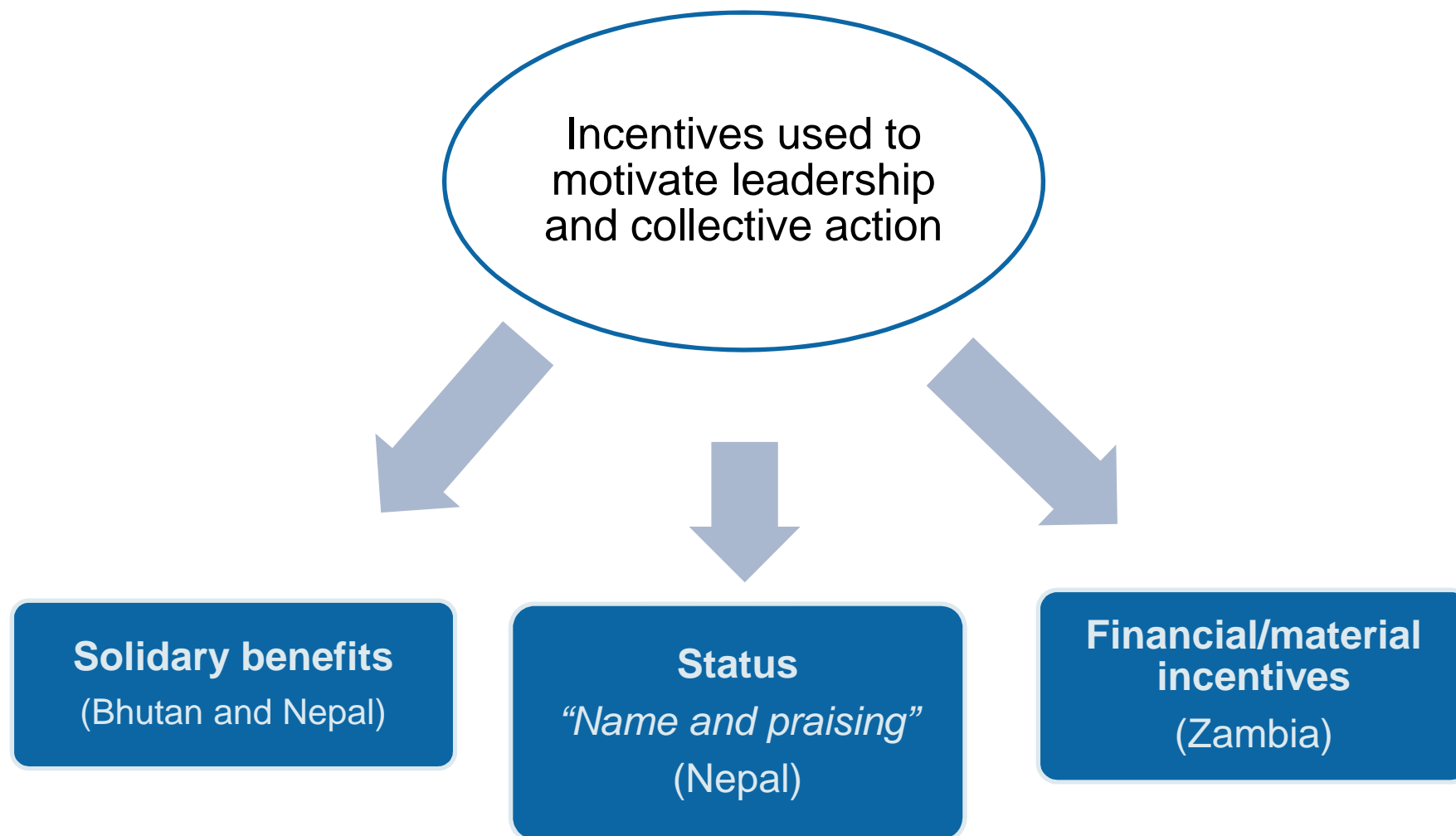
1. Disaggregated M&E data
2. Follow-up processes
3. Focused studies

Overall, the focused studies, as well as the follow-up processes, have shown that ‘last mile’ is context specific and composed of a mixed group of people that can include both poor and wealthier households, and that affordability should not be assumed as the main barrier for access to sanitation.

Approaches		Bhutan	Nepal	Cambodia	Zambia	Tanzania	
Software approaches	Local leadership development and collective action mobilisation	Vulnerable groups in general	Vulnerable groups in general	Vulnerable groups in general	Vulnerable groups in general	Vulnerable groups in general	
	Tailored social mobilisation, BCC and demand creation		Ethnic minorities; PLWDs				
	Inclusive sanitation business models		Woman				
	Sanctions		"Laggard" households				
	Inclusive technology	Informed choice with inclusive designs		PLWDs			
		Training of masons in inclusive designs					
	Institutionalisation and mainstreaming of considerations to support the most vulnerable and disadvantaged	Vulnerable groups in general; Women; PLWDs	Vulnerable groups in general; Women; PLWDs	Vulnerable groups in general	PLWDs		
"Do It Yourself" installation guide	Vulnerable groups in general						
Hardware financial mechanisms	Latrine discounts/subsidies			Vulnerable groups in general			
	Sanitation revolving loan fund		Vulnerable groups in general				
	Self-financing mechanism				Vulnerable groups in general		

Most common approach used across the different countries but the mechanisms and incentives used were different

Different approaches used

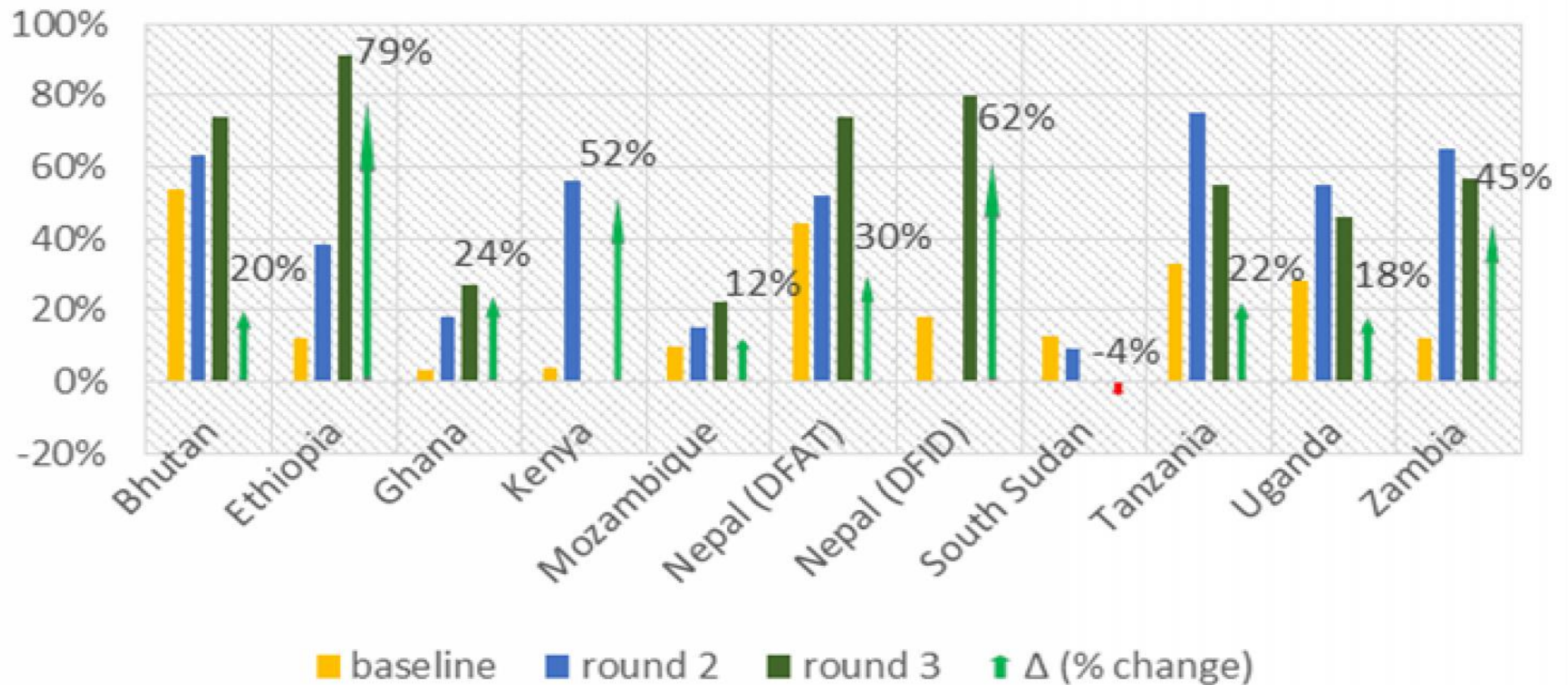


Approaches to institutionalisation and mainstreaming of considerations to support the most vulnerable and disadvantaged:

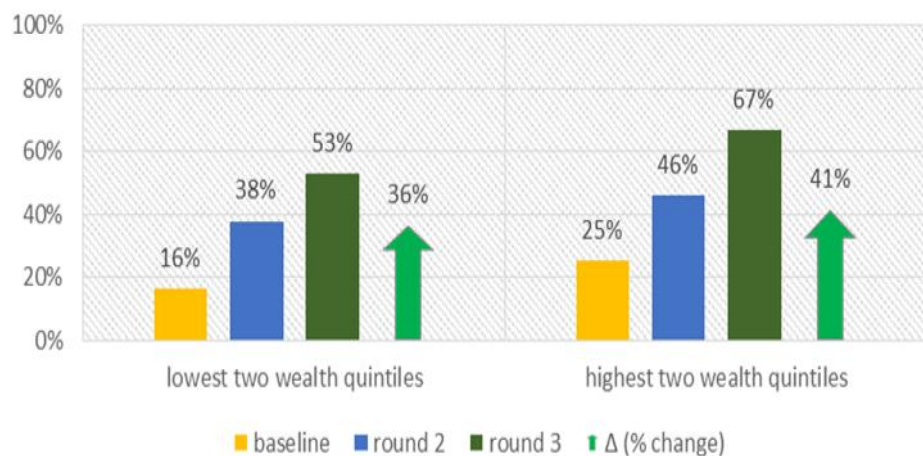
- Research to support dialogue with national stakeholders to inform policy formulation (*Bhutan*)
- Advocacy and technical support to local government agencies to prioritise sanitation in their planning and budgeting processes, including considerations for the needs of disadvantaged and vulnerable groups (*Nepal and Cambodia*)
- Participatory workshops with government agencies and organisations representing of vulnerable groups to raise awareness and identify potential solutions (*Nepal and Zambia*)
- Training of local government agencies on demand creation approaches that are inclusive of vulnerable groups (*Nepal*)

What evidence do you have that your approach is working?

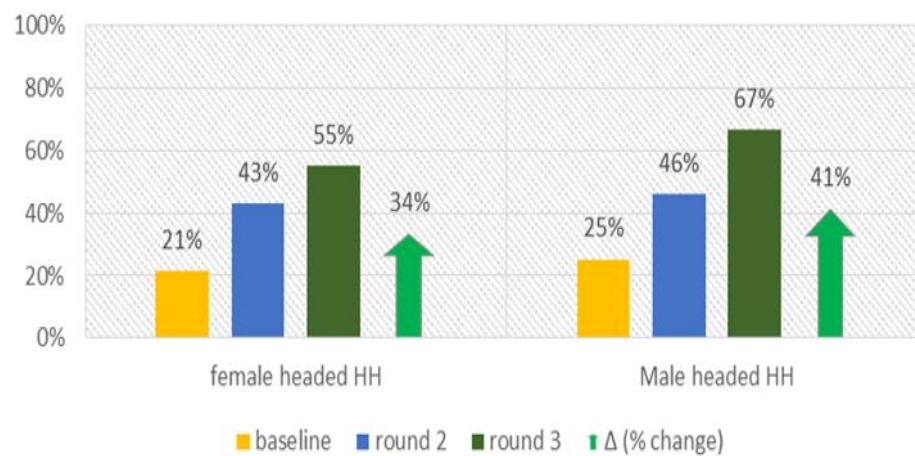
Coverage of improved latrines



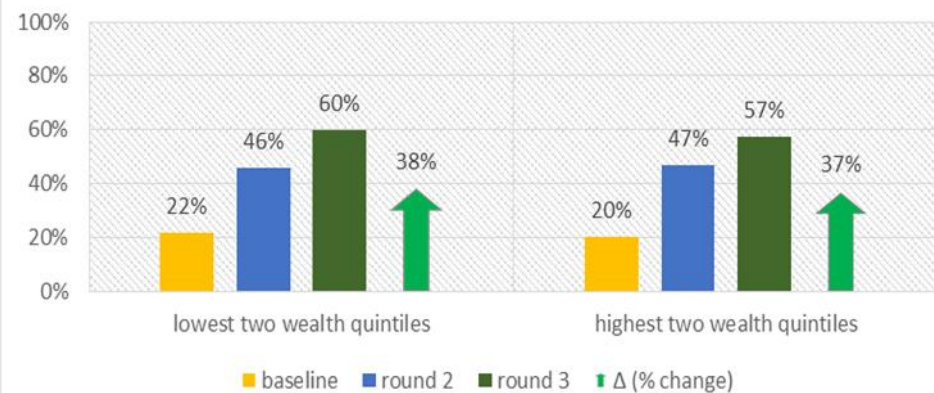
Overall coverage of improved latrines comparing lower and higher wealth quintiles



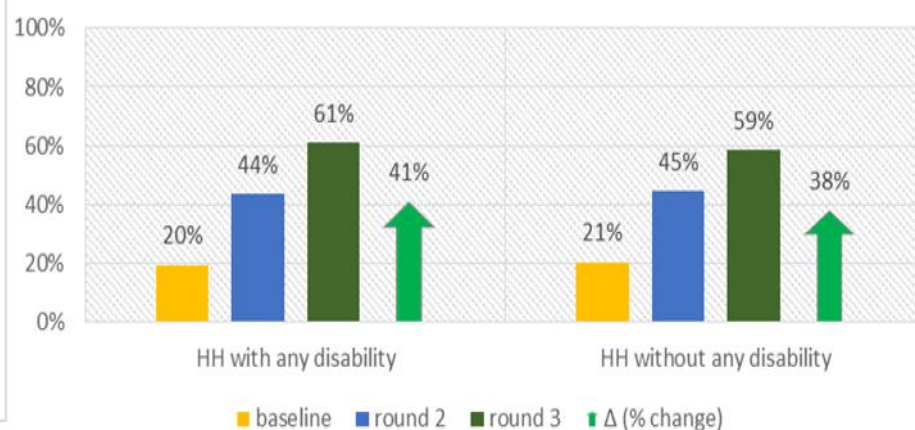
Overall coverage of improved latrines comparing female and male headed HHs



Overall coverage of improved latrines comparing HHs with and without elderly



Overall coverage of improved latrines comparing HHs with and without disability



What advice would you give to others?

On understanding who is the “last mile”:

- The “last mile” is very context based, and includes poor and non-poor households.
- Affordability should not be assumed as the main and only barrier.
- There is a difference between ODF “last mile” and universal coverage “last mile”. The ODF push does not equal universal coverage and leaving no one behind.
- If we think about vulnerable groups in later stages of the program, these will end up in the “last mile” group.
- Approaches to identify the “last mile” and understand their needs are subject to discrimination (relates to unintentional discrimination).
- Even when groups are identified, there can be challenges in getting their voices heard.

On reaching the last mile:

- To reach the “last mile” a combination of context based approaches is likely required, as is flexibility
- Hardware subsidies if well targeted and designed can be an effective at fast-tracking progress towards ODF status. But they are not likely to be the solution to “leaving no one behind”.
- Designing an effective hardware subsidy approach often **involves trade-offs** between simplicity or complexity, inclusion and cost scalability. Avoiding typical pitfalls is likely to be costly.
- Approaches that tap into **non-tangible motivations** (solidary benefits, status) are more likely to have a durable effect in the longer term than those that rely on material and financial incentives, particularly because these incentives might not be available in the future.

What advice would you give to others?

- It might be more efficient and effective for programs to focus on the institutionalization of consideration for disadvantaged and vulnerable groups.
- There may also be opportunities to leverage on the work of other agencies who represent/focus on vulnerable groups.
- Lastly, addressing the needs of the vulnerable groups requires that these are involved in decision-making positions, from the household level, to community, local and national government and NGOs too!