



WaSH for human wellbeing

Fostering the wellbeing of the marginalised through water, sanitation and hygiene (WaSH) service development in the Global South

The Problem

Informal settlements are rapidly growing in cities in the Global South, and residents overwhelmingly lack basic water, sanitation and hygiene (WaSH) services. This deficiency impacts a range of areas related to wellbeing, such as health, education, livelihood, leisure, among others.

Although WaSH development initiatives generally focus solely on the health aspect, focusing on wellbeing more broadly a) acknowledges the complexity of development issues, and b) highlights how to foster benefits across multiple areas. So, **how can urban WaSH development initiatives foster wellbeing?**

The Research

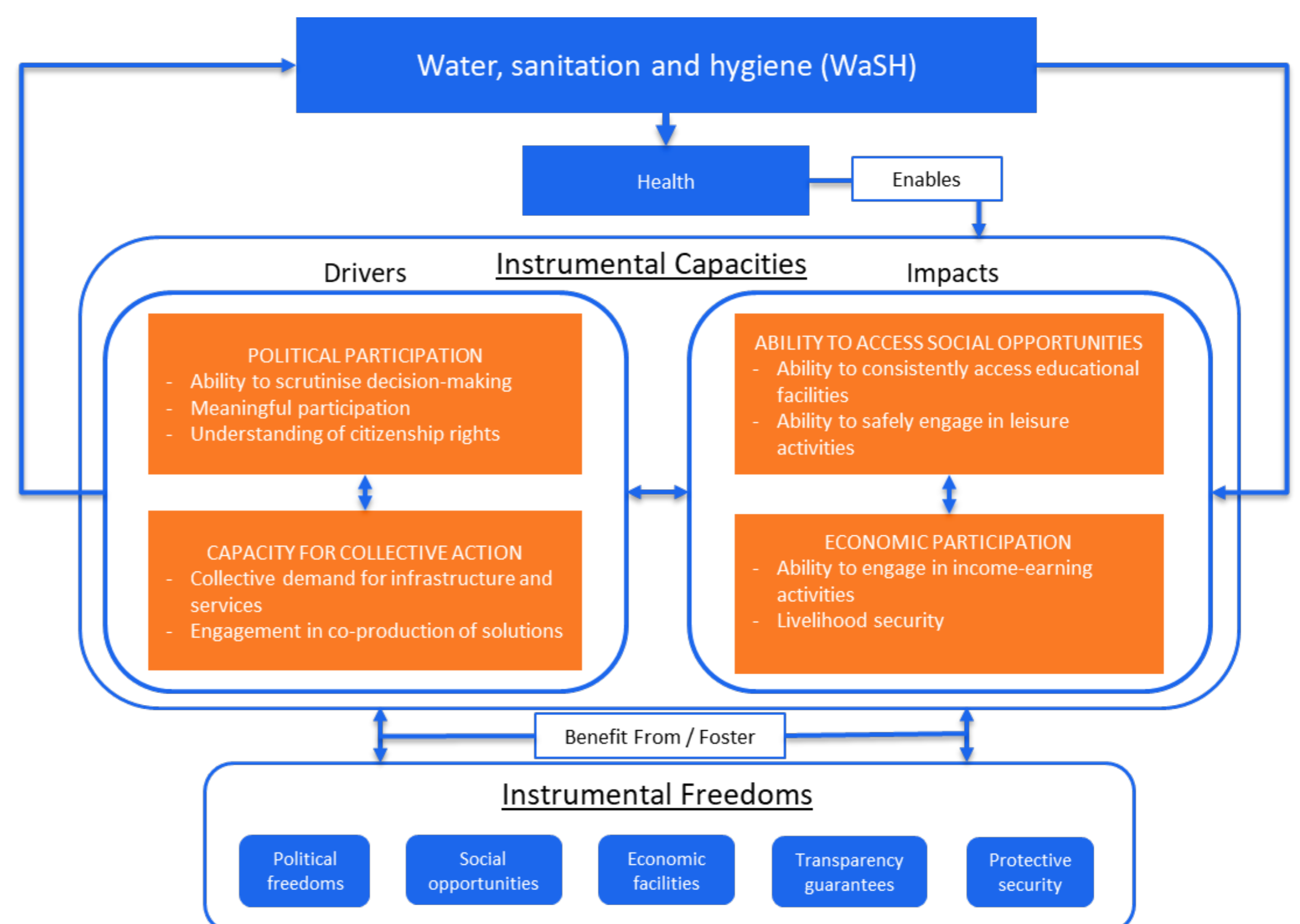
Objectives

- 1) Develop a preliminary conceptual agency-based model of urban WaSH that highlights its relationship to wellbeing.
- 2) Describe the capacity of WaSH development initiatives to foster individual and collective wellbeing.
- 3) Articulate a conceptual and practical agency-based model of urban WaSH for human wellbeing by integrating identified practical strategies.

Approach

Achieve the above objectives through case study of three distinct urban WaSH initiatives in Faridabad, Delhi and Mumbai, India.

An agency-based conceptual model of urban WaSH services and wellbeing



Findings thus far...

WaSH services are implicated with four instrumental capacities required for individual and collective wellbeing, illustrated above.

These instrumental capacities are essential to ensuring that the marginalised can benefit from societal guarantees such as the instrumental freedoms outline above, as well as seek to strengthen these where they are weak or absent.

Fostering capacities for wellbeing along with traditional approaches seeking to improve health is essential to ensuring the broadest range of benefits to marginalised urban population in the Global South.