

Top ten lessons from the Water Futures Partnership

Robin Farrington, GIZ – 04/09/2013



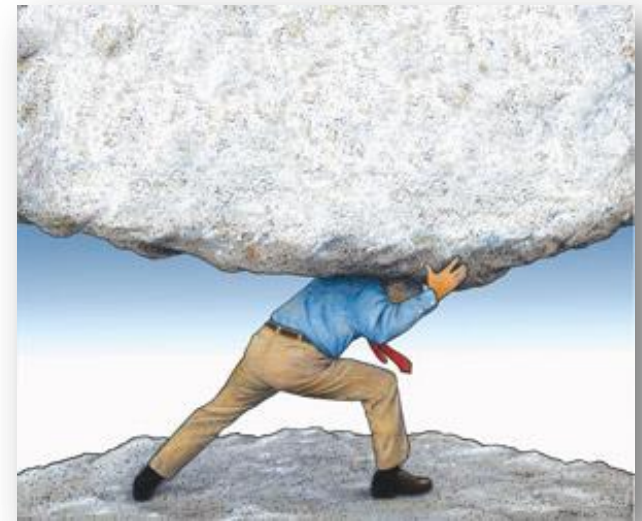
1. Mind the global-local gap

- Avoid arranged marriages
- Local business cases are king - beware of acting without them
- Be sensitive to the local relevance of global ideas
- Build flexibility into partnership approach - avoid pre-cooked solutions



2. Capacity counts!

- Assess capacity needs, opportunities & constraints before starting
- Do not try to run partnerships on a shoe string
- If capacity is weak, what can be done to strengthen it?



3. Clarify motivations and expectations in advance

- Take time to understand each other's motives and constraints before partnering
- Establish a common understanding of what a partnership means



4. Get help from honest brokers & advisors

- Mistrust is your biggest barrier - who is trusted by all parties?
- Look for good understanding of:
 - Water & related institutions
 - Personalities in government
 - Other key players
 - Partnerships & participatory processes
 - Capacity building
- Get strategic advice early, on:
 - Key sensitivities and stakeholders
 - Feasibility of ideas
 - Role of partnership in public policy & landscape of other activities



5. Take care where you first choose to work

- Even if there is the most compelling business case to act, take care where you start
- Partnerships alone are difficult enough
- Demonstrating quick wins and impacts are normally critical to maintain enthusiasm



6. Be strategic - what change are you trying to leverage?

- Start with the larger change objective in mind
- Partnerships are usually small fish in very big oceans - what will really reduce risk?
- Build in actions to leverage
 - More support
 - Larger investments
 - Institutional change



7. Carefully define roles and responsibilities

- Respect mandates
- Ensure there is a competent partnership coordinator in place
- Ensure private sector is not a just funder
- Redundant partners can impede progress



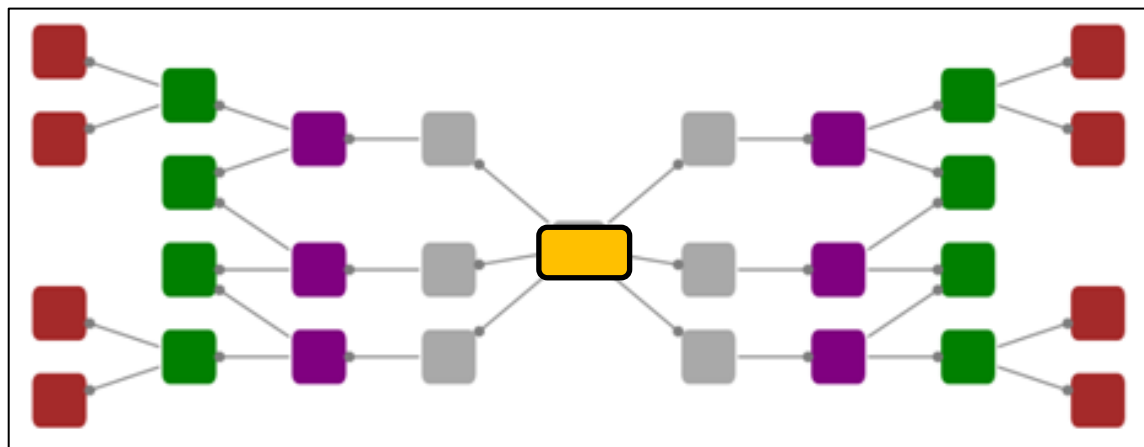
8. Take a participatory & credible approach

- Identify key stakeholders
- Appropriately integrate government and civil society
- Jointly agree on governance structure, goals & participatory partnership process
- Help support implementation of public policy
- Build trust through small but concrete deliverables



9. Conduct participatory water risk & sustainability assessments

- Conduct participatory risk & sustainability assessment - focusing on shared risks
- Develop multi-stakeholder risk management plans
- Don't forget institutional factors!

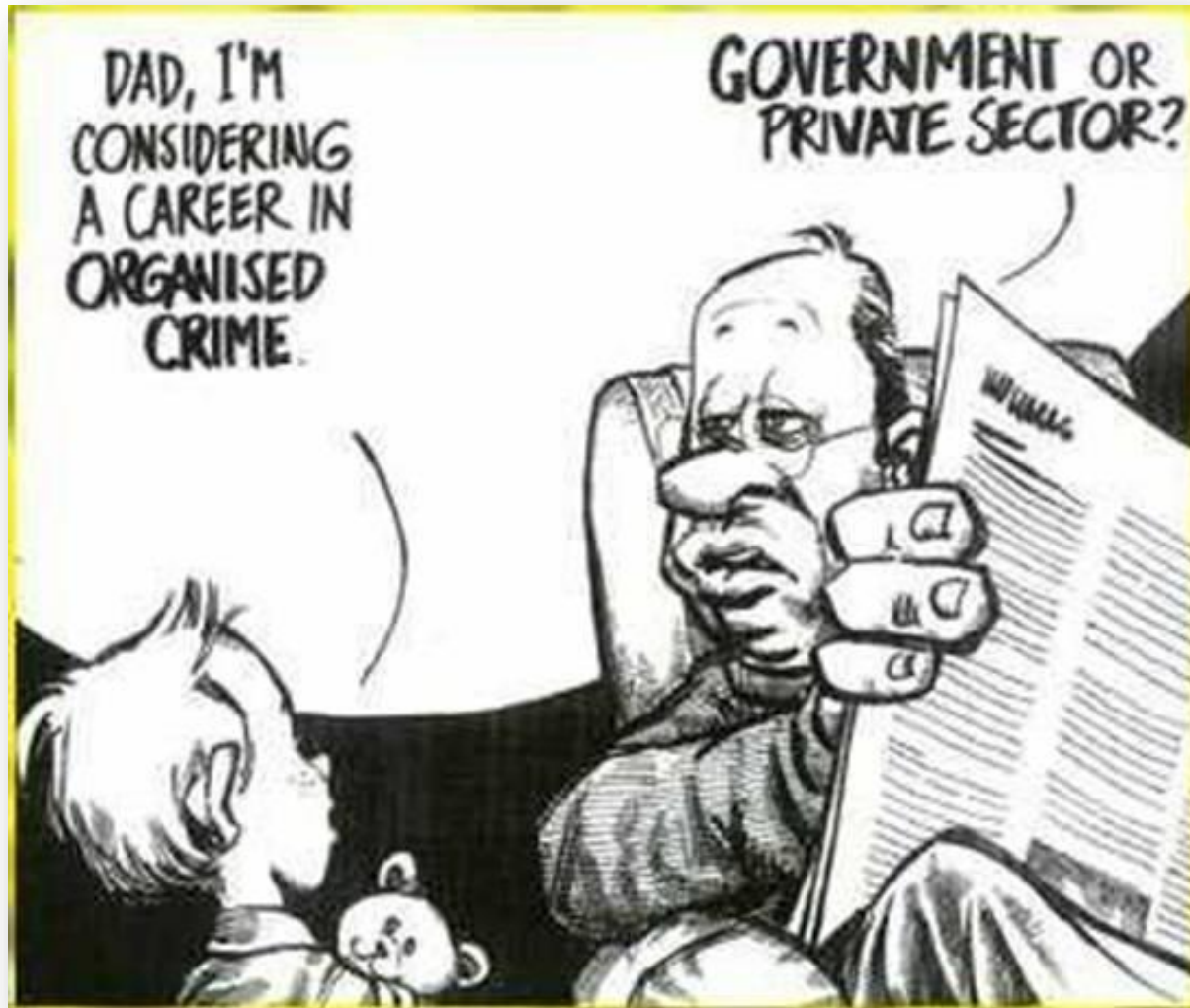


10. Use monitoring as a management tool & evaluate impacts

- Jointly set partnership goals
- Jointly monitor partnership progress
- Jointly evaluate partnership impacts
- Jointly celebrate partnership successes 😊

Project title:		Term:		
Partnership manager:		Reporting period:		
I. Objectives & strategy		GREEN	YELLOW	RED
Is the partnership geared to contributing to sustainable development?				
Are the objectives of the partnership defined in writing, and are they being communicated transparently to internal and external stakeholders?				
Is adequate account taken of the interests of the various actors in the (ongoing) formulation of objectives?				
Was the strategy described for achieving the goals using results chains which define the most important intervention areas for the partnership?				
Were clear impact indicators agreed (at least level use of output)				

Bonus lesson: be open!



Get involved!
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