

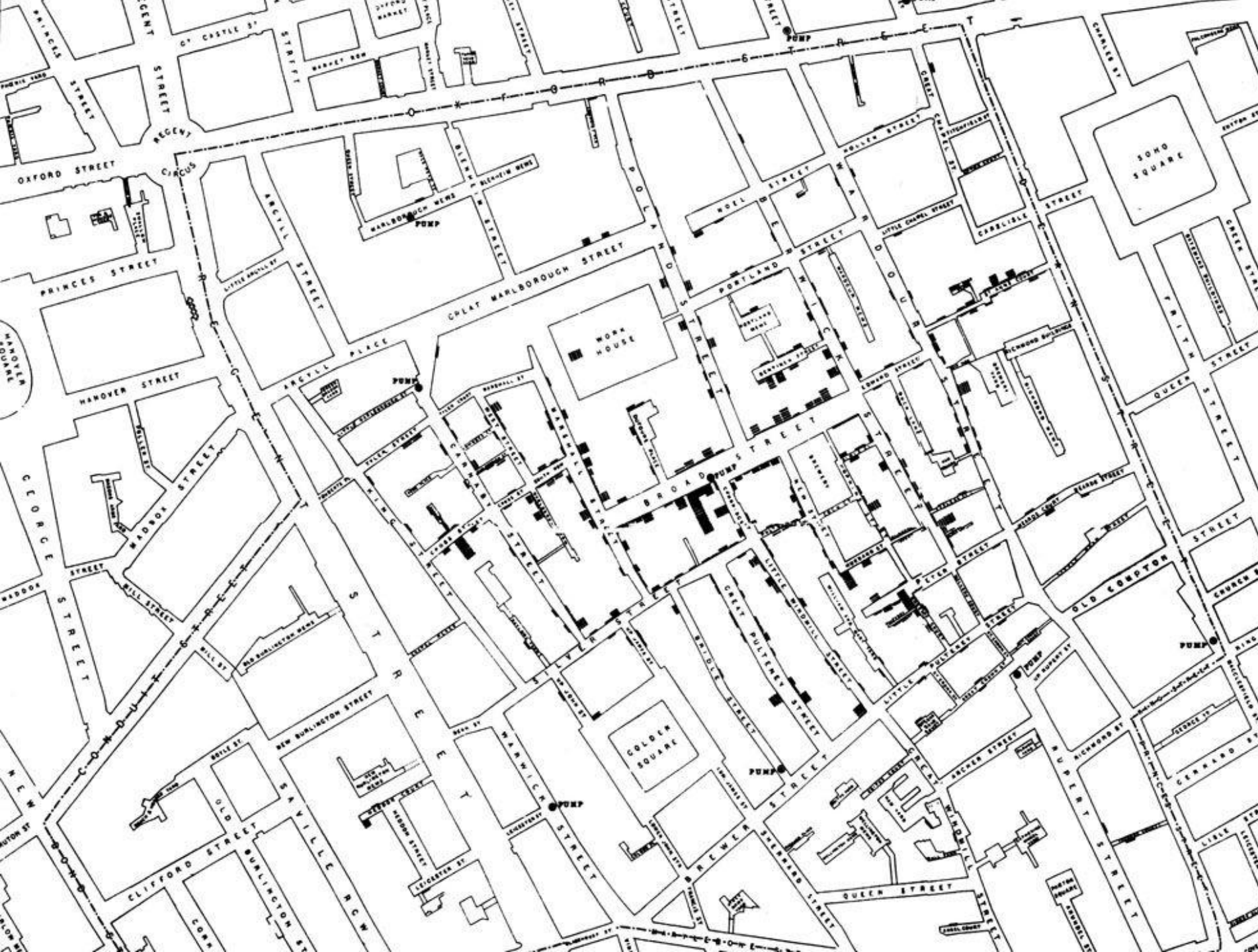
Why humanitarian WASH coordination matters: Avoiding Duplication and Informing Collective Action

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Global WASH Cluster - UNICEF
EPFL - 5 December 2024- <https://washcluster.net>



Session Outline

- Welcome
- GWC Overview and Humanitarian Coordination Today
- Coordination in Practice
- Evidence-based Advocacy for Humanitarian WASH
- Q & A and Discussion



This map of London was created by John Snow in 1854. London was experiencing a deadly cholera epidemic, when Snow tracked the cases on this map. The cholera cases are highlighted in black. Using this map, Snow and other scientists were able to trace the cholera outbreak to a single infected water pump.

What happens without coordination?

✓ Redundant/wasted effort and resources

✓ Erratic response quality

✓ Unpredictable and delayed response

✓ Non-transparent and unaccountable response

And with coordination?

✓ Optimized efforts and resources

✓ Maximized response quality

✓ Predictable and timely response

✓ Transparent and accountable response



*“If you want to go fast,
go alone, if you want to go far,
go together.”*

African proverb



Global WASH Cluster Overview

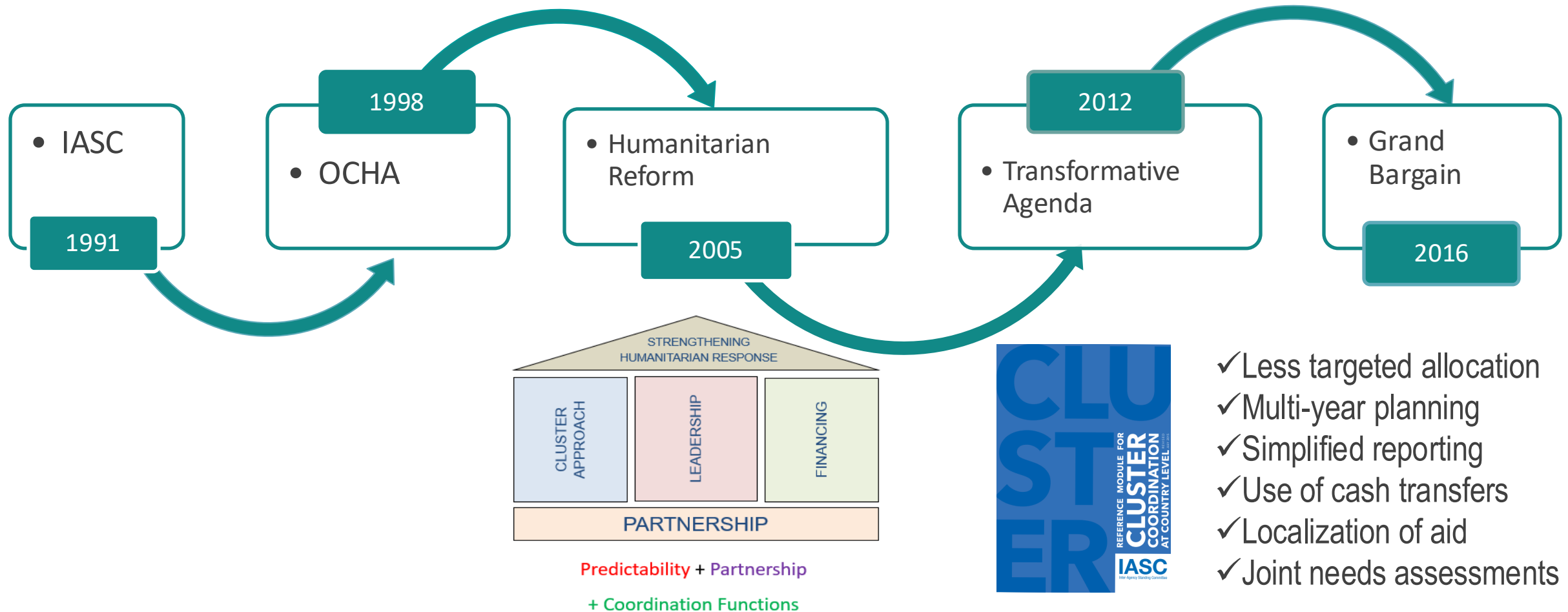
The cluster approach



Learning Objectives

- ❑ History and evolution of Clusters
- ❑ The Cluster system
- ❑ The Cluster pillars
- ❑ Coordination architecture and governance
- ❑ Intercluster coordination
- ❑ Global Overview in 2024

History of coordination





NGOs_s



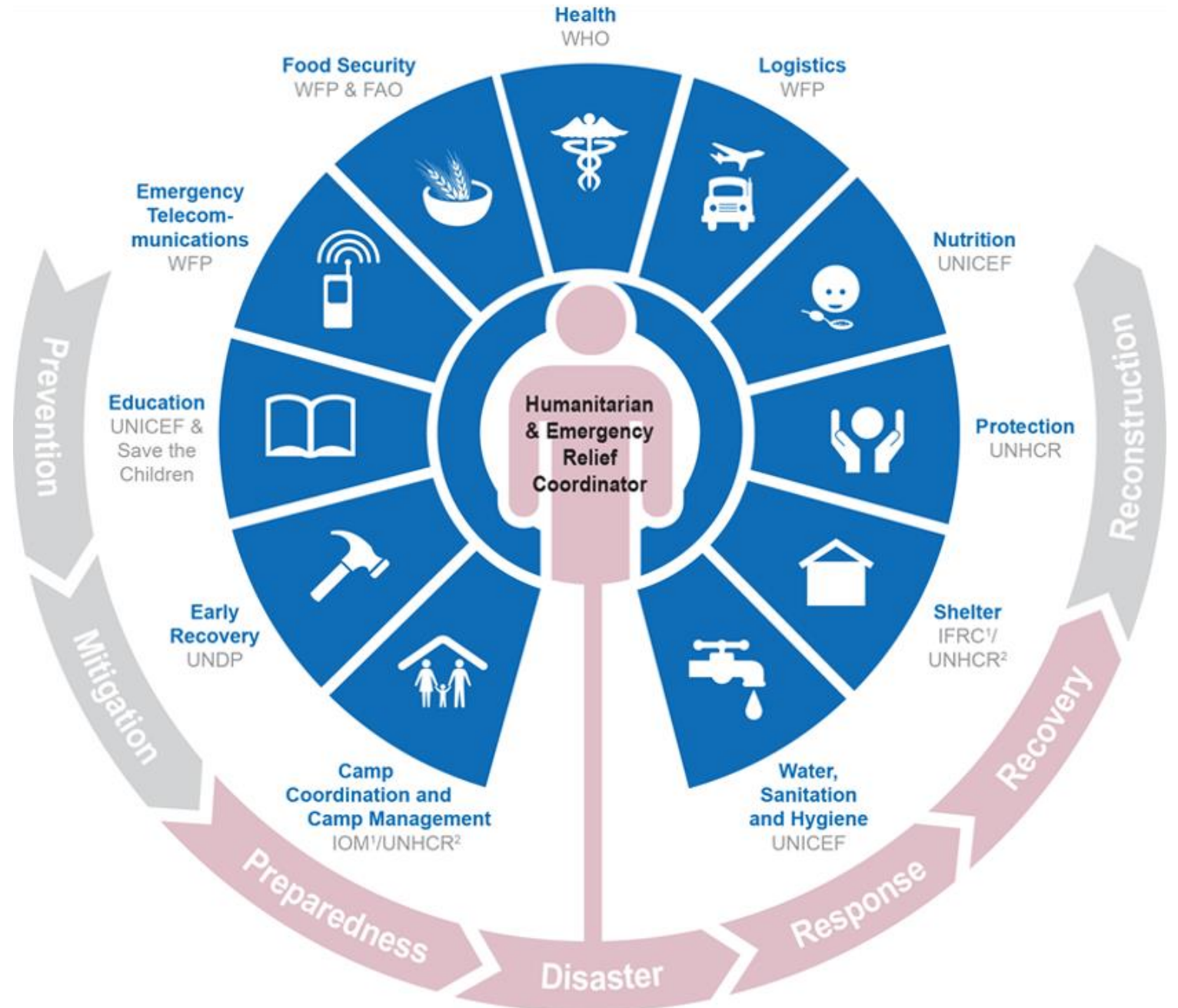
NGOs_s



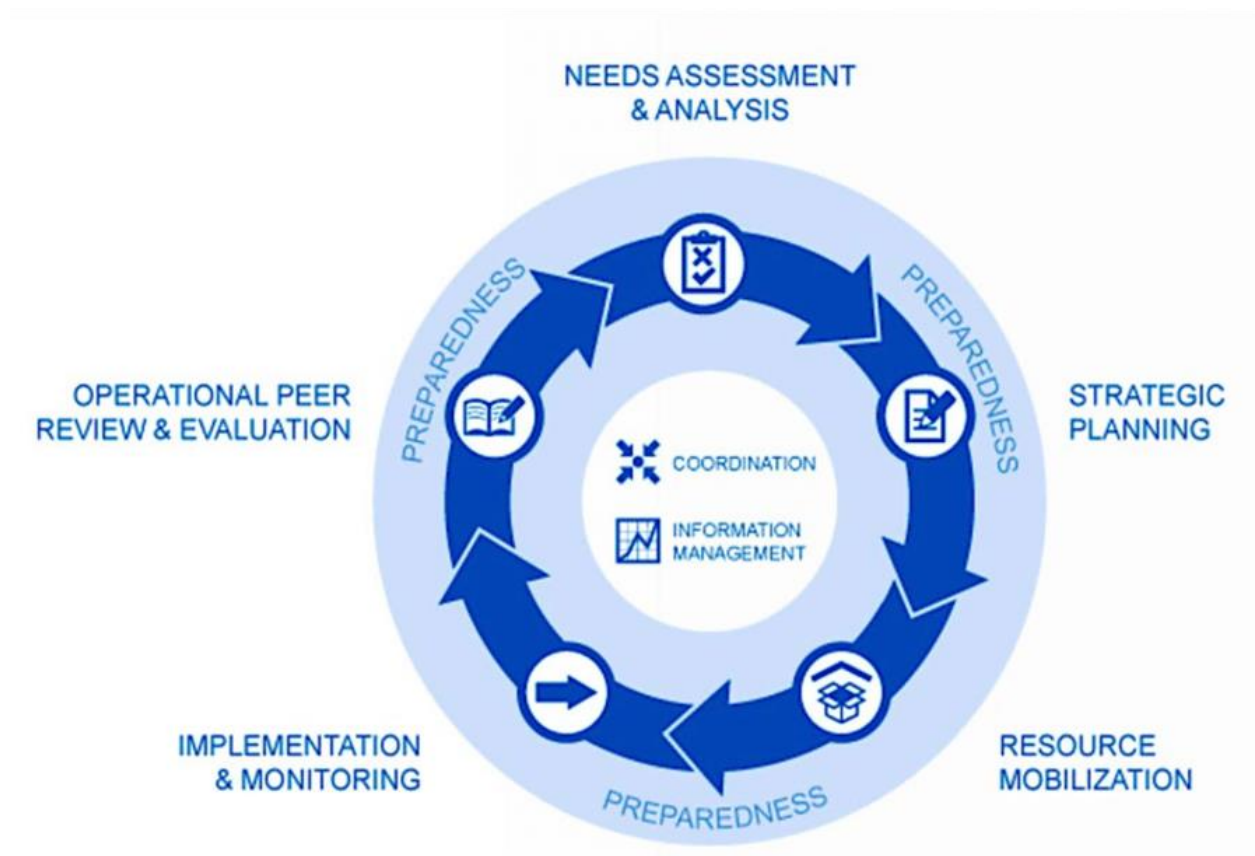
NGOs_s

The cluster system

- Global clusters
 - 11 permanent global clusters
 - Cluster Lead Agency
- National clusters
 - Temporary, must be activated
 - Should not replace the national authority



The core functions and the HPC



1. Ensure WASH
service delivery

2. Informing
strategic decision
making

3. Plan and
implement the
cluster strategies

4. Monitor and
evaluate the
response
performance

5. Strengthen
national capacity
in preparedness

6. Support
robust advocacy

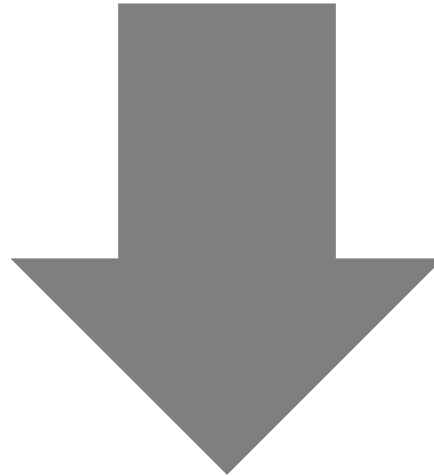
+

6+1 Ensure
Accountability to
Affected People
(AAP)

Cluster activation and deactivation

ACTIVATION:

1. **Sharp deterioration or significant change** in the humanitarian situation.
2. Limited **response or coordination capacity**

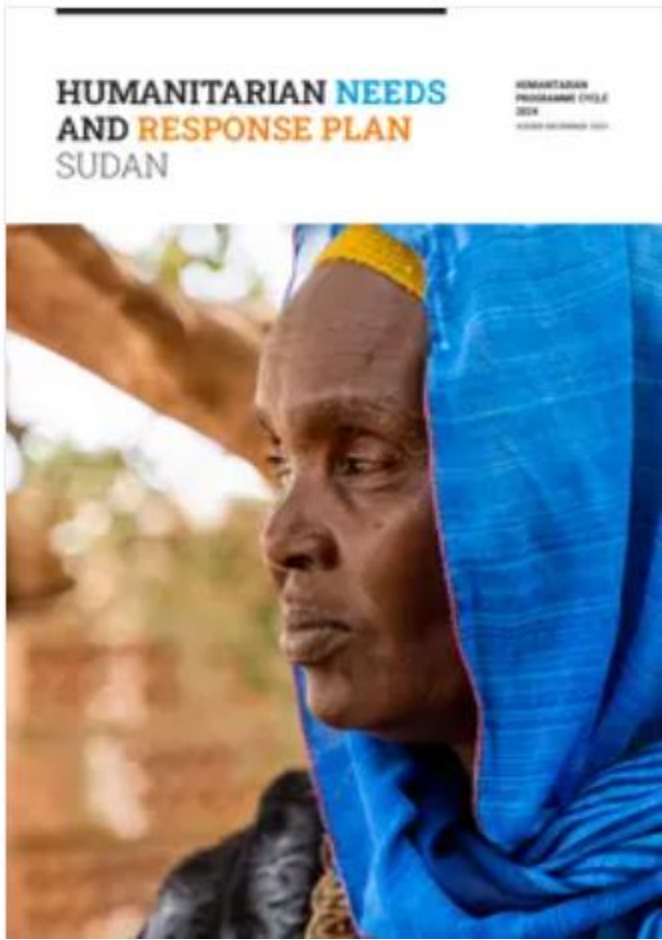
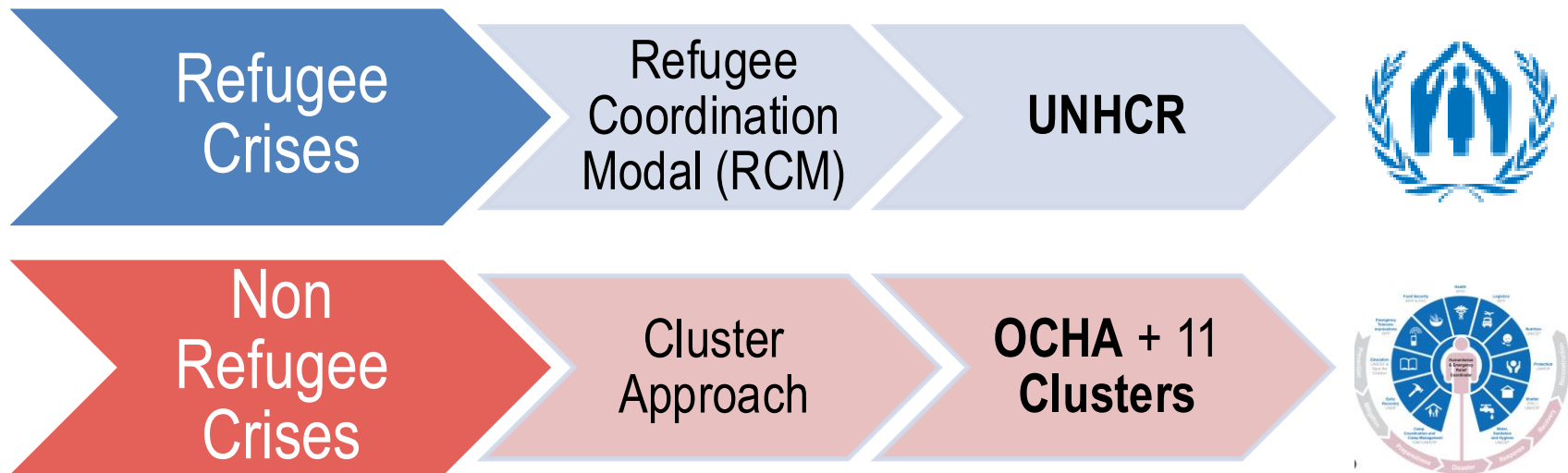


What is the difference between Clusters and Sectors?

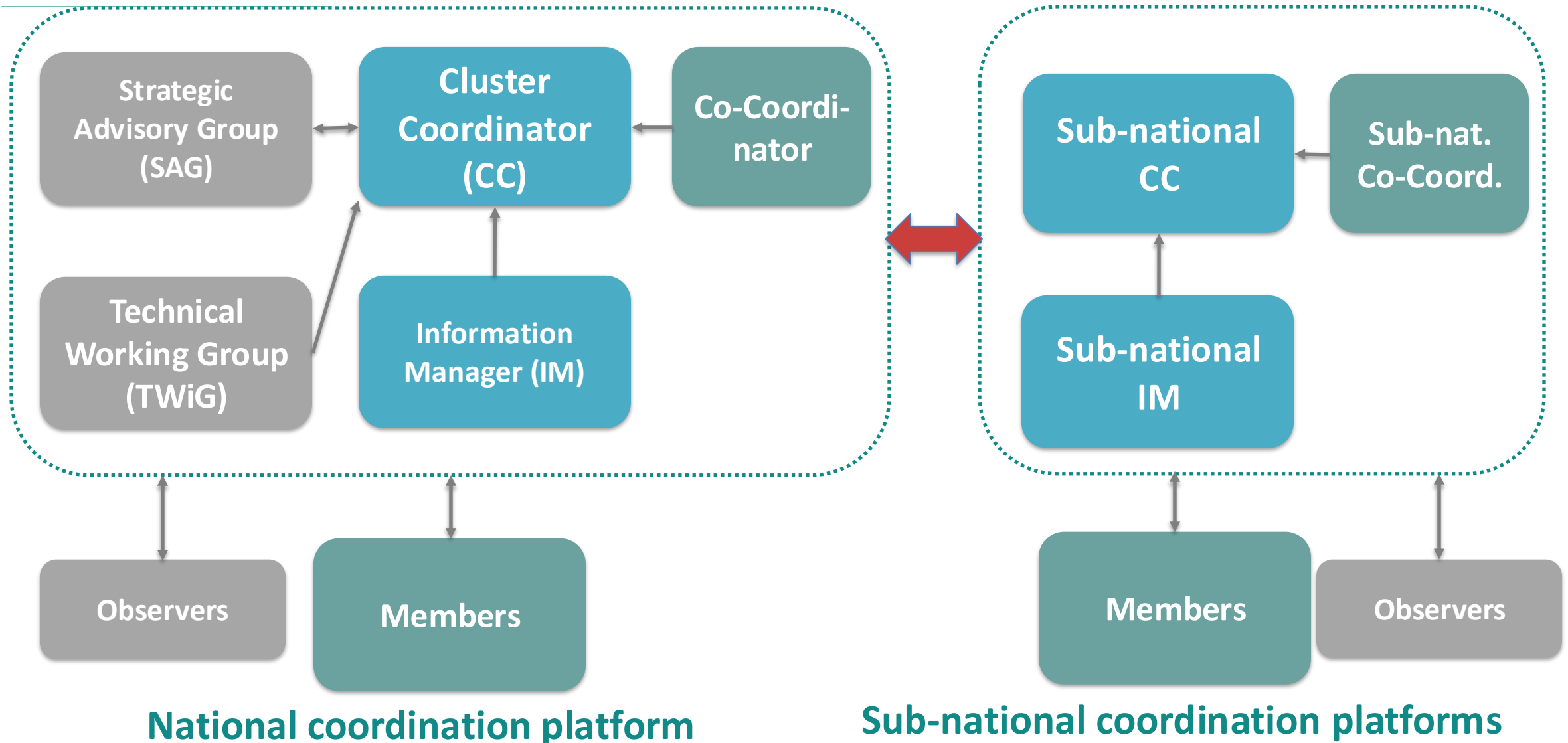
DEACTIVATION:

1. The humanitarian situation **improves**
2. National structures acquire **sufficient capacity.**

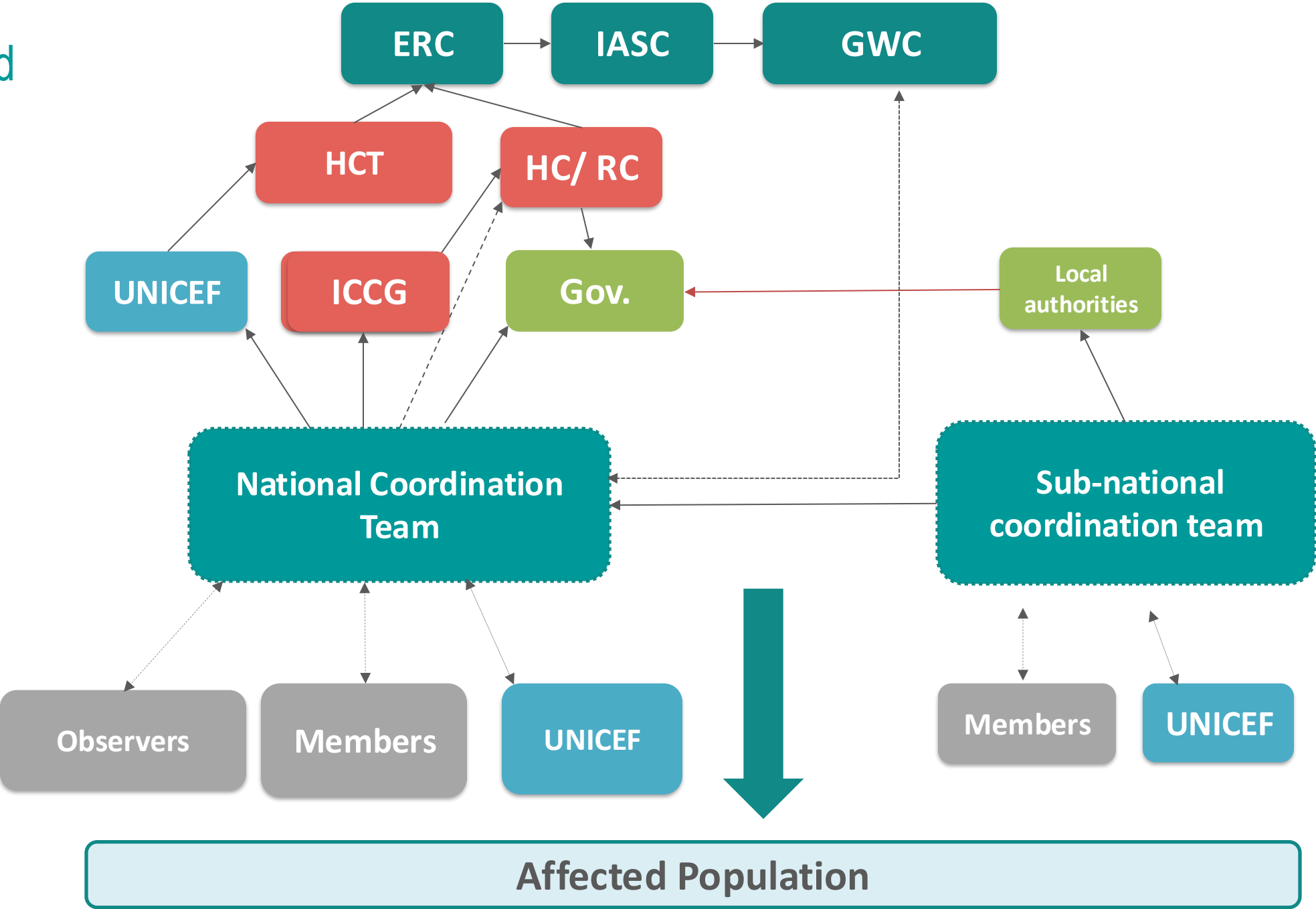
Cluster response vs. Refugee response



Cluster Architecture and Governance



Humanitarian
Architecture and
Governance



The Global WASH Cluster



Strategic Plan 2022 - 2025



Vision

Enhancing and strengthening effective and accountable humanitarian WASH coordination will result in timely, predictable and high-quality WASH outcomes that are inclusive and equitable, for the people most affected by and vulnerable to crises.



Mission

The GWC exists to strengthen system-wide preparedness and coordination of response capacity, providing clear leadership and accountability in humanitarian crises. As a priority, the GWC supports National Coordination Platforms in the delivery of the 6+1 core functions.

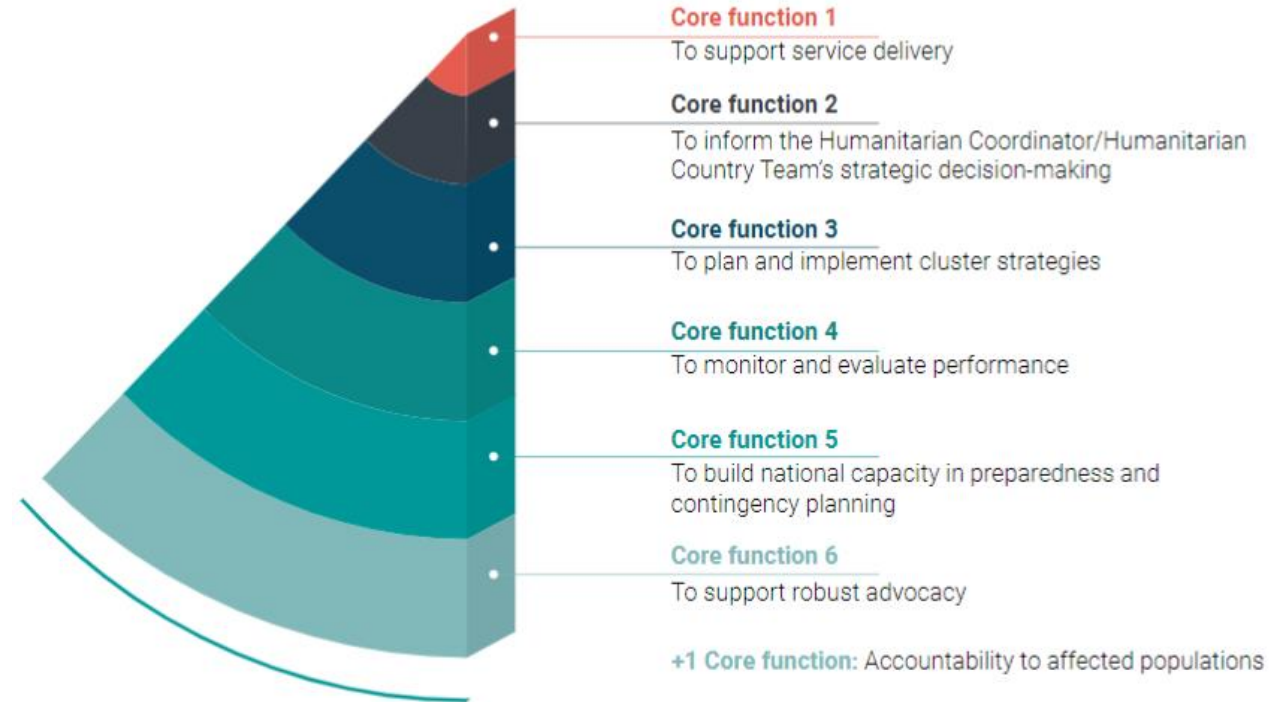
GWC Overview

Global Strategic Leadership

Operational Field Support

Capacity and Learning

Knowledge, Evidence and Advocacy





Country

All 

Number of sector/cluster partners *

37

People in Need

- 400,000
- 4,540,000
- 8,680,000
- 12,820,000
- 16,960,000
- 21,100,000



WASH Response in 2024

Funding Requested (US\$ Millions)

— 0.50K (15%)

People targeted 2024



People reached*** 2024



22.84M



35.9%



22.0%

78.0%



22.7%

77.3%

Click on the link below to visit the country website:

Country	Operational website
Afghanistan	🇦🇫
Bangladesh	🇬🇧
Burkina Faso	🇬🇧
Cameroon	🇬🇧
CAR	🇬🇧
Chad	🇬🇧
Colombia	🇬🇧
DRC	🇬🇧
El Salvador	🇬🇧
Ethiopia	🇬🇧
Guatemala	🇬🇧

Data Source: UNICEF, OCHA, JMP (2022), MICS, DHS, GWC, Mapbox: WASH HRP/JRP/FA Tracker *Data as of 31 July 2024*. All rights reserved. Contact: globalwashcluster@unicef.org. The boundaries and names shown and the designations used on this map do not imply the expression of any opinion whatsoever on the part of UNICEF concerning the legal status of any country, territory, city or area or of its authorities, or concerning the delimitation of its frontiers or boundaries. Visit [WASHCLUSTER.NET](https://washcluster.net) for more information.

*Average if multiple countries selected. ** Funding received as reported by the Cluster or FTS. *** People reached with overall humanitarian WASH assistance as defined by clusters/sectors. Sub-sector indicators may vary from one country to another, they are synthesized here for this visualisation. Please visit cluster websites for more accurate response data.

GWC Structure



- Cluster Advocacy and Support Team (CAST)
- Strategic Advisory Group (SAG)
- Field Support Team (FST)
- Members (91) and Standing Observers(2)
- Working Groups
- WASH Donor Group

[About Us | Global WASH Cluster](#)

GWC Members



CAST

EDIT



Monica Ramos

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Nancy Kanwal

Programme Officer

CAST: [Cluster Advocacy and Support Team | Global WASH Cluster](#)

Contact us: globalwashcluster@unicef.org or globalwashcluster@gmail.com



SAG

**2 permanent
members**

5 members

**4 National
Representatives**

1 Donor Agency

Decision Making

Strategy and Operations

Comms and Representation

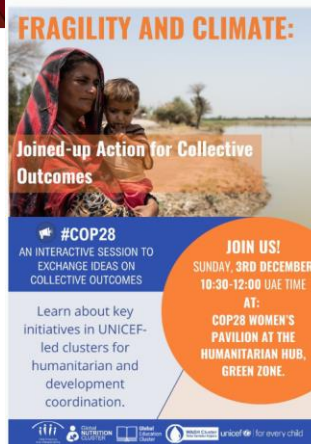
Advocacy and Fundraising

- SAG: [Strategic Advisory Group | Global WASH Cluster](#)

Global Level Advocacy



UN Water Conference 2023



2023

- UN Water Conference (March)
- Aidex (October)
- COP 28 (December)

2024

- EU Humanitarian Forum (March)



Working Groups



Cash And Markets

Led by: German Toilet Organization, Johannes Rueck: [e-mail](#).

[View Group](#) →



Faecal Sludge Management

Led and Coordinated by: Netherlands Red Cross, Marij Zwart: [e-mail](#).

[View Group](#) →



Hygiene Promotion

Led and Coordinated by: Oxfam, Michelle Farrington: [e-mail](#) and [Alexandra Machado](#) (International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies).

[View Group](#) →



Climate Working Group

Led and Coordinated by IOM, Antonio Torres: [e-mail](#) and Co-led GTO, Thorsten Reckerzügl : [e-mail](#).

[View Group](#) →

- **Transition to Communities of Practices (e.g. WASH Hub)**
- **New Technical or Thematic Working Groups: Climate Change**



Operational Research – Launch of the study results on the cost of not doing coordination

Previous Research conducted on WASH Coordination



2019: Summary of the evidence on WASH coordination including collating information from:

- Literature review (28 documents),
- UNICEF document review (125 documents),
- Interviews with WASH coordination experts (15 interviews).



2021: Assessment of the WASH coordination in Cox's Bazar, DRC, and Yemen with information from:

- WASH coordination platform staff (17 interviews),
- WASH coordination platform partners (76 interviews),
- Anyone who self-defined as being involved in the WASH response (157 surveys)

Previous Research conducted on WASH Coordination

Development of a
Theory of Change

Consistent Key Themes:
Cluster is evolving.
Trade-offs to participation.
Staffing is important.

Deeper
understanding of
the value of
WASH
coordination

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What is the **value-add of WASH Coordination** in humanitarian emergencies
for different coordination levels?



Monthly activity report

Interview with partners

Interview with staff

Survey with anyone involved in the WASH response

Mixed-methods evaluation with WASH coordination platform **staff and partners**

Existing framework for analysis
(i.e., Minimum Requirements and Theory of Change)

Methods

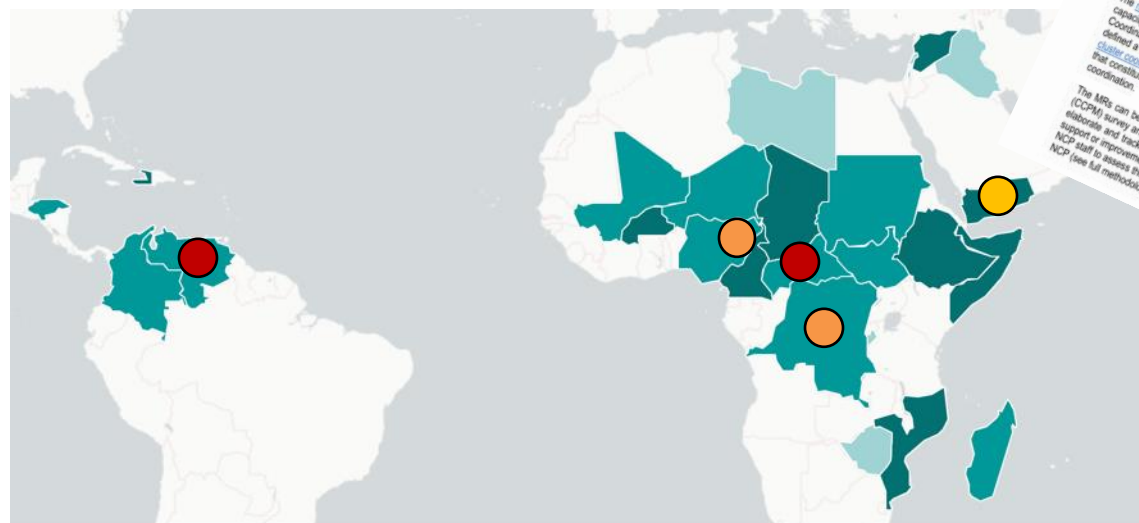
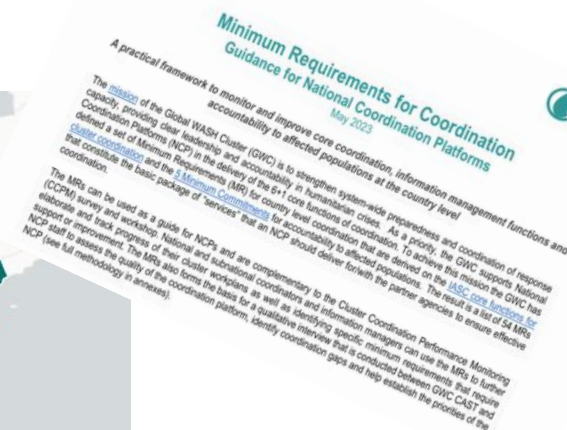


Figure: Selected contexts for this study with coordination levels – low-staffed (red), medium-staffed (orange) and high-staffed (yellow) – and WASH coordination priority – high priority (dark green), medium priority (green), and low priority (light green) at the time of the study.



Data collected over
a **6-month period**

Selection of **five contexts** with **different levels of coordination**



31 activity reports

20 interviews with partners

94 interviews with staff

475 surveys

Results

**Lack of funded and dedicated
coordination platform positions**

High turnover among staff
affecting stability and
coordination institutional
memory

**No coordination levels
perceived as met**

Lack of funding for
the WASH response
and donor space
shrinking

Several challenges with
the **inter-cluster
coordination**

No dedicated budget for
WASH coordination
platform activities



31 activity reports

20 interviews with partners

94 interviews with staff

475 surveys

Results

AAP strategy, data disaggregation and access monitoring

Complaints and Feedback Mechanism

Communication and Participation

Protection from Sexual Exploitation and Abuse

Coordination and information management

Needs assessment strategy and methodology

Assessment Implementation

Assessment Analysis

Humanitarian Response Plan/Response Design and Inter-sectorial

Strategic Operational Framework, Standards, and Technical approaches

Sector Funding – Resource Mobilization

No coordination levels perceived as met which led to a gap with expectations

Monitoring Plan and Framework, and Monitoring quality and accountability

Response Analysis and Gap Analysis

Corrective actions

Advocacy Strategy

Advocacy Initiatives

ERPR and Anticipatory Action Planning, Capacity Mapping and Development

* Requirements developed by the Global WASH Cluster Guidance for National Coordination Platform

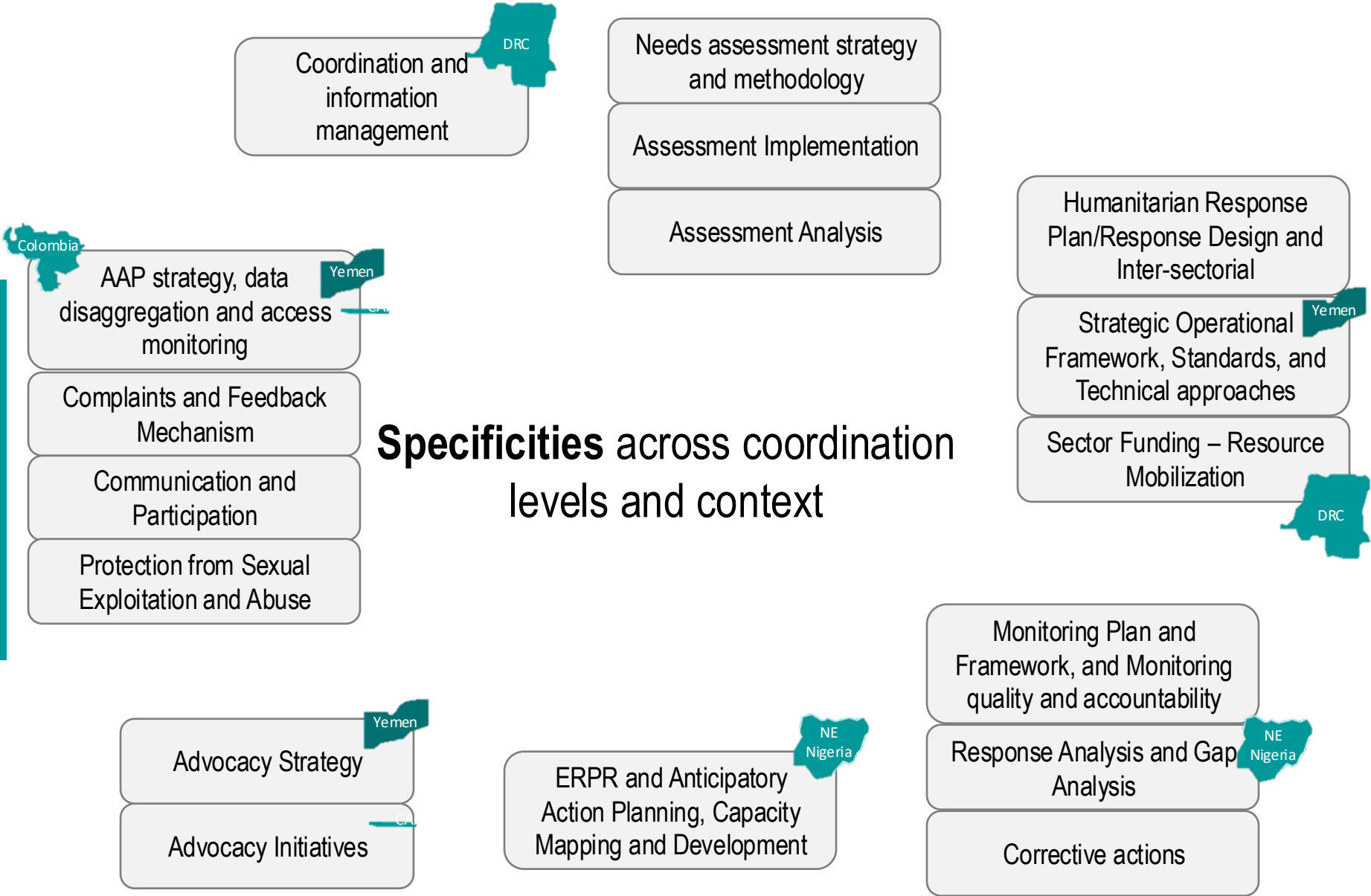
* Requirements considered not met (light green) to met (dark green) in the study



- 31 activity reports
- 20 interviews with partners
- 94 interviews with staff
- 475 surveys

Results

Specificities across coordination levels and context



* Requirements developed by the Global WASH Cluster Guidance for National Coordination Platform



31 activity reports

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Results

Coordination and
information
management

Needs assessment strategy
and methodology

Assessment Implementation

Assessment Analysis

Humanitarian Response
Plan/Response Design and
Inter-sectorial

Strategic Operational
Framework, Standards, and
Technical approaches

Sector Funding – Resource
Mobilization

**Gap of knowledge
or awareness of the WASH
coordination platform?**

AAP strategy, data
disaggregation and access
monitoring

Complaints and Feedback
Mechanism

Communication and
Participation

Protection from Sexual
Exploitation and Abuse

Monitoring Plan and
Framework, and Monitoring
quality and accountability

Response Analysis and Gap
Analysis

Corrective actions

Advocacy Strategy

Advocacy Initiatives

ERPR and Anticipatory
Action Planning, Capacity
Mapping and Development

* Requirements developed by the Global
WASH Cluster Guidance for National
Coordination Platform

* Requirements discussed and
recommendations provided by a few (light) to
many partners (dark purple) in the study



31 activity reports

20 interviews with partners

94 interviews with staff

475 surveys

Results

WASH Partners

Provide a more effective and strategic response according to the WASH-identified needs by improving the visibility of the WASH response and sector, sharing information, and improving partners' capacity

Impact on beneficiaries?

Affected Populations

Meet the needs and target areas of the affected populations with the highest needs that would not or less be identified or targeted without the presence of the WASH coordination

➔ Are they aware of the coordination platform?



Collective Advocacy



Module 15 - Advocacy

- ❑ What is advocacy?
- ❑ Core Function 6 in the HPC
- ❑ Objective, minimum requirements and tools
- ❑ The basics of advocacy
- ❑ Advocacy Frameworks, Tactics and Tools

Humanitarian advocacy

Demystifying humanitarian advocacy! You are probably already a humanitarian advocate.

If you...

- Talk to crisis **affected people** to understand their needs before informing **donors about** the humanitarian situation
- Lead **coordination meetings** and try to get your concerns across various stakeholders

... then you are already doing humanitarian advocacy.

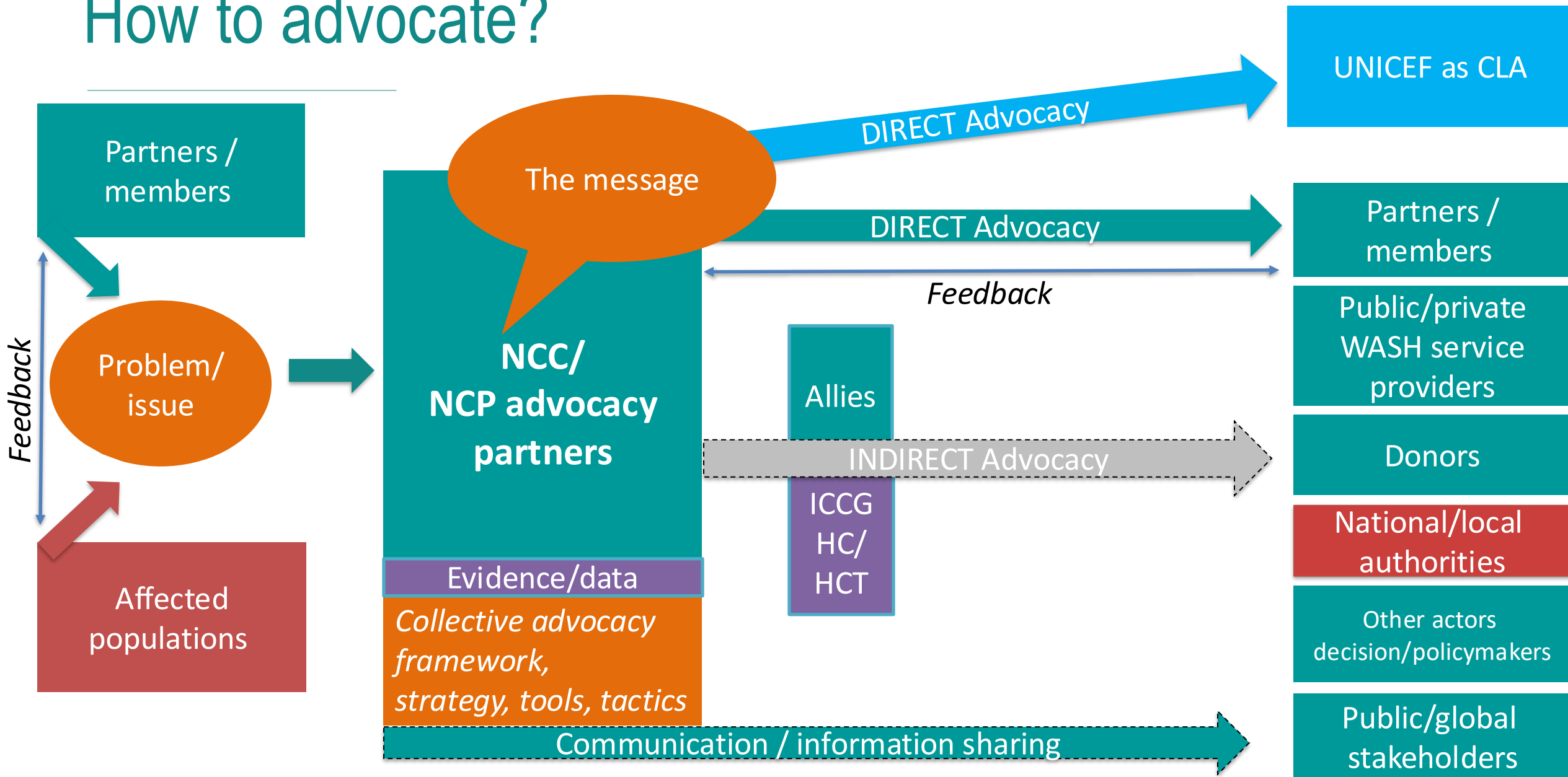
What is advocacy?

- It is about **influencing** policies, practices, attitudes within the enabling policy environment
- It can be a **strategic** planned a **long-term process**
- Advocacy can be **urgent**, demanding **immediate action**.
- In both cases there are **clear goals** and objectives
- It draws its legitimacy and credibility from knowledge, experience and **evidence**.

Cluster objectives and minimum requirements

Objective	Minimum requirements	Tools
• Identify concerns and provide key information and messages • Undertake advocacy on behalf of the cluster and affected people.	• A joint strategic approach to advocacy is set up and monitored • Advocacy campaigns, issues and messages are strategically rolled out and shared by the cluster coordination team and cluster partners	• <u>WASH Cluster Advocacy Guide and toolkit</u>

How to advocate?



Advocacy framework basics for NCPs

1. Collective identification of **issues**
2. Advocacy overall **goal & objectives**
- 3. Stakeholder Analysis**
4. Mapping of available **evidence** and data to support advocacy
5. Develop key advocacy **messages**
6. Develop advocacy **tactics**

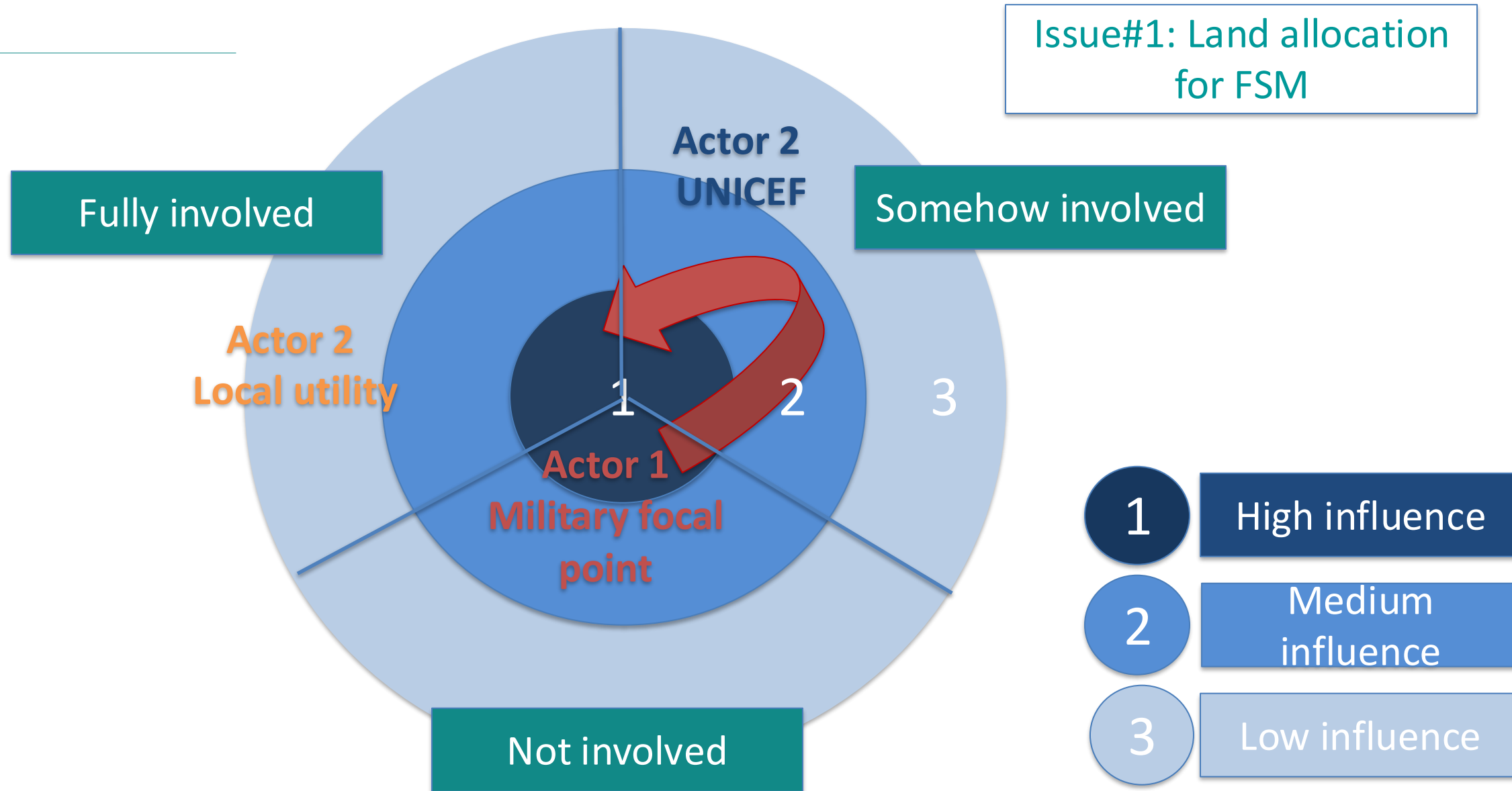
1 - Collective identification of issues

Advocacy Working Group to
initiate collective problem
identification with partners

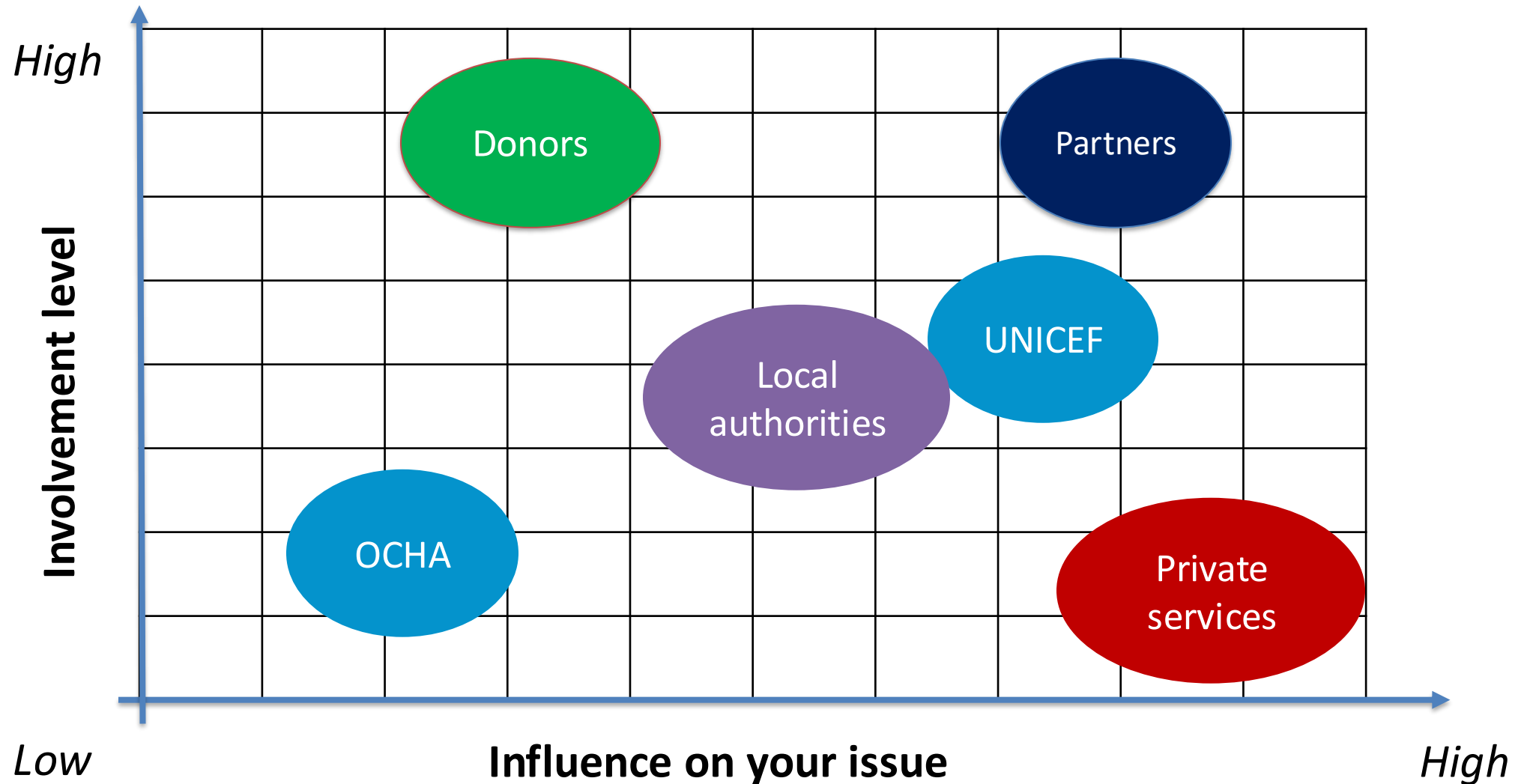
Develop a **system** for
collecting alerts
or problems requiring
advocacy

Problem identified: Critical low quality of water in water trucking and limited capacity on water quality testing in the emergency response.

3. Stakeholder analysis example



3. Stakeholder analysis



4 – Mapping evidence and data

- It is key to already think about the **evidence at hand**
- What is missing and why should new evidence be collected (link data needs to decision-making).

Without the right evidence, advocacy is left to chance.

KEY FIGURES



2.3M PEOPLE IN NEED OF WATER WITH 3 LITRES PER PERSON PER DAY AVAILABLE



50% WATER SUPPLY INFRASTRUCTURE REQUIRES REPAIR/REHABILITATION



ALL 3 DESALINATION PLANTS ARE NOT PROVIDING WATER DUE TO LACK OF FUEL AND ELECTRICITY



ALL 6 WASTEWATER TREATMENT PLANTS ARE NON-OPERATIONAL DUE TO LACK OF FUEL AND ELECTRICITY



130,000 M3 OF UNTREATED WASTEWATER AND MAJOR LEAKS IN SEWAGE NETWORKS REPORTED



NO WATER FOR 3500 INPATIENTS IN 35 HOSPITALS AND 400,000 IDPs IN 160 SCHOOLS AT IMMEDIATE RISK

5. Key Messages

Statement	Evidence	Example	Action Desired
There is an urgent need to support the restoration of WASH infrastructure in North	The data gathered through the collective assessments shows that only 42.5% of the population in priority areas have access to safe water,	This situation is particularly worrying in the camps of North Kethana where new cholera cases have been suspected	We, a collective of 45 partners coordinated by the WASH Cluster, ask the Humanitarian Coordinator for immediate prioritisation of interventions in North Kethana

6 - Targeted messages

- These are the messages that the WASH Cluster Advocacy Working Group will work to highlight to key stakeholders. They must be clear, specific simple and measurable. Expand on your objective!
- Use simple language

Example:

"We call on donors to urgently prioritise funding for joint WASH and Nutrition interventions in Kethana before the end of 2023 to avoid displacement of 170,000 people from northern areas, and to reduce the risk of diarrhea to 53,000 children under 5."

Tools – Advocacy Examples



▲ Sample 1: Advocacy note for Haiti



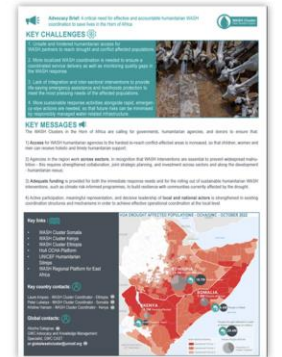
▲ Sample 2: Advocacy note for Horn of Africa



▲ Haiti Advocacy Note's challenges section, showing maps



▲ Haiti Advocacy Note's call to action section



▲ Horn of Africa Advocacy Note's challenges and key asks section

The most frequent messages?

- Increased funding for the WASH sector (donors)
- More partners and capacity for WASH response (partners)
- More investment in emergency preparedness (donors and partners)
- Governments or authorities should allow humanitarian partners to intervene
- Protection of water infrastructures and workers
- Greater consideration of cross-cutting

themes: protection, cash, nexus, climate change, localization

- More accessibility to WASH services and infrastructure for the affected population
- The humanitarian community and the government should consider WASH as a public health intervention during outbreaks.

Advocate for survival + longer-term WASH and demonstrate how core it is to other sectors!



unicef 

Q&A - Discussion



Learning and Career prospects

- Humanitarian Emergency Response Rosters
- ICRC / IFRC Traineeships
- UNICEF Talent management
- UN Junior Professional Programmes
- UNICEF Agora Learning Channel
- Let's talk!

<https://www.washcluster.net/>