

# Strengthening water and sanitation regulatory systems

A Global Call to Action

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Survey Feedback Webinar  
1 November 2024

# Webinar information

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# Webinar information



**'Chat' box:** please use this for general requests and for interactive activities

**'Q&A' box:** please use this to post questions to the speakers.

# Moderator and speakers



Robert Bos  
International Water Association  
Switzerland  
(moderator)



Funke Adepoju  
Lagos State Water Regulatory  
Commission  
Nigeria



Batsirai Majuru  
World Health Organization  
Switzerland

# Agenda

Welcome and webinar overview (5 min)	5 min	Daniela Bemfica   IWA
Trivia question	2 min	Robert Bos   IWA
Strengthening political will for water and sanitation regulation	12 min	Funke Adepoku   Lagos State Water Regulatory Commission
Call to Action overview and summary of survey feedback	15 min	Batsirai Majuru   WHO
Q&A	15 min	Robert Bos   IWA
Breakout group discussion:	20 min	Jorge Alvarez-Sala   UNICEF Isabela Espindola   IWA Faith Olajide   WYN Rita Amaral   LIS-Water
Feedback from breakout discussions	15 min	All
Wrap up and next steps	5 min	Batsirai Majuru, Dave Trouba   WHO

# Trivia question



Which country was the first to establish a comprehensive national water regulation system, and when?

Mentimeter: scan the QR code or  
use the link in the chat

# Trivia question - Answer

[Home](#) > [Pre 1922 Acts](#) > [1847](#) > [Waterworks Clauses Act, 1847](#)

## Waterworks Clauses Act, 1847



View by Section

View Full Act

Commencement, Amendments, SIs made under the Act



Print Full Act



### WATERWORKS CLAUSES ACT 1847

#### CHAPTER XVII.

An Act for consolidating in one Act certain Provisions usually contained in Acts authorising the making of Waterworks for supplying Towns with Water.  
[<sup>1</sup>] [23rd April 1847.]

[*Preamble.*]

**Incorporation with special Act.** [1.] This Act shall extend only to such waterworks as shall be authorised by any Act of Parliament hereafter to be passed which shall declare that this Act shall be incorporated therewith; and all the clauses of this Act, save so far as they shall be expressly varied or excepted by any such Act, shall apply to the undertaking authorized thereby, so far as the same shall be applicable to such undertaking, and shall, with the clauses of every other Act which shall be incorporated therewith, form part of such Act, and be construed therewith as forming one Act.

And with respect to the construction of this Act, and any Act incorporated therewith, be it enacted as follows:

**Interpretation.** 2. The expression "*the special Act*" used in this Act shall be construed to mean any Act which shall be hereafter passed authorising the construction of waterworks, and with which this Act shall be incorporated; and the word "*prescribed*" used in this Act in reference to any matter herein stated shall be construed to refer to such matter as the same shall be prescribed or provided for in the special Act, and the sentence in which such word occurs shall be construed as if instead of the word "*prescribed*" the expression "*prescribed for that purpose in the special Act*" had been used; and the expression "*the lands and streams*" shall mean the lands and streams of water which shall by the special Act be authorised to be taken or used for the purposes thereof; and the expression "*the undertaking*" shall mean the waterworks, and the works connected therewith, by the special Act authorised to be constructed; and the expression "*the undertakers*" shall mean the persons by the special Act authorised to construct the waterworks.

**Interpretations in this and the special Act:** 3. The following words and expressions in both this and the special Act, and any Act incorporated therewith, shall have the meanings hereby assigned to them, unless there be something in the subject or context repugnant to such construction; (that is to say,)

# Waterworks Clauses Act, 1847, United Kingdom

<https://www.legislation.ie/eli/1847/act/17/enacted/en/print.html>



# Strengthening Political Commitment in Water and Sanitation Regulation: Perspectives from Lagos State, Nigeria

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FUNKE ADEPOJU  
Lagos State Water Regulatory Commission





Regulating WSS  
for Result:  
The Power of  
Political Will”



## Institution/ Legal Framework:

1

Establishment of Lagos State Water Regulatory Commission (LASWARCO) to oversee water and sanitation services in 2004 by the water sector law, repealed in 2017 and replaced by the EMPM law 2017

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2

Development of Lagos State WASH Policy (2024)



# Overview of water and sanitation services in Lagos State, Nigeria

## Water Services

- An estimated 20.3 million people live in LMA covering 978km<sup>2</sup> of the 3,472km<sup>2</sup> of Lagos State.
- Population density of Lagos is 6,462 people per km<sup>2</sup> but the density in LMA is 20,368 people per km<sup>2</sup> (USAID/LUWASH)
- growth rate - 2.2% a year, population annual rate of 6.1% over the last 16 years.
- Public Water Supply: less than 10%
- Groundwater : 90% of the

## Sanitation Services

- 90% of the population rely on on-site containment particularly septic tanks with soak pits
- Improved Sanitation Facilities 30 – 40% of the population have access to AISF – WHO/UNICEF JMP
- Sewage collection and Treatment : limited coverage , with most of the sewage generated in Urban areas (LMoE)



# Why Political Commitment?

**Policy and legislation :** Effective water and sanitation regulation relies on steadfast political commitment to pass and implement enabling laws and policies.

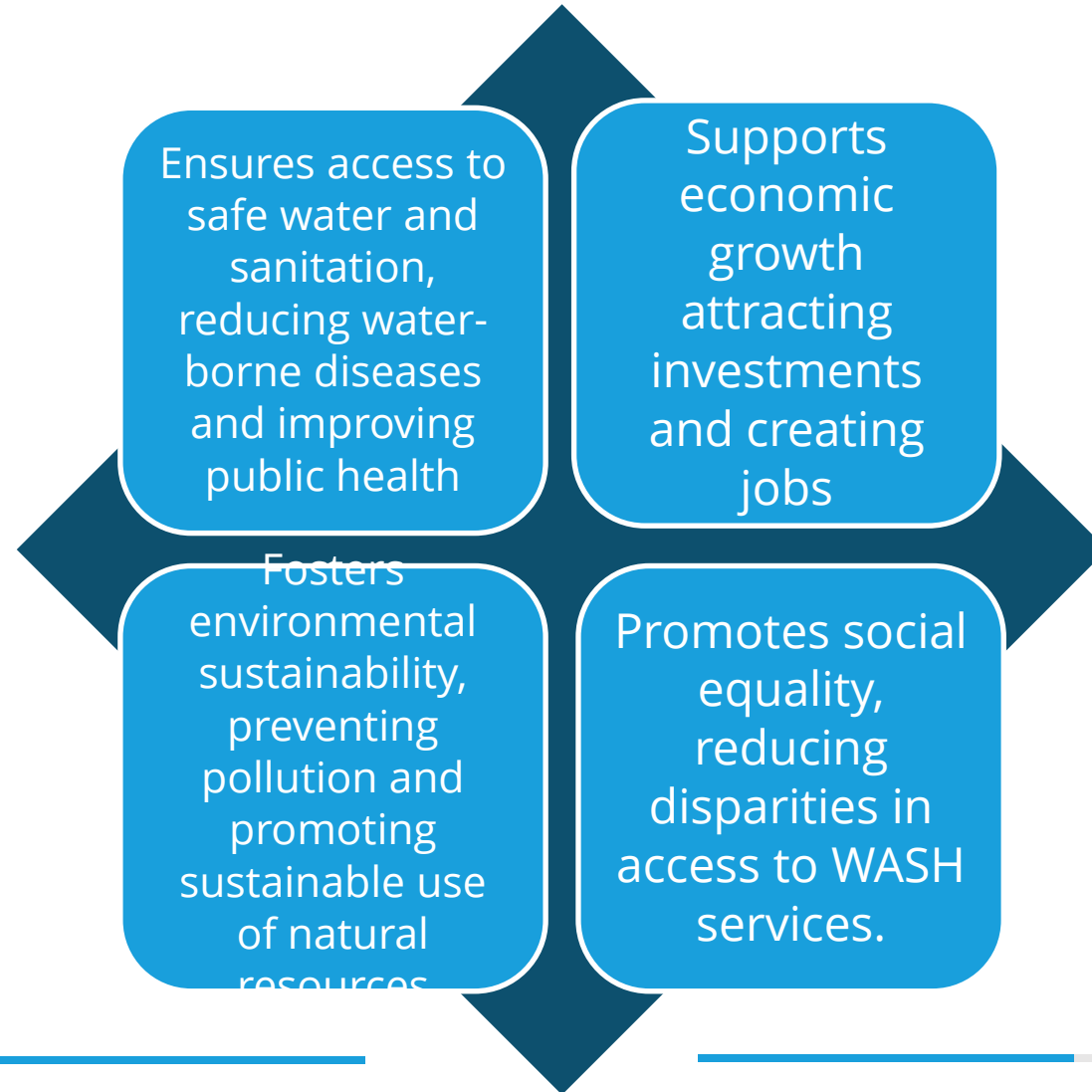
**Resource allocation:** Budgeted control exercised by policymakers/politicians determine the effectiveness of water regulation and sanitation service delivery.

**Prioritization of water and sanitation** demonstrates commitment to improving public health, economic growth and environmental sustainability.

**International cooperation:** political commitment can leverage international partnerships and funding.

**Strong Regulatory Frameworks** require sustained political will

# Benefits of strong political commitment in strengthening Water and Sanitation regulatory systems





# Issues with regulation of WSS in Lagos State

- Institutional and governance framework is weakened by **low political drive**
- **Inadequate Infrastructure:** leading to inefficient service delivery
- **Lack of required human capital:** insufficient skilled personnel, hindering effective regulation and management
- **Inadequate knowledge** of the dynamics and value of regulation in the WSS sector
- **Inadequate funding/poor investment** exacerbates the challenges faced by the water and sanitation sector in Lagos State
- **Deficient regulatory environment:** The existing regulatory framework is insufficient, making it difficult to ensure compliance with standards and regulations .
- **Rapid urbanization:** puts pressure on existing infrastructure, making it challenging to provide adequate water and sanitation services



# Efforts so far

## Other Initiatives

- Water Policy (2024)
- The Lagos International Water Conference (LIWAC) as a platform for engagement with stakeholders and policy makers was initiated by the Lagos State Water Regulatory Commission in Year 2020 and has played host to over 4,000 participants, 44 speakers, 78 Panelists and over 60 recommendations for financing opportunities and Water Governance
- USAID's Water and Sanitation Investment Plan (LUWASH): Supports infrastructure development and regulatory strengthening of 44M USD for Lagos state
- WaterAid's intervention of 3.8M in Lagos WASH sector
- Continuous stakeholder engagement

## What needs to be done

- Strengthen regulatory frameworks and institutional capacity.
- Develop institutional capacity that can enhance regulation and service delivery
- Increase investment in water and sanitation infrastructure.
- Promote community engagement and participation.
- Implement climate-resilient water and sanitation solutions.
- Enhance water quality monitoring and enforcement



By sharing Lagos State's experiences, it is hoped that it will contribute valuable insights to the global discussions on the need to strengthen regulation of water and sanitation services.



# Strengthening water and sanitation regulatory systems

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A Global Call to Action

Batsirai Majuru, World Health Organization

# Why a Call to Action..?



Weak enabling  
environment



Persistent inequalities  
in types of services /  
geographic areas that  
are regulated



Chronic  
underinvestment in  
water and sanitation  
services

Exacerbated by climate change, all these factors severely threaten progress towards universal access to safely managed drinking water and safely managed sanitation

# Vision

- **An enabling environment:** Improve the political space that regulators are working in
- **Addressing inequalities:** Establish / extend regulatory mandates to services that are currently unregulated
- **Strengthening implementation:** strengthening existing regulatory institutions + regulators' associations, supporting establishment of additional ones

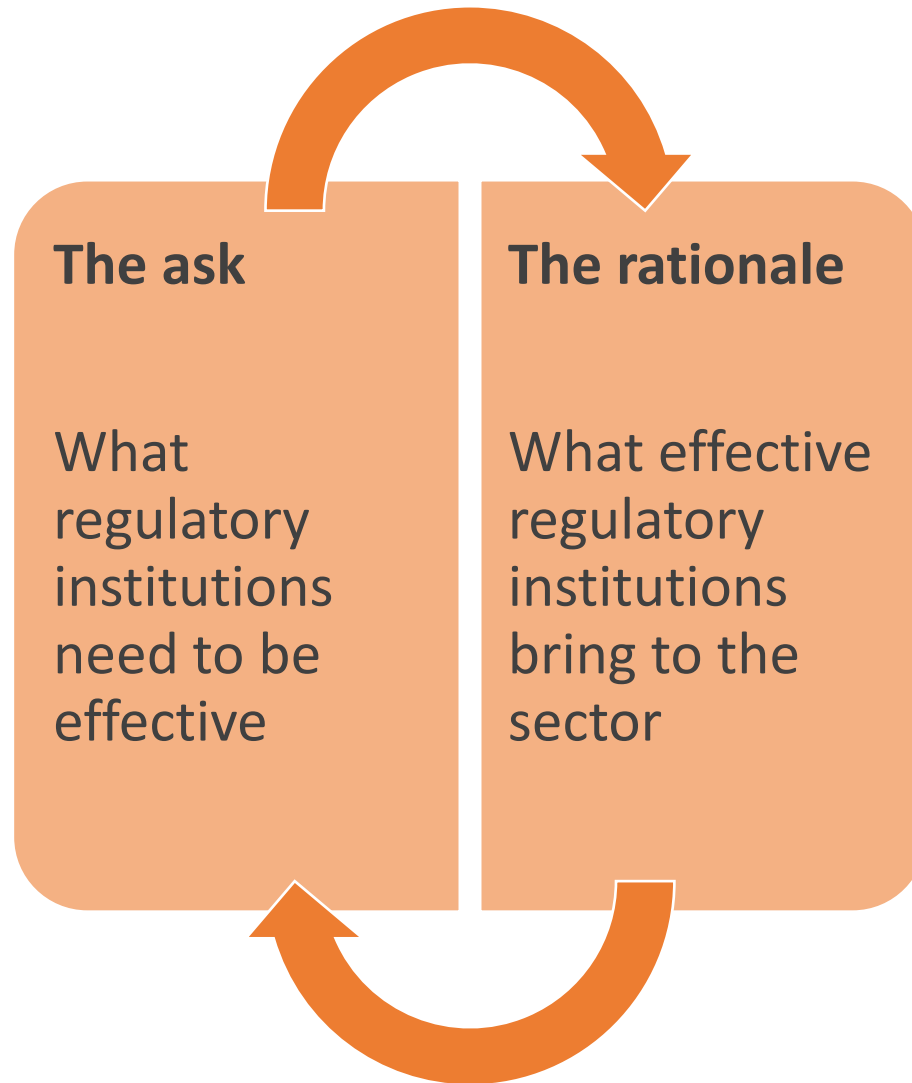


# Objectives

1. **Increasing political recognition** of the role of effective regulation in improving water and sanitation services
2. **Promoting uptake of good regulatory practices**, including working frameworks and approaches that improve service delivery.
3. **Promoting enhanced and better coordinated technical assistance** from external support partners
4. **Strengthening monitoring** of the status of water and sanitation regulation



# What would be in the Call to Action?



Key actions by stakeholders



# SECTOR MINISTERS' MEETING

San Jose - Costa Rica - 4-5 April  
#2019SMM

BEHIND  
LEAVE NO ONE

## Who is implicated?

- Water and sanitation regulators
- Utilities / service providers
- Governments
- External support partners
- Financing institutions

# Who is involved?

**Secretariat: WHO, IWA, LIS-Water, ESAWAS, ADERASA**

## **Core partners**

- Commitment to Call to Action's near / long-term objectives
- Strategic influence and advocacy
- Regional or sectoral representation
- Relevant expertise and/or resources
- Active engagement

## **Supporting partners**

- Commitment to Call to Action's near / long-term objectives
- Amplify and support dissemination of the Call to Action among key audiences



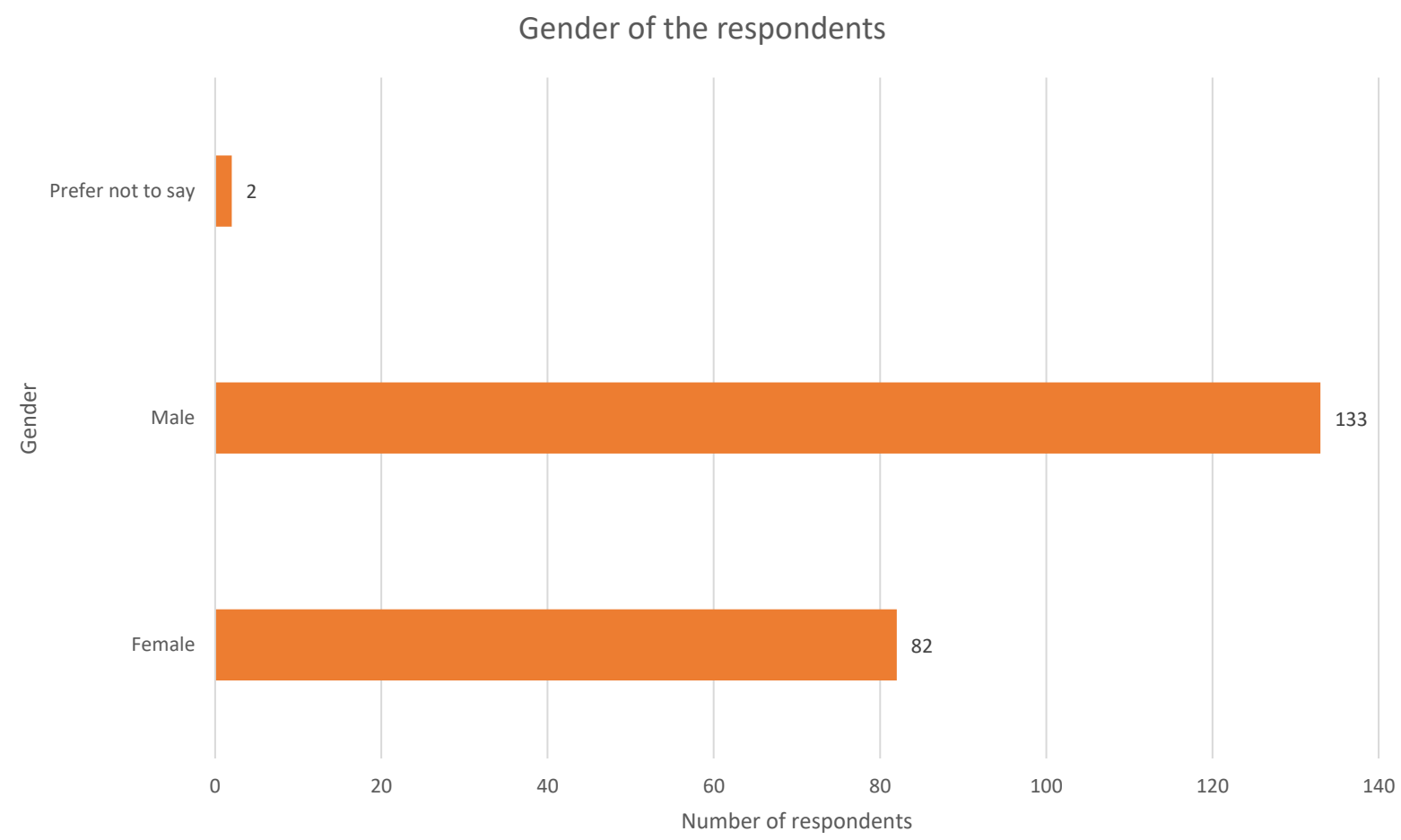
# Survey

- Status of water and sanitation regulation
- Feedback on draft Call to Action
  - Stakeholder engagement and capacity development
  - Implementation and monitoring
- **218 survey responses received**

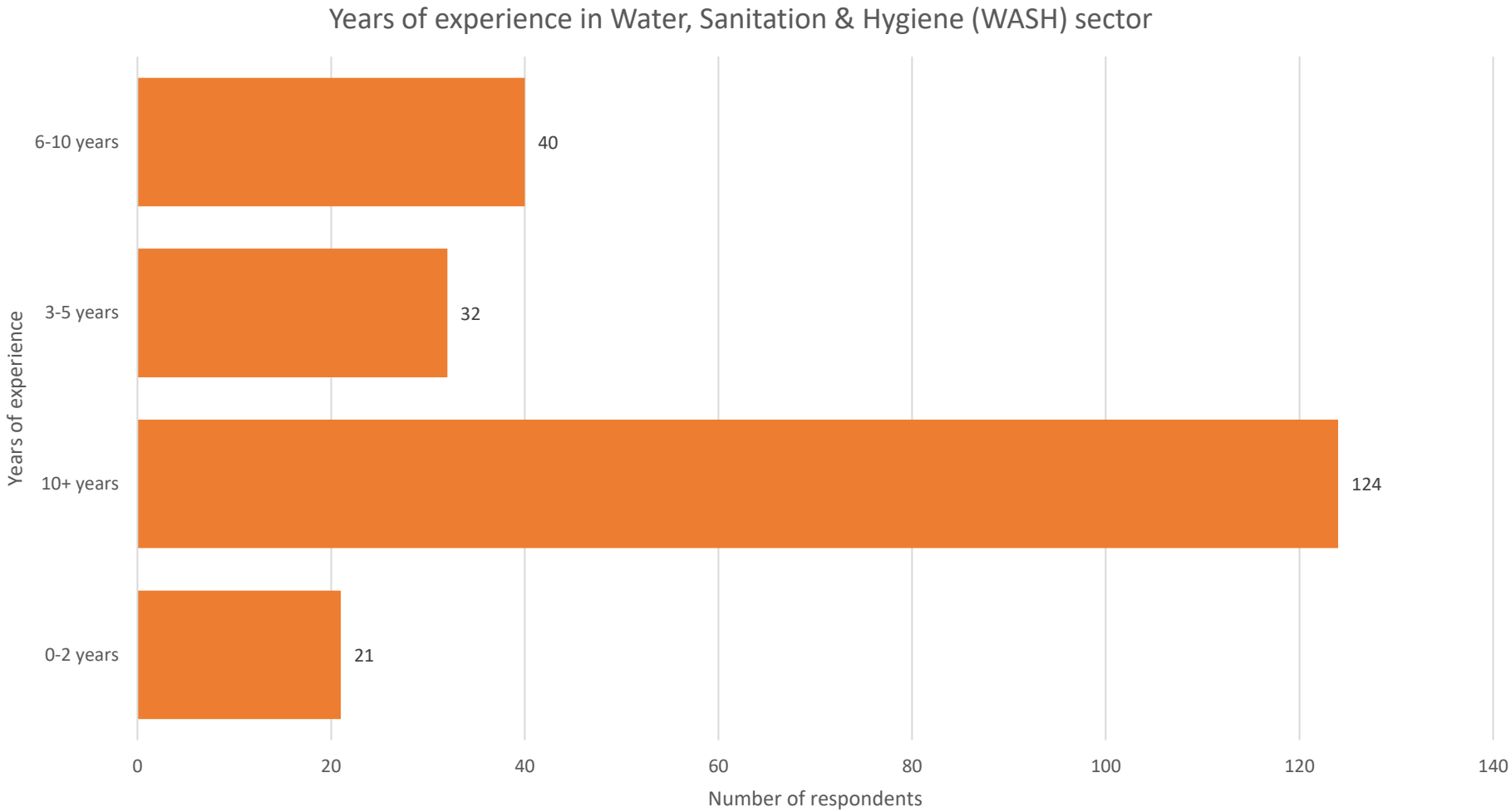




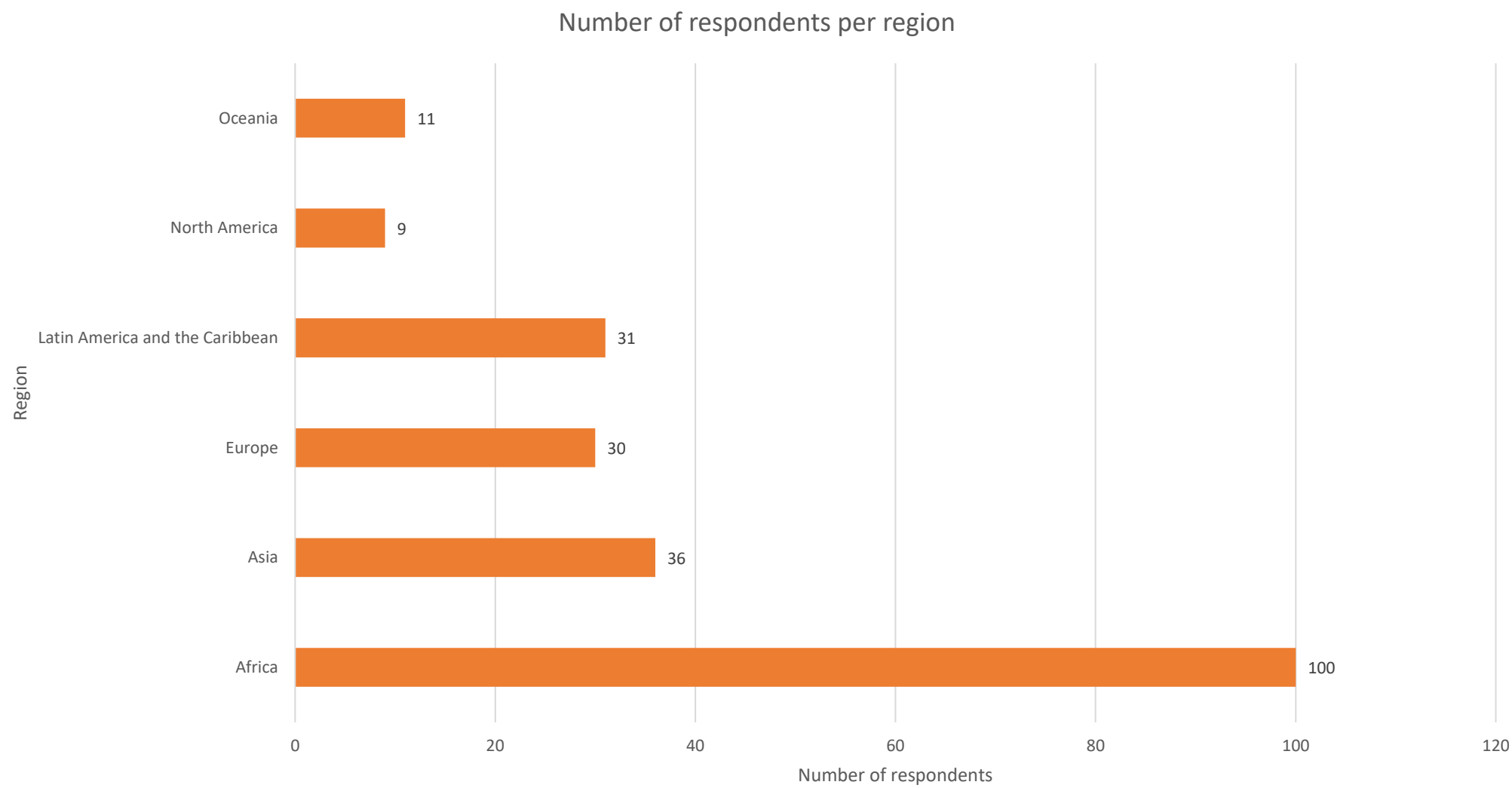
# Survey respondents: gender



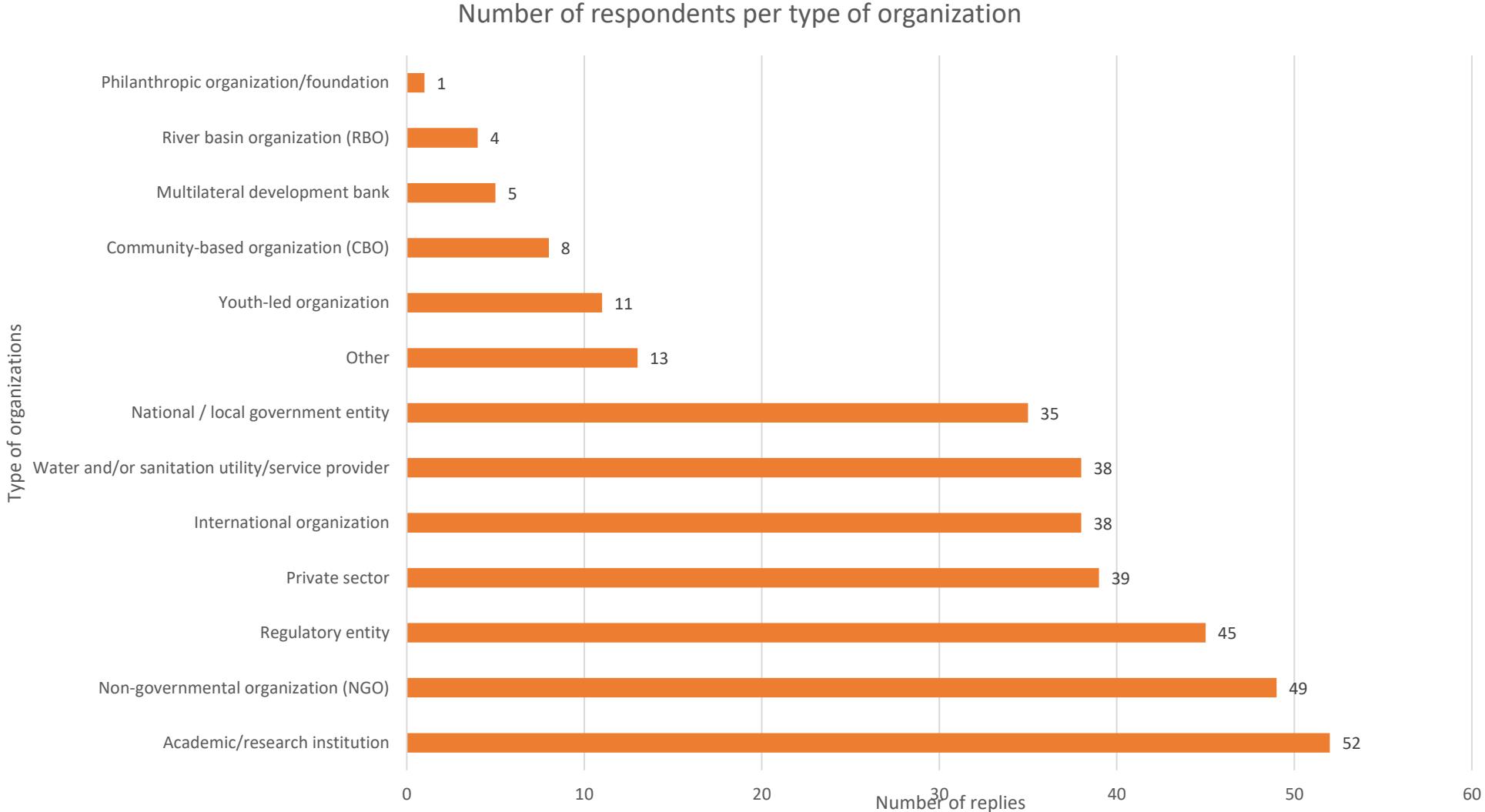
# Survey respondents: years of experience in WASH sector



# Survey respondents: region where located

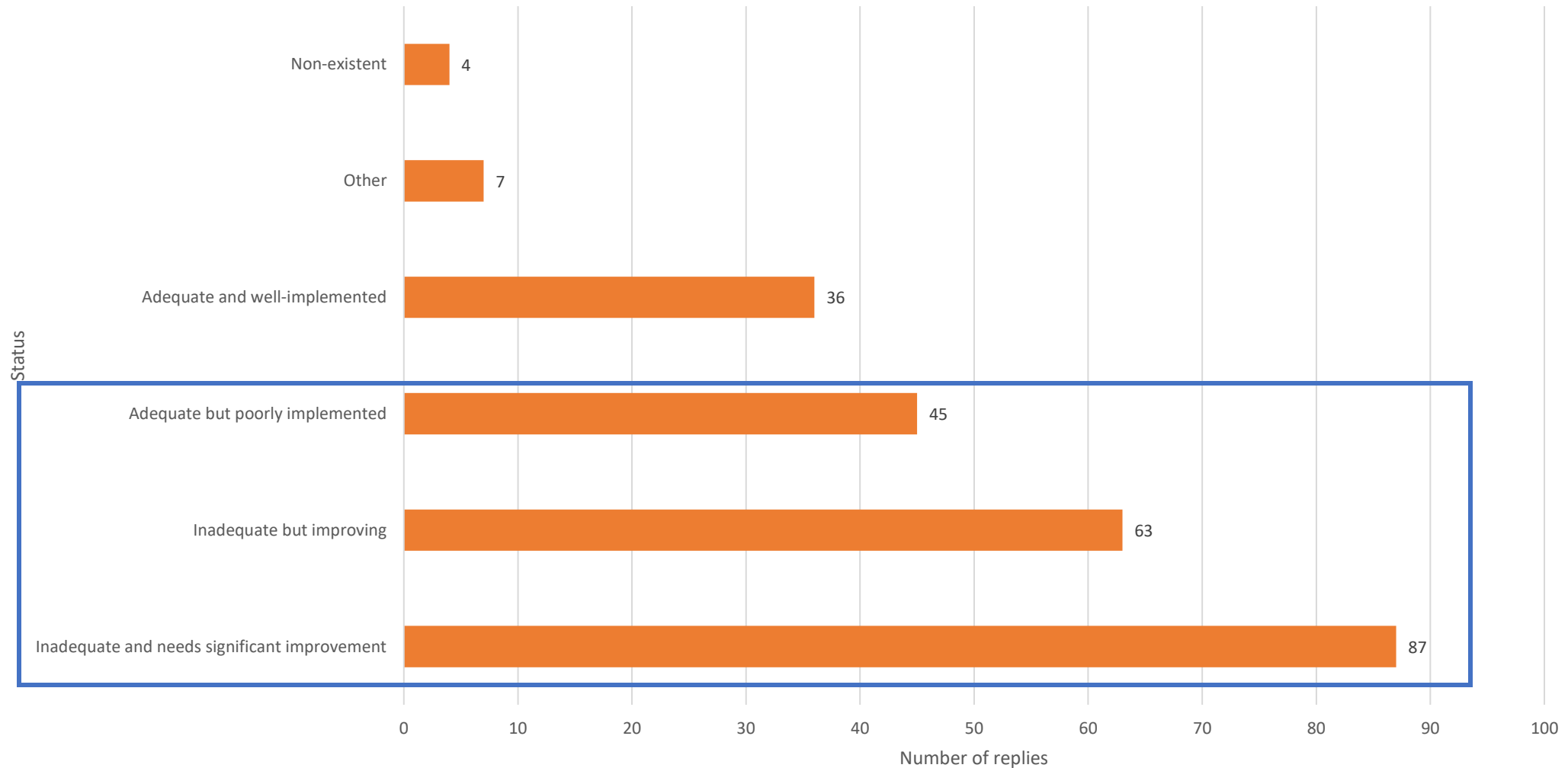


# Survey respondents: sector represented



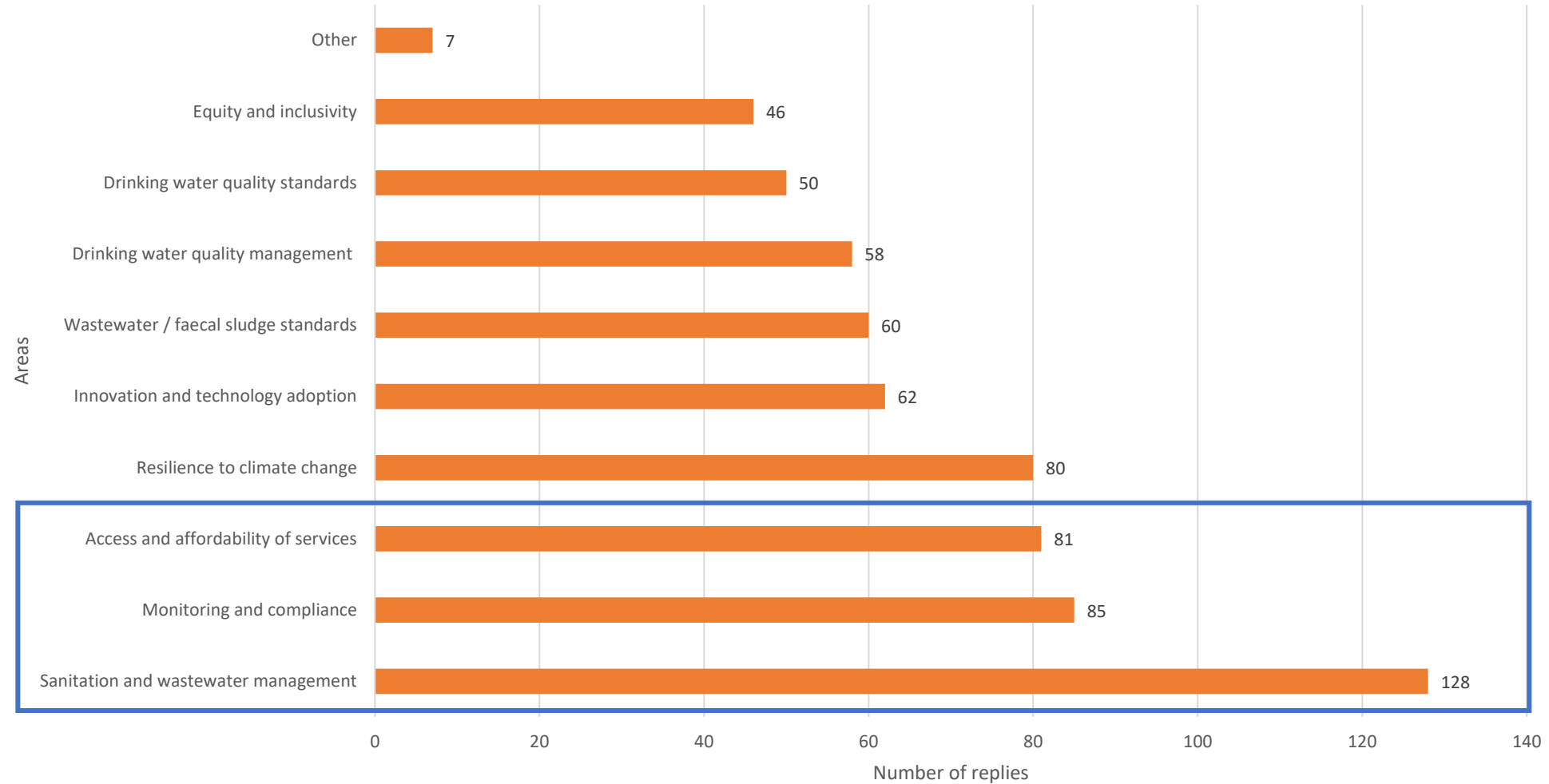
# How would you describe the current state of water & sanitation regulation in your country?

Current water and/or sanitation status in the respondent's countries/regions

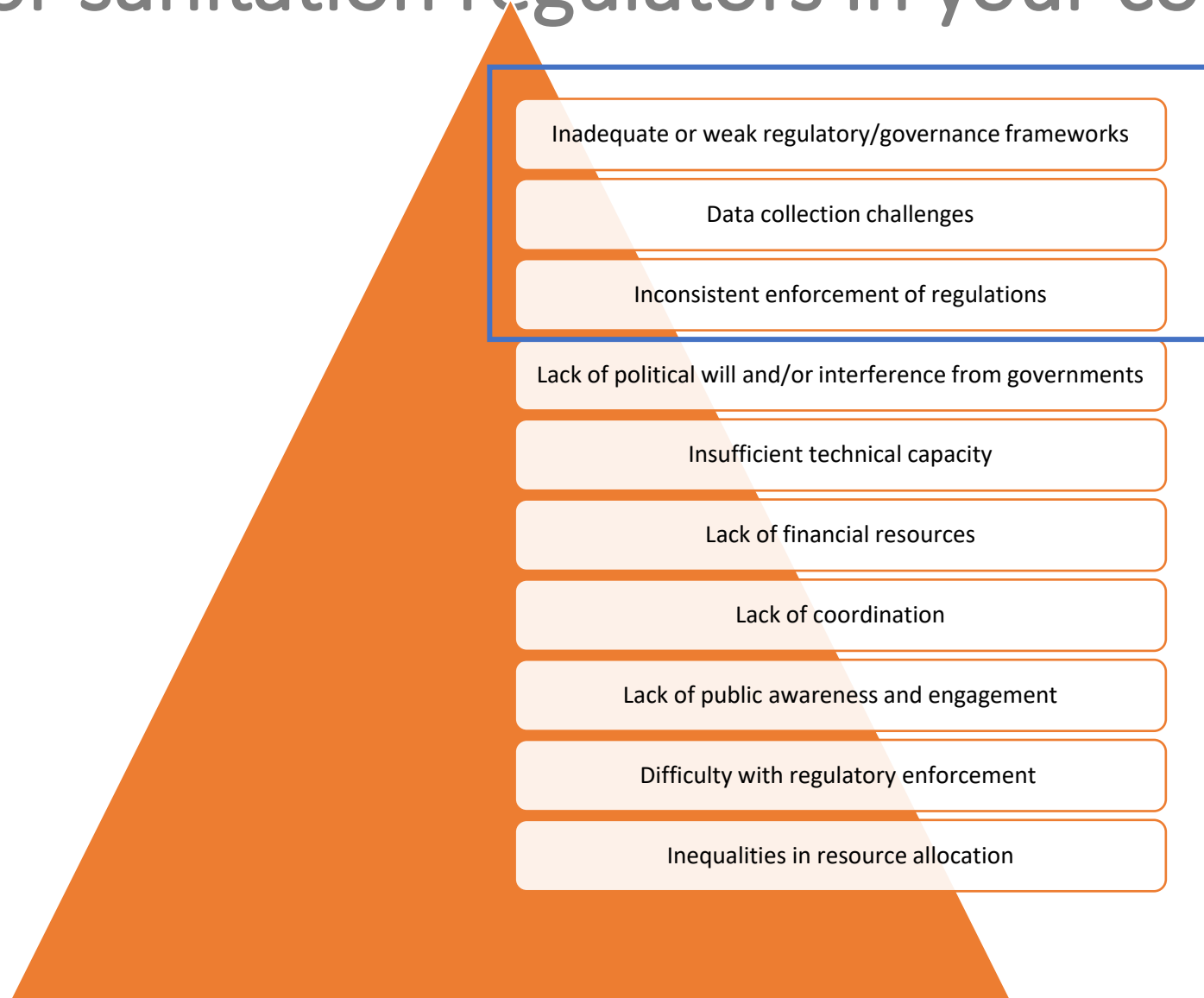


# Which areas of water and/or sanitation regulation do you think require the most urgent attention?

Areas of water and/or sanitation regulation that require the most urgent attention

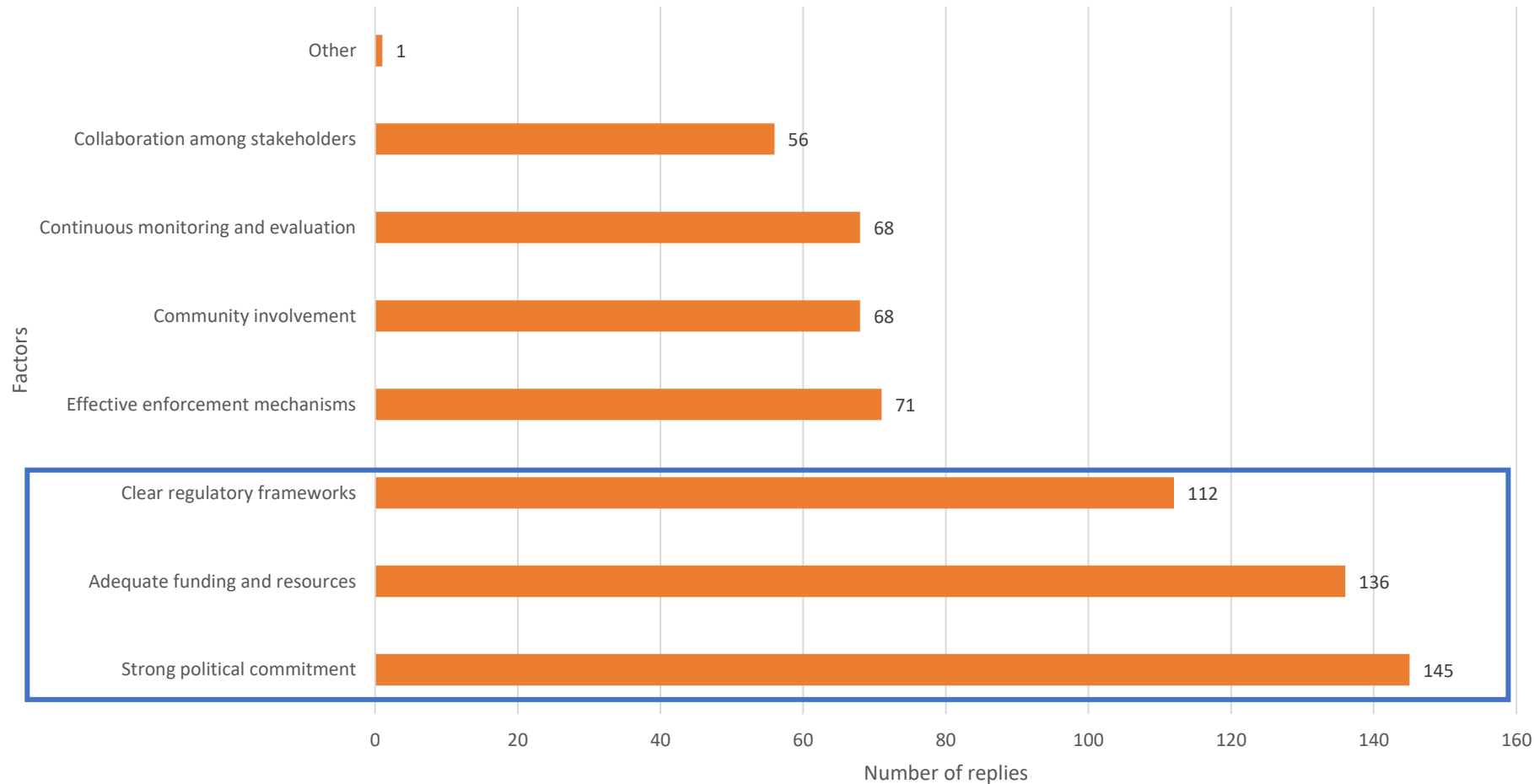


# What are the most critical challenges faced by water and/or sanitation regulators in your context?



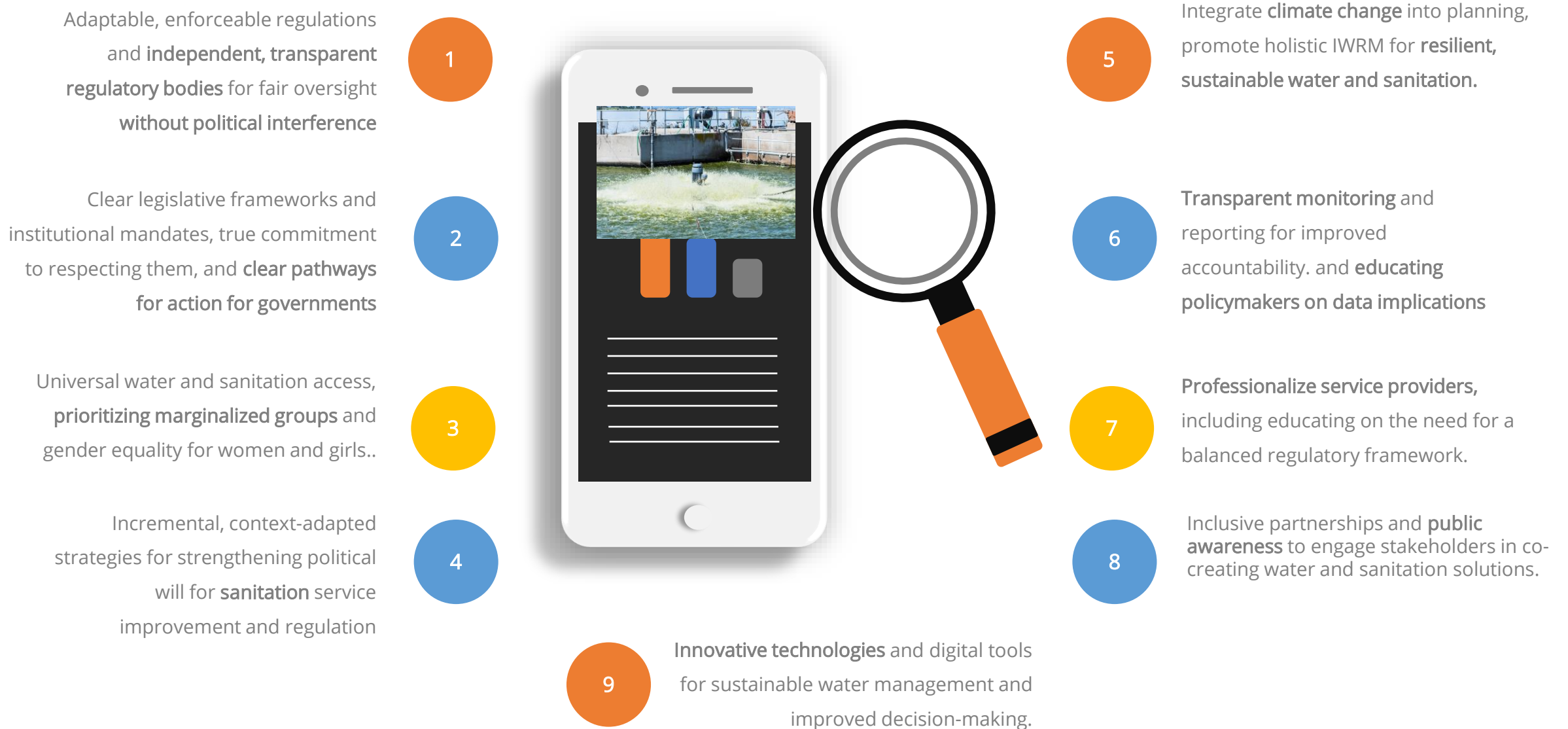
# What are the key factors for successful implementation of water and/or sanitation regulations in your context?

Key factors for successful implementation of water and/or sanitation regulations





# What should the Call to Action focus on?



# Written feedback

## Equity and Inclusivity

- Multiple comments emphasized the need for **stronger language on equity and inclusivity**, such as ensuring that marginalized communities are actively included in regulatory frameworks and decision-making processes. Some suggested replacing terms like "enhanced stakeholder collaboration" with **"meaningful participation"**.

## Regulatory Independence and Integrity

- Suggestions stressed the importance of **regulatory independence, both politically and financially**, to ensure decisions are made without undue external pressures. Additionally, there was a call to integrate more language around transparency, integrity, and the **need to address corruption risks**.

## Monitoring and Data

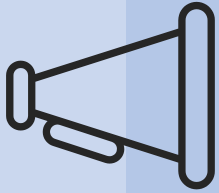
- Several comments highlighted the need to expand on monitoring, emphasizing the importance of disseminating data and fostering knowledge-sharing among regulators. There was also a focus on integrating robust feedback mechanisms to **connect consumers with regulatory bodies**.

## Structural and Thematic Revisions

- Cut down on the detailed descriptions of the global acceleration framework, and focus **more on what an enabling regulatory environment brings to the sector**. Others recommended making the CtA more concise by consolidating sections

# Sentiment shifts

## Urgency and Optimism



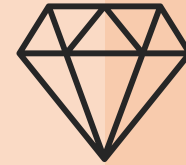
Respondents express a **strong sense of urgency** in addressing water and sanitation challenges promptly and optimism about **collaborative efforts** bringing meaningful change.

## Desire for Practical Action



Emphasis on the need for **actionable, incremental solutions** rather than additional declarations, with a focus on implementation and enforcement.

## Readiness to Participate



Many respondents express willingness to contribute expertise and engage in capacity-building efforts.



Q&A

Strengthening Water  
and Sanitation  
Regulatory Systems

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Action*

# Group discussion facilitators

Group 1 - What are the most significant regulatory gaps hindering progress on SDG 6?



Jorge Alvarez-Sala  
United Nations Children's Fund



Isabela Espindola  
International Water Association

Group 2 - How can regulators increase political commitment to water and sanitation?

Group 3 - What specific actions can utilities and service providers take to strengthen regulatory systems?



Faith Olajide  
Water Youth Network



Rita Amaral  
LIS-Water - Lisbon International  
Centre for Water

Group 4 - How can civil society and external support agencies contribute more effectively to regulatory improvements?

# Group discussion reports

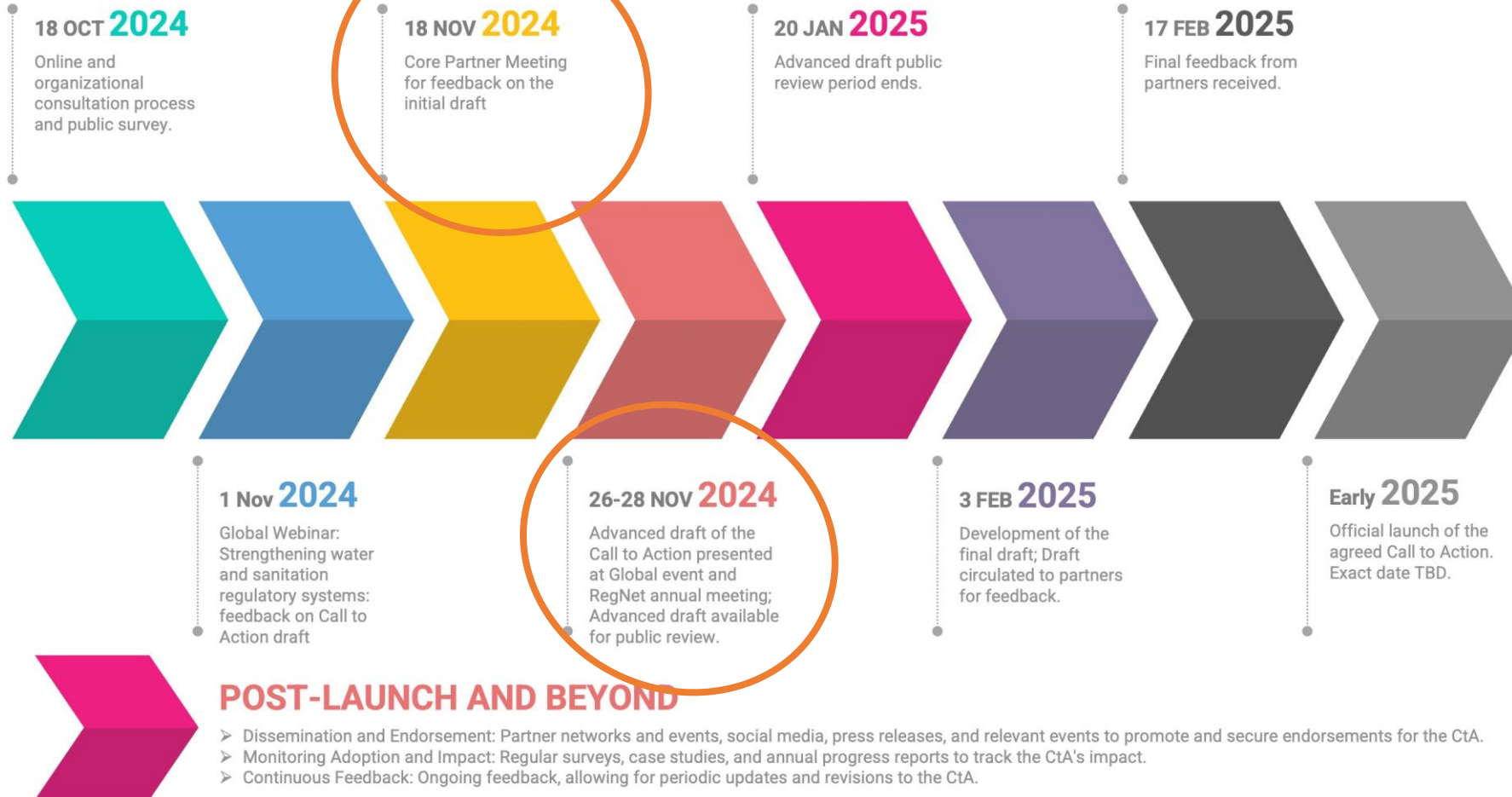


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# What's next?

## Call to Action Timeline

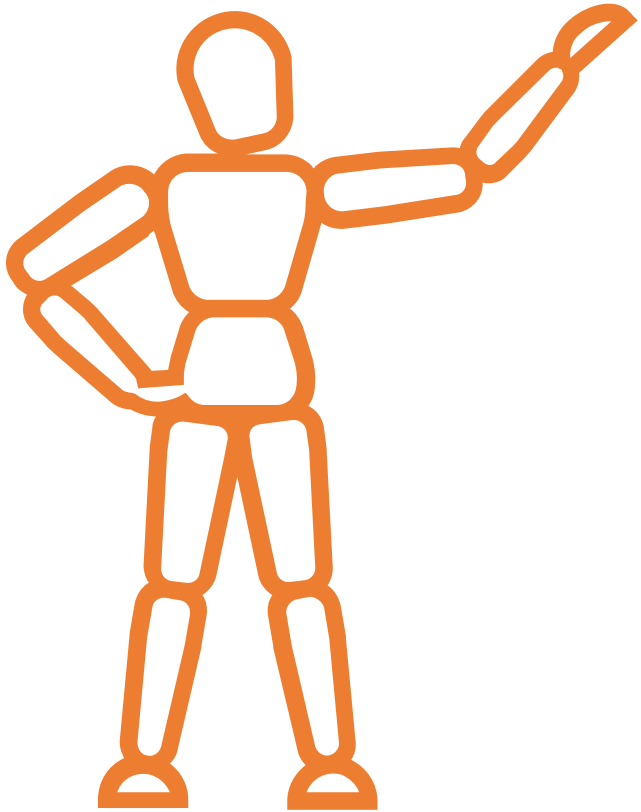


# First full meeting of Core Partners

- Week of 18 November
- 75-minutes
- One meeting per month
- Agenda for first meeting: welcome and introductions, a brief overview of the Call to Action's objectives and progress, a discussion of key priorities and feedback on the draft text, a review of core partners' roles and contributions, and a look at next steps and upcoming events.



# We need you to act...



- Identify how you / your organization can support the Call to Action
- Share the Call to Action amongst your networks
- Participate in future consultations and engagement

# Call to Action Web Portal

- ✓ About
- ✓ Why it matters
- ✓ Get involved
- ✓ Partners
- ✓ Timeline & events
- ✓ Repository
- ✓ Social channels:

<https://x.com/WASHRegCall2Act>



<https://www.linkedin.com/company/call-to-action-on-strengthening-water-and-sanitation-regulatory-systems>



<https://www.washregulationcalltoaction.org/>

