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Decolonizing WASH Practices Between National Policies & International Standards: A Case Study in Tanzania

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SIT Graduate Institute

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Submitted in Partial fulfillment of the requirements for MA in Humanitarian Assistance & Crisis Management

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Date: August 2023

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Abbreviations

AMCOW = African Ministers' Council on Water

CBO = Community Based Organization

DHS = Demographic and Health Survey

EWURA = Energy and Water Utilities Regulatory Authority

GBV = Gender Based Violence

IGO = International Governmental Organization

MDG = Millenium Development Goals

MHM = Menstrual Hygiene Management

NGO = National Governmental Organization

RUWASA = Rural Water Supply and Sanitation Agency

SDG = Sustainable Development Goal

UNHCR = United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees

WASH = Water Supply, Sanitation, and Hygiene Promotion

WRI = WASH Response Index

Abstract

The international community has developed guidelines and standards for the maintenance of water and sanitation (WASH) in states from the end of the 20th century to present and have often been criticized for their lack of contextual adaptations in the standards that states are expected to implement universally. The research explored how international standards on WASH have applied decolonized methods of interventions to guide the development of culturally relevant national policies. Tanzania was chosen as a case study to conduct a comprehensive review of the states' integration of international standards within their policies through a decolonial perspective. The study included a review of WASH policies through the development of codes and thematic trackers throughout the standards and policies, in addition to interviews with key informants. The research found patterns across the international standards in recommending guidelines with the provision that the practices should be adjusted according to the cultural and contextual framework within the implementing community. Gender issues are also highlighted throughout the standards, attempting to alleviate the harsher conditions women face due to societal structures. Tanzania was found to be a model state with strong policies and campaigns that incorporated international standards through culturally adjusted practices that focus on the behaviors of Tanzanian communities. This research contributes a greater understanding to the field of the necessity for international organizations to utilize decolonized practices through recognizing cultural differences in aid projects, and to highlight how a state can successfully incorporate the standards from the international community.

Keywords: water, sanitation, hygiene, WASH, African studies, decolonization, humanitarian assistance, international policy

Chapter 1: Introduction

In the world today, 2 billion people lack access to safe drinking water in their households (CDC, 2022). Clean water supply, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH) represent a significant issue in humanitarian assistance and is one of the core principles of crisis management, according to the core humanitarian standards outlined by Sphere (Sphere, 2018). The United National Millenium Development Goals (MDG) set a target for 2015 to increase sustainable practices of WASH by half of those currently without (WHO, 2018). As of 2018, they claimed to have achieved this goal, however, millions of people remain without safe drinking conditions. Sanitation remains a global issue, as 1.7 billion people lack access to basic sanitation in their home and 494 million people practice open defecation (CDC, 2022). WASH services that are critical during evaluation in communities include: access to safe and clean drinking water, quantity of safe water for daily purposes, distance of travel to water sources, access to toilets (by distance and quantity), and education levels related to water services. Research into the standards and policies regarding WASH is critical for international aid organizations and states to craft appropriate responses to the needs of local communities.

Tanzania is a model state in the Sub-Saharan region for the development of water policies and hygiene education programs. Tanzania's population reaches over 61 million people, spread across a space of 945,087 km² (World Data, 2022). While Tanzania has one of the fastest-growing economies in Africa currently with a near 7% annual GDP growth, poverty persists as roughly 70% of their population lives off less than \$2 per day (USAID, 2021). The UNHCR estimated that the Tanzania government spends on average

70% of their health budget on preventable WASH-related diseases due to a lack of access to improved sanitation (UNICEF, 2020). The first water laws in Tanzania were enforced by colonial authorities in the early 20th century, greatly limiting the access to water for native Tanzanians and directed the water to the colonial settlers (Lein, Tagseth, 2009). This assertion of colonial power negatively impacted native Tanzanian communities in a severe lacking of access to water, resulting in various health problems, economic impacts, and overall diminished livelihood standards. The government of Tanzania produced its first independent water policy in 1991 with the National Water Policy, setting goals to make water more accessible to local communities and improve the management of water services (United Republic of Tanzania, 2002).

In recognition of the need for more sustainable and culturally relevant plans, the government came out with the Tanzania 2025 Development Vision. The Vision states three main objectives: “1) a high-quality livelihood characterized by sustainable and shared growth (equity), and freedom from abject poverty in a democratic environment, 2) good governance and the rule of law, and 3) a strong and competitive economy capable of producing sustainable growth and shared benefits” (United Republic of Tanzania, 2002). Various international organizations have developed comprehensive sets of guidelines for the levels expected for WASH standards and programs to increase knowledge and status of WASH to be applied in national policies.

WASH is a major concern for developing states, relating to general access to safe water, safe practices of waste disposal, and sanitation in public facilities. While research in the field has primarily explored the health effects of WASH in Tanzania and around the

world (Jacob, Kazaura 2021; Alexander, et al., 2019; Pickering, Davis, 2012), there is a gap in the literature in analyzing the contextual relevance of international guidelines and their implementation in governmental policies. This research aims to uncover the colonial legacies between WASH policies from the government of Tanzania and IGO's, to understand what international standards are effective or ineffective, and how international policies remain relevant across different country contexts.

The purpose of this study explored the policies of WASH in Tanzania at a governmental level and international level by analyzing the relevancy of such policies and their effectiveness in implementation. Specific objectives include: to develop an understanding of decolonized methods of humanitarian assistance in international guidelines related to WASH, to assess how Tanzania has integrated international standards in national policies and practices, to understand the colonial legacy in international standards, and to explore how gender issues are recognized in international and national policies in relation to colonial power structures. The goal was to understand the relevance of context in international WASH standards and to compare the colonial legacies between the IGO's policies, to make informed recommendations of the most effective forms of the implementation of WASH policies in Tanzania. This research is of personal interest to the researcher in developing their understanding of the impacts of colonialism in humanitarian aid and contribute research to the field that combats these negative legacies to uplift the states independence in raising the level of access to basic human rights and needs.

Chapter 2: Literature Review

2.1 Defining WASH

The standards of WASH are defined and redefined across the literature discussing the humanitarian standard. The UNHCR defined WASH interventions in refugee populations with the goal of enhancing the status of health through proper hygiene to reduce mortality rates (2022). In accordance with the guardianship theory of humanitarian intervention presented by philosopher and diplomat Hugo Grotius, sovereign nations are to serve as pseudo-guardians for their relative populations (Grotius, 2012). This theory extends to IGO's such as the WHO and UNHCR that serve as wards to vulnerable populations and are responsible for their protection (Criddle, 2015). Researchers have expanded upon this theory and the expectations of WASH to describe the specific components and measures of WASH within their studies (Criddle, 2015).

Researchers have identified three measures to define household access to WASH, including access to safe drinking water, a functional hand washing facility, and a household latrine that is unshared by members of other households (Jacob, Kazaura, 2021). WASH specialist Mitsuaki Hirai et al. use similar variables to assess the prevalence of child diarrhea in Uganda by exploring the effects of drinking untreated surface water, practices of open defecation, and the lack of adequate handwashing abilities (2016). Access to soap/handwashing and clean toilets per household are a commonality of measures across much of the research focused on WASH (Jacob, Kazaura, 2021; Hirai et al., 2016; Prüss-Ustün, 2009).

Other researchers have explored the complexities of WASH in the various sectors of livelihood and how they interconnect. WASH issues and standards coordinate across social, economic, environmental and political dimensions. Rhodes-Dicker and colleagues have enumerated the ways in which these cultural facets intersect such as environmental, economic, social, and political complexities (2021). These sectors represent the various areas where WASH standards impact all aspects of life. With a focus on the health sector, WASH interconnects greatly with the behaviors and related risks for water-borne diseases and malnutrition, most greatly affecting children (Prüss-Ustün, 2009). These definitions provide an expanse of the areas that WASH is to be examined and how it impacts society.

Theorist Grotius argued that states act as guardians in humanitarian interventions, responsible for representing vulnerable populations (Grotius, 2012). This theory for collective intervention and assistance works well with the measures of direct mediation techniques in the field by international and local WASH service organizations. Researchers have conducted systematic reviews on the access of WASH interventions for women and children in conflict settings, covering a variety of literature in the field discussing WASH issues with WASH in populations affected by conflict (Criddle, 2015). Significant issues of WASH in conflict settings include consistent access to safe water, improper infrastructure, water-borne diseases, poor menstrual hygiene management, and increased risk of GBV (Als et al., 2020). These definitions in conjunction with the guardianship theory of humanitarian intervention provide a strong background for the expectations of discussion on WASH from the outlook of human rights organizations and researchers (Als et. Al, 2020; Criddle, 2015; Grotius, 2012).

2.2 Intersection of Health and WASH

In discussions of WASH standards and impacts, the role of health and consequences of poor WASH conditions on health are intertwined. In 2016, it was found that 60% of diarrhea deaths and 13% of deaths from acute respiratory infections were due to inadequate WASH conditions (Prüss-Ustün, 2019). Poor WASH standards cause a variety of diseases, including: malaria, schistosomiasis, diarrheal diseases, and malnutrition (Prüss-Ustün, 2019). If water infrastructure is unreliable for safe drinking sources and there is a lack in management of proper sanitation, this will likely contribute to a lack in the protection of health within the community (Howard, Bartram, Water, WHO, 2003; Prüss-Ustün, 2019).

Not only is the basic access to freshwater significant to the health of the population, but the distance for water fetching plays an important role in the prevalence of WASH related diseases. Using baseline statistics with data from the WHO, the University of New Hampshire and the Global Runoff Data Centre found a significant relation between the distance of water drinking source's locations with childhood diseases (Pickering, Davis, 2012). The UNHCR Emergency Handbook reports the maximum of refugees' travel distances for their water source at 500m (UNHCR, 2022). It is estimated that decreasing one's walk time to a water source is associated with a 7.1% reduction in cases of diarrhea, or a 42% overall population mean reduction (Pickering, Davis, 2012). Various environmental factors affect the quality of the freshwater across different contexts and relative diseases (Howard, Bartram, Water, WHO, 2003). This is due to the increasing contamination of water over long distances which is associated with the

prediction that morbidity and mortality among African children due to water-fetching may increase in the following decades (Pickering, Davis, 2012).

Research conducted by Boniphace Jacob and Method Kazaura (2021) in Tanzania assessed the status of WASH coverage in the Ngorongoro district and reported that Tanzania was impacted greatly by the 2018 cholera outbreak. The status of WASH before the outbreak was reported as less than 40% of households had access to clean water (Jacob, Kazaura, 2021). This low standard of WASH was linked to the spread of the cholera outbreak, in addition to the level of formal education in the household being positively associated with access to WASH and decreasing vulnerability to health issues (Howard, Bartram, Water, WHO, 2003; Jacob, Kazaura, 2021). Research strongly supports the intersectionality of the status of health in communities to the levels of access to safe WASH conditions, specifically noting the increased vulnerability of women and children to these health conditions when WASH is poor (Watts, 2004).

2.3 Women and WASH

In a significant proportion of African societies, women are responsible for water fetching from distant locations often carrying 20-liter jerry cans (Pommells et al., 2018). These practices have put women at an increased risk for GBV during the isolated trails to the water sources, and at a higher rate for poor health issues due to an increased exposure of poor WASH conditions (Nunbogu, Elliott, 2022; Watts, 2004). Strong associations have been found between the distance of a location to fetch water with the likelihood of sexual assault due to the isolation of the trails, the regular routine and routes of travel (Pommells et al., 2018). It has been reported that men use these opportunities to

wait along the routes to target and assault women when they are alone, while noting that these occurrences are worsened due to poor water infrastructure (Pommells et al., 2018). The prevalence of domestic abuse also intensifies with lacking WASH standards as women are subjected to abuse and blame for lack of clean water for the household (Nunbogu, Elliott, 2022). The vulnerability of women and girls to GBV congruently increases with poorer WASH standards and the intergenerational trauma that lasts as each generation of girls is subjected to water fetching and the cycle of violence (Nunbogu, Elliott, 2022).

Among women, the refugee experience is exacerbated and these women face unique vulnerabilities due to inadequate WASH standards in refugee camps. Researchers in 2022 explored inequalities in WASH among refugee camps and settlements in Bangladesh, Kenya, Uganda, South Sudan, and Zimbabwe (Calderón-Villarreal et al., 2022). The researchers discussed the increased difficulties for women refugees in relation to water fetching, health issues, and the effects of poor WASH in menstrual health. “Female refugees face significant barriers; dignified, private and safe menstrual management is difficult, as they often have to share sanitation or hygiene facilities with males, multiple households, or with strangers” (Calderón-Villarreal et al., 2022). This study provides strong statistical information on the current WASH conditions across the explored sites which highlight significant unmet needs for women and girls of reproductive age in accessing basic clean water, sanitation, and hygiene to prevent health issues (Watts, 2004; Calderón-Villarreal et al., 2022).

Cultural stigmas of the discussion of women's menstrual cycles and a lack of trust to provide such information with outsiders has led to a decrease in responses on menstrual health and women's issues (Watts, 2004). While these limitations are important to note, the limitations do not exclude the ability of the research to meaningfully explore the vulnerabilities of women related to such issues and WASH (Als et al., 2020). Therefore, it is necessary for care to be taken in policies and standards regarding WASH, to include provisions to accommodate for the predated cultural stigmas.

2.4 Decolonization of Humanitarian Action

During the peak of colonial authority, European colonizers controlled the sources of water in states by establishing access to water as a right to settlers and not for native inhabitants (Lein, Tagseth, 2009). Due to the Sub-Saharan climate, water has long-remained a scarce resource and led to conflicts for control over water sources (Lein, Tagseth, 2009). Following the era of independence for colonial states, the states have faced difficult challenges in decolonizing the structures to redistribute and rebuild water services in local communities (Lein, Tagseth, 2009).

A considerable criticism of international guidelines over the decades has been the lack of understanding the various histories and contexts within countries that affect their interest and ability to implement certain strategies. The decolonization movement of international work throughout literature highlight the need for organizations to understand the cultural nuances and the socioeconomic contexts by considering the diversity of histories that have led to the current state of communities (Ibrahima, Mattaini, 2019). Decolonization requires reflection of the impacts of colonization and colonial

influences to develop appropriate strategies and coordination techniques with local communities for implementation of standards. Community involvement and coordination with government leaders are called upon for developing these appropriate and accessible strategies (Jacob, Kazaura, 2021).

The international community is responsible for setting the standards for human rights and the rights to basic needs and services, taking on specific responsibilities for refugees and displaced persons. International policies from organizations such as UNICEF, the WHO, and AU include the setting of standards for WASH and the maintenance of such standards. However, those within the international community with the power to set these standards have historically remained within the 'Humanitarian club', a hierarchical network of powerful donor states and IGO's largely from the West (Barnett, Walker, 2015). This has caused the exclusion of local actors and caused barriers against policies being relevant to local circumstances in the array of cultural contexts that these standards apply. While there have been movements towards including greater representation within the 'Humanitarian club' for inclusion of international expertise in negotiations, the power of decision-making and standard-setting relies on Western powers (Barnett, Walker, 2015).

The WHO and UNICEF have taken on a significant burden of WASH in schools, health facilities, and refugee communities (WHO, 2018; UNICEF, 2016). While these organizations have set general standards, IGO's have been criticized for the gap in guidelines for various non-household settings including markets and orphanages (Cronk, Slaymaker, Bartrama, 2015). The UN-Water GLAAS report in 2014 identified gaps in

policies and implementation strategies in non-household settings, resulting from lack of on-the-ground surveillance of activities (UN-Water, 2014). To increase implementation of the practices from IGO's, researchers recommended collaboration with local governments, organizations, and academics in the region (Cronk, Slaymaker, Bartrama, 2015).

Access to water permits is another damaging legacy of colonial rule in numerous African states, where colonizers allocated permits to water sources to the colonial settlers or certain populations (Lein, Tagseth, 2009). Such practices have caused negative impacts in various communities where the distribution of water resources remains unequal and the development of certain access points is lacking (Van Koppen, Schreiner, 2018). National policies following these colonial permit systems have exacerbated the gap in access to water between those benefiting from the colonial legacy and those not (McKibbin, 2023). A hybrid-approach has been suggested for states affected by these colonial remnants, to develop national policies with shorter permit durations and to regulate the greater allocation of water sources to non-permit holders (Van Koppen, Schreiner, 2018). The theories behind these approaches are to more equitably distribute the use of water used by former colonists and expand the access of water across the state (McKibbin, 2023).

2.5 The Present Study

Research into the topic of policies regarding WASH and coordination efforts represents a significant gap in the literature as there is an apparent lack of coordination among organizations with little exploration as to why or presenting recommendations.

The current literature focuses on defining WASH, how water issues intersect with health issues, and how women are negatively impacted by water activities. Available research into WASH policies is dominated by literature reviews of previous research, excluding the active policies and present-day projects done at the regional, national, and local levels. This research will attempt to provide further insight into this gap of literature, exploring the influences of colonization between the international and national community within Tanzania.

Chapter 3: Research Methodology

3.1 Design

The present research took the form of a qualitative policy review conducted between April and August 2023 to examine a series of policies/standards relating to WASH published by the IGO's in comparison with Tanzanian WASH policies. The guiding question of the research was: How have international standards on water and sanitation applied decolonized methods of interventions to guide the development of culturally relevant national policies? The main objective of this study was to explore the policies of WASH by analyzing the levels of acceptance of contextual changes within water policies and their effectiveness in implementation for national policies. Specific objectives of the study included:

- to develop an understanding of decolonized methods of humanitarian assistance in international guidelines related to WASH,
- to assess how states integrated international standards in national policies and practices, using Tanzania as a model case study,

- to explore how gender issues are compensated in international and national policies in relation to colonial power structures.

The research used a decolonial and contextual perspective to review the inclusion of cultural practices and relevance of the international standards within the national policies of Tanzania. This research was chosen to be conducted on Tanzanian policies based on the gap of research within the region regarding WASH policies. The study is a comprehensive review of WASH policies whereby policies were reviewed, codes were developed and organized into themes. Key informants were established with government officials and within the aid workers community to assist in the comprehension of policies and assistance in identifying documents for the research (interview guide in the Appendix).

The independent variable of the study were the policies and standards set by the United Republic of Tanzania and IGO's, including the UN, Sphere, WHO, and the African Union. The dependent variable were the level of awareness of varying cultural contexts and applicability from international standards for national policies. Levels of decolonization are defined through how the policies made reference to culture, socioeconomics, gender, religion, history, geography/climate, and social structures. Decolonization of women's access to water does not identify the standards as needing to change the social dynamics in societies of women with water, but raising the accessibility for women to safer and more hygienic water practices. This research was not framed around a hypothesis, due to the exploratory and qualitative nature of the investigation into the implementation of governmental and international standards in Tanzania.

3.2 Setting and Sampling

The present study reviewed accessible WASH and water standards and policies scoping from IGO's and Tanzania. The 1977 UN Water Conference was included in the study as the first international policies on water safety were written. Policies from Tanzania start with the 1991 National Water Policy, the first legislation passed by the United Republic of Tanzania related to WASH. Policies from both parties, and subsequent IGO's, have been written and updated in the following decades. A total of 8 international guidelines and reports were reviewed for the study, and 3 national policies from Tanzania related to water were included in addition to reports on a governmental campaign related to WASH. A coding scheme and deductive thematic analysis was established during the review of the documents for the study.

Two key informants were established through online research and aided the study through virtual discussions. One key informant was a Tanzanian national, working for a local organization providing WASH services to vulnerable areas in the country. Due to confidentiality, they will be referenced in the research as TNGO. The second key informant works for a major international organization, having worked on WASH projects in the region. They will be referenced in the research as INGO. Confidentiality and ethical considerations were discussed in initial communications with informants and confirmed verbally at the beginning of each interview. Both informants participated in 30-minute virtual meetings in English, discussing WASH policies interactions between the international community and Tanzania, as well as their influence on practices in the country.

3.3 Data Collection Protocol

The data collection period was conducted in four steps. The first step was completed through an internet search for documents from IGO's and the Government of Tanzania for policies on WASH. Search words including "WASH", "water policy", "water conference", "sanitation" and "hygiene" were used to identify documents. Key informants also assisted in identifying documents for inclusion in the study to contribute perspectives from humanitarians actively working in the field using the policies included in the research. The second step was to review, code, and identify themes in the policies of each organization through the application Zotero. Research was collected and codified into an excel sheet divided by information from key informants, international standards, Tanzanian policies, limitations, and general observations. The third step was to review the documents for references to other policies, and review and code the new documents. The final step pooled all of the reviewed policies to be analyzed for the influence of decolonial practices and inclusion of contextualization of cultural practices.

Chapter 4: Data and Analysis

4.1 Evolution of United Nations with Water

The United Nations is one of the largest international organizations producing standards for human rights to be upheld and promoted by each of its member-states. In 1977, the UN held the first Water Conference with the participation of 116 states to draft resolutions for the standards of access to water and sanitation, provide recommendations for the development of data and research related to water, and guidelines for the promotion and implementation of the recommended practices. These

three points guided the conference committees and their discussions. As part of the plans for the implementation of the recommendations from the conference, the UN declared the decade 1980-1990 as “The International Drinking Water Supply and Sanitation Decade” (UN, 1977). To achieve the goals of the decade it was recommended that countries should set targets, establish standards, coordinate with communities, and mobilize governmental policies according “with the public health, economic and social policies of the Governments” appropriate to their culture (UN, 1977).

A major theme across the text of the approved recommendations from the conference is the application of context in water policies. Within each of the recommendation sections of the draft solutions are caveats that the practices put forth are to be made contextually relevant within the national policies based on local customs and needs. The inclusion of such language is a positive recognition of local customs and understanding from the international community of the various influences of cultural needs in various contexts. In section F of the conference report, “Public information, Education, Training and Research”, these efforts are continued through the recommendations of implementation practices to further the status of WASH in countries beyond the passing of policies (UN, 1977). “In order to ensure maximum attention to the proper utilization, protection and conservation of water, it is of decisive importance that all citizens be made aware of fundamental matters relating to water” through informational campaigns from “normal channels” of broadcasting per country (UN, 1977). The language within these resolutions set the tone for future international

standards in the decades following to make clear indications of the inclusion of cultural differences influences in the writing and implementation of water policies.

One of the contentious pieces of the 1977 UN Water Conference is the breakdown of the voting on the resulting draft resolutions between Western and non-Western states. For drafts requiring votes, non-Western states dominated the in-favor votes while Western states, namely Canada, the United States of America, and the United Kingdom, voted against such resolutions. Due to the general nature of the conference, no states held extraneous voting powers as the P-5 holds in the Security Council. Thus, larger states such as the United Kingdom and United States of America, did not have greater influence over the outcome of the votes. However, this division of voting trends along Western and non-Western states represent in-part the lasting legacy of colonial power and influence of Western states over non-Western states.

The statements for the reasons of the voting on the resolutions were not included in mass; however, a statement from the United States of America was included as to why they voted against one of the resolutions.

...the United States delegation wished to state for inclusion in the report that while supporting increased efforts through bilateral and multilateral assistance organizations and programs to further water resources development, it believed that the terms and conditions of such endeavors should be consistent with the over-all terms and conditions that the institutions might establish based on their standard operating criteria. (UN, 1977)

This argument and others made by Western states reflect the division of what is published in whole by the UN conference to states preferences, where Western states push against the idea of the inclusion of non-specific conditions allowing for culturally

relevant standards and instead for a preference for standard criteria. Language is important in international policies, either requiring a universal model to standards (demonstrating colonial views), or using inclusive language noting adjustments according to state's needs (demonstrating decolonial views). The equality of voting power at the conference enables previously colonized states the capacity to overcome the sentiments of colonial legacies in the ratified standards. Equality in the discussions, drafting, and voting of international water guidelines constitute a clear method of decolonized practices in placing colonial and colonized states in equal places of power. The UN's most recent Water Conference convened in March 2023, though data has not been published publicly as of date of the resolutions and voting counts for the recommendations passed from the conference.

Another of the key sources included in the present analysis is the signing of the Millennium Development Goals (MDG) by the UN in 2000, establishing 8 key strategies to decrease the challenges of poverty, disease, environmental issues and gender-based discrimination. These goals were set to challenge world leaders to increase progress with some of the greatest issues entering the new millennium by 2015 (WHO, 2018). In 2015, the UN General Assembly held a summit to evaluate the progress of the MDGs and to develop a new set of standards, the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) (UN, 2015). A total of 17 goals and 169 targets were announced from the summit for the new agenda addressing poverty and hunger, peace, and equality over the next 15 years (UN, 2015).

Goal 6 of 17 of the SDGs is to “Ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all” (UN, 2015). The subsequent targets within this goal address more specifically that, “By 2030, achieve universal and equitable access to safe and affordable drinking water for all” and “By 2030, achieve access to adequate and equitable sanitation and hygiene for all and end open defecation, paying special attention to the needs of women and girls and those in vulnerable situations” (UN, 2015). Other targets within SDG 6 address climate change issues related to water and the storage/management of resources.

Within the SDG Agenda for 2030, the UN established overarching goals for the following 15 years with the expectations of member states to develop national implementation strategies and campaigns (UN, 2015). It is recognized that within the goals and targets, “country faces specific challenges to achieve sustainable development, and we underscore the special challenges facing the most vulnerable countries” and that “there are different approaches, visions, models and tools available to each country, in accordance with its national circumstances and priorities, to achieve sustainable development” (UN, 2015). These points of national sovereignty give the power to states over the implementation methods according to their needs and culturally-appropriate strategies. SDG 6.b notes to “Support and strengthen the participation of local communities in improving water and sanitation management” (UN, 2015). This goal within SDG 6 goes beyond the level of policies to the needs of the people and participation in improving practices through building the capacity of communities. The goals, while set out for international execution, lack recognition for the

realistic timelines that it may take for states to achieve the targets. Despite these time pressures, the SDGs have been widely accepted by the international community, with frequent mention in subsequent international, regional and national standards and policies.

UNICEF is another major producer and evaluator of WASH standards in the international community, focused specifically on the needs and rights of children. The UNICEF Water Strategy 2016-2030 sets out ambitious goals and standards for the following decades as their contribution to SDG goal 6 (UNICEF, 2016). The strategy lays out their main objectives and implementation strategies for succeeding in achieving UNICEF's mandate on helping every child gain access to drinking water, sanitation and hygiene by 2030 (UNICEF, 2016). The strategy relies heavily on the SDG's set out by the UN General Assembly, and expand the work into the management of WASH for children in schools, homes, and public facilities. The TNGO key informant discussed the distribution of UNICEF standards to organizations in the field to help coordinate projects maintenance of international standards along with the national policies (TNGO, personal communication, May 2023).

To account for the successful implementation of increased WASH practices, the strategy discusses their review of practices from 2006 to 2015 and the changes necessary within relevant contexts. It is noted that,

Disparities in access to WASH are rooted in underlying structural social and political factors, including gender inequality, and exacerbated by the fact that resources are still not targeted to those most in need. Over the last decade we have learned that unless poor and vulnerable groups, including children with

disabilities, are specifically prioritized in programmes and policies; disparities will continue to widen. (UNICEF, 2016)

This reflection by UNICEF demonstrates a decolonial framework through the reflection of past social and political issues that will influence the access of certain populations to necessary services. The history behind the breakdown of cultures in communities is essential in understanding present circumstances and the best practices for delivering necessary services to vulnerable populations that have been negatively impacted by such constructs. Inclusionary language in the standards is a theme throughout the standards, demonstrating a guideline's decolonized methods, instead of using universal language to provide recommendations, they describe the need for adjustments to the standards according to state's needs and acceptable cultural behaviors.

Through UNICEF's focus on children's rights and needs being fulfilled, there are numerous points on the rights of young girls' access to WASH related to their menstrual health in school and at home (UNICEF, 2016). Demonstrating a decolonial perspective, UNICEF recognizes the inequalities of WASH related to gender caused by societal and political structures that have negatively impacted women and girls (UNICEF, 2016). In emergency and non-emergency situations, women are highlighted as bearing significant burdens in inequitable access to WASH services (UNICEF, 2016). To combat these issues, the standards set by UNICEF plan for a multi-sectoral approach to MHM through research, capacity-building programs and community action via coordination among local leaders and the government. The standards emphasize an increase in water standards in schools to eliminate open-defecation, build separate bathrooms for boys and girls, and ensure greater access to MHM for girls to prevent their missing school

during menstruation. Their focus on the disparities in WASH services across genders due to societal structures indicates their use of contextual observations in local communities. The decolonization of these gendered practices is seen through attempts to make the social practices of women related to water safer and to increase their access to the quantity and quality of water. This allows for greater acceptance and implementation of their practices to attempt to instill sustainable behavior changes as the practices work through the historical boundaries to women instead of a one-size-fits-all approach.

4.2 International WASH Standards

In 2018, the Sphere Project published its fourth edition handbook of measures for the international community to improve on the coordination of humanitarian response. Sphere was established in 1997 from a group of NGOs and the Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement to develop a mechanism for dialogue amongst organizations working in humanitarian aid. The measures published in 2018 document the projects' objectives, updated standards of access to needs and services within the core sectors of aid, and suggested strategies for implementation (Sphere, 2018). Past editions of the handbooks were criticized by regional organizations and states, claiming the standards to be too Westernized and lacking evidence-informed proposed methods of intervention (Frison, Smith, Blanchet, 2018). The standards were set high, lacking regard to the contexts and abilities of states in achieving the goals during emergency or non-emergency situations, and providing few recommendations for achieving such standards. The 2018 version has exceeded these criticisms, showing significant care for

the contexts and behaviors of local communities, and recognizing the infeasibility of a universal approach to aid.

The updated handbook dedicated a significant portion of the standards on the WASH sector, as access to safe water and sanitation is a universal right which affects all other sectors in humanitarian assistance. The standards call for a multi-sectoral approach to achieving WASH standards and for the coordination of organizations to promote change. “Close coordination and collaboration with other sectors as well as coordination with local authorities and other responding agencies helps ensure that needs are met, that efforts are not duplicated, and that the quality of WASH responses is optimized” (Sphere, 2018). Coordination and community engagement are one of the core concepts for WASH promotion through their guide on evaluating and adjusting response activities according to: context, people (demography, history, gender dynamics), behavior and practice, advocacy, information and communication, capacity building, coordination and collaboration, participation, monitoring/evaluation/learning, and accountability. These methods of evaluation and adjustment for response demonstrate a decolonized perspective to humanitarian assistance through their holistic approach for developing WASH projects. Their proposed holistic approach increases the sustainability of projects and longer-lasting behavior changes related to water practices.

The handbook includes sections dedicated to the explanations of standards set by Sphere, how to promote the policies, and an extensive appendixes section with tables and examples of the standards/techniques for monitoring and evaluation. One table outlines minimum water quantities for survival figures and quantifying water needs for

water intake, hygienic practices, amounts for health centers, schools, etc. For basic survival water intake needs, “2.5-3 liters per person per day (depends on climate and individual physiology)” and for hygienic practices, “2-6 liters per person per day (depends on social and cultural norms)” (Sphere, 2018). These ranges of basic needs present a contextual framework of thinking, in adjusting for cultural and spatial differences instead of a universal model. Sphere also provides an extensive section on the assessment of water and sanitation practices with a list of 100 questions that can be used to assess needs, identify resources and describe local conditions for the development of research on wash and use for knowledgeable practices.

The extensive details in the explanations of standards, recognition of adjustments based on context, and importance of sustainable implementation activities establish the Sphere standards as highly-relevant for states to use in the development of national policies. Inclusionary language throughout the handbook demonstrates decolonized practices and give credibility for the implementation of the standards within national policies. The coordination of international NGOs in Sphere and inclusion of a variety of perspectives separate them from other IGOs setting standards in the field, and when done correctly, developing quality guidelines for states to implement. Independent IGOs have also developed valuable and detailed guidelines within the WASH sector, and increased the level of research available in the field on successful and sustainable water practices.

The World Health Organization has been at the forefront for the setting of standards relating to water and sanitation in regards to universal access, as well as the importance

of WASH related to public health. While their standards may focus on the health sector, it is impossible to disconnect the WASH and health sectors in humanitarianism as they are interconnected in the general well-being of those impacted by the standards. Safe-water habits and services directly impact the level of health in a community. Poor WASH standards can lead to exposure to water-borne diseases, malnutrition and dehydration, and other health-related ailments (WHO, 2022). The over 600-page document outlines the various methodologies for developing proper WASH policies and best-practices for sustainable changes in behavior.

Within the introduction of the standards, it is stated that they are written with the purpose to support the development and implementation of national policies through their research on the scientific benefits to certain practices and protect health protection strategies. It is recognized in this section that “There is no single approach that is universally applicable” and that “Approaches that may work in one country or region will not necessarily transfer to other countries or regions. It is essential that each country review its needs and capacities in developing a regulatory framework” (WHO, 2022). These points demonstrate their use of a decolonized structure of implementation practices through their recognition of context and dismissal of universally applicable practices. Legislation developed at national and local levels are strongly encouraged to “take account of a variety of environmental, social, cultural, economic, dietary and other conditions” (WHO, 2022). This declaration of specific contextual points of relevancy in national policies exhibits the strongest recognition of local contexts across the various international organizations standards. These recognitions of cultural adjustments

demonstrate a pattern across the international standards through their consistent use of inclusive language. The pattern indicates a general understanding across the organizations of contextual relevance in humanitarian aid and use of decolonial practices in the development of the standards. The WHO's considerations of sociocultural barriers from historical structures exemplify decolonial methods of thinking and deconstructing the reasons behind the behaviors and inequalities related to WASH.

The WHO guidelines provide information for local communities to track and provide access to water based on social, economic and environmental needs. They developed a chart for the levels of access from inadequate to optimal levels based on distance/time for water fetching, the likely volumes of water collected, the public health risk from poor hygiene, and intervention priority and actions in communities. Unlike the Sphere standards range of minimum levels, the WHO set the minimum requirement of volume of liters of water per day for sufficient hydration in non-emergent situation at 5.3 liters (WHO, 2022). Levels of access are set in regards to water fetching in relation to health, "delivery of water within 1 km or 5-30 minutes of total collection time ("basic access"); water being supplied reliably on-plot, especially when running water is available ("intermediate access"); and water being available within the home through multiple taps ("optimal access")" (WHO, 2022). While these standards do specify a minimum level of access of water universally, it is not necessarily a negative towards the standards to set such expectations as there do need to be international standards that can guide states in achieving the overall goal of universal access to water. These guidelines demonstrate the use of inclusionary language, with the organization setting minimum standards while

using consistent indications throughout of the document to implement these minimum standards in culturally relevant projects according to the state.

INGO key informant argued that it is unnecessary for international guidelines to be culturally relevant in their setting of specific standards, instead placing the responsibility on national policies that take these standards and implement them in a contextually appropriate practice. "I don't think international policies are intended to be culturally relevant, I think they're mostly best practices for countries to follow" (INGO, personal communication, June 2023). They discussed their experience in developing WASH projects in the region and how they interact with these policies. "Honestly, I don't think when we do a project we follow international guidelines, we follow the national policies. I don't expect international guidelines to be universally applicable and I don't think that's their intention" (INGO, personal communication, June 2023). This perspective challenges the research and the understanding of the implementation of international guidelines in national policies from humanitarian workers on-the-ground. The informant argues for greater influence to be placed on the national policies being culturally based on the base standards given from international organizations (INGO, personal communication, June 2023). These views conflict with the decolonized perspective of the research, shifting the burden of decolonization's to the states instead of the international community. WASH practices and implementation strategies being under the authority of the states is significant in the power-balance favoring the states instead of outside influences, allowing for more appropriate and sustainable solutions in communities. However, the international community is also found to be responsible for

accommodating the needs and structures across cultural and social structures in states. This conflict demonstrates the continued debate within the international community in the development of standards as to the extent that they must adjust their language to be inclusive versus universal.

4.3 Regional African WASH Standards

The African Union (AU) is a continental organization consisting of 55 states across the Africa with the goals of promoting Pan-African unity and the promotion of rights across the states. In 2002, the AU was established as a successor to the Organisation of African Unity (OAU), founded in 1963. In 2015, the AU adopted the AU Agenda 2063 to commit to a set of human rights goals guided by the Pan-African vision “an integrated, prosperous and peaceful Africa, driven by its own citizens and representing a dynamic force in the international arena” (AU, 2015). The Agenda consists of 7 guiding aspirations and 63 principles to achieve by 2063, with the collaboration of goals from the UN SDG’s. Three of the principles in the Agenda are focused on access to water and sanitation:

10. We aspire that by 2063, Africa shall be a prosperous continent, with the means and resources to drive its own development, with sustainable and long-term stewardship of its resources and where: ... Cities and other settlements are hubs of cultural and economic activities, with modernized infrastructure, and people have access to affordable and decent housing including housing finance together with all the basic necessities of life such as, water, sanitation, energy, public transport and ICT;

11. By 2063, African countries will be amongst the best performers in global quality of life measures. This will be attained through strategies of inclusive growth, job creation, increasing agricultural production; investments in science, technology, research and innovation; gender equality, youth empowerment and

the provision of basic services including health, nutrition, education, shelter, water and sanitation;

18. Africa shall have equitable and sustainable use and management of water resources for socio-economic development, regional cooperation and the environment (AU, 2015).

These goals reflect the development needs in Africa, written by African states with culturally appropriate expectations and methodology for how states can achieve such principles. The Agenda is expanded upon in 10-year implementation plans with specific information on the methods of achieving the goals within the contexts of the member states. The AU Agenda 2063 is one of the first large strategy plans for the organization since its establishment, providing clear objectives for member states of the expected achievements in the following decades.

In 2021, the AU followed up these goals with the *African Sanitation Policy Guidelines*, a how-to guide for writing and implementing policies in a culturally-relevant African approach to water policy. The objectives of the guidelines are “designed to provide guidance to African governments on the review, revision, and development of sanitation policies and strategies for their implementation” (AU, 2021). The guidelines, written by the African Ministers’ Council on Water (AMCOW), are well-informed with in-depth information on WASH practices and suggestions for methods of developing policies with example statements. The current gap in national African governmental policies is acknowledged that while many African states possess water policies, “the majority do not incorporate all the elements of excreta management across the service chain and do not address general equity concerns to ensure that everyone has access to safely managed sanitation” (AU, 2021). The guidelines by the AU in the document

attempt to address this gap to achieve safely managed sanitation through properly coordinated WASH practices in communities in national established policies.

The practices and policies set out in the guidelines focus on people centered interactions with WASH in urban and rural communities. The guidelines recognize access to water and sanitation a basic human right, and the safe management of WASH critical to health, economic development, education, and environmental protection. Standards are set and recommended for the management of household sanitation (water, toilets, defecation practices, etc.) and non-household sanitation (schools, health facilities, markets, etc.). The AMCOW emphasizes the need for accelerated efforts by African governments for water policies including clear implementation strategies “to make progress towards universal access to safely managed sanitation” (AU, 2021). Community engagement through social media posts, press releases, popular media outlets, and local events are highlighted as the greatest methods for achieving success of the set policies.

While these guidelines were written for the specific needs of the region, they recognize that the recommendations “should be considered within and adapted to each local context in terms of existing institutional arrangements, capacities, and service coverage, among other factors” (AU, 2021). A strong theme throughout the guidelines is the recognition of the diversity of needs between countries and cultures. As a region of states with histories of being controlled by colonizers, there is a deep presence within the AU’s policy of the understanding of the need for states to have control over their laws. There is a greater understanding from past-experiences in the AU that each country

experiences its own unique challenges and a one-size-fits-all approach is not appropriate. "Sanitation policy review, revision, and formulation should be led and managed by the government in an inclusive process involving stakeholders. This increases the likelihood of uptake and can mitigate the risk of a prolonged government approval process" (AU, 2021). The AU recognizes that the guidelines are meant as recommendations based on research in the region for successful practices in the planning and implementation of states policies.

Surpassing the legacies of their colonizers, the AU guidelines emphasize the importance of communities and community behaviors impact the acceptance and implementation of new practices. There is a strong push for increased research to study these behaviors and look into the history of communities as to why they behave with certain WASH practices and what manner of policies will be accepted. "All too often, policies for sanitation are drafted and adopted, but lack a clearly sequenced and resourced set of actions to achieve the policy objective and indicators for measuring progress towards the objectives. An implementation strategy clearly sets out those action points, stakeholders' responsibilities, and results indicators, thereby increasing accountability for reaching the policy objectives" (AU, 2021). Clear mandates and mechanisms for coordination between local, national, and international actors is essential for the policies set by states to reach communities and respond properly to their needs.

As has been highlighted across the various standards, gender roles and culture play an important role in the universality of access and safety to WASH for different

populations. Women and girls experience increased challenges related to WASH, significantly in the African region as women and girls are tasked with water collection. Poor coordination and planning of water collection sites can lead women and girls to face long distances to access the water, dangerous terrain and/or be targeted by males during the trek. In addition, there is “growing evidence showing that girls’ inability to manage their menstrual hygiene in schools leads to school absenteeism, which in turn, has significant economic impacts” (AU, 2021). These educational and economic imbalances further inhibit communities from achieving sustainable practices of WASH. The recognition of gender issues due to societal structures has become a pattern across the international and regional guidelines, discussing the challenges in accessibility and methods for accommodating practices for women and girls.

The AU guidelines acknowledge the importance of “meeting the sanitation and menstrual hygiene management (MHM) needs of girls in and out of school, and of women in health facilities and public places;” (AU, 2021). The guidelines set clear expectations repeatedly throughout the document of the needs of women and girls, and for the explicit consideration of their needs in the development and implementation of policy. Inclusionary language is used to demonstrate the various methods of addressing sanitation needs of girls in schools according to cultural standards of MHM. These WASH policies must be written for sanitation systems and services beyond the home in institutional, public, and community sectors with care for the needs of vulnerable groups including women, girls, and those with disabilities.

WASH policies must be met with equal focus on behavior changes in communities to support women and girls gaining equal access to water and hygiene and the safe practice of MHM. “Successful behavior change interventions should articulate the link between menstrual hygiene management and water, sanitation, and hygiene services” (AU, 2021). Insight into the behavior practices in communities takes a decolonial approach, as gender imbalances were often inserted into communities where they had not previously existed. The emphasis in policies in providing access for women and girls can act to remove these imposed concepts of inequality between genders and their needs. To achieve this, extensive research is required from international, regional and local actors to evaluate the biases present in the communities and the best practices for the state to overcome such inequalities.

In recognition that policies are not written in a vacuum, the guidelines notate the various other standards published in the region and internationally that guide WASH targets. Regional commitments to WASH in Africa include:

- The Ngor Declaration, adopted in 2015 with a vision to ‘achieve universal access to adequate and sustainable sanitation and hygiene service and eliminate open defecation by 2030
- Agenda 2063 - The Africa we want adopted by the AU in 2013;
- The eThekweni Declaration, adopted in 2008 and
- The Sharm El-Sheik commitments, adopted in 2008, which state that, irrespective of the regional commitments to improve sanitation, progress has been slow across Africa. (AU, 2021).

These regional commitments reflect the visions of the African diaspora and commitments to achieving universal access to water and changing the behaviors of

sanitation practices in communities. In the international community, African governments have also committed to initiatives from the UN, most notably the Sustainable Development Agenda with the 17 SDG targets directing humanitarian action and national policies. Within the *African Sanitation Policy Guidelines*, target SDG 6 is referenced often as a benchmark of progress and indicator for African states to monitor the state of their commitment to universal access to water and changed water behaviors (AU, 2021).

Noting that progress in the Sub-Saharan region has been slow in achieving international WASH goals of the past decades, the guidelines recommend the WHO/UNICEF Joint Monitoring Programme (JMP) for tracking data from their published annual reports. Greater access to information and data improves the ability of states to monitor their progress and develop better informed policies and implementation projects in communities. It is also noted in the section the use of SPHERE standards for emergency situations, as there is more flexibility necessary in the standards for WASH in contexts of increased conflict or disaster. The fusion of these different international and regional standards on WASH collectively provides states with clear and well-researched guidelines to develop policies and implementation practices to achieve their goals in the most contextually relevant approach.

4.4 National Policies in Tanzania

Tanzania has been recognized in the region as a state with strong water and sanitation policies, having adopted their first water policy in 1991. This policy was later revised in the National Water Policy 2002 that has served as the main framework for

water regulations in the state for decades, and a strong influence in the 2019 Water and Sanitation Act. The National Water Policy of 2002 established water as a basic right and need for people, “Recognizing that access to clean and safe water is a basic need and right for all human beings, efficient management and equitable use of water in the rural areas will be promoted” (United Republic of Tanzania, 2002). This policy built upon the Tanzania Development Vision 2025, established in 1999, to increase the quality of livelihood in Tanzania in the new millennium. Vision 2025, as it was colloquially referred to, set wide parameters for the various Ministries in the government, and non-state actors in Tanzania to achieve over the following decades. It was set that universal access to safe water be realized through the actions of Vision 2025 (United Republic of Tanzania, 1999). From the broad goals set by Vision 2025, the Ministry of Water and Livestock Development produced the 2002 policy with specific parameters for achieving the state-wide goals related to water.

The National Water Policy of 2002 was developed as a framework for the allocation and management of safe water and sanitation practices. “This policy seeks to address cross- sectoral interests in water, watershed management and integrated and participatory approaches for water resources planning, development and management” (United Republic of Tanzania, 2002). The policy set out clear expectation for the expected measures of water and sanitation services related to access and quality to meet the basic needs of Tanzanians. The policy also highlights the importance of an increase in data collection and water assessments to be conducted and made available for communities, organizations, and stakeholders to track the progress of water needs. “An

effective system of local and international exchange of information will be strengthened, with a view to increase knowledge and experience, efficiency, and collaboration” (United Republic of Tanzania, 2002). Highlighting the increase in data collection connects with their goals of implementing and improving hygiene education practices in schools and communities. The policy states, “Hygiene education greatly improves the health impact of water and sanitation interventions, whereas providing water alone has minimal impact” (United Republic of Tanzania, 2002). This emphasis of the importance of hygiene education in communities demonstrates the states focus on people-centered solutions and recognition of the need to go beyond basic measures.

A significant portion of the policy focuses on gender sensitivity in water management and the impacts of gender issues related to access to services. A main goal of the policy is for the active and equal representation of women and men in water practices and for the achievement of equal access to safe water. With a highlight on the burden of water fetching for women in rural areas at long distances, women face increased burdens and vulnerabilities due to insufficient access to water. The TNGO key informant discussed the prioritization of “women and disabled people in WASH practices to help them maintain their dignity and gain equal access to water” (TNGO, personal communication, May 2023). The policy set out three strategic objectives to address these issues and raise the level of equal access to water.

“(i) A fair representation of women in village water-user entities will be encouraged.

(ii) Rural water supply programs shall be based on what both men and women in rural communities know, want, and are able to manage, maintain and pay for.

(iii) Raise awareness, train and empower women to actively participate at all levels in water programs, including decision making, planning, supervision and management” (United Republic of Tanzania, 2002).

These objectives demonstrate the states focus on women and girls, similar to the international guidelines, discussing the social structures that have led to the inequalities in access amongst the genders and the measures they are taking to mitigate these imbalances. The focalization on sustainable changes in societal behaviors guided the 2002 policy and country for the following two decades as Tanzania developed implementation strategies to achieve the goals.

The most recent policy in Tanzania related to water is the 2019 Water and Sanitation Act, with the objective to “promote and ensure the right of every person in Tanzania to have access to efficient, effective and sustainable water supply and sanitation services for all purposes” (United Republic of Tanzania, 2019). The new policy includes greater details on the updated standards for WASH, with significant emphasis discussing expectations for implementation projects, including education, for the achievement of their new goals. The act stands out amongst other regional water policies through its establishment of Water Supply and Sanitation Authorities within the government.

The function of the water authorities is to “provide water supply and sanitation services for uses as are required by this Act or any other written law dealing with the management of water resources, water quality standards and the environment” and to “educate and provide information to persons on public health aspects of water supply, water conservation, sanitation, and similar issues” (United Republic of Tanzania, 2019).

This unique authoritative group goes beyond recommendations from the international

or regional guidelines of water management. The Water Authority represents the mechanisms states can employ that are contextually relevant and culturally relevant that are more greatly accepted by local communities to engage in projects and services with.

The Act continues to discuss the various operations of a Water Authority upon licensing issued by the Energy and Water Utilities Regulatory Authority (EWURA), with an emphasis on the interactions with local communities. Behavioral changes are recognized as the more powerful and necessary forces for sustainable solutions to WASH problems. Sensitization activities and workshops are promoted to mobilize communities to be empowered to maintain their water supplies and continue to practice safer WASH behaviors after the interventions in the community. One of the greatest challenges the INGO key informant discussed was the sustainability of hygiene practices after the government leaves or a workshop is completed. "Once villages participate in a campaign, do they upkeep the practices" (INGO, personal communication, June 2023). Maintenance of practices is difficult, as time has shown the ease of many communities, most significantly rural areas, reverting back to less hygienic practices as their previous recognized norm and cultural practice.

The 2019 Act attempts to combat this challenge through the establishment of another authoritative body, known as the Rural Water Supply and Sanitation Agency (RUWASA). The body is responsible for the "development and sustainable management of rural water supply and sanitation projects" to "plan, design, construct and supervise rural water supply projects;" (United Republic of Tanzania, 2019). The RUWASA operates similar to the Water Authorities, however, the RUWASA pays greater attention to rural

communities and the social structures and access to services they possess, which vary greatly from urban areas. The main focus of the group is to facilitate trainings and capacity building sessions with local communities on sanitation and hygiene education to sensitize rural communities to water services, and monitoring and evaluating the state of WASH in such areas (United Republic of Tanzania, 2019).

This authoritative group is the embodiment of the states policy's adjustment of international standards to developing implementation projects in a culturally relevant manner. Through RUWASA, and the Water Authorities, continuous monitoring and evaluation of the state of WASH services can be conducted and greater accessibility to WASH can be achieved through the on-the-ground services and engagement. These two bodies are models for states to implement and adjust accordingly in culturally specific manners to develop greater community engagement with WASH and sustainable implementation of governmental policies.

4.5 Implementing Water Policies in Tanzania

The National Sanitation Program in Tanzania is a project developed by a combination of state Ministry actors to increase the accessibility of water and to enhance the sustainability of water practices in the country. The program is currently in its third phase from 2019/20 to 2023/24, with plans consistent with "the National Water Policy (NAWAPO) 2002; Ruling Party Election Manifesto (2015-2020); second phase of the National Five Year Development Plan (2016/17-2020/21); the National Long Term Perspective Plan (NLTPP 2011/12-2025/26); the Water Sector Development Programme (WSDP 2006-2025); and Regional and International Policy Frameworks such as Africa

Water Agenda 2063 and Sustainable Development Goals” (United Republic of Tanzania, 2019). These national and international frameworks are credited for assisting the state in developing a comprehensive initiative that works directly with communities to improve water systems and structures in public and private institutions, increasing WASH services, and combat damaging WASH behaviors in local communities.

Sustainability and capacity building are the two key frameworks for the national campaign, having conducted evaluations and identifying critical issues after the first two phases of the project. The final phase of the campaign follows 7 objectives focused on health impacts, socioeconomic issues, obtaining universal access to services, and a raised capacity of communities and partners in WASH (United Republic of Tanzania, 2019). The guidelines for the third phase include extensive details on the progress of past projects, linkages to international standards, and targets for upcoming strategies. Results framework matrices are used for each of the 7 objectives to track the objectives codes and description, intermediate outcomes, and key performance indicators; and monitoring frameworks are used to track the specific strategies within the objectives over the final 5 years of the campaign (United Republic of Tanzania, 2019). These frameworks support the governments’ goal in increasing the levels of available data on WASH and aid the tracking of the state’s progress through reports to raise the level of awareness of WASH services in Tanzania (United Republic of Tanzania, 2019). The TNGO key informant praised the governments work in the national campaign as developing “obtainable goals and practices”, recognizing the biggest issue in the country as universal access to water (TNGO, personal communication, May 2023).

Milestones are set for mid-year and annual reviews of the campaign to track the progress of the objectives through specific indicators, including numbers set for newly built waste management systems, number of rehabilitated pipes, amount of water points opened, etc. (United Republic of Tanzania, 2019). The specificity of the campaign guidelines sets the project up for success, with their detailed plans for addressing socioeconomic issues and cultural behaviors. Water is described as the “engine of the socio-economic development and it plays a vital role in ending poverty. Water is the bedrock for agriculture, and a lifeline for electricity generation, manufacturing, tourism, mining, livestock development, and fishing” (United Republic of Tanzania, 2019). Through community-based water interventions, the levels in accessibility to water are seen to concurrently raise the economic abilities of the community (UNICEF, 2016). These impacts work together to raise the overall standards of living and livelihood in communities and likely positively influence other sectors, such as health and education.

Tanzanian journalist Lukas Kwezi reported directly from Tanzania the successful communication of policies and successful increase in sanitation coverage due to the National Sanitation Campaign (Kwezi, 2021). They discussed the campaign’s success in working to eliminate open defecation and increased all households access to improved toilet systems through on-the-ground projects that worked directly with communities (Kwezi, 2021). It was reported that communication of sanitation behaviors and awareness activities were promoted throughout the nation that local communities were receptive to led to significant success in raising the capacity of WASH in the country (Kwezi, 2021). This direct observation expands our understanding of the performance of the campaign

in Tanzania with information from a source within the community and with the understanding of the cultural behaviors.

One of the main critical issues from previous phases of the campaign relate to the necessity to mainstream gender in WASH (United Republic of Tanzania, 2019). However, the planning of the new objectives places little emphasis on addressing gender issues, with only a brief mention of gender as a point related to the objective on universal accessibility. Gender-related interventions are not included in the various strategies or indicators of the proposed objectives, going without mention of menstrual health programs or gender-sensitive bathrooms (United Republic of Tanzania, 2019). This exclusion breaks away from the pattern in previous national policies and international standards on the highlighted needs for gender-related projects. As this campaign is the work of the state to fulfill their policy objectives, it leaves a gap in community projects addressing gender issues and the potential to exacerbate the social structures that limit women and girls' access to water services. Without the on-the-ground intervention and education programs on the importance of gender-issues relating to women, communities are presented with greater challenges in lacking the tools to support those already disadvantaged.

International NGO worker discussed the challenges currently facing sub-Saharan countries WASH projects and the next steps for states to take to address these problems. They cite lack of access for women and girls to be the greatest challenge in communities, affecting their right to safety, dignity, and health (INGO, personal communication, June 2023) As water supplies are culturally sensitive, the norms for the behaviors of women

must be addressed and changed to cause sustainable impacts on accessibility to water. Schools must increase their access to sanitary toilets for girls, otherwise the behaviors of skipping classes while menstruating will continue. Many girls are left behind from missing classes due to poorly-maintained or inaccessible toilets for girls, impacting their level of education, which often continues to influence their access to socioeconomic structures (INGO, personal communication, June 2023). The needs of women and girls continue to be areas of concern in the water sector, and will need continued attention and behavior-changing projects to further pursue minimizing the burdens of water against women.

Overall, Tanzania acts as a model state in the region for the setting of policies and intervention strategies related to WASH. They work to incorporate a variety of practices presented by international and regional standards, while adjusting their policies to the status of WASH in Tanzania and practices that will be culturally acceptable (United Republic of Tanzania, 2019). They benefit from the decolonized, inclusive language of the international guidelines to develop their state policies and campaigns. The pattern of behavior changes in international standards are reflected in the National Sanitation Campaign (United Republic of Tanzania, 2019), developing contextually specific programs that will address the current practices of WASH and attempt to adjust the behaviors of the community to safer standards and maintenance of WASH. While gender issues are addressed in the national water policies in Tanzania (United Republic of Tanzania, 2018), there is a gap present in the campaigns by the state in developing projects addressing the issues. Tanzania has progressed significantly since the legacies

of their colonizer's unequal practices of WASH, however, there continue to be areas of growth before the state achieves universal accessibility.

Chapter 5: Conclusion and Recommendations

5.1 Conclusion

This research attempted to answer the question of how international standards on WASH have applied decolonized methods of interventions to guide the development of culturally relevant national policies. Through the review of international standards from the United Nations, Sphere, WHO, and AU, patterns were identified in recommending guidelines with the provision that the practices should be adjusted according to the cultural and contextual framework within the implementing community. The standards emphasized the need for states to enact changes beyond national policies through developing projects that address cultural behaviors related to water to create sustainable solutions. The first objective to develop an understanding of decolonized methods of humanitarian assistance in international guidelines related to WASH was identified through the use of inclusive language. Language was identified as a key indicator of decolonization in international policies through their recognition of social and cultural needs to be addressed allowed for greater inclusion of the standards in national policies. The vast applicability and inclusivity of language in the standards set by a regional organization demonstrated an expected finding of the research. Regional guidelines published by the AU represent potential avenues for states to follow due to the nature of the organization's greater understanding of the cultures and needs within the region.

Tanzania was chosen as a case study to understand the application of international and regional standards in practical policies due to the state's continual development of water policies and active national campaign. This case study answered the second to assess how states integrated international standards in national policies and practices through the national policies and projects continued reference and use of international guidelines from the UN and AU. Tanzania was a model state of WASH practices due to their incorporation of the inclusive language of international standards through culturally adjusted practices in communities that work to address and change local behaviors. The state acted, as the INGO key informant suggested, through the utilization of the recommendations from international standards and taking the responsibility within the government to adjust the practices to their respective contextual needs (INGO, personal communication, June 2023). This addresses the line of inquiry of the present research into the decolonized methods in international standards for the successful application in state policies as currently at an appropriate level.

The third objective of the study to explore how gender issues are compensated in international and national policies in relation to colonial power structures was found through the repetitive recognition of gender in the documents. Women and girls issues related to water-fetching and MHM in communities and in school were discussed extensively throughout the international standards, and culturally relevant policies were developed by Tanzania to address these challenges. Gender issues continue to challenge the international community and states on how to develop the best practices that will address the persistent unequal levels of access to water for women and girls.

International standards compensate for these issues through the supplication of research into the societal structures that lead to unequal access and proposing methods of intervention in public, in schools, and in the home (UNICEF, 2016; WHO, 2018; Sphere, 2018). It is then up to the state to utilize these recommendations to alleviate the stressors on women and girls related to water, though current campaigns in Tanzania lack these gender considerations. Behavior changes in local communities towards women and girls' practices in water fetching and MHM must be addressed for SDG 6 to be achieved (UN, 2015). This research concludes the necessity for the international organizations to utilize decolonized practices through recognizing cultural differences in aid projects in their development of WASH standards and guidelines. It is then the responsibility of the states to incorporate the standards from the international community with contextual adjustments to achieve high-levels of WASH services.

5.2 Limitations

As a part of an expedited Master's program, this research was limited in time for the period to collect and analyze the data. With this limited time came the inability to travel to the region to conduct in-person research. As this project was policy driven, there was not a significant hindrance to the research being outside of the country as it did not require in-person consultation. However, in-person meeting with key consultants would have expanded the understanding of the implementation of the projects and aided the research in witnessing first-hand the practices of WASH in the communities studied.

The positionality of the researcher presented additional limitations to the study. As an English and French speaker, the research was limited to policies published in these languages, unable to access reports or policies published by the Government in Tanzania in Swahili. A significant number of these policies were published dually in English and Swahili; however, it is unknown what was published in Swahili that was not included. Additionally, the positionality of the researcher limits the research as a middle-class White woman from the United States who is not connected to Tanzanian culture introduces bias in the collection and interpretation of findings. While the researcher has experience in international policies related to the IGO's included in the study, this limitation is important to the context of the research as it was written as an outsider to the Tanzanian community. This positionality also impacted the perspective of the review of relevant standards in the research and views on decolonization. This was mitigated through the researchers use of gaining perspectives from key informants from the Tanzania community and reviewing information published by the state that discussed local communities reactions to the national policies and implementation of the campaign.

5.3 Recommendations for Future Research

There are numerous potentials for future research beyond this project. As documents become available from the 2023 UN Water Conference, research into the policies developed from this conference and into the negotiations/voting outcomes from different states will be of interest for study. Numerous policies were projected for goals ending in 2025, such as the first 10-year implementation plan for the AU Agenda 2063

and the Tanzania Vision 2025. In the years following 2025, it is recommended that research is conducted into the levels of implementation that was achieved in these projects and an evaluation of the changes in behavior that were achieved in relation to WASH.

Regarding the practices of the research, there are numerous possibilities for expanding the research to add greater availability of information for organizations and states. It is recommended that this research be conducted through an in-person qualitative project with key consultants and community leaders to assess the impact of IGO water policies and report on the practices of local communities. Such research can allow for greater contextual relevance of the findings and greater inclusion of perspectives and experiences in the data. To further diversify this line of research, a future study could add a quantitative aspect by developing a scale for the level of decolonized practices and policies and apply the scale across a region of states. This study could aid in expanding the available knowledge of WASH behaviors in the region related to their policies and provide information for states to utilize in future policy development.

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Appendix

Research Questions

1. What are your roles and responsibilities in the government/aid organization?
2. What is your experience with WASH policies?
 - a. Have you assisted in policy writing or reviewing WASH issues?
3. How do the national and international WASH policies intersect or disconnect?
4. Do you believe international policies relating to WASH are culturally relevant and obtainable in Tanzania? Why?
 - a. If not, how do you believe the international community can accommodate varying cultural differences and countries varying access to supplies?
5. How has the international community/government addressed gender issues and WASH?
 - a. Do you believe these interventions have been effective?
6. What are the greatest implementation issues of WASH in states?
 - a. Has the international community aided in these issues?
7. Do you believe national and international policies have been well communicated to local communities?
 - a. If not, how can communication be improved?
8. Are there any policies from the government or international community that you believe have made significant impacts in the community?
 - a. If so, which ones and why?
9. What do you believe are the biggest challenges facing WASH in the international community? In Tanzania?
 - a. What do you propose can ease these challenges?
10. Do you have any questions you would like to ask me, or is there anything further you would like to clarify?

Participant Informed Consent Form

Title of the Study: *Decolonizing WASH Practices Between National Policies and International Standards: A Case Study in Tanzania*

Name of Researcher: *Mary Thibodeau*

Hello, my name is Mary Thibodeau, thank you for meeting with me today. I am a graduate student studying internationally from the United States with the SIT Graduate Institute program.

I would like to invite you to participate in a study I am conducting for partial fulfillment of my MA thesis. Your participation is voluntary. Please read the information below, and ask questions about anything you do not understand, before deciding whether to participate. If you decide to participate, you will be asked to read the statement at the bottom and give your verbal consent. You will be given a copy of this form.

Purpose of the Study

As a part of a Master's Thesis, I am conducting research on the intersection of past and present WASH policies in Tanzania and the United Nations. This study will be analyzing the contextual relevance of WASH policies and to compare similar languages and standards within WASH policies at a governmental level and international level in the Tanzanian context. Specific objectives include: to assess the current WASH profile in Tanzania, to understand how governmental policies and international standards have evolved in WASH response, to assess how governmental WASH policies are impacted by international standards, and to explore how gender has impacted WASH policies.

Study Procedures

Your participation will consist of an interview in English with me online or over the phone and will require approximately 30 to 45 minutes of your time.

Upon given consent, the interview will be audio-recorded. There will be no photography and no video recording during your interview. You may refuse to answer any question at any time for any reason. If you refuse participation, the researcher will not contact you again for any reason.

Potential Risks and Benefits

There is minimal risk of retribution in the event of breach of confidentiality of the interviewees contact in the research from their employer. The safeguards in place to minimize such risk include the strict adherence of confidentiality set by the researcher for the key informants, as the researcher will only record the professional status of the informants (further discussed below).

During the interview, you have the right to not answer any questions or to discontinue participation at any time. You may ask the researcher any questions about their status, purposes, and the research before the interview, if anything is unclear to you. If you wish to see the information collected from our interview, the researcher will give you access to the notes written during our interview; and no other person will be permitted to see the information gathered during our interview. If you are uncomfortable or wish to retract any of the answers you provided during our interview, I will delete them from my notes or even delete your participation entirely.

There will not be any benefits for your participation in this research, besides receiving a copy of the final report for your own use. Access to this information may increase public or political knowledge of refugee's access and rights to WASH. When the research is completed, I will email you the final report. If you do not have an email readily accessible, we can discuss any other reception methods you would prefer.

Confidentiality

The researcher will not collect any information from you unless you sign this form and consent to the interview. After you consent, the researcher will ask you again verbally whether you would like to participate in this study on the day of the interview before we begin. The researcher will only be using their official school email (mary.thibodeau@mail.sit.edu) for all

email correspondences. Your intellectual property will be respected as the researcher will not use any materials found about you, nor any other research studies you may have participated in, nor any information you have shared outside of the single interview between us.

The researcher will maintain confidentiality of the key informants, only recording the professional status of the informants (whether they work for the Tanzanian government or an unidentified NGO).

During interviews these statuses will be the only information recorded from the informant, protecting their identity from inclusion in the study. Names and personal identifiers will not be recorded. Interviews will be audio recorded and stored on a password protected laptop that only researcher has access to.

Only the researcher and research advisor, Dr. Bayan Abdulhaq, will see the drafts of my research paper before it is complete. Any notes, research, and unfinished copies of the paper will only be stored on my personal computer and will never be accessed from a public computer or another device. The researcher will also take precautions not to share my computer with anyone else during the entire research period. The computer is password protected, so no one else can access it. Once the research is complete, the data will be safely store all notes for a period of five years, at which point the files on my computer will be deleted. The report will be finished by August, so all data collected will only be accessed for four months' time, during the research period from March-August. After that period, the only data available will be that which made it into the final report, and the report will never be altered from that period on. When the results of the research are published or discussed in conferences, no identifiable information will be used.

Participation and Withdrawal

Your participation is voluntary. Your refusal to participate will involve no penalty or loss of benefits to which you are otherwise entitled. You may withdraw your consent at any time and discontinue participation without penalty. You are not waiving any legal claims, rights or remedies because of your participation in this research study.

Please read the following statement to provide your verbal consent to participate in the study.

"I have read the above and I understand its contents and I agree to participate in the study. I acknowledge that I am 18 years of age or older."

Consent to Audio-Record Interview

I will record the audio of the interview for personal use and reference post-interview during the writing process of the research. The audio will not be shared and will be stored on a password protected personal computer that only I have access to. Please state either of the following to indicate your choice:

I agree to have audio recorded.

I do not agree to have audio recorded.

Consent to Quote from Interview

I may wish to use a quote from the interview in either the presentations or articles resulting from this work. Please state either of the following to indicate your choice:

I agree to be quoted with my job status.

I do not agree to be quoted.

Researcher Contact Information

If you have any questions or want to get more information about this study, please contact me at mary.thibodeau@mail.sit.edu or my advisor at bayan.abdulhaq@sit.edu

Rights Of Research Participant - IRB Contact Information

In an endeavor to uphold the ethical standards of all SIT proposals, this study has been reviewed and approved by an SIT Study Abroad Local Review Board or SIT Institutional Review Board. If you have questions, concerns, or complaints about your rights as a research participant or the research in general and are unable to contact the researcher please contact the Institutional Review Board at:

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