

*A locally-led development approach
in a climate-resilient WASH project in Indonesia*

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Water For
Women



Why we are talking about localisation in the WASH sector?

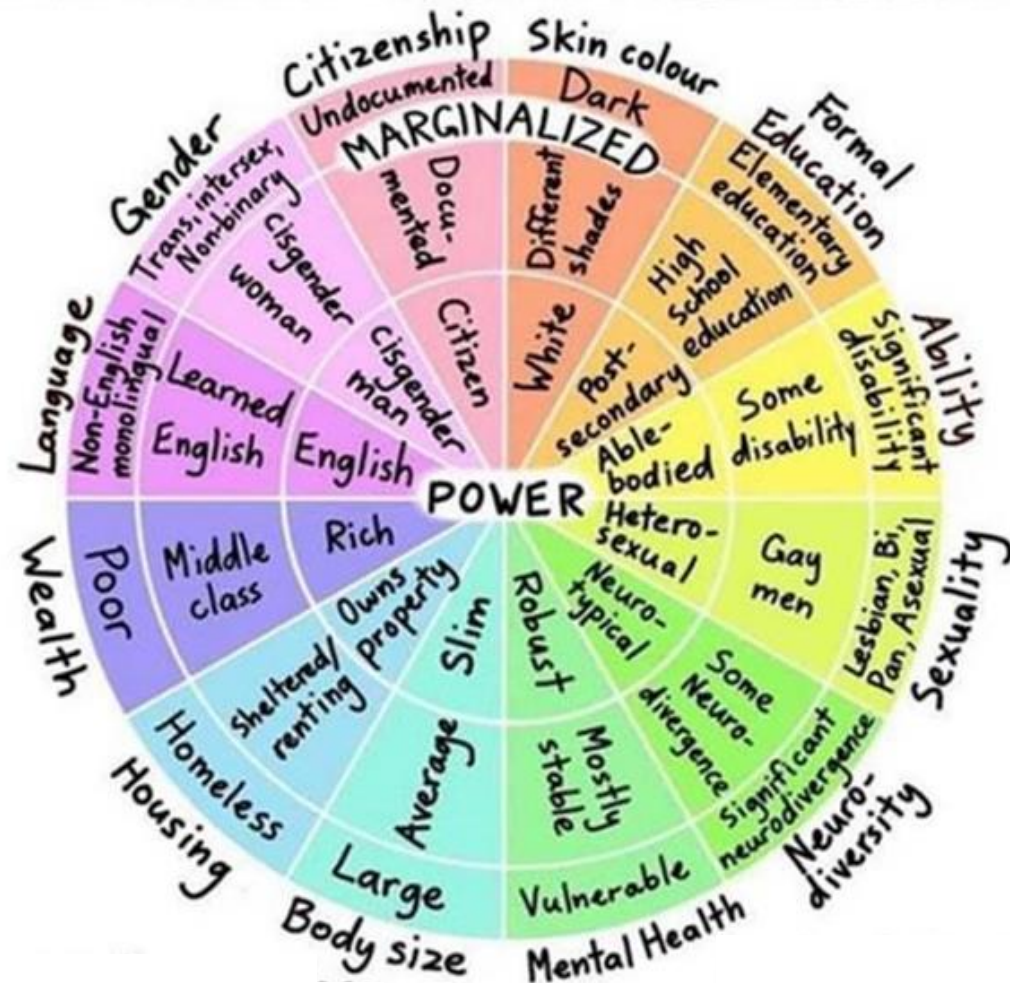
“A fundamental challenge facing the sector: to accept and embrace the truth that the development industry is systematically flawed along colonial and neo-colonial lines...

...Transformation cannot occur independently of the dialogue on racism, decolonisation and other hidden dimensions of power”

(Reference: G Bond, From Hubris to Humility: Localisation and Legitimacy of International Non-Government Organisations, 2022)

How much power do you have?

WHEEL OF POWER/PRIVILEGE



(Reference: Canadian Council of Refugees, adapted by S Duckworth, 2020)

Localisation Example – Plan International Indonesia

Transformation of Plan Indonesia from international to local NGO status

- Plan International offices: different structures in the global north and global south
- Field Country National Office: a hybrid model combining global north and south

Some positive aspects from the transformation

- Change of organisational identity
- Change of leadership and key positions, from international staff to national staff
- Plan Federation (global north offices) gave up power to Plan Indonesia
- Plan Indonesia leadership directly represented in the International Boards

Localisation Example – Plan International Indonesia

Positive aspects (continued):

- More equal partnership with Plan International Federation
- Greater opportunities to fundraise and apply for project funding
- Less concern from global north about ‘losing money’

Challenges during the transformation process

- Heavily controlled by Plan global headquarters, to ensure compliance, and sourced by global north offices
- Facilitated and supported by international consultants in-country
- Perception of ‘competing’ local NGOs



Women's group discussion during climate resilient WASH community engagement

Some take aways...

- **Sector structures**, including in the WASH sector, cater more for Western ideas/ways of working, white privilege and patriarchy.
- **Dominant identities**, and associated power and privileges, are more commonly found in global north partners.
- **Purposeful awareness** helps us to better understand how power and privileges are showing up in all our South-North partnership interactions
- **Recognising and valuing local knowledge and practices** through localisation can lead to greater resilience and create more equitable partnerships between South-North actors.



Yayasan Plan International Indonesia

Thank-you

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