



Presentation from  
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## Social accountability for water security: knowledge, practice & priorities

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# What is social accountability and how does it work?

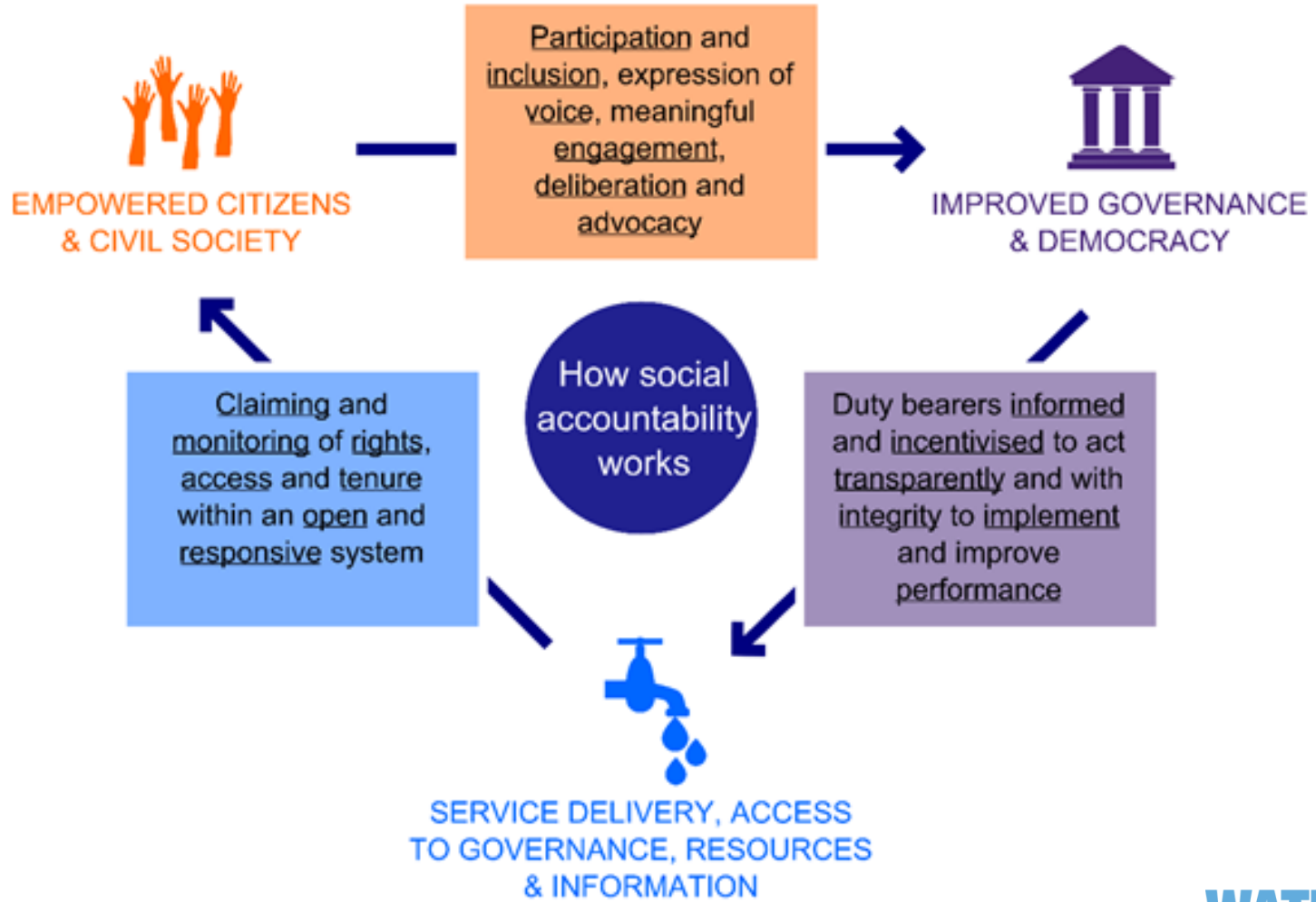
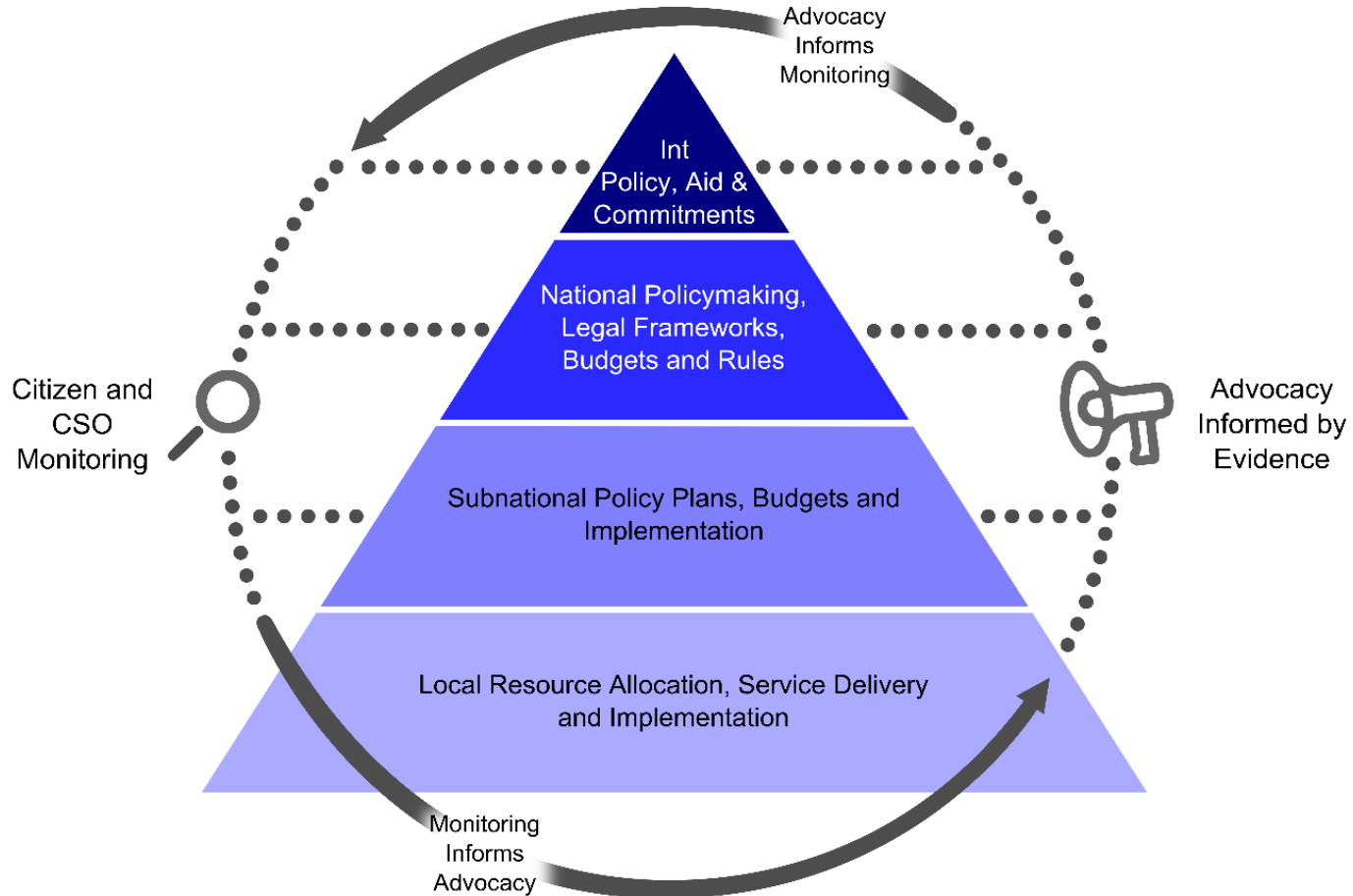


Figure 1. Processes at play in delivery of social accountability aims (after Robinson 2016)

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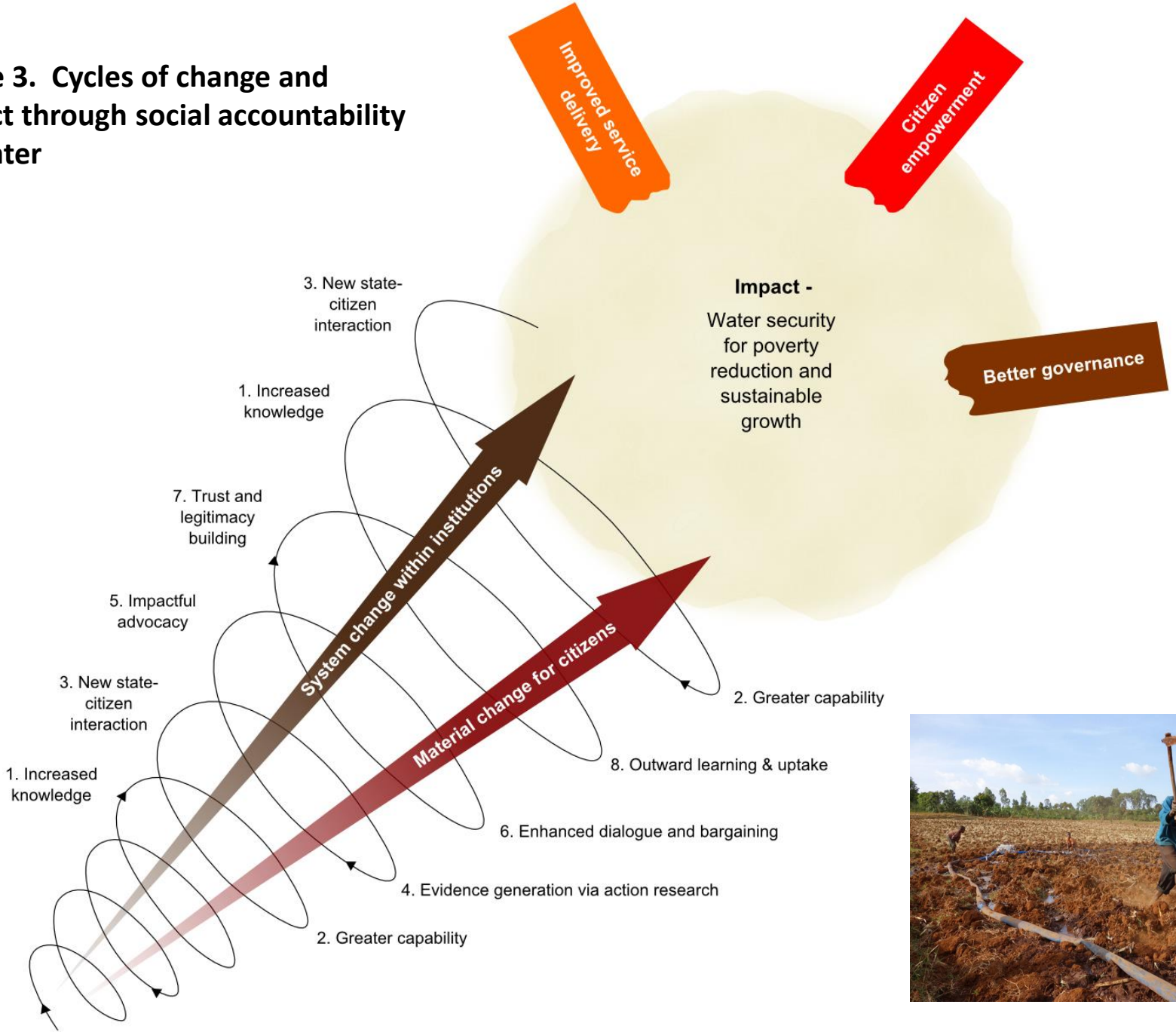


# What is social accountability and how does it work?



**Figure 2.** Driving sector performance through citizen and civil society monitoring and advocacy (adapted from Fox and Halloran (2015)).

**Figure 3. Cycles of change and impact through social accountability on water**



## Social accountability: does it work?

It depends...

*Under certain conditions some social accountability initiatives contribute to improved service delivery, better budget utilisation, greater state responsiveness, citizen empowerment and system change*

(McGee and Gaventa 2011)

## Social accountability: key lessons

1. Context is critical
2. Strategic and aligned approaches
3. Awareness of politics and risks
4. Rigorous, adaptive, constructive and collaborative approaches
5. Challenges of M&E and attributing impact
6. Importance of extended interaction vs. closing space & funding constraints

## Social accountability for a water secure future: conclusions

- The sector is well placed to benefit from systematic social accountability
- Practice to date suggests that 'it works' and is good value for money
- Focus on strengthening, broadening and embedding practice and impact

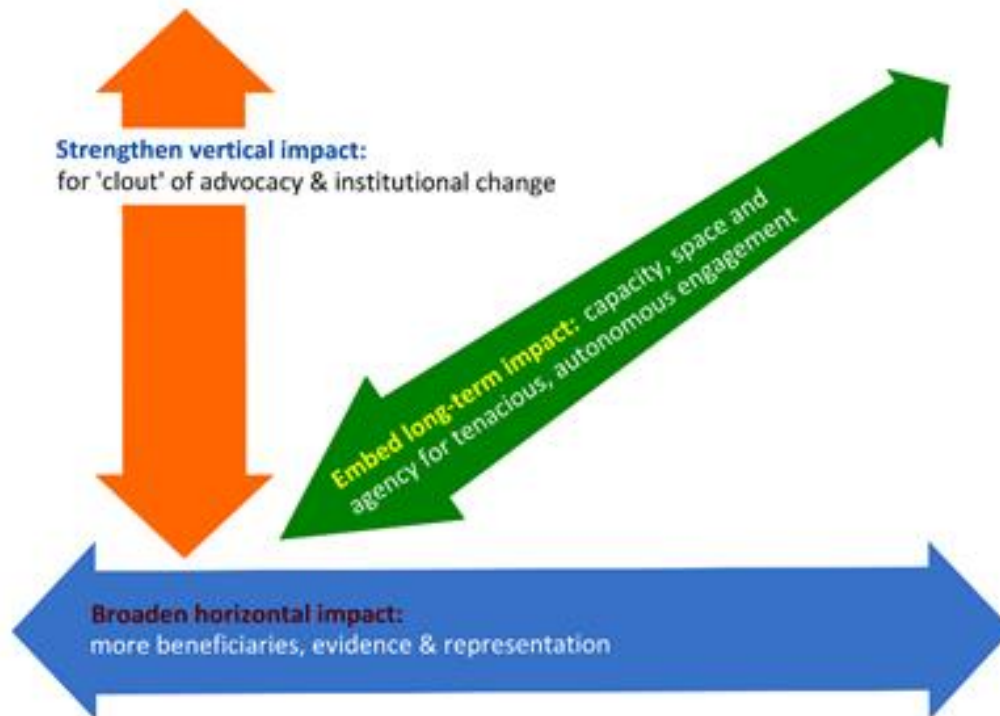


Figure 4. Strengthening, broadening and embedding social accountability practice



*Social accountability is the key to unlocking sustainably managed water and sanitation for all by 2030\*.*

*If we fail to deliver on its potential, shared water security will remain a fantasy.*

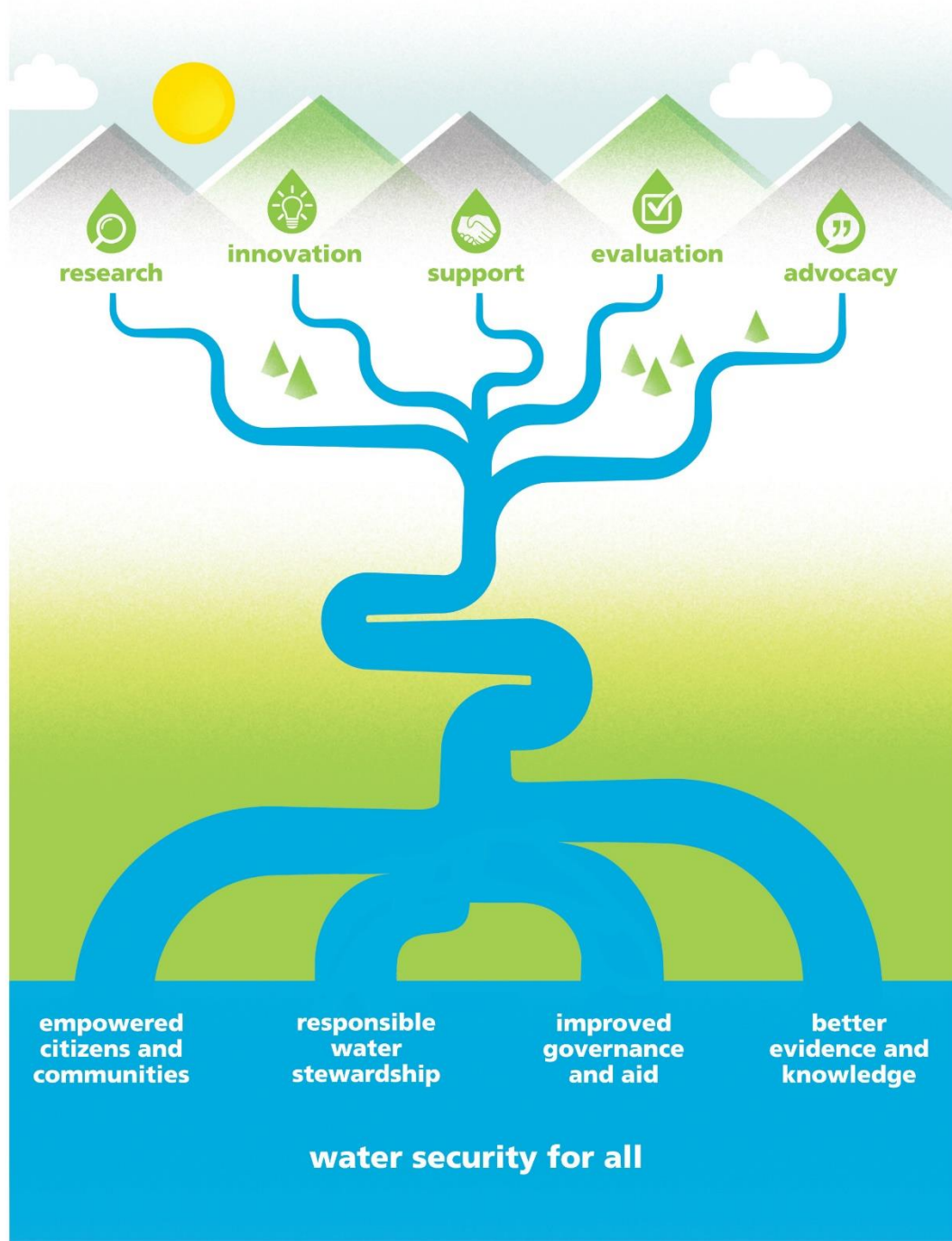
*\*Sustainable Development Goal 6*



## **Social accountability: outstanding questions and controversies**

**Q1. Social accountability requires new roles and relationships across the sector. What conflicts of interest and challenges do these pose, and how can they be managed?**

**Q2. What should be done to nurture and support effective social accountability practice in the water sector?**



**Ahsante Sana!**

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