One theme that appears repeatedly in the W&S literature for developing countries is the close ties that service providers have with elected leaders. What effects does this feature of the W&S sector have on service delivery in the developing world and why (i.e., what are the particular mechanisms by which this influence is exerted)? Are there effective and feasible strategies for dealing with this challenge?

There have been several different policy/planning responses to the existence of small-scale independent providers in developing countries, ranging from outright prohibition to efforts to coordinate and support them. What is your opinion about the appropriate role for these providers in the W&S sector of developing countries? (If your answer is “it depends,” what situational features would determine your recommendation in a particular case?) Are small-scale providers ever a “first best” long-term solution for W&S service provision in developing country communities?

From a planning/policy perspective, do you think we need to take particular measures to infuse our programs with gender considerations? In other words, would good planning automatically take care of the gender dimension in W&S, or should we give added attention to women/girls as a unique stakeholder group apart from ‘households’ or ‘users’ more generally?

Would you recommend trying to design a W&S project such that it could be used as a vehicle to change the existing structure of power and gender relations in this community? Why or why not? If so, what might some of your goals and strategies to achieve them be?