

Commentary

# Bridging Science and Practice - Importance of Stakeholders in the development of decision support tools: Lessons learned

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**Table S1.** Highlights of K2P implementing team reflections from engagements with WASH practitioners in Uganda.

Variables	Frequency
<b>K2P implementing team expectations from engagement with stakeholders</b>	
Feedback on what the tools can do and hopefully are able to use them	1
Insights for improvements and better use of the tools	1
Engagement lead in the testing and validation of the tools	1
Understand stakeholder needs and collaborate in the development of tools that are relevant	3
Understand applicability of the tools to stakeholder needs	2
Ownership of the development process and use of the tools	1
<b>K2P implementing team takeaways from first engagement with stakeholders</b>	
Better ideas came up on the usefulness of the mapping tool in decision-making	3
Able to identify stakeholders most interested in further engagements in developing the tools	3
Proposed change in the initial concept of the pathogen flow tool that was viewed as complex	1
Identified need for more stakeholder engagements	1
inclusion of on-site sanitation systems on the mapping tool	2
<b>Progress in the development of K2P tools after year of engagement with stakeholders</b>	
Importance of local sanitation data	4
Merging the mapping and pathogen flow tools	2
Strong stakeholder appreciation of the tools	1
Increased stakeholder participation in the development of the tools and interest areas	3
Clear direction of the tools and simplification with global data	2
Tools evolved through different stages to meet stakeholder needs and to improve their application	4
Case studies produced in collaboration with stakeholders	1
<b>Lessons from stakeholder participation in the development sanitation decision-making support tools</b>	
Tools need to be simple for people to understand	2
Enabling stakeholder environment for active participation	1
Understanding organizational and individual motivation factors for stakeholder participation	3
Dedication of K2P implementing team to manage stakeholder engagement activities and choice of local collaborators	3
Important to start engaging with stakeholders early in the conception stage of the projects	1
More collaboration and data for further improvement of the tools	1
Long term funding important for projects involving stakeholders	1

Note: Frequency values denote common and individual responses from the K2P implementing team.

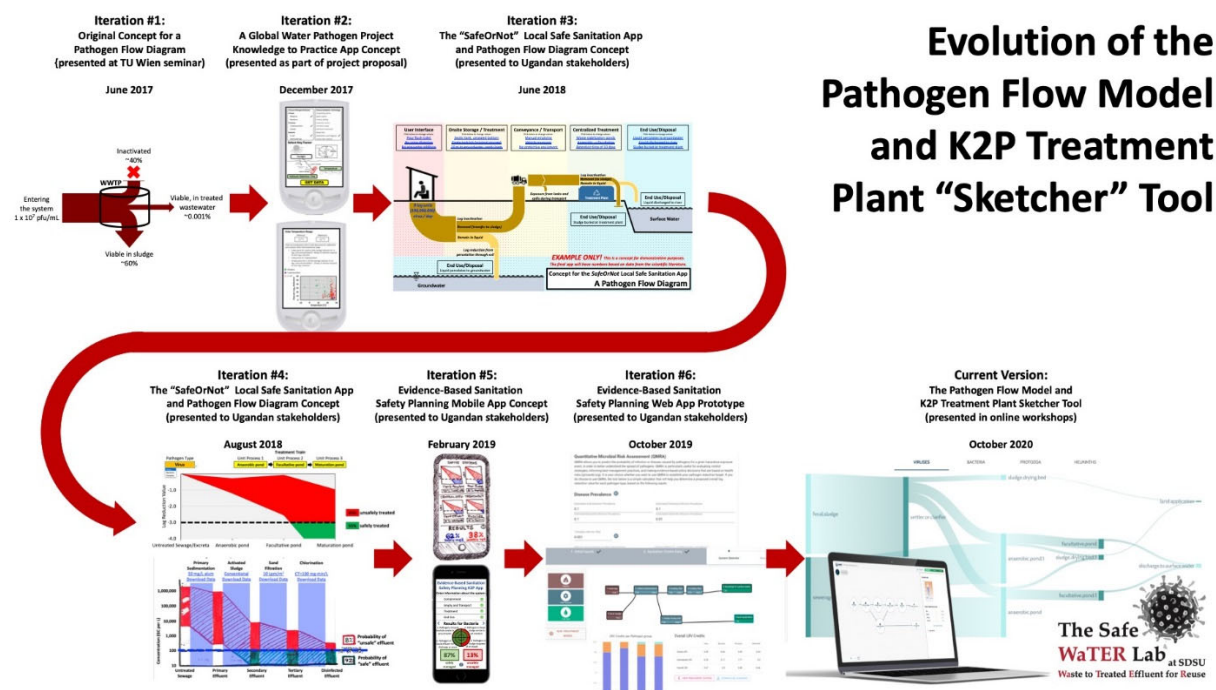


Figure S1. Evolution of the pathogen flow model and the treatment plant sketcher tool.

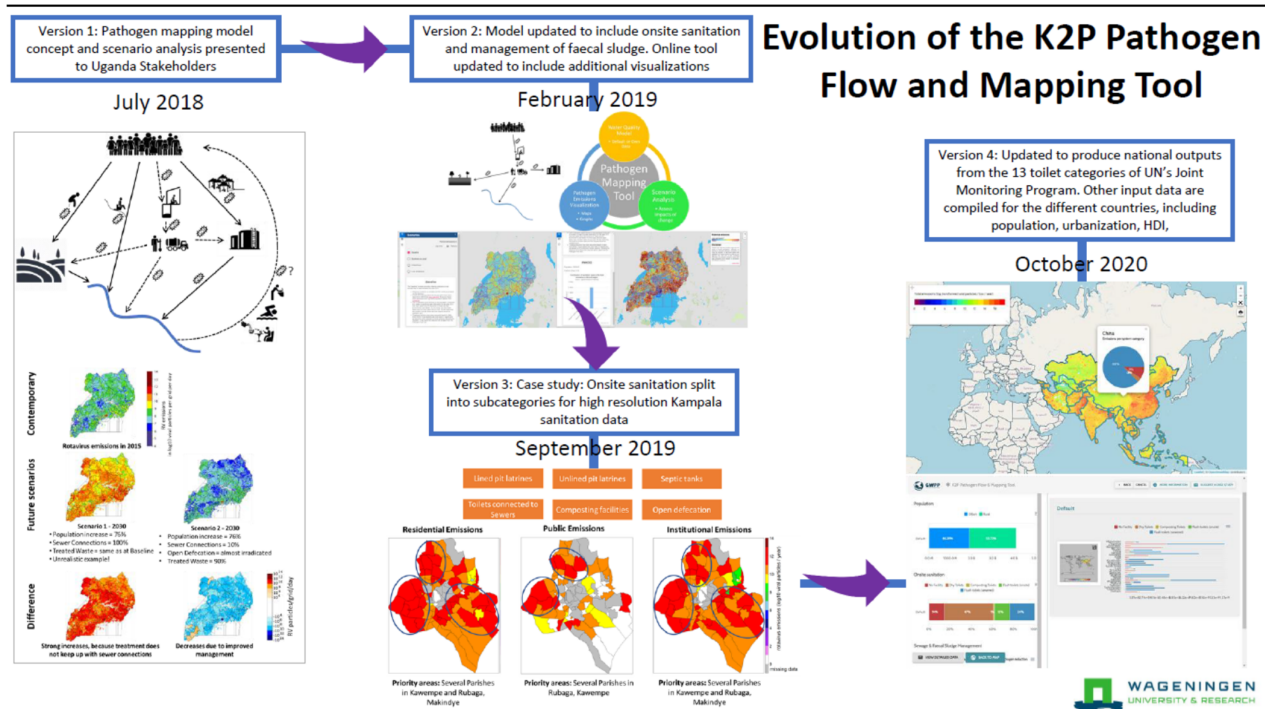


Figure S2. Evolution of the pathogen flow and mapping tool. This evolved from the pathogen flow mapping and visualization tool to integration with the pathogen flow model and thus the new name – pathogen flow and mapping tool.