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CHANGING THE SANITATION LANDSCAPE

Narratives of women in sanitation innovation

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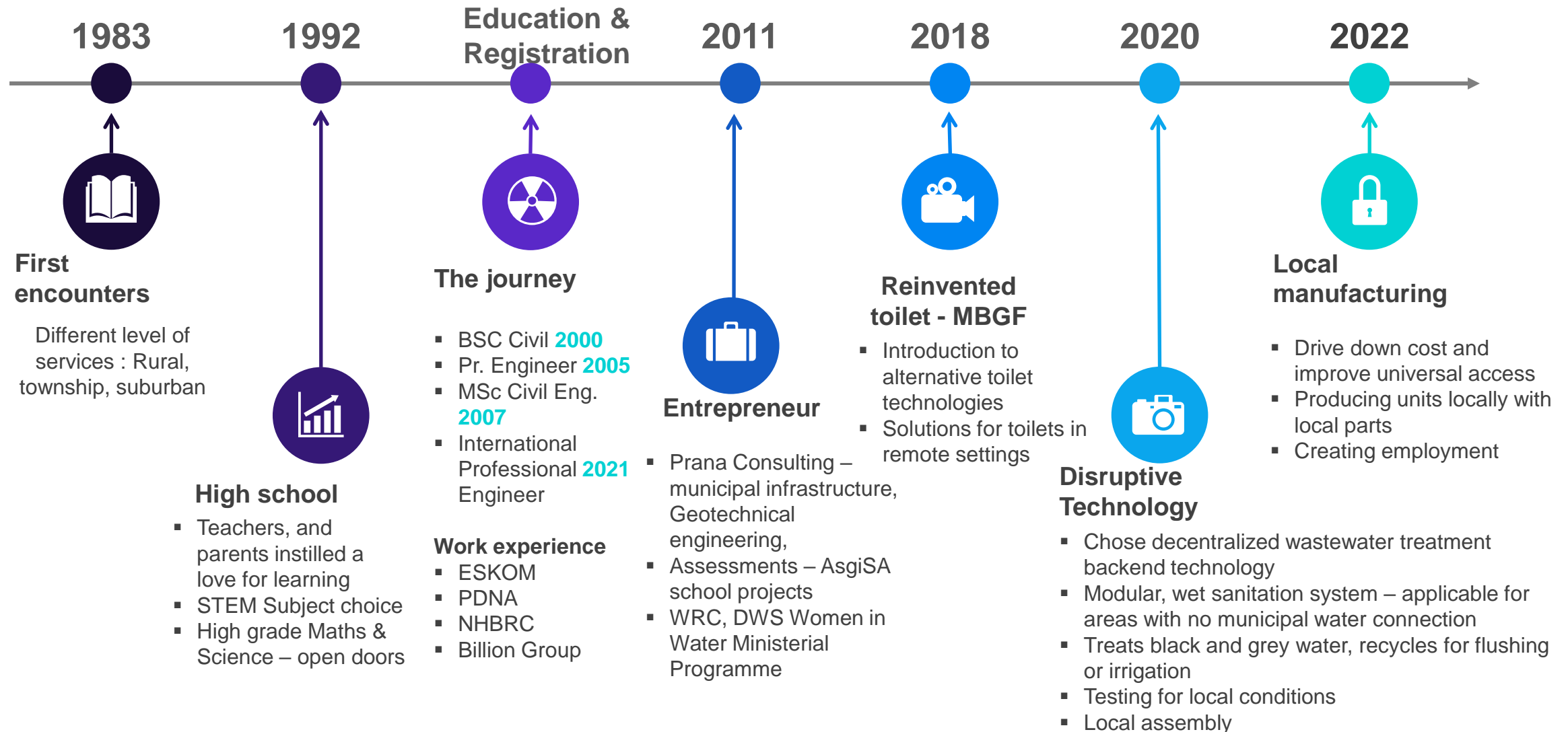
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My Story





South Africa to shut pit toilets at 4500 schools after death of girl aged five- [theirworld.org](https://www.theirworld.org)

What I love about sanitation work



- Changing and improving lives
- Contribute toward Energy, **Water** and Food nexus
- Sanitation basic constitutional right denied to many



- Meaningful Impact on lives of **vulnerable people & unserved**
- Alleviate backlog in service delivery
- Reduce pollution scares water resources



Value of Sanitation

- Demand vs Supply
- Tariffs – what are users willing to pay
- Can water and sanitation be a business



SDG

Contributing towards

Goal 3 : Good Health

Goal 5: Gender Equality

Goal 6 : Clean water and sanitation

Goal 8: Good Jobs and economic growth.

Sanitation through a Gender lens

Status quo reality

- Taboos and stigma : urinating, defecating and menstruating are natural processes
- Yet access to basic sanitation services is not equal in all geographic locations
- Different levels of service for different economic and geographical settings – some fit for purpose, others not.
- Historical spatial planning prioritized certain race groups ignoring the needs of majority of the population

From a woman's perspective



- Gap in intended purpose and actual user experience
- Women tend to not feel safe accessing facilities
- Lack privacy
- Inappropriate infrastructure strips women of dignity

Male dominated industry



- Women lack capacity – due to lack of experience in sector
- Skill and knowledge of Water sector dominated by males
- Males designing products and infrastructure meant to meet women needs

Technology transition challenges



- Adoption of new technology – public and private sector
- Few early adopters – mistrust in unknown “untested” technology

Entrepreneurial challenges

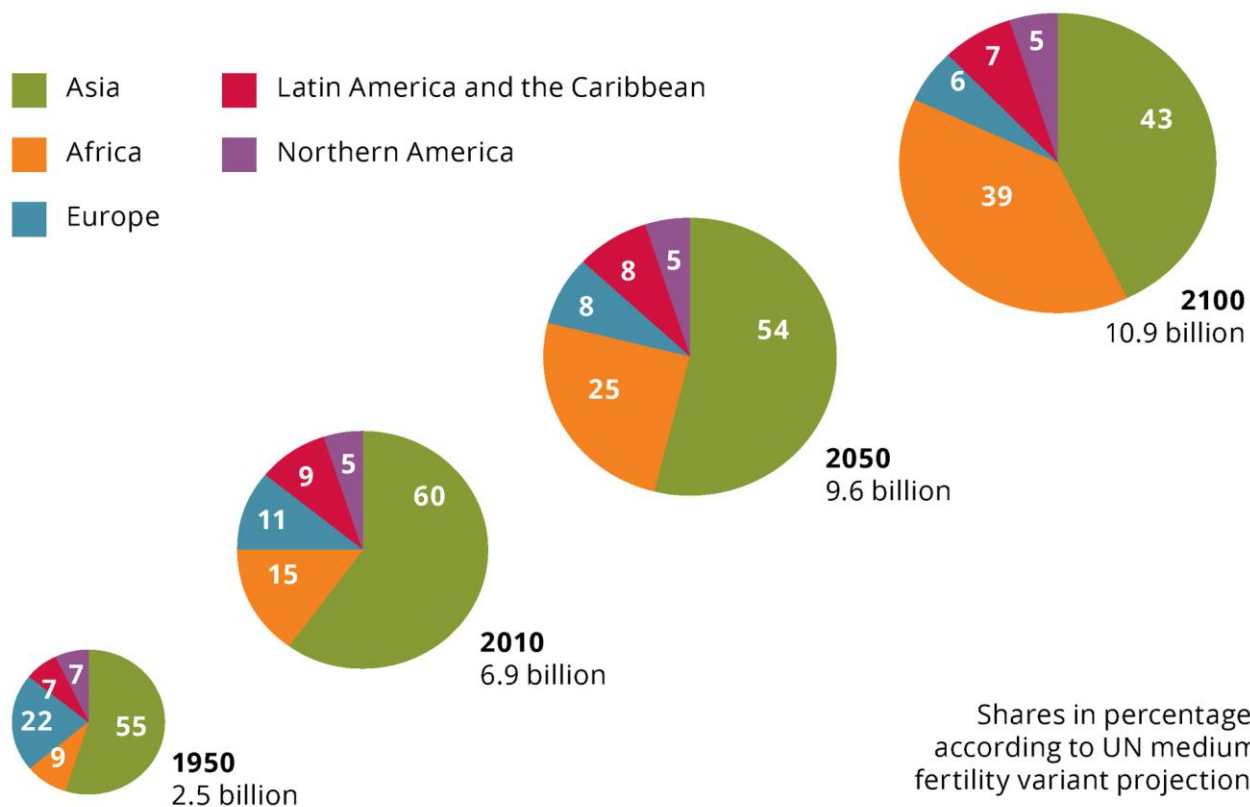


- Lack of implementation and enforcement of existing legislations and policy – public procurement set asides
- Barriers to accessing markets and finance
- Brilliant innovative technologies do not see light of day – not specified in public sector procurement
- No intentional allocation of capital and alignment of investment to women businesses

MY

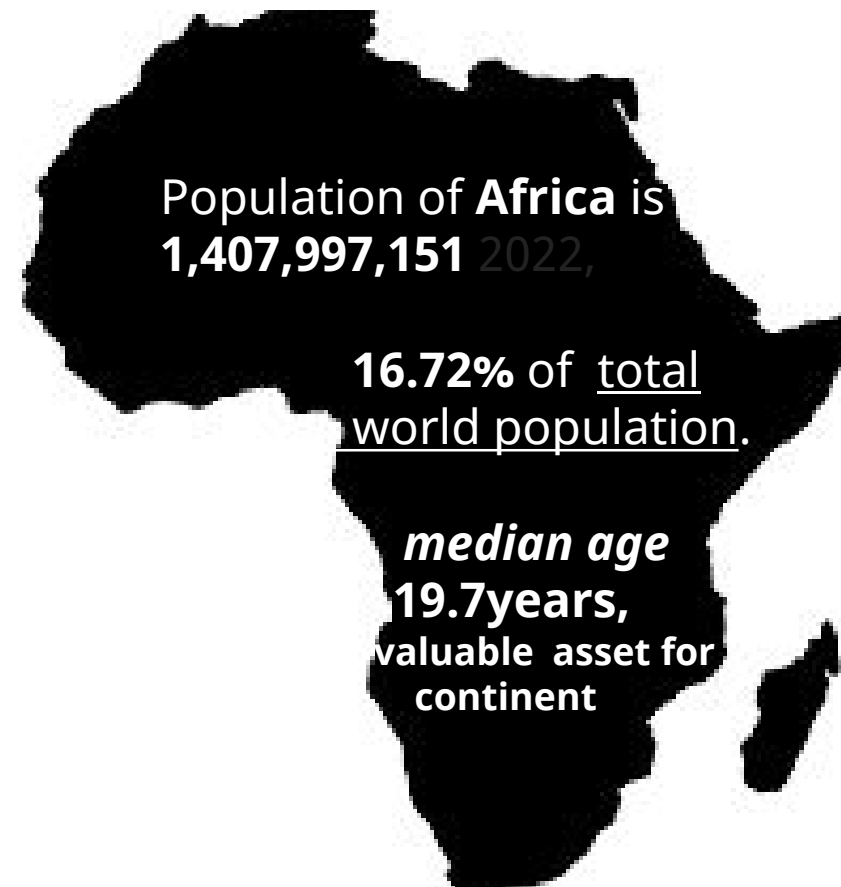
INSPIRATION

The potential of Africa and realization of its renaissance >> achieved through its people >> infrastructure to support human settlement to meet the demand



Support received from

1. **Water Research Commission**
Reference group participant, SASTEP programme
Opportunities to be part of the sanitation landscape
2. **Melinda and Bill Gates Foundation**
3. **University of KwaZulu Natal**
4. **eThekweni Municipality**
5. **VA : CESA, SAICE, CGBW,**
6. **Technology partners**



Source: based on the latest United Nations estimates 2022

Women user experience of sanitation services

Challenges

- Environment and distance females travel to gain access
- Lack of menstrual health management facilities
 - Facilities for disposal of menstrual waste,
 - Panic buttons
 - Adequate spread of and number of seats availability at public facilities
 - Private cubicles with safety features such as door latches
 - Hook for keeping personal items and garments off the floor
 - Adequate lighting
 - Access to water, soap, sanitary pads
 - Non transparent material of superstructure to provide privacy
 - People with disability – wheelchairs, also visual and hearing impairment, etc.
 - Toilet paper



Opportunities for innovation

Turning our challenges into our opportunities

Turning our challenges into our opportunities

- SA sanitation infrastructure not designed to serve current population needs
- Urbanization and migration to cities >> inadequate capacity of infrastructure
- Existing WTP do not meet Green Drop compliance >> pollution of rivers
- Government mandate to deliver services through provincial & municipalities , but have backlogs
- Provide solutions in areas previously considered not possible to provide certain level of services
- Drive to eradicate pit latrines
- Off Grid options for environmentally conscious consumers
- AFCFTA opens great demand for the rest of Africa and its growing population

Female centered facilities

- Address women-specific needs centered around
- Prevention of GBV
- Menstrual health management,
- Address needs for people living with disabilities



Climate sensitive designs

- Reduce, reuse and recycling of water, a scarce natural resource



Local business opportunities

- Operation and maintenance of next-generation of sanitation technology
- Turn “waste” from sanitation sector value chain into business opportunities – local businesses
- Operation & maintenance opportunities - Train, support, provide spare parts





Thank You

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