HLPF side event on water as the economic driver - July 7th, 2020

- seen through a lens of three Netherlands’ supported water initiatives
  - Valuing Water Initiative
  - Urban Deltas Collaboration
  - World Bank Global Water Security & Sanitation

- process support beyond project cycle, putting pieces of puzzle together
Water is central to jobs, economy, society, biosphere. Sure...

(Image credit: Azote for Stockholm Resilience Centre, Stockholm University)
An alternative version of the wedding cake. May capture better what is at stake in certain geographies. Could this inspire better decisions impacting water?
The story of Beira, Mozambique, and cyclone Idai
The bigger picture of Africa's urbanisation:
- Accelerating
- Largely informal
- Low productivity
- Large infra gaps
- Weak institutions

Can Beira do better than just cope?

For Beira, water/climate is a relevant entry point to urban resilience but in other contexts, other entry points may be more appropriate.
Beira engagement projects (3-5 yr) and process (15-20 yr)
SDGs are license for long-term support. Putting pieces of
the puzzle together can truly add value.

Phase 1: Vision / Planning / coalitions (ca. 2 yrs)
Phase 2: Preparing for change, getting basics right (ca. 5 yrs)
Phase 3: Infrastructure investments & better governance practices (ca. 10 yrs)

Project A
Enabling environment support 1
Masterplan/Vision
Project B
Project C
Project D
Project E
Enabling environment support 2
Enabling environment support 3

With competent political leadership and effective accountability vis a vis stakeholders
When local governmental political support falters

SDGs are license for long-term support. Putting pieces of the puzzle together can truly add value.
Grow first
Clean up later?

Nitrogen Use Reveals a Strange Paradox of Growth
Jobs & the economy: a double edged sword for water

Better decisions, and changes in behavior. What will it take? Different narrative, more accountability, stronger social contract

Water management alone will not save the day. While it enables realization of other SDG’s, integration requires long term effort.

All layers of the cake, connections between them, deserve good stewardship. Public and private actors need to up their game!