

ACTIONABLE GUIDANCE FOR NATIONAL GOVERNMENTS

Harnessing Water Point Data to Improve Drinking Water Services

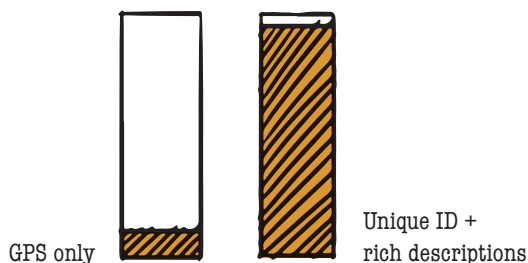
The Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) adopted by governments aim to ensure everyone has the water and sanitation services they need, when they need them (SDG 6). Evidence on the real state of basic and safely managed services, including water point data such as the location of water sources and their attributes, will be pivotal for achieving SDG 6.1 and national policy targets.

National governments have a crucial role in providing guidance and support for the collection and use of water point data. Beyond the need for coverage statistics at national level, districts and partners require water point data to plan and act to improve services. Good quality national water point monitoring data are also a catalyst for faster private and public investments. More investments are needed since the Sustainable Development Goals are not going to be met at the current rate of investment. This factsheet presents recommendations for national governments on “Harnessing Water Point Data to Improve Drinking Water Services”.¹

UNIVERSAL LESSONS

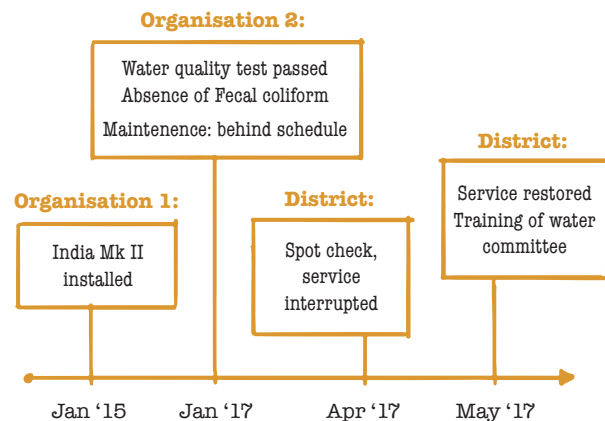
A few measures are within reach of all organizations collecting water point data and should be followed:

1 Use unique identifiers, rich descriptions and photos to ensure water points records are unambiguous and can be tracked over time. It should be possible to update a water point based on a phone call with a vendor or care taker.



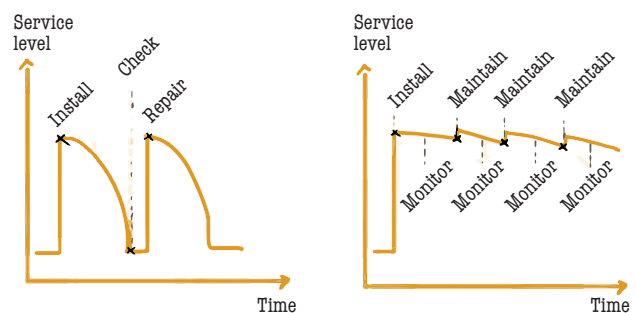
% data matches of water points

2 Publish points to the Water Point Data Exchange and National Water Atlases to ensure that these records and unique identifiers are known and reused.



Timeline for waterpoint #xxxxx

3 Contribute resources to national and district water monitoring and evaluation systems to ensure routine monitoring and evaluation of services. The [Direct Support Cost Tool](#) can estimate district requirements and [GLAAS/TrackFin](#) can help estimate national requirements.



Ad hoc monitoring

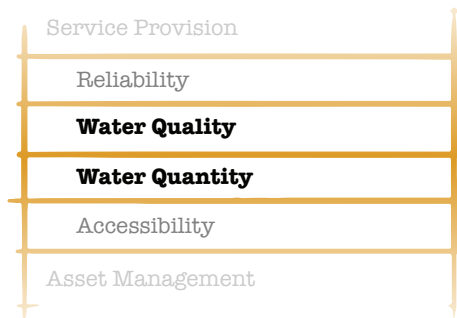
Routine monitoring

Many mobile data collection tools have “monitoring” or “updating” features that are important to turn on before data collection. They add unique identifiers and are easier for data collectors to use in the field than paper forms. Linking water points as a desk exercise based on GPS alone is difficult and error-prone.

¹ The White Paper presents the details of what water point data are, how they are used, and how they can be used more effectively to measure services and water resources, strengthen the enabling environment, and improve coordination. It also discusses the impact of recent innovations such as the remote monitoring of water points using mobile technology. The White Paper can be downloaded from <https://washnote.com>

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR NATIONAL GOVERNMENTS

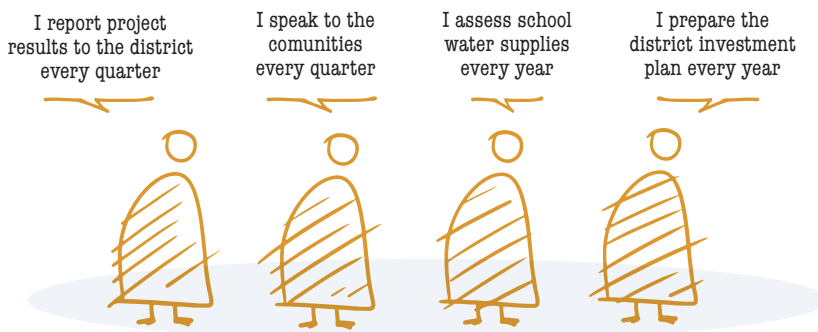
1 Help local governments and service authorities achieve results by incorporating service level and sustainability metrics that go beyond functionality into the national indicator framework. Provide monitoring results on paper where connectivity, power and digital competency are limited.



Service Monitoring in Ghana

The Community Water and Sanitation Agency of Ghana developed the “Framework for Assessing and Monitoring Rural and Small Town Water Supply Services in Ghana” to measure the performance of service providers and the support they receive from districts. In the process, the national District Monitoring and Evaluation System (DIMES) database of the Community Water and Sanitation Agency was updated to include the new framework and linked to Akvo FLOW for district level mobile data collection and a mobile phone based hand-pump spare parts sale service (SkyFox) for communities.

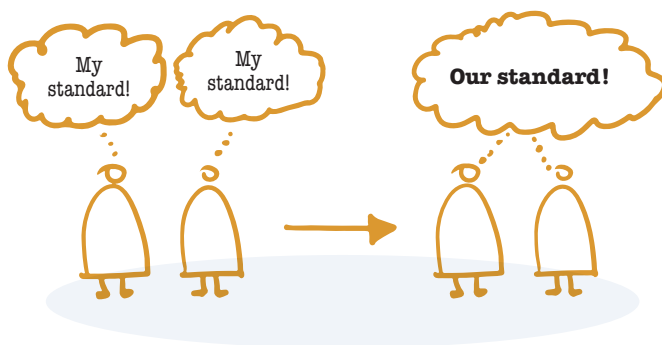
2 Establish clear institutional roles and responsibilities for the routine monitoring of water points at specific times on an annual basis, including the roles of local government and implementers. Tools such as the [12 components national WASH M&E system strengthening tool](#) can be used for this purpose.



Institutional Roles in Uganda

The Government of Uganda, together with partners, established clear institutional roles and responsibilities for sector stakeholders. They developed an annual reporting framework, enabled recurrent data collection at district level, and perform Joint Sector Reviews.

3 Use standard approaches and technologies, and then publish the data. This will make water point monitoring more robust because it reduces dependency on any single tool, database or website. This can become critical when resources are constrained and during emergencies.



Using Standard Approaches and Technologies in Latin America

A joint initiative from Latin American countries, Sistema de Información de Agua y Saneamiento Rural (SIASAR), created a basic, updated and comparable information tool on the rural water supply and sanitation services. It is used in Panama, Honduras, Nicaragua, Dominican Republic, Costa Rica, Oaxaca (Mexico), Peru, Ceara (Brasil), and Bolivia. SIASAR is an open system that can be applied in other countries.