

ACTIONABLE GUIDANCE FOR LOCAL GOVERNMENTS

Harnessing Water Point Data to Improve Drinking Water Services

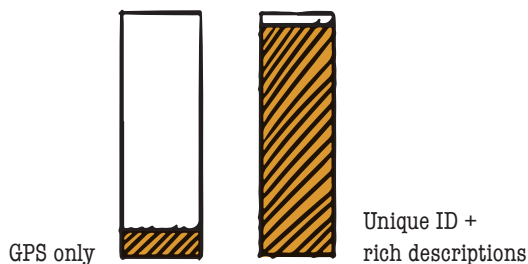
The Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) adopted by governments aim to ensure everyone has the water and sanitation services they need, when they need them (SDG 6). Evidence on the real state of basic and safely managed services, including water point data such as the location of water sources and their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

Local governments use water point data to determine the status of water services, make district investment plans, support communities, and advocate for district programs. They are a tool for guiding and coordinating partners working in an area and acquiring the financing required for sustainable water services. Local governments may work with partners to overcome barriers such as inadequate human resources and logistics for data collection and analysis. This factsheet presents recommendations for local governments on “Harnessing Water Point Data to Improve Drinking Water Services”.¹ The recommendations for local government apply equally to other service authorities involved in planning, coordination, regulation, and oversight of water services and technical assistance to water service providers and communities.

UNIVERSAL LESSONS

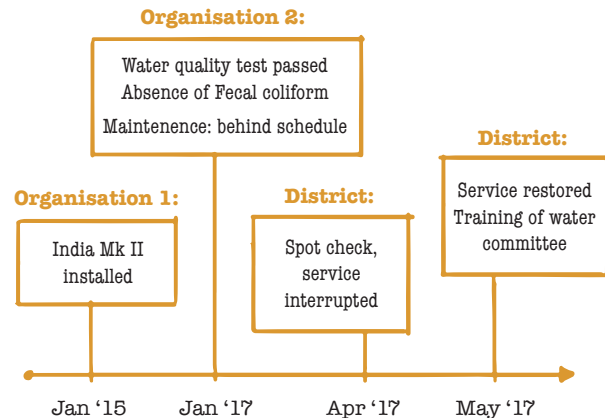
A few measures are within reach of all organizations collecting water point data and should be followed:

1 Use unique identifiers, rich descriptions and photos to ensure water point 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.



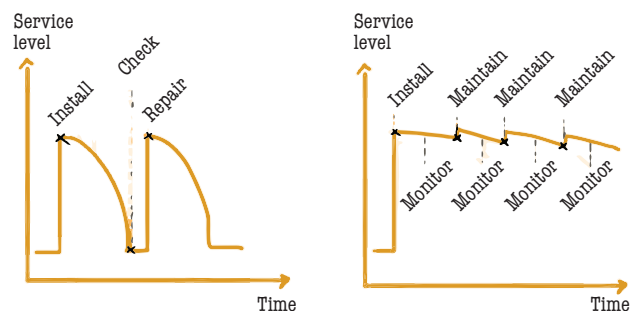
% data matches of water points

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 #xxxx

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

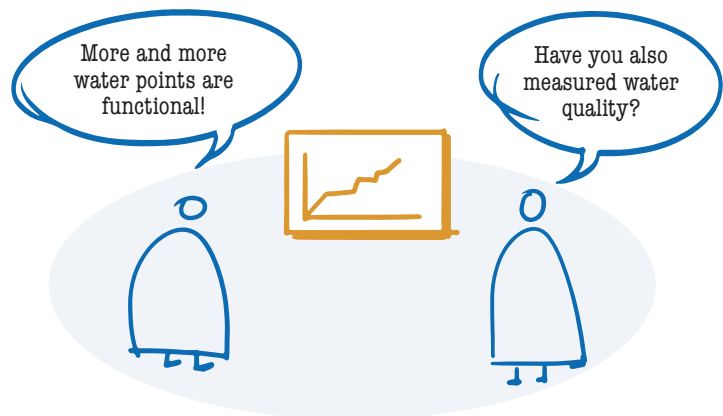
Routine monitoring

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.

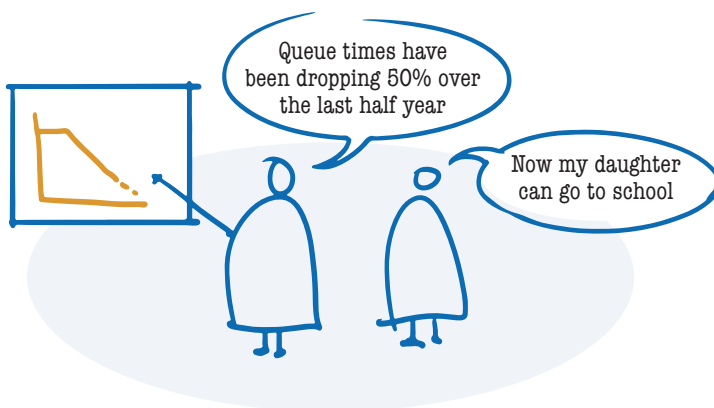
¹ The White Paper presents the details of what water point data are, how they are used, and how they can be used more effectively to measure services and water resources, strengthen the enabling environment, and improve coordination. It also discusses the impact of recent innovations such as the remote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

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR LOCAL GOVERNMENTS

1 Require NGOs and the private sector to collect water point data meeting national standards, to monitor results, and to share their data with the district and other stakeholders. They should have to explain the results of their water point monitoring during coordination meetings. Provide feedback to the national government when there are challenges using data.



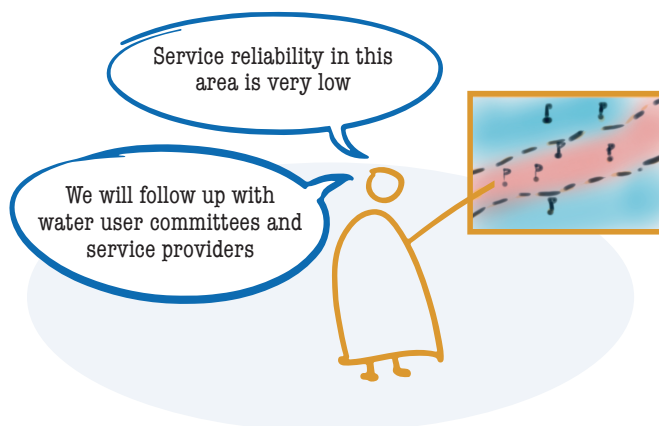
2 Use water point data to tell the story of water services to politicians, financiers, and users to sustain interest in achieving universal access to basic water services. Evidence-based investment plans using water point data can facilitate dialogue between water engineers, planners and politicians on how to improve services.



Coordination and Advocacy in Kamwenge District, Uganda

In Kamwenge, water point data are used in coordination meetings at the district level. The use of water point data has facilitated the distribution of resources, identification of infrastructure failure rates, and development of the District Investment Plan in 2015. The investment plan estimates what financial resources are needed to reach everyone by 2030. This has enhanced active participation of local politicians using functionality and coverage data to advocate for water services.

3 Use water point data to plan corrective actions and design programs with partners. For this to work efficiently, development partners and government must work with the same standards and indicators. Ensure local lessons are included in the choice of data to collect.



National monitoring data used in 11 Districts in Ghana

After the publication of the national "Framework for Assessing and Monitoring Rural and Small Town Water Supply Services in Ghana", [monitoring data has been used](#) in 11 districts to inform District Water and Sanitation Plans. It has informed repairs and rehabilitation of over 600 boreholes with hand pumps restoring water services to an estimated 180,000 people and has stimulated several local governments to form or reconstitute the teams managing water points under two donor-funded programs.