

ACTIONABLE GUIDANCE FOR NGOS AND IMPLEMENTERS

Harnessing Water Point Data to Improve Drinking Water Services

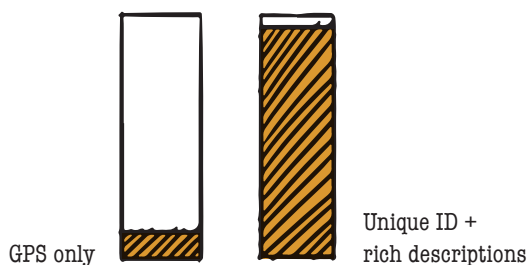
The Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) adopted by governments aim to ensure everyone has the water and sanitation services they need, when they need them (SDG 6). Evidence on the real state of basic and safely managed services, including water point data such as the location of water sources and their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

For NGOs and implementers, water point monitoring throughout program life-cycles is crucial for ensuring the results of programs and improving value for money. When water point monitoring is done in partnership with local government following national and international standards, it truly has the potential to identify problems on time, reduce reputational risk, and sustain real progress towards the SDG 6.1. This factsheet presents recommendations for NGOs and implementers on “Harnessing Water Point Data to Improve Drinking Water Services”.¹

UNIVERSAL LESSONS

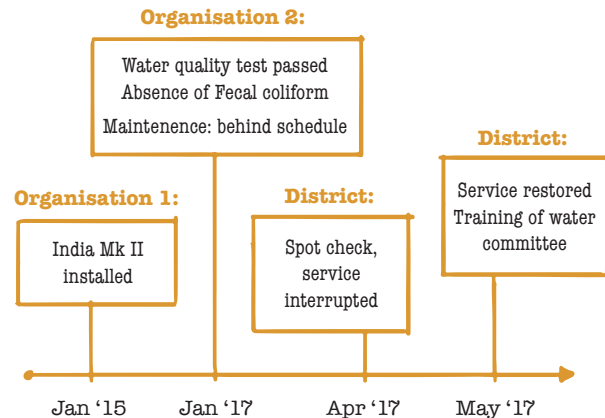
A few measures are within reach of all organizations collecting water point data and should be followed:

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

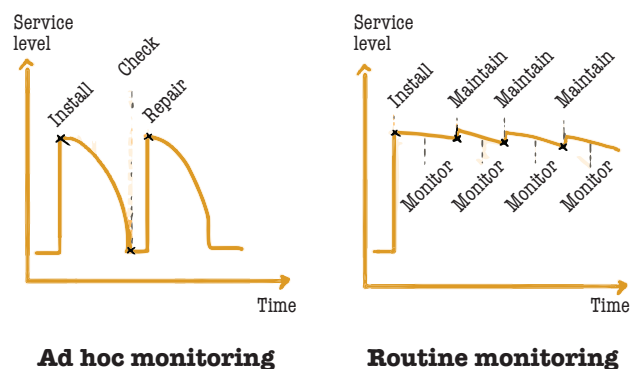


% data matches of water points

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.



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.

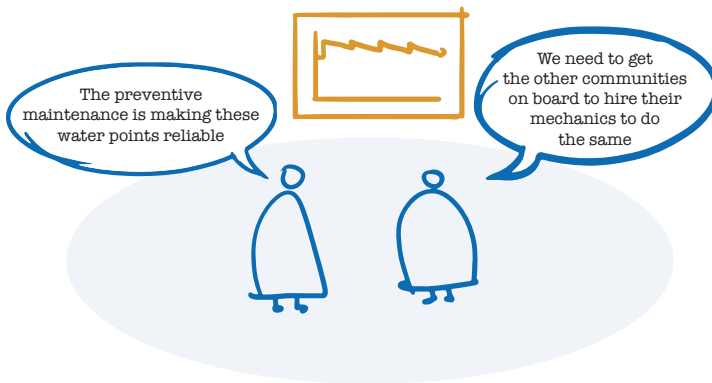


Many mobile data collection tools have “monitoring” or “updating” features that are important to turn on before data collection. They add unique identifiers and are easier for data collectors to use in the field than paper forms. Linking water points as a desk exercise based on GPS alone is difficult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

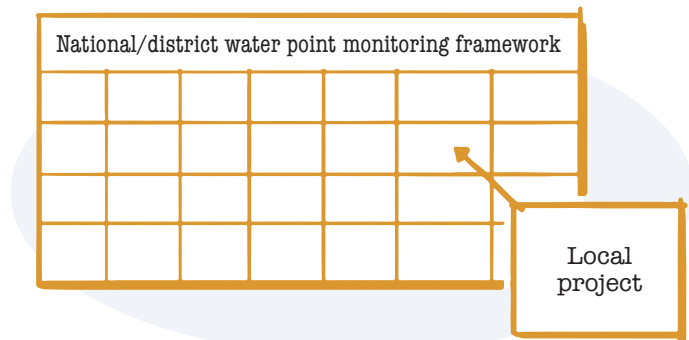
1 Identify and use existing water point data before program conception and share any new water point updates and results with partners at the local level. Water point data can help to engage in a dialogue to address local needs.



A Dialogue for Preventive Maintenance in Bombali

In Bombali District, Sierra Leone, Inter Aide initiated a preventive maintenance scheme in 2010. In participating communities, a caretaker does bi-weekly minor maintenance and on an annual basis the community hires an official pump technician for major maintenance. The information about the work on each water point is collected to inform, identify required repairs or rehabilitation, and to monitor uptake of preventive maintenance. With more and more communities participating, Inter Aide is finding that preventive maintenance of the water points pays off. The collected water point data are being used to convince the traditional authorities and local government of the importance of preventive maintenance and integrate more communities into the same preventive maintenance scheme.

2 Monitor water points using existing standards such as the [Water Point Data Exchange](#), [JMP](#), [GLAAS](#), regional ones established by AMCOW and SIASAR, and national frameworks. Do so in coordination with the local government and/or national government when possible to increase the visibility and legitimacy of program outcomes.



3 Set aside a part of the program budget to support the capacity of local governments to monitor and evaluate water point data and strengthen their roles. Use the [Direct Support Tool](#) to estimate needs. District wide approaches, such as the one adopted by the [Agenda for Change](#), can serve to improve coordination, long term results and accountability.

