

Global Scaling Up Rural Sanitation

Utilizing Community-Based Registers to Monitor Improved Access to Sanitation and Hygiene in Tanzania

January 2011

INTRODUCTION

In Tanzania, the Water and Sanitation Program (WSP) has been supporting the Government of Tanzania in 10 districts to increase access to improved sanitation. This initiative to improve rural sanitation at large scale combines Community-Led Total Sanitation (CLTS), behavior change communication, and sanitation marketing approaches, and supports both local and national governments to develop capacity to create sustainable change.

In recent years, there has been limited progress in establishing a standardized, systematic monitoring system to track sanitation and hygiene conditions in Tanzania. Manually generated reports are used to capture data on an ad hoc basis. Two challenges exist. First, even though it is commonly used in fieldwork, manual data collection is always subject to error. For example, a check is made in the wrong box or numbers are added inaccurately. A certain level of error is acceptable and is built into the interpretation of data, but it is important to establish the exact level of error in order to know how representative and accurate the information is. Second, without a standardized framework, comparing the data between districts or villages or capturing an accurate picture of the current situation is difficult.

To increase standardization and accuracy of data collection, WSP is working with local governments and CLTS committees to implement community-based and managed registers. The registers are designed to monitor progress toward improved hygiene and sanitation at the household level. The registers have been introduced by local government at the sub-village level during CLTS triggering and are the primary tool that the sub-village CLTS committee uses to monitor progress.

PROBLEM STATEMENT

While the use of village registers can help to establish a standard framework, they have been introduced and managed in different ways in different districts. WSP wanted to assess how the village registers are being used, the level of consistency and whether there is potential to scale the registers up as a monitoring tool.

ACTION

A validation exercise was conducted in five districts to verify data collected in the village registers. At the time of the study 250 sub-villages had been triggered through CLTS and were using registers. Of these, a random sample consisting of 50 sub-villages (20 percent of triggered

Key findings

- In order to maximize the accuracy of performance monitoring, the people responsible for collecting data must appreciate the value of performance data for decision-making.
- Data collectors must be trained on specific data collection techniques and the importance of data collection. Such training can improve the accuracy of data collected.
- The importance of performance monitoring must be stressed as part of the triggering activities.
- Building on a government-led initiative is likely to be more successful than setting up a parallel monitoring system.

Illustration 1: Village Register

MONITORING SUPERVISION FORM.

Orodha ya kuhakiki vyo vya kutongoji cha Jamii imeridhia ulekezaji wa kuboresha vya Tarehe ya kuhakiki

TEMEKE... Kijiji... KATA... KATA

na Usafi wa Mazingira kwa jamii nzima kuanzia tarehe... hadi... (Siku/mwezi/mwaka)

Na.	Jina la mkuu wa kata.	Inachoo	Sakafu			UKW/Kibanda			USAFI				Mara
			Kuna Bamba	Tundu cina kifunika	Sakafu fishi ka-	Kina kuti za kumse-tzi mtumiaji	Kimele zekwa	Kina mlango unamisa-tiri mfu maji	Kina harifu	Kina Inzi/Meade	Kuna vifaa vya kucha-maji	Kuna vifaa wa kumasa maji chuo.	
1.		✓	x	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	x	✓	✓	✓	
2.		✓	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	✓	✓	✓	Akan
3.		✓	x	x	x	x	✓	x	✓	✓	x	x	"
4.		✓	x	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	"
5.		✓	x	x	x	x	x	x	✓	✓	x	x	Ade
6.		x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	"
7.		✓	x	x	✓	✓	✓	✓	x	✓	✓	✓	"
8.		✓	x	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	"
9.		✓	x	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	x	x	"

villages) and 15 households from each sub-village, (10 percent of households) was selected for the study. During the exercise, the team was only able to physically reach (e.g. due to closed bridges and roads) 44 of the 50 sub-villages selected.

Verification was based on data collected from three sources: direct observations of sanitation and hygiene facilities during household visits; a comparison of household observations with data recorded in village registers (Illustrations 1 and 2); and qualitative interviews with the sub-village CLTS committees.

KEY LESSONS

The results of this exercise are being used to improve the register system. Analysis of the study data showed the following:

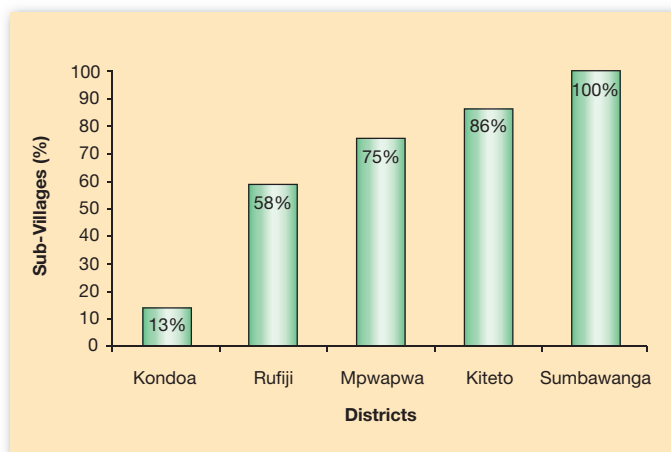
- Registers had been introduced in all five districts but not all wards.
- Registers were present in over half of the sub-villages studied. Although registers were present in 24 of the 44 sub-villages studied, there was a wide range of usage among districts (Figure 1). For example, registers were present in all of

Illustration 2: Sample of Data Collected in a Village Register (English Translation)

Name	Household Latrine	Floor			Superstructure			Hygiene and Cleanliness		
	Latrine Present	Slab	Squat hole cover	Is floor wash-able	Adequate privacy	Roof	Door	Is there any smell	Are there flies and/or cockroaches	Handwashing with soap station outside latrine
Household 1	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	x	✓	x	x	x
Household 2	✓	x	✓	x	✓	x	x	x	x	x
Household 3	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	x	✓	x	x	✓
Household 4	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x

At the time of the validation exercise, the village registers were handwritten. The pages used to capture the sanitation and hygiene status are narrow so that Household names can be written just once, similar to a school register (Note: the register should contain the names of all households in the sub-village). The indicators observed and recorded are based on the Government of Tanzania's definitions of improved sanitation.

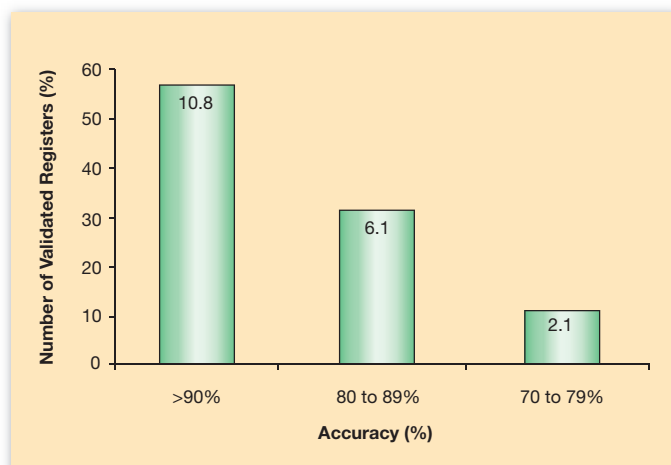
Figure 1: Percent of Sub-Villages Where Register Is Present



the sub-villages studied in Sumbawanga, compared to 13% of sub-villages studied in Kondoia. In Sumbawanga, strong leadership throughout local government from sub-village up to district has contributed to the 100% coverage of the registers. In sub-villages where registers had not yet been used, the reasons cited included: a) ward or district government had not provided the sub-village with a book (even though the registers were handwritten); and b) the triggering process had not been completed to the point where monitoring had been introduced.

- **Eleven percent of registers were filled out accurately.** Although a total of 24 registers were present in the sub-villages studied, only 19 of these registers could be validated. In five, baseline data was missing and therefore the registers were not suitable for validation. Of the 19 registers validated: two (11%) were 100% accurate; six (32%) were filled out with a moderately

Figure 2: Accuracy of Data Collected in Validated Registers (n=19)

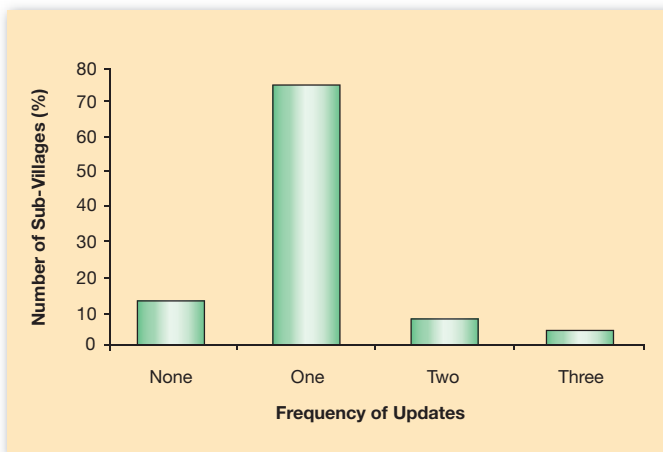


high degree of accuracy; and 11 (57%) had significant errors, with a degree of accuracy less than 70%. These results are shown in Figure 2. The comparatively low percentage of registers with an acceptable level of accuracy may reflect the lack of emphasis placed on performance monitoring during the triggering, the lack of value placed on data collection, and insufficient training of those responsible for collecting data.

- **Increased training may increase the accuracy of the registers.** Most of the errors can be attributed to the fact that not all households were captured in the baseline or follow-up. Based on information collected through interviews with CLTS committees, the registers were not completed correctly because those responsible for capturing the information had not been briefed on the process.
- **Registers are not updated on a monthly basis as envisioned.** In a majority of sub-villages, data was collected just once (Figure 3). Qualitative interviews with CLTS committees showed marked variation in willingness to engage with filling out and updating the registers. As might be expected, communities with accurately filled out registers tended to have more highly motivated teams collecting monitoring data. The teams report being motivated because they considered it part of a leadership role that they have been entrusted with in their respective communities (by being elected to the CLTS committee). Another observation from the team carrying out the validation exercise were very proud to have their facility inspected if they felt they had made significant improvements.
- **In spite of the challenges, village registers are potentially viable community-based and managed tool for monitoring progress over time.** Project experience in trying to set up a monitoring system has not been successful. Since the Government of Tanzania plans to promote the use of registers, it makes most sense to endorse and support this method of monitoring. Two district governments decided to extend the validation exercise to all wards and requested further guidance from WSP on how to do this.

An After Action Review was carried out based on the findings of the validation exercise. A number of concrete actions were identified and implemented to improve the quality and frequency of data collection and register use:

- Adapted the register to include a column to indicate if the squat hole cover is being used; added separate columns to indicate the presence of soap and water in addition to a handwashing with soap station.
- Printed versions of the adapted registers to disseminate to all sub-villages through local government.
- Introduced a form to aggregate and collate data from village, ward, and district levels.
- Requested the Ministry of Health to ensure district-level governments are reminded of their obligation to collect and report on sanitation and hygiene data.

Figure 3: Frequency of Monthly Updates (n=24)

WHAT ELSE DO WE NEED TO KNOW?

A key area of learning is to better understand how to increase motivation to record and use data for decision-making. Factors that impede improved monitoring, including under-reporting and the failure to send data on, can be attributed in part to the lack of value placed on good data and the lack of incentives for collecting and valuing data.

Following a one-day workshop in July 2010 to review all project monitoring, the project decided to spend some time working out how to encourage people at all levels of the data collection process—from the CLTS committee through the

village and ward executive offices to district officials—to “value” data. Currently the team is exploring ways to incentivize and motivate data collection as well as ways to feed aggregated data back to the implementation team to increase its value for decision-making.

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About the project

Global Scaling Up Rural Sanitation is a WSP project focused on learning how to combine the approaches of CLTS, behavior change communications, and social marketing of sanitation to generate sanitation demand and strengthen the supply of sanitation products and services at scale, leading to improved health for people in rural areas. It is a large-scale effort to meet the basic sanitation needs of the rural poor who do not currently have access to safe and hygienic sanitation. Local and national governments implement the project with technical support from WSP. For more information, please visit www.wsp.org/scalingupsanitation.

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