

THE RURAL WATER AND SANITATION INFORMATION SYSTEM (SIASAR)

The Sistema de Información de Agua y Saneamiento Rural or SIASAR was developed to assist water sector policymakers, practitioners, and national planners to monitor the development and performance of rural water supply and sanitation services. SIASAR was developed in response to the demand for systematic and reliable information, and is a part of a regional initiative promoted by the Central America and Dominican Republic Water and Sanitation Forum (FOCARD-APS) and supported by World Bank, Swiss Development Cooperation, the Spanish Cooperation, the Inter-American Development Bank, and other partners. SIASAR includes a classification scheme that was developed through workshops and technical meetings held by WASH stakeholders from the participating countries. A ranking is given from A to D (with A being the highest performance and D the lowest) for each of four 'entities': community, infrastructure, service providers, and technical assistance providers. Data is collected through key informant interviews and a technical assessment. Data for the technical assistance providers are collected by representatives of the municipal government and the scoring is based upon the availability and quality of direct support to communities. This support could be provided by local or national sector institutions, NGOs, or the private sector. Once data is collected for each entity: communities, infrastructure systems, service providers, and technical assistance providers and the ranking is established (A-D), then SIASAR automatically generates performance indicators and produces summary reports. This information is aggregated at several geographic levels and is presented on an interactive map.

GENERAL DESCRIPTION

Target: Water policy makers, planners, service providers, and implementing organisations.

Objective: To improve the operational value of existing rural water and sanitation information systems; system classification provides a metrics for comparison (e.g. same system over time or between systems).

Areas: For the system classification: technical; for the other entities: community organisation, environment, service level, financial, and general coverage.

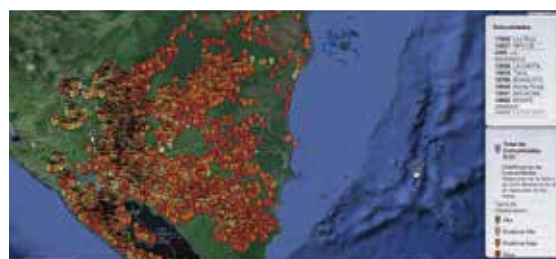
Indicators: Each entity has a different number of indicators: community (8), system (8), service provider (7), and technical assistance provider (5). For the system classification indicators include: water supply, intake structure, conduction line, storage condition, distribution network, storage capacity, micro-shed status, chlorine residual.

Methodology: An operations and maintenance technician or 'circuit rider' collects general community information, conducts an interview with the service provider, and conducts a technical assessment of the system. Information for the technical service provider is collected separately. A ranking is given for each indicator on a scale of 1-4. From this ranking a classification of A-D is given for each 'entity': community, system, service provider and technical service provider.

Outputs: Tables, charts, and map with stoplight.

Tool format and language: Online; Spanish (a multi-lingual platform is being planned).

Resource Link: <http://siasar.org/>



IMPACT AND FINDINGS

The long-term sustainability and scale-up of SIASAR is being addressed through strong institutional buy-in from regional, national and local governments. To date over 7,700 communities have had data entered (Nicaragua 6,521; Honduras 868; Panama 308; Dominican Republic 31). In addition, the governments of Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Peru (region of 'La Libertad '), and Mexico (State of Oaxaca) are interested in joining the initiative.

Strengths	Limitations
System classification framework is simple	System classification system only has technical focus
SIASAR has been harmonized between countries, although the platform can be adapted	Requires specialized knowledge to replicate platform and mobile data collection system
Once mobile collection and platform are established, data analysis is real-time	