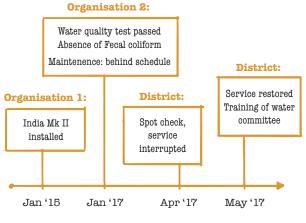# ACTIONABLE GUIDANCE FOR DONORS AND INVESTORS

Harnessing Water Point Data to Improve Drinking Water Services

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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 donors and investors, 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 donors and investors on "Harnessing Water Point Data to Improve Drinking Water Services".[1]

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.
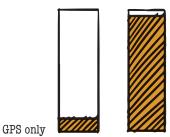

Timeline for waterpoint #xxxx

UNIVERSAL LESSONS

A few measures are within reach of all organizations collecting water point data and should be followed:
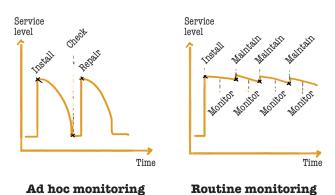
1 Use unique identifiers, rich descriptions and photos to ensure water point records are unambiguous and can be tracked over time. It should be possible to update a water point based on a phone call with a vendor or care taker.

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.
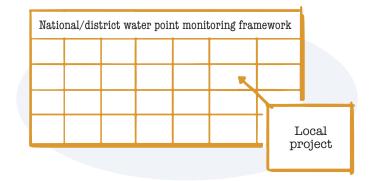

GPS only   Unique ID + rich descriptions

% data matches of water points

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR DONORS AND INVESTORS

1 Require grantees and businesses to evaluate existing water point data during the proposal stage and use service level and sustainability metrics throughout the program life-cycle to simplify audits and value for money assessments.

Water Point #XXXX				
	Jan 2018	Jun 2018	Jan 2019	Jun 2019
Reliability				
Water Quality				
Water Quantity				
Accessibility				
Condition				
Year of installation				
Functionality				

2 Adopt a policy of working within national and district water point monitoring frameworks. National and district-wide approaches, like Agenda For Change, have the potential to sustain monitoring and water services beyond the project life-span and improve long-term investment and reduce reputational risks.

National/district water point monitoring framework

Local project

National frameworks

Countries such as Ghana and Uganda have national monitoring frameworks and standard data collection forms for the monitoring water points, as well as standard indicators for the analysis of the data and results. In both cases, development partners played crucial roles in providing capacity and funding or the development of the national framework for monitoring of water services.

3 Invest in improving international standards around indicators and water point data to lower transaction costs and complexity.

My standard!

My standard!

Our standard!

SIASAR, the Pan-African M&E System and the Water Point Data Exchange (WPDx)

Sistema de Información de Agua y Saneamiento Rural (SIASAR), the AMCOW Pan-African M&E System and WPDx are examples of donor supported regional and international standards designed to reduce the complexity of national and global monitoring. points under two donor-funded programs.