

Roundtable 3 – Data – World Vision Statement

For WASH indicators that require a large amount of data collected by a large number of different individuals (i.e. household access to water and sanitation), it is important to **make complex indicators as easy to collect as possible**. Right now, we have a data gap in sanitation. This is likely because sanitation facilities in rural areas are difficult to classify as basic or limited. Simple and clear guidance is needed so that when data collection is cascaded from the global to the national to the regional to the community level, everyone has a common understanding. Otherwise, we may be collecting data that is not comparable across organizations or countries resulting in a skewed analysis of pooled data. Progress on sanitation and household hygiene is particularly susceptible to this issue.

For indicators where a lot of analysis can be done without needing to do household data collection (i.e. climate modeling, groundwater use, etc), it is easier to ignore the community members who should have access to that data and how it affects their daily life. **Data needs to be validated through bottom-up approaches**, even when satellite data can be used to propose top-down solutions. In all our data collection efforts, we need to keep the needs of the community members at the center and give them access to the data and the conclusions that come from that data.