



World Vision

Millennium Child Support Group

# Accelerating SDG 6 Implementation: Water Action Agenda and Interlinkages with Other SDGs

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10 July 2023



Millennium Child Support Group

Welcome



# Agenda

- Integration of WASH with Health (SDG 3)
- Integration of WASH with Education (SDG 4)
- Integration of WASH with Gender Equality (SDG 5)
- Integration of WASH with Energy (SDG 7)
- Integration of WASH with Climate (SDG 13)
- Integration of WASH with Partnership (SDG 17)
- Panel discussion and audience Q&A





# WASH and Health

SDG 6 and SDG 3

3 GOOD HEALTH AND WELL-BEING





# WASH-ing Away Slum Living: A Case Study from Ghana

- The slum dweller community in Ghana is home to thousands of individuals who live in extreme poverty and face numerous challenges on a daily basis.
- In Asawasi-Asokore Mampong in Ashanti Region, residents deal with:
  - Poor water and sanitation facilities
  - Poor drainage system and garbage dump
  - No toilets and bathing facilities
  - High poverty rate and high school dropouts
  - No health facilities and poor hygiene





# WASH and Health

- Limited access to clean water combined with poor sanitation conditions can have serious consequences for health.
- Lack of clean water and proper sanitation facilities can lead to the spread of diseases and illnesses, particularly among children and vulnerable populations.
- Families often lack access to proper sanitation facilities, which can lead to the spread of diseases such as diarrhoea and cholera.



# MCSG Actions



Millennium Child Support Group

- **Promotion of hygiene practices**
  - Handwashing, safe food handling, and the BabyWASH approach
- **Community mobilization**
  - Behavior change
  - Provision of education and resources
- **Open communication and community engagement** to improve long-term sustainability
  - Given the resources, people affected by crises have the capacity to develop their own solutions.
  - MCSG believes that honest dialogue and open communication with communities are always effective. We therefore take time to listen to the voices of the most vulnerable.





# Call to Action

- We cannot ignore the dire need for WASH programs at slum communities in Ghana.
- Lack of access to clean water, sanitation, and hygiene facilities has severe consequences on the health and well-being of individuals and communities, especially children under 5 years.
- It's time for us to come together and make a difference.





# WASH in HCFs in Niger

**Objective:** Address the issue of poor access to WASH services in HCFs and the risk of healthcare-associated infections.

## Key Interventions:

- Support the [Ministry of Health](#) in institutionalizing WASH in HCFs
- Construct climate-sensitive infrastructure (solar energy), considering [sustainability, inclusion and gender issues](#)
- Initiate a system for [mobilizing funds](#) through the construction of community water points
- Set up low-cost chlorine production units to ensure [cleanliness at facilities](#)







# WASH and Education

SDG 6 and SDG 4

4 QUALITY EDUCATION





# Interlinkages between WASH and Education

- Access to clean WASH facilities plays a crucial role in ensuring quality education for all.
- Without these basic necessities, students may miss school due to illness or lack of privacy and dignity, hindering their ability to learn and succeed.
- Well-managed latrines and menstrual hygiene management (MHM) facilities at schools:
  - Reduce spread of diseases
  - Protect privacy and dignity of girls
  - Increase school enrolment
  - Provide a more conducive environment for learning





# "Education for All"

- Girls' education faces many challenges in Ghana:
  - Poverty,
  - Cultural beliefs
  - Early marriage
  - Lack of access to sanitary products
  - Inadequate facilities make managing menstrual hygiene and health difficult for girls, which can lead to absenteeism



Involving students is a key part of MCSG's approach to WASH in schools. Here, girls share their MHM experience.



# MCSG Activities

- MCSG findings indicate that WASH is poorly managed at the public schools. School toilets are sometimes abandoned.
- MCSG advocates for improved toilet facilities for all basic schools in the 16 regions of Ghana.
- By giving girls a voice, they have a say in decisions that affect their learning environment.



“The toilet in our school is not in use because of the bad state of the facility. The slabs are in a deplorable state and are dangerous for human use.”

- 13-year-old student



# Call to Action

- The current state of MHM facilities in Ghana is dire. Women and girls are suffering from inadequate resources and lack of access to proper MHM facilities.
- We must act now to improve these facilities and provide better care for those who need it. You can make a difference in the lives of girls in Ghana.
- This requires collaboration between stakeholders, including government agencies, NGOs, and local communities.



# El Salvador WASH in Schools

- El Salvador has approximately 5,143 public schools nationwide.
- There are 1,000 schools that have significant need for WASH improvement (mainly access to water and sanitation services).
- These needs have various causes:
  - Historical lack of investment (in the last 30 years or more)
  - Failure to incorporate a WASH service sustainability approach (recognize post-implementation needs)
  - Failure to generate local capacity for maintenance and sustainability of services
  - Failure to diversify the modalities of financing for the maintenance of WASH services.





## Our Work on 2 Fronts

### Front A: WASH infrastructure projects

Support schools that are not prioritized by the approved financing available to the Ministry

Work in coordination with the Ministry of Education for the approval of planned interventions

Development of local capacity: establishment of School WASH Committees including teachers, parents and students

### Front B: Advocacy at national level for sustainability

Identify gaps in the capacity of the Ministry of Education for WASH infrastructure monitoring

Work with the Salvadoran Water Authority to support the creation of standards/regulations that ensure investment for sustainability

## Recommendations

- Analyze the structure of existing policies and laws related to the allocation of funds for sustainability (maintenance, repair and expansion).
- In the design of projects, incorporate the calculation of the costs associated with maintenance and repair.
- Ensure institutions are considering post-implementation needs. Ask the question: who will ensure the service is maintained?
- Incorporate issues related to the maintenance, repair, and expansion of WASH services into local capacity development processes.
- Involve students in the WASH Committees to energize the groups and help keep adults (teachers and parents) motivated.





# WASH and Gender Equality

SDG 6 and SDG 5



# SDG 5 + SDG 6: Linkages

5.1 End all forms of **discrimination** against all women and girls everywhere

Responding to the specific needs of women and girls, reducing discrimination and setting a tone for inclusion more broadly.

5.2 Eliminate all forms of **violence** against all women and girls in the public and private spheres, including trafficking and sexual and other types of exploitation

Safe, dignified and reliable water and sanitation access help to prevent sexual and gender-based violence.

5.3 Eliminate all harmful practices, such as child, early and forced marriage and female genital mutilation

FGM has been linked to climate change. Strong and sustainable water resource management can mitigate the effects of climate change, which can have a ripple effect on FGM.

# SDG 5 + SDG 6: Linkages

5.4 Recognize and value **unpaid care and domestic work** through the provision of public services, infrastructure and social protection policies and the promotion of shared responsibility within the household and the family as nationally appropriate

5.5 Ensure women's **full and effective participation and equal opportunities for leadership** at all levels of decision-making in political, economic and public life

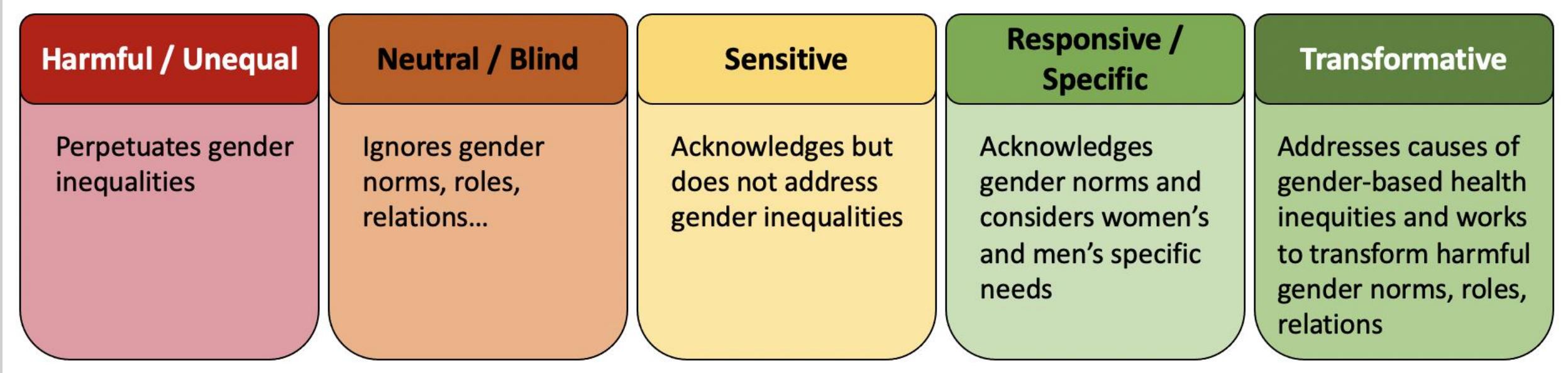
5.6 Ensure **universal access to sexual and reproductive health** and reproductive rights as agreed in accordance with the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development and the Beijing Platform for Action and the outcome documents of their review conferences

Water collection and caregiving for the sick remains a primary responsibility for women and girls. WASH can result in time savings, and transformative WASH can help foster more equitable norms.

The role of women in the provision, management and safeguarding of water has long been acknowledged, though women are still woefully underrepresented.

Sanitation and hygiene – with particular emphasis on menstrual health and hygiene – are a critical foundation to sexual and reproductive health, helping girls understand their bodies, reducing stigma and false beliefs around menstruation, and laying a foundation for greater agency for women in the area of sexual and reproductive health.

# What is Gender Transformative WASH?



# World Vision® GESI Continuum

<b>Not GESI Responsive</b>	<b>GESI Absent</b>	<p>There is no consideration of gender norms and unequal power relations, or potential patterns of gender equality or social inclusion in the design or delivery of program activities.</p> <p>There is no discussion of the gendered or inclusive dimensions of the environment where programs may be operating in and how this may affect interventions.</p>
	<b>GESI Exploitative</b>	<p>Reinforces, uses and/or takes advantage of gender inequalities, social norms and stereotypes.</p>
	<b>GESI Insensitive</b>	<p>Gender norms and social inequalities are acknowledged as key aspects of context but not brought into any aspects of program planning, delivery, or feedback.</p>
<b>GESI Responsive</b>	<b>GESI Accommodating/ Sensitive</b>	<p>Acknowledges but works around gender, disability or other social differences and inequalities to achieve project objectives.</p> <p>Interventions address practical needs of vulnerable groups but not the underlying root causes of inequality or exclusion.</p> <p>There is a “missed opportunity” to shift norms that reinforce inequality and exclusion.</p>
	<b>GESI Transformative</b>	<p>Actively seeks to engage with and transform gender and social inequalities in the long term to achieve GESI sustainable change.</p> <p>Challenges or shifts gender norms, unequal power relations, stereotypes and discriminatory practices.</p> <p>Promotes equitable systems.</p>

**GOAL** | Better development outcomes for the most vulnerable.

# WOMEN'S AND GIRLS' WATER- AND SANITATION-RELATED EMPOWERMENT

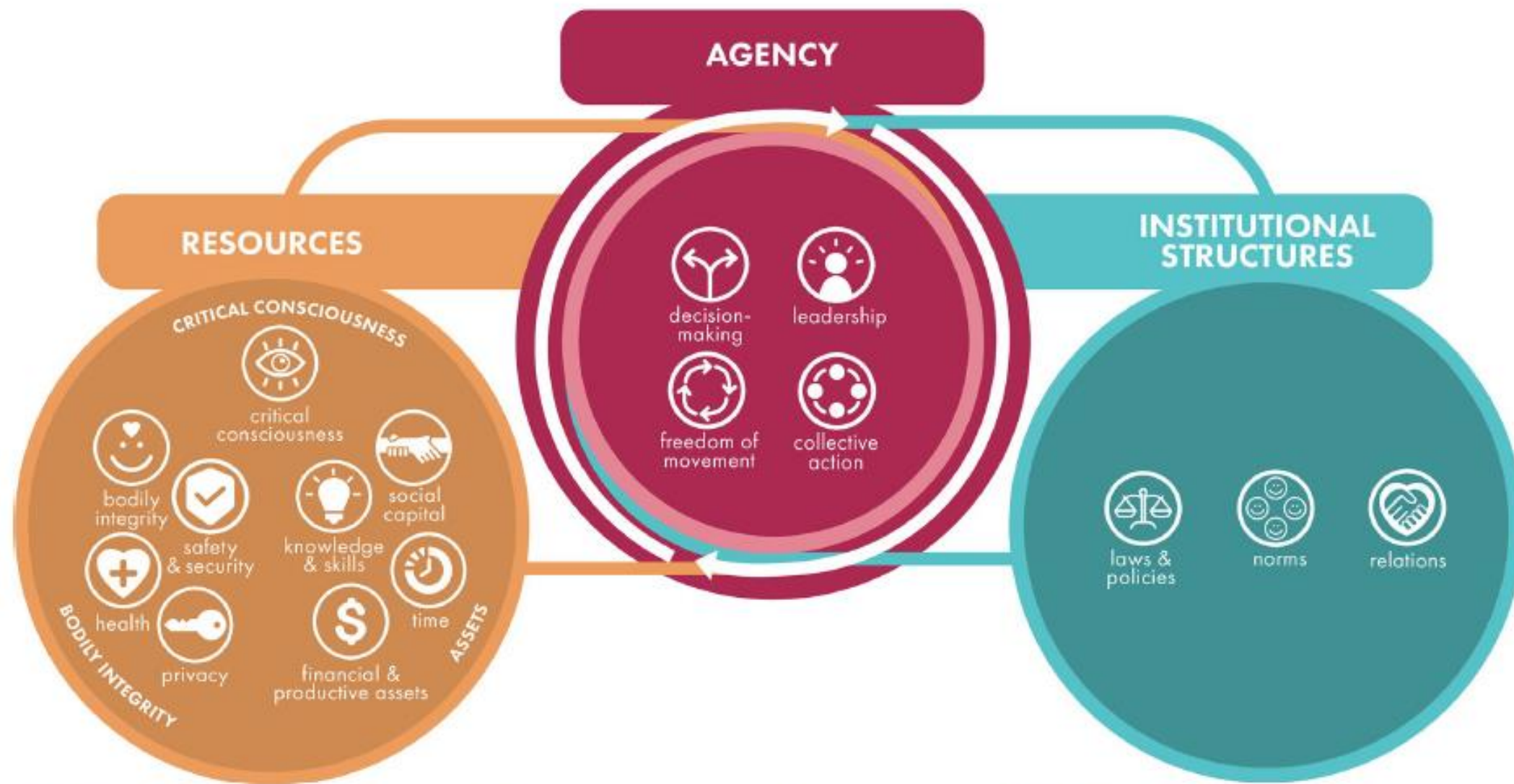


Fig 2. Domains and sub-domains of women's and girls' water and sanitation-related empowerment (adapted from Van Eerdewijk et al. (2017).

<https://doi.org/10.1371/journal.pwat.0000026.g002>



# GESI Domains, Defined by World Vision

**Access** | The ability to access, use, and/or own assets, resources, opportunities, services, benefits, and infrastructure.

**Decision-making** | The ability to make decisions free of coercion at individual, family, community, and societal levels. This can include control over assets and ability to make decisions in leadership.

**Participation** | The ability to participate in or engage in societal affairs and systems of power that influence and determine development, life activities, and outcomes.

**Systems** | The availability of equal and inclusive systems that promote equity, account for the different needs of vulnerable populations, and create enabling environments for their engagement.

**Well-being** | The sense of worth, capability status, confidence, dignity, safety, health, and overall physical, emotional, psychological, and spiritual well-being. This includes living free from gender-based violence, HIV, and all forms of stigma and discrimination.



## Strong Women, Strong World

- Guatemala, Honduras, Kenya and Zimbabwe; FY22-25
- Integrated and sequenced interventions focusing on mindset change, a dignifying enabling environment, opportunities to learn and use skills, and resiliency and growth
- Intentional learning focusing on formative research and process evaluation



# Strong Women, Strong World: Beyond Access

## VISION:

*The sustainable empowerment of women and girls through transformative WASH, economic empowerment and access to microfinance*

Empowerment means that women and girls experience an increased sense of self-worth, ability to determine their own choices, and right to influence social change for themselves and others

## GESI Lens Transformed mindsets

### STEP 1: A dignifying enabling environment that promotes safety and health for women and girls

- Mindset change
  - Channels of Hope for Gender
  - Empowered Worldview
- WASH
  - Household Water Access
  - School WASH Infrastructure
- Economic Empowerment
  - Training and forming S4T groups

### STEP 2: Opportunities for women and girls to learn and use skills

- Mindset change
  - Citizen Voice and Action (CVA)
- WASH
  - HH sanitation and hygiene
  - Nurturing Care Groups or behavior change (Households)
  - WASHUP! And Girl Talk! (Schools)
- Economic Empowerment
  - Financial literacy and business management training
  - Income-generating activities

### STEP 3: Resiliency and growth for women and girls

- Access to microcredit
- Support and sustain

# Call to Action: Investment in Scalable Solutions for Gender Transformative WASH

**PLOS WATER**

OPEN ACCESS PEER-REVIEWED

RESEARCH ARTICLE

## Water, sanitation, and women's empowerment: A systematic review and qualitative metasynthesis

Bethany A. Caruso, Amelia Conrad, Madeleine Patrick, Ajilé Owens, Kari Kviten, Olivia Zarella, Hannah Rogers, Sheela S. Sinharoy

257 articles included in the review (up to May 2020)

- 82% (211) published since 2010
- 60% (153) published since 2015

Research on WASH & Gender is strong and growing

→ **YET, few articles were about programs trying to change conditions specifically for women and girls**

Research has highlighted the issues, **why no investment?**



EMORY

CGSW | Leading and Learning in WASH  
Center for Global Safe WASH

ROLLINS  
SCHOOL OF  
PUBLIC  
HEALTH

World View | [Published: 22 February 2023](#)

## Water is life, particularly for women

[Bethany A. Caruso](#) 

[Nature Water](#) **1**, 124 (2023) | [Cite this article](#)

**1635** Accesses | **1** Citations | **14** Altmetric | [Metrics](#)

“In many contexts, water is life, or rather, water is ‘her’ life. Water collection and water-related work is the responsibility of women, costing time and energy, potentially depriving them of opportunities and exposing them to harm. Yet, the extent to which women are impacted is not fully understood because women’s water work...has not been deemed important enough to assess or improve.

*“Research, monitoring, and programming needs to better understand, report, and ameliorate how water impacts women so that water serves to nurture, not consume, their lives.”*



EMORY

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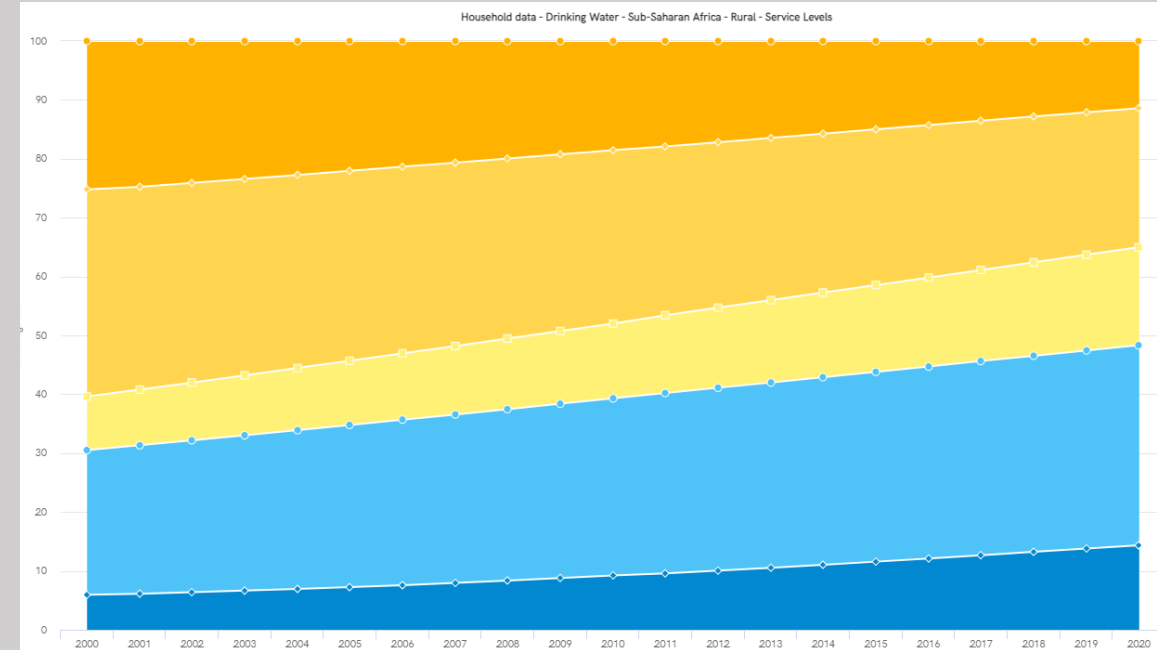
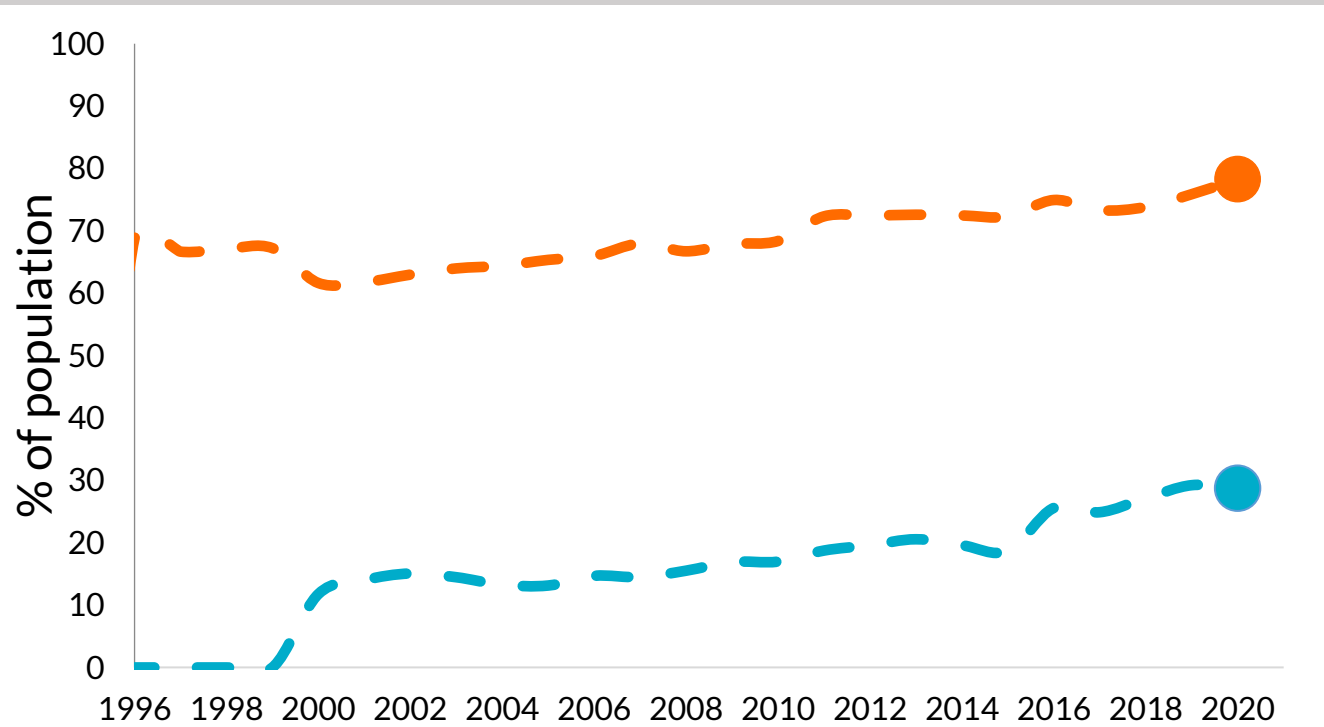


# WASH and Energy

SDG 6 and SDG 7



# Why should we talk about WASH and Energy together?



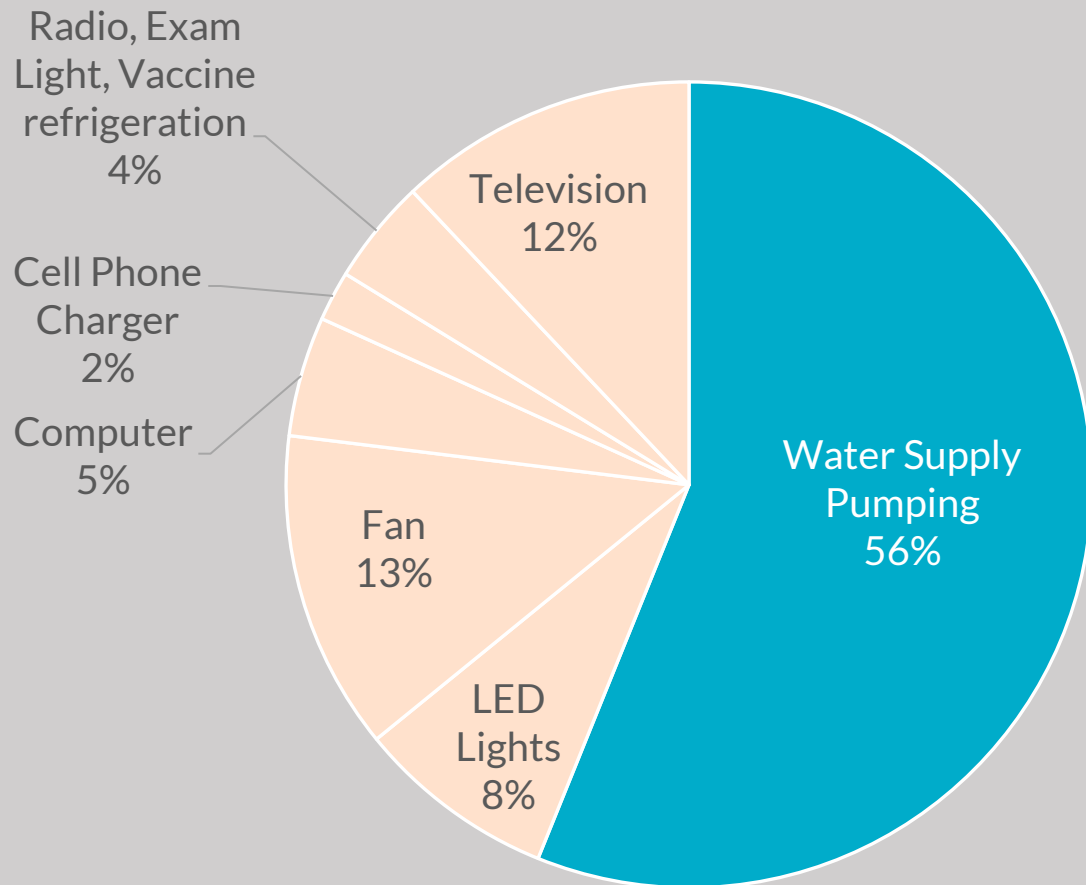
Rural access in Sub-Saharan Africa to both electricity (left) and water (right) are below global averages. Only 29% of people had access to electricity and 48% of people had access to basic or safely managed water services in 2020.

**Further improvement in services can and should be tied together.**

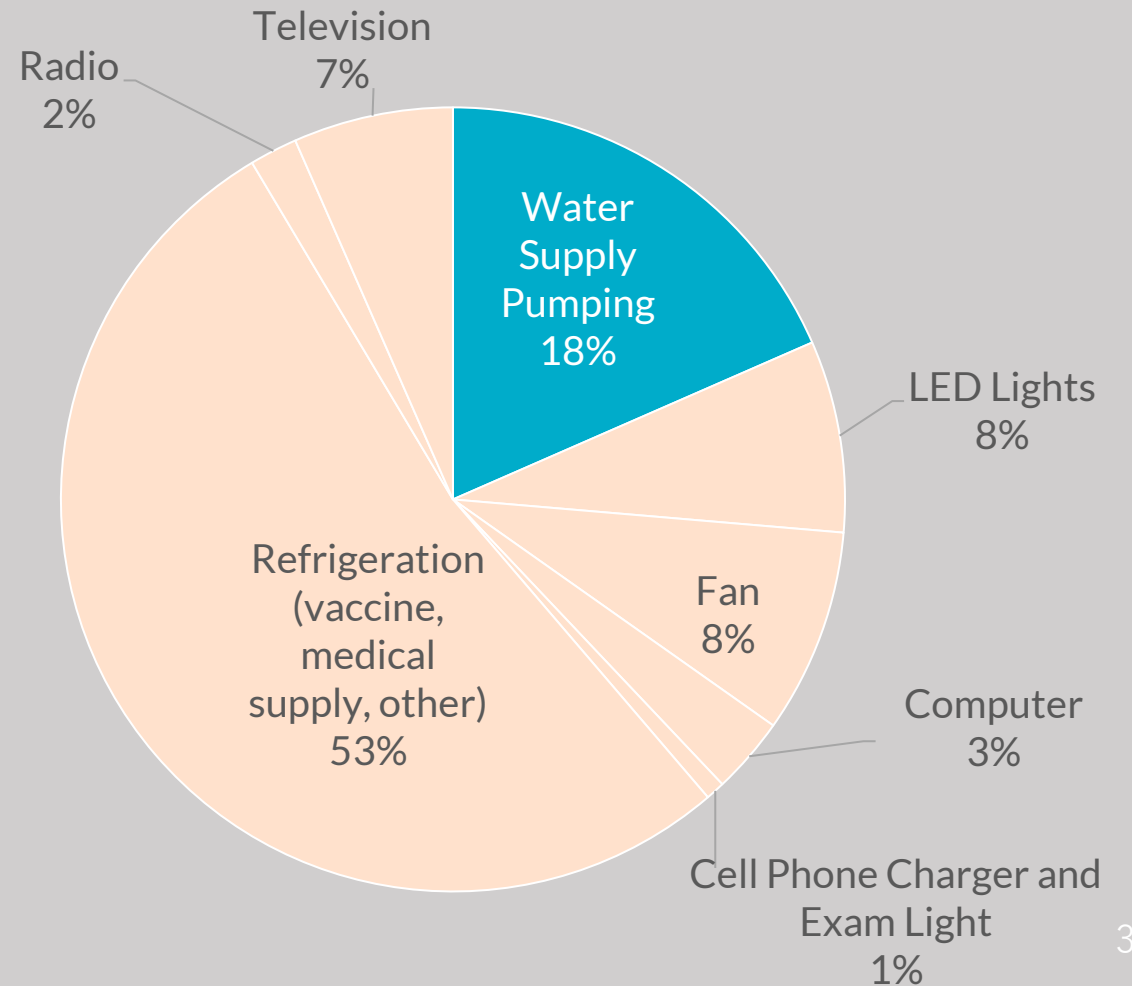


# Solar energy is increasingly used for water pumping in rural areas

Health Post Daily Energy Demands

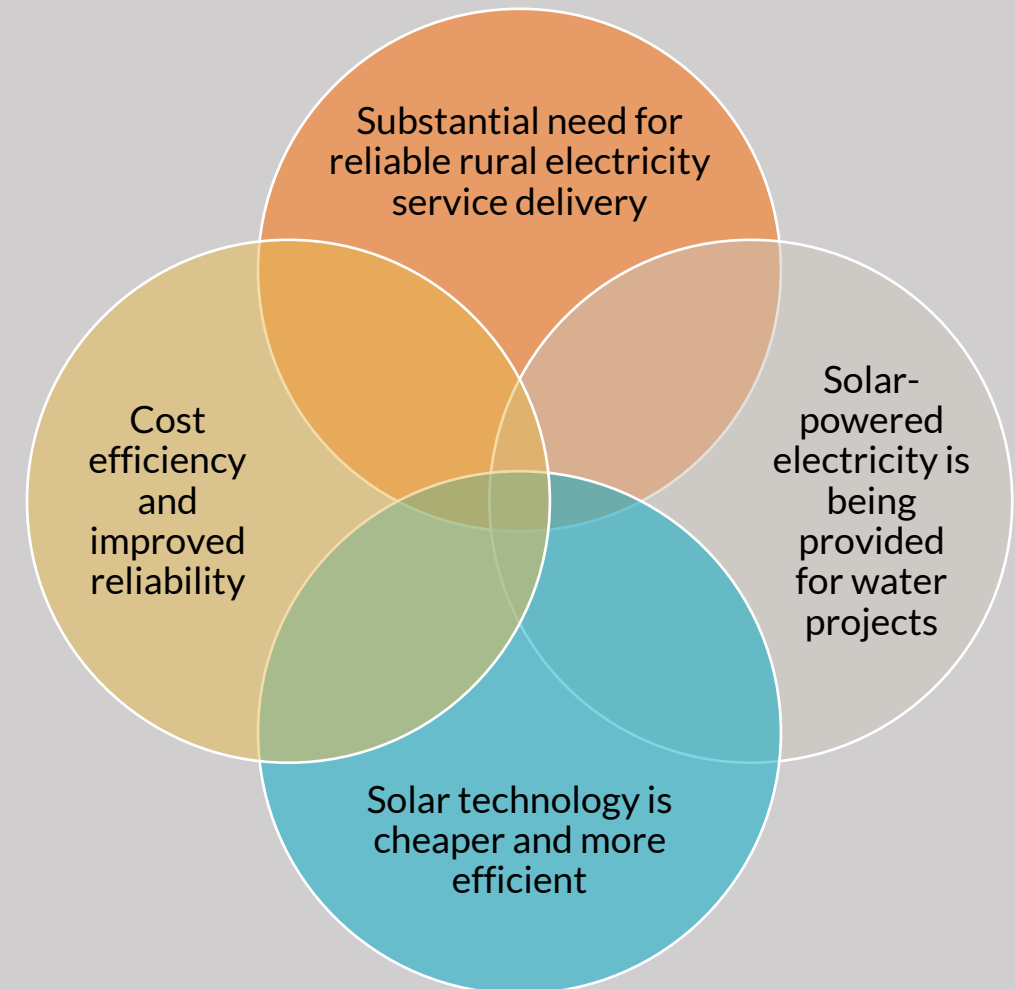


Rural Health Center Daily Energy Demands

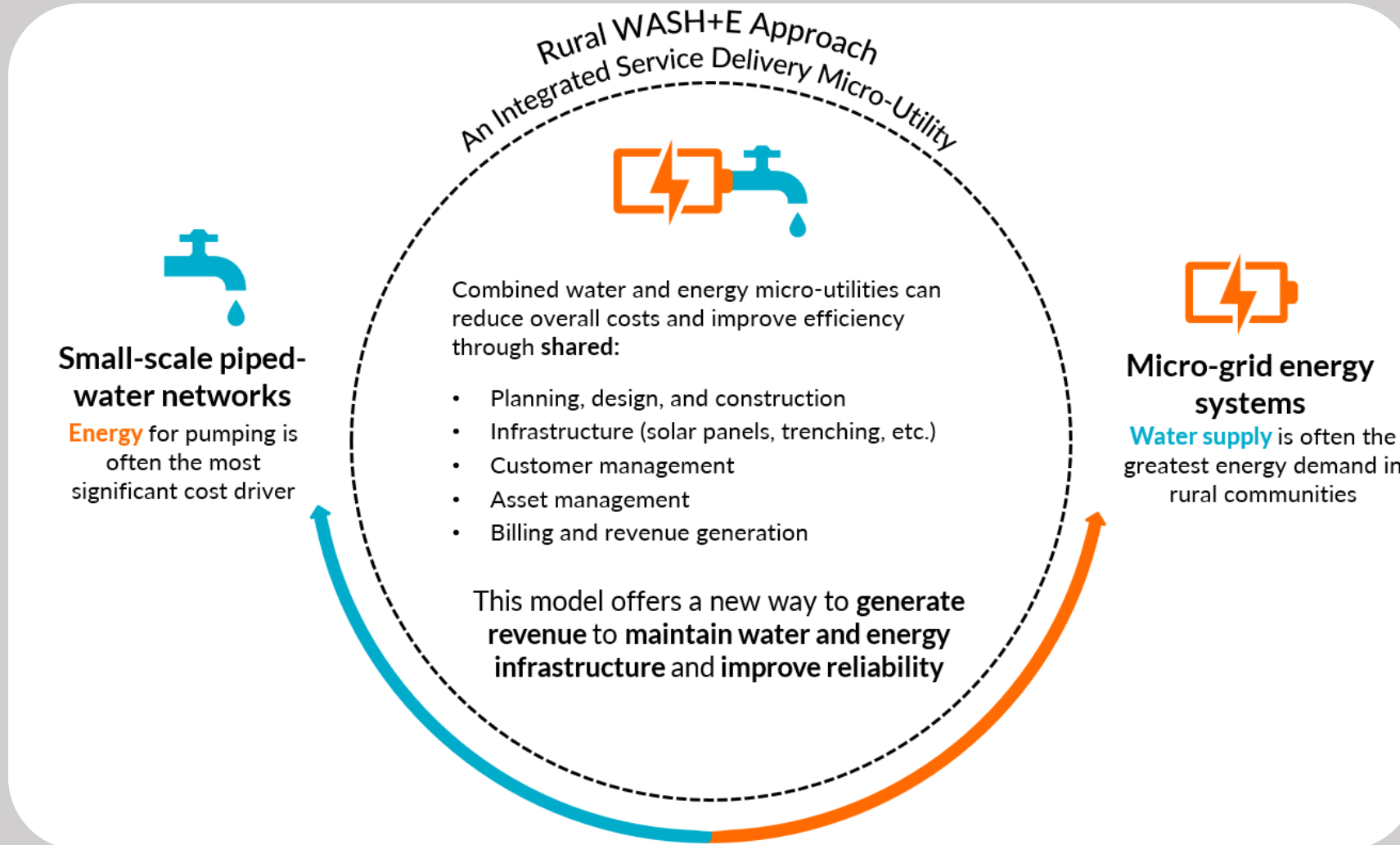


# Benefits of Combining Water and Energy

- HCF benefits:
  - Lighting for medical procedures
  - Refrigeration for vaccines and medicines
  - Expanded operating hours
  - Improved WASH and sterilization
  - Improved health worker satisfaction
- School benefits:
  - Extended studying hours
  - Staff retention and teacher training
  - Strengthened ability for internet and communication



# There are cost savings and opportunities to expand impact with an integrated systems approach



# HealthGrid Sierra Leone

## HEALTH FACILITY ELECTRIFICATION



- A GDA funded by USAID and partners to provide electricity, communication and WASH for HCFs in Sierra Leone
- Ongoing commercial sustainability contract between HealthGrid and private partners to maintain system
- Extra electricity, connectivity and water provided to community members for a fee



# WASH and Climate

SDG 6 and SDG 13



# Intersection of WASH and Climate

- Climate change results in more frequent, more extreme weather events, challenging the resilience of WASH infrastructure.
- We are seeing reduced water levels from both surface water and groundwater aquifers.
- Watersheds must be monitored and protected to ensure the sustainability of drinking water.
- Integrated Water Resource Management (**IWRM**) should be integrated into all projects focused on SDG 6 or SDG 13.



# Threats to Water Security in Somalia

- Cyclical extreme weather events and climate shocks
  - From recurrent drought to floods
  - Rising temperatures and sea levels
- Physical water scarcity
  - Watershed degradation and decreased aquifer recharge
  - Population growth, increased demand, and groundwater over-abstraction
- Conflict and war
  - Challenges to governance
  - Economic water scarcity

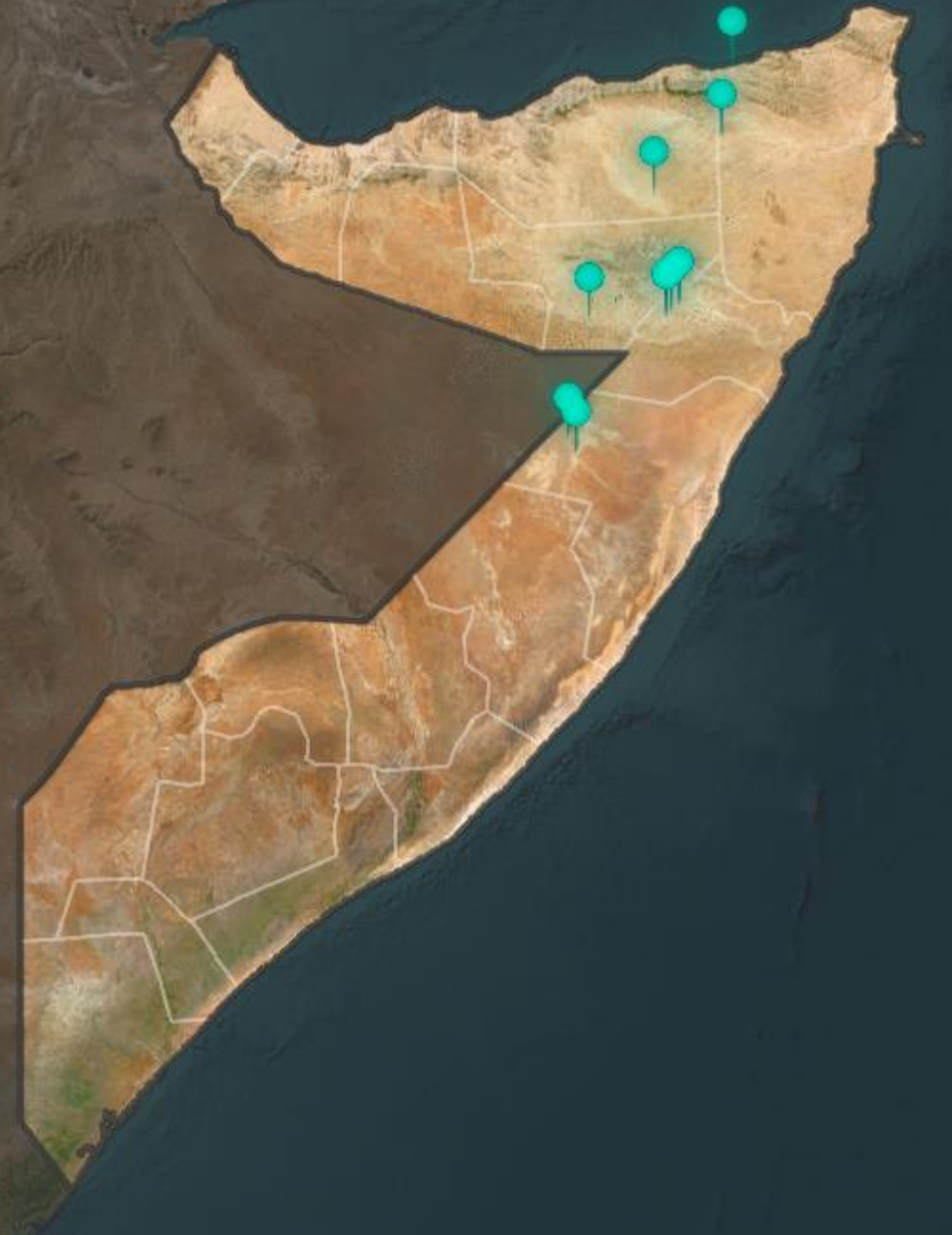
*A combination of these water security threats lead Somalia to be an extremely water vulnerable country.*

# Somalia Remote Groundwater Monitoring

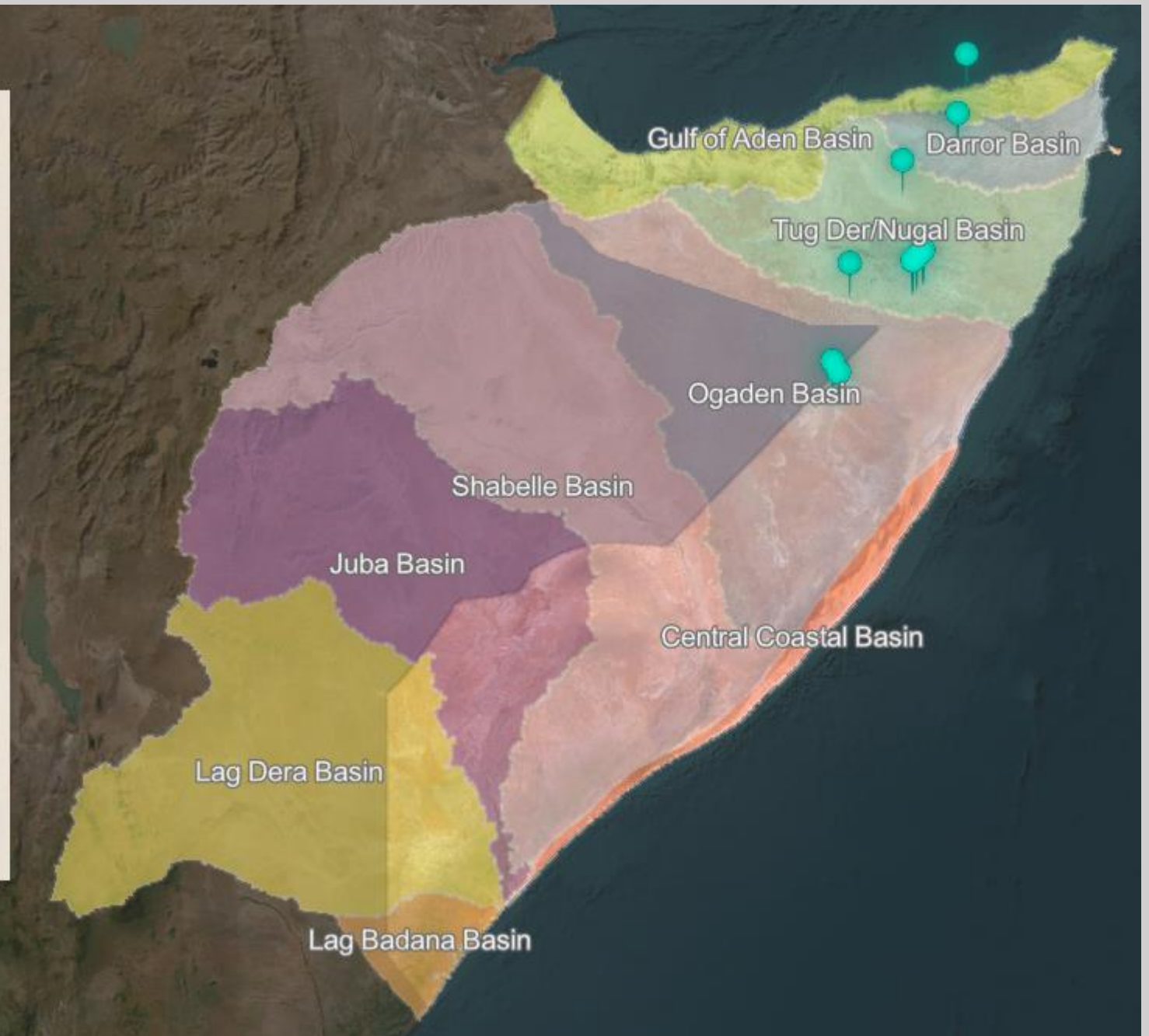




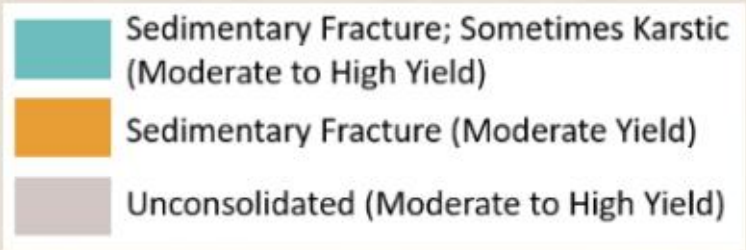
The first nine groundwater sensors were installed in 2020 in Puntland State in northeastern Somalia. The sites were selected based on the locations of vulnerable communities where World Vision is working accompanied by consultations with national and local government partners. To understand the hydrological context of these nine locations, let's first overlay the drainage basins for Somalia.



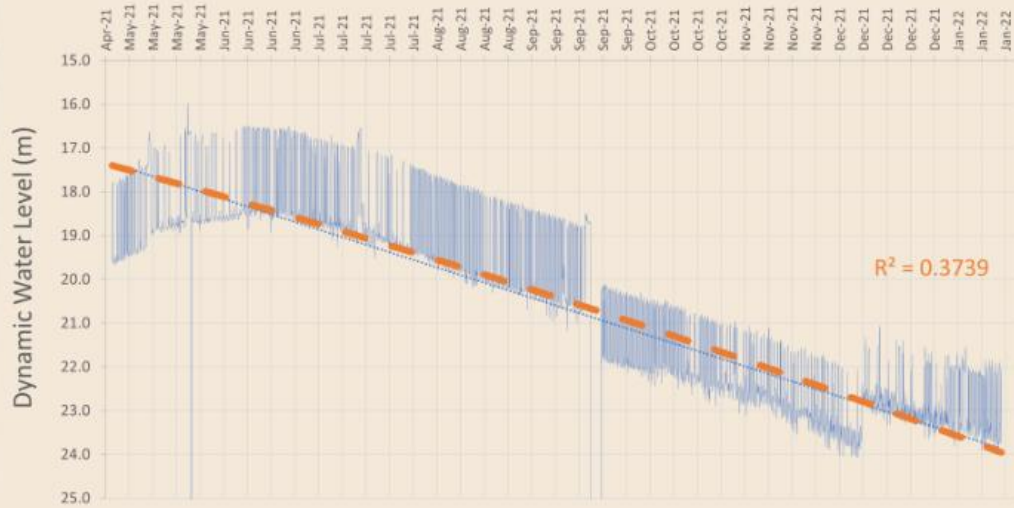
The principal hydrological boundaries of Somalia consist of **nine river basins**. However, only two of these basins—the Shabelle Basin and Juba Basin—are "perennial" rivers that flow year round. The arid and semi-arid climate of northern Somalia means that basins such as the Ogaden, Tug Der/Nugal, and Darror (where the groundwater sensors are located) have no year-round surface flow. Thus, communities in this parched, sparsely vegetated region are almost entirely dependent upon groundwater resources. In this regard, let's take a closer look at northern Somalia and the underlying aquifers here.



The Puntland Region of Somalia is dominated by **three types of aquifers**: sedimentary fracture with karstic formations; sedimentary fracture; and unconsolidated sediment. All three are typified by moderate (to sometimes high) groundwater yield. The hydro-geology layer shown here, however, represents a simplified view, and site-specific data and analyses are critical to better understand the potential of local groundwater resources. Let's drill down now to the local level and explore two of the hydro-met sensor sites.



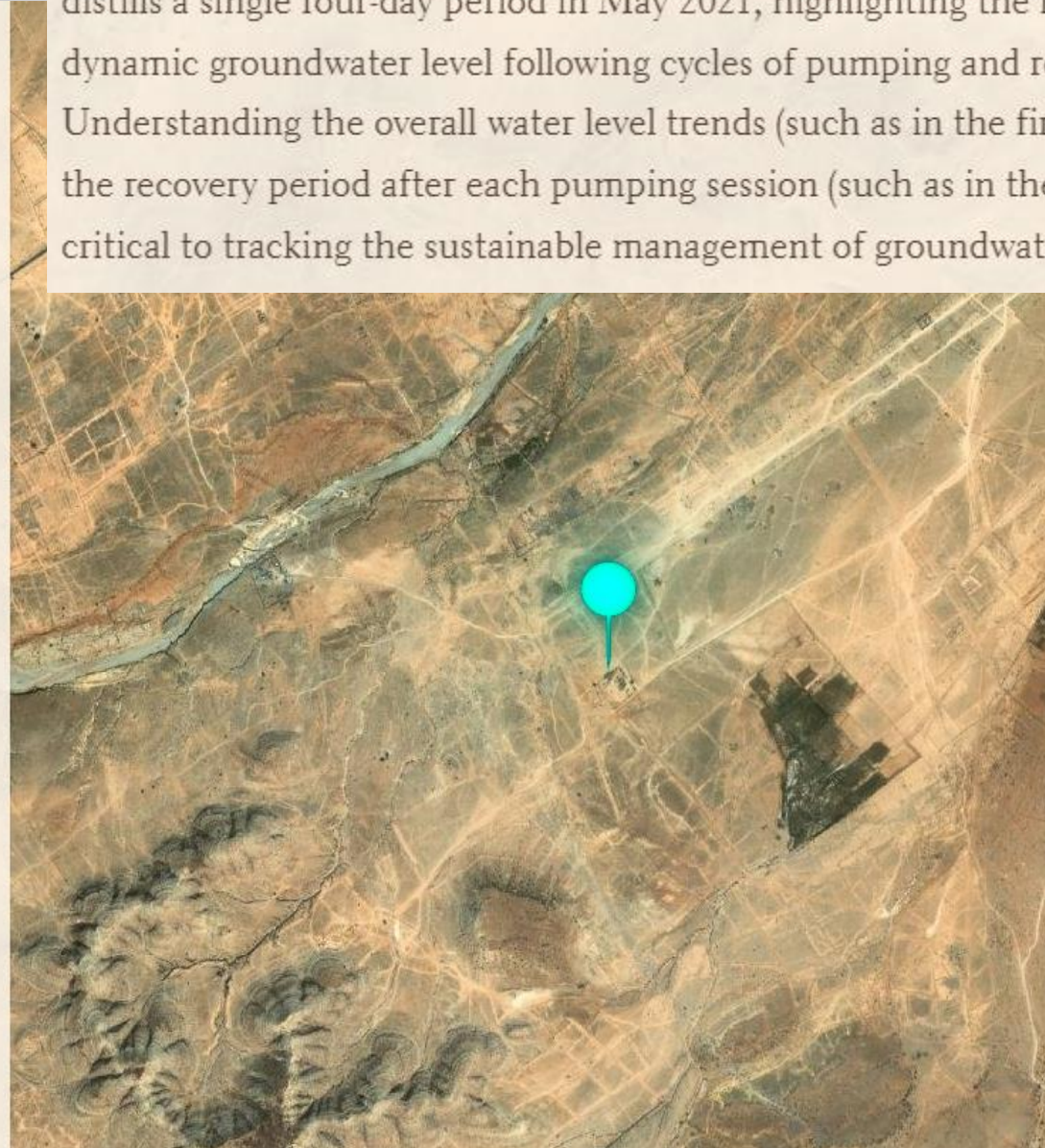
The following graphs provide initial snapshots of the groundwater data collected by the real-time sensors. In the first graph, we see 10 months of recent data showing a gradual decline likely related to the ongoing severe drought. The second graph distills a single four-day period in May 2021, highlighting the rise and fall of the dynamic groundwater level following cycles of pumping and recovery. Understanding the overall water level trends (such as in the first graph) as well as the recovery period after each pumping session (such as in the second graph) is critical to tracking the sustainable management of groundwater resources.



Dynamic Water Level (April 21 - Jan 22)



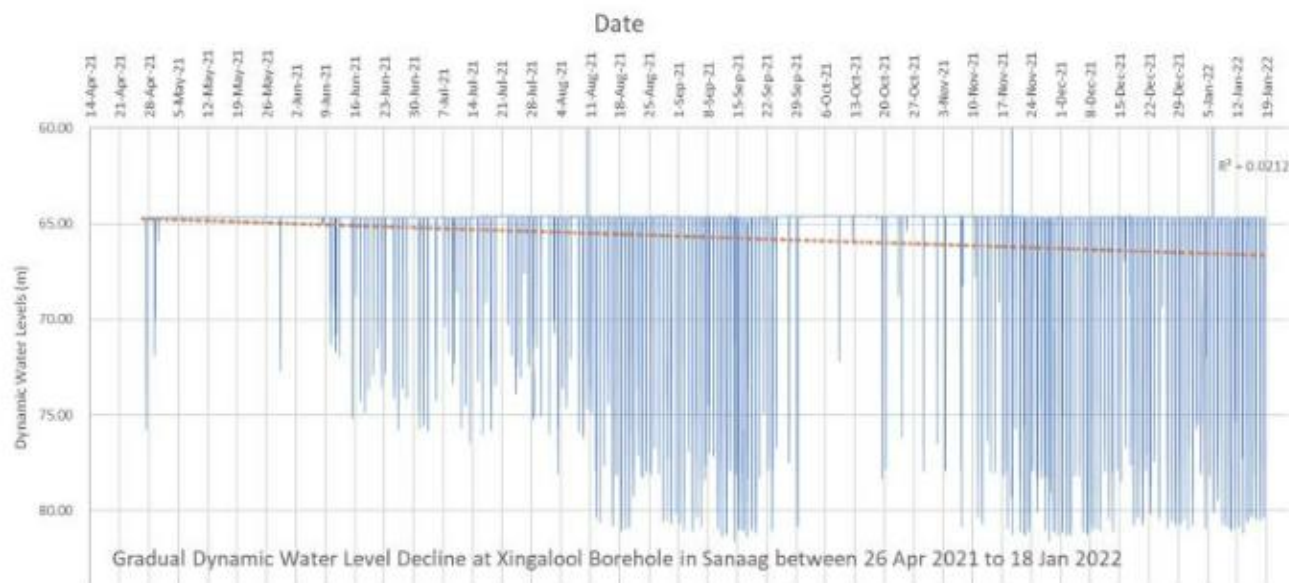
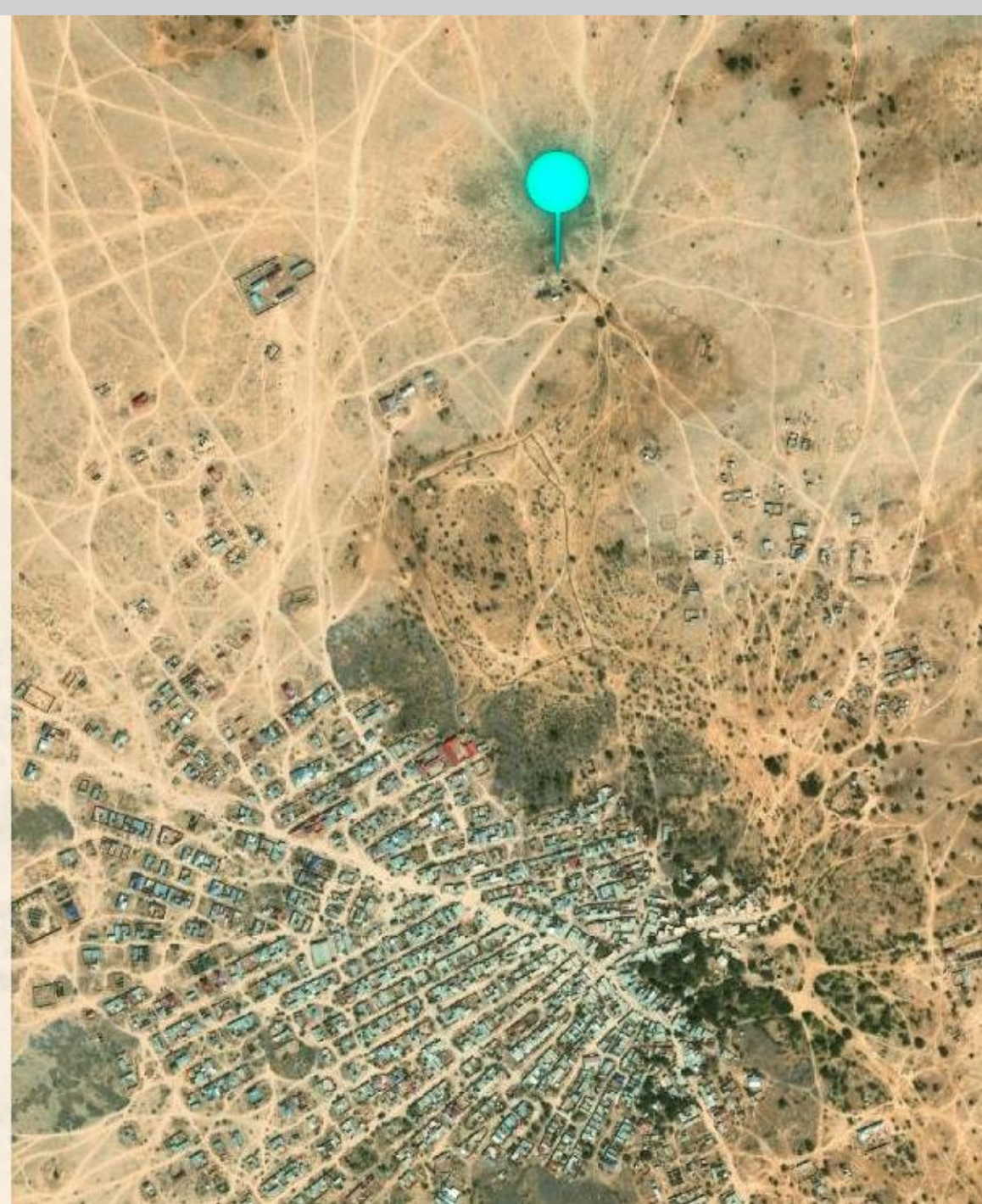
Water Level Change Over Four Day Period





Importantly, the Lige 2 Borehole serves as the primary source of clean water for nearly 30,000 people in the nearby town of Garowe. Here we see a mosaic of rooftop colors in Garowe accompanied by the riverbed of the Garowe River, an ephemeral (non-permanent) waterway that winds through the town.

Located just outside of town, the **Xingalool Borehole** provides clean water to the community of Xingalool in the Sanaag Region. The Borehole is about 100 meters in depth, and serves as the single source of clean water for approximately 7,000 people. The graphic below shows depth data over a period of 10 months. Notably, while the static water level remains relatively constant at just under 65 meters in depth, the draw-down from pumping shows an increasing trend over the 10 months as water levels from pumping reach 75 meters and even 80+ meters. It will be important to continue monitoring this trend to ensure sustainable abstraction volumes.



Dynamic Water Level at Xingalool Borehole Over 10 Months

# Next Steps

- Continue building capacity of government and partners
  - O&M of hydromet sensors
  - Data analysis and interpretation
  - Advocacy
- Develop advanced dashboard
  - A central platform and data access to key stakeholders
- Establish trigger points for early warning system for hydrological drought in Somalia based on groundwater levels
  - Short lead time and low confidence in satellite-based monitoring and forecasting
- Use spatial analysis to establish population at risk
- Correlate the association between water quality variables
- Characterize influence of geology on water quality parameters



# WASH and Partnership

SDG 6 and SDG 17

17 PARTNERSHIPS  
FOR THE GOALS





# Partnership is Required

Just as all other SDGs depend on WASH, SDG 6 cannot be achieved without Partnership:

- Governments
- Civil Society
- Private Sector
- Community Members
- Funders
- Technology/Academic Partners



# High-Level Engagement from the Beginning in Rwanda



- Launched project in March 2018 with WVUS president, WVR ND and Rwandan President.
- WV committed to reach all people within the area programs where we worked in 2018 with clean water by 2023. This aligned with the Government priority: *100% WASH coverage in Rwanda by 2024.*
- MoUs were made with each district (Gicumbi District pictured) and investment levels were negotiated between WVR and Government (LODA & MINECOFIN).





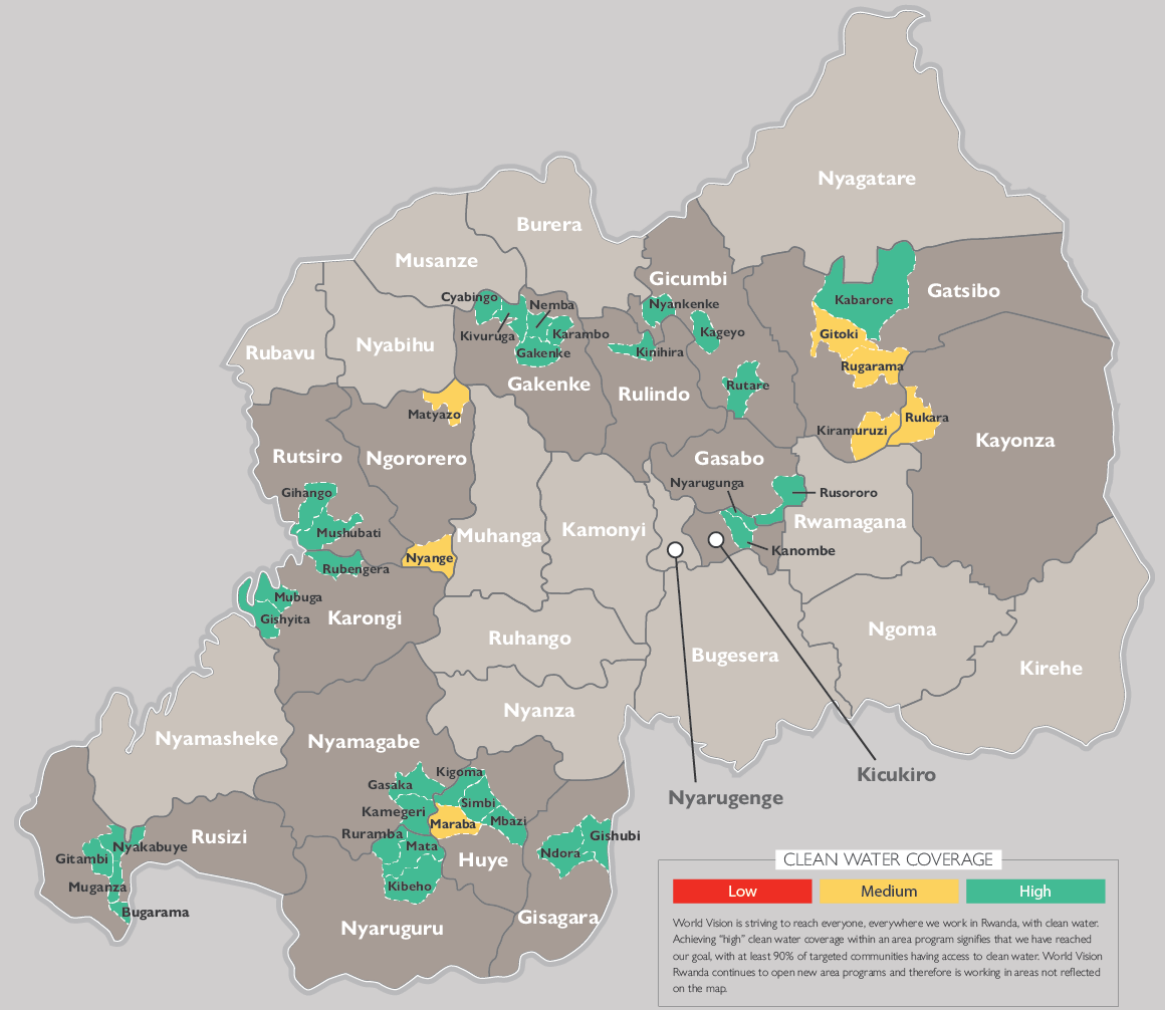
**World Vision and Government of Rwanda invest in the system and then hand over to WASAC or private operator for management**



**World Vision partnering with UNICEF to rehabilitate WSS, and optimize supply with solar powered pumping station**



# Almost complete in the areas where we work



# Lessons Learned

- Working together takes longer due to:
  - Different organizational processes (e.g., procurement, financial, etc.)
  - Communication challenges
  - Competing priorities (*If everyone is responsible than no one is responsible...*)
- However, it results in more sustainable projects with greater impact.





**Thank you!**

# Discussion

- What are other examples of how WASH connects to the presented SDGs?
- What additional SDGs have a strong connection to SDG 6?
- How can we more intentionally partner together to achieve the ambitious goals for water, sanitation and hygiene?



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