



Ghana WASH Equity Study

Mole Conference
October 2017



Content

Why was it done

How was it done

What was found

What were analysed as the underlying problems
and associated solutions

Present prioritised recommendations



Why an Equity Study?

Require more detailed analysis on existing data and explore inequities not covered

Assessment of existing policies and approaches

Create space for sector discussions

Identification of prioritised recommendations to help sector in attainment of SDGs

Indicators to measure critical equity concerns

Who is most likely to be left behind?



How?

Review of DHS, MICS, GLSS data, with deep analysis of past two DHS data sets

Review of existing policies and strategies

Key Informant Interviews at national, regional and district level

Focus Group Discussions in selected communities

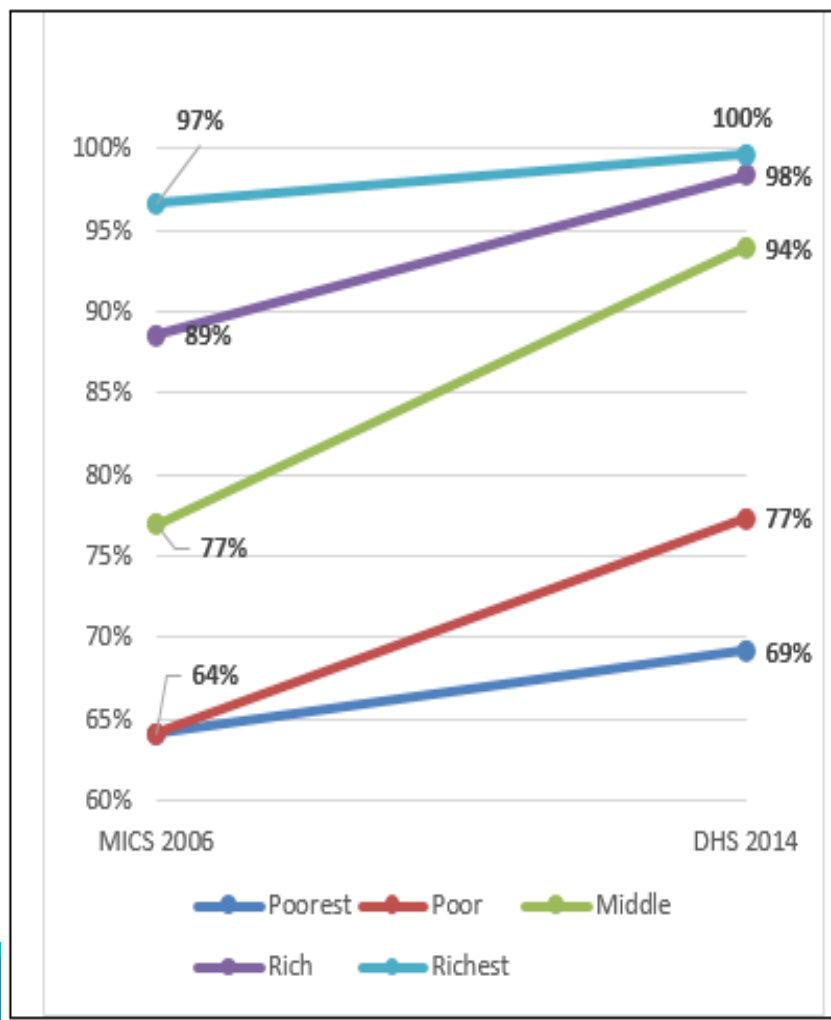
Sector based discussions on recommendations

Findings

WATER, SANITATION &
COORDINATION/MONITORING



Findings - Water



Gains made in the MDG era have more greatly benefited the wealthier quintiles

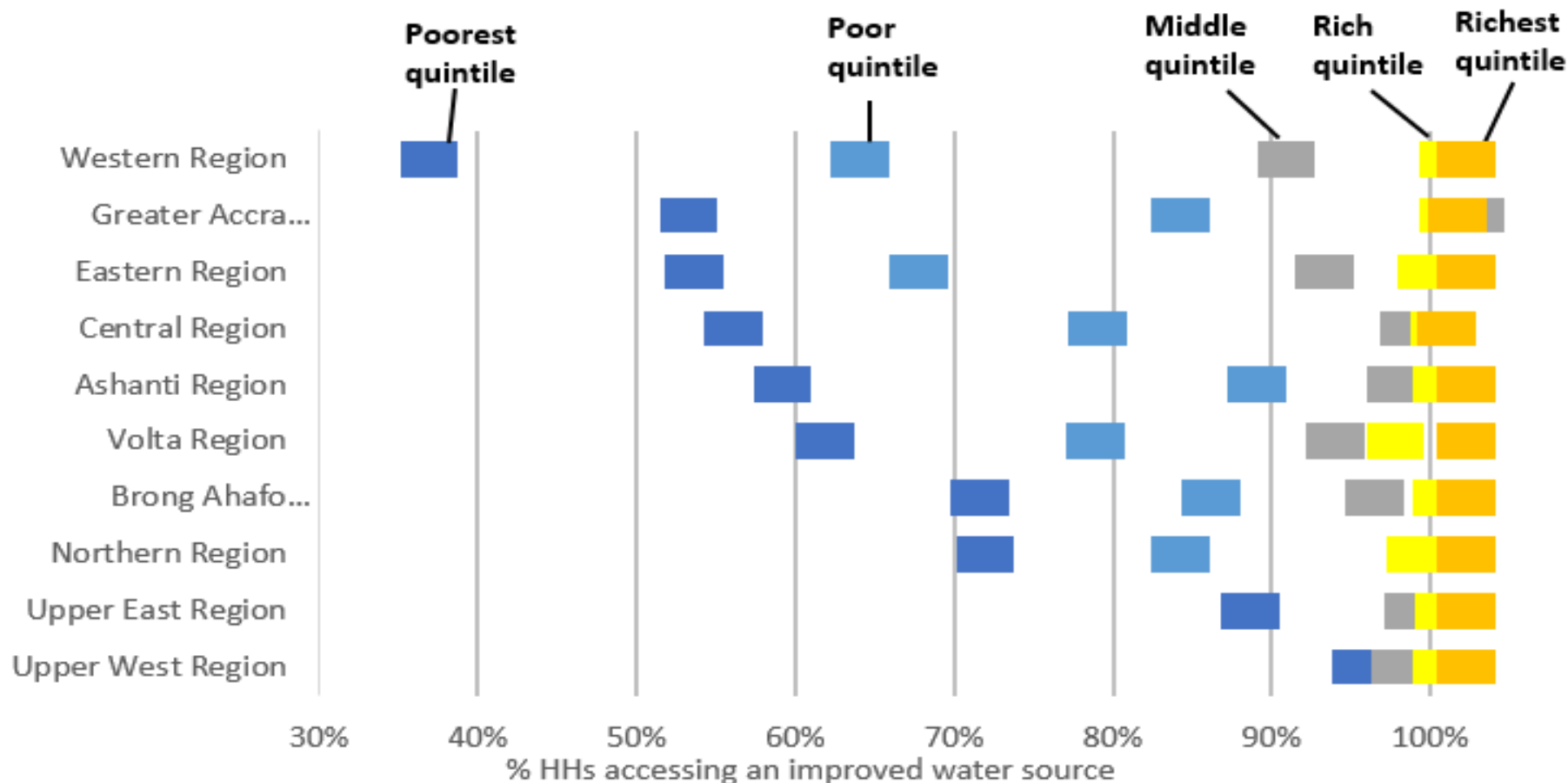
The poorer quintiles are those who were left behind

SDG strategies need to develop pro-poor mechanisms of service delivery

Strategies for hard to reach areas need to be developed



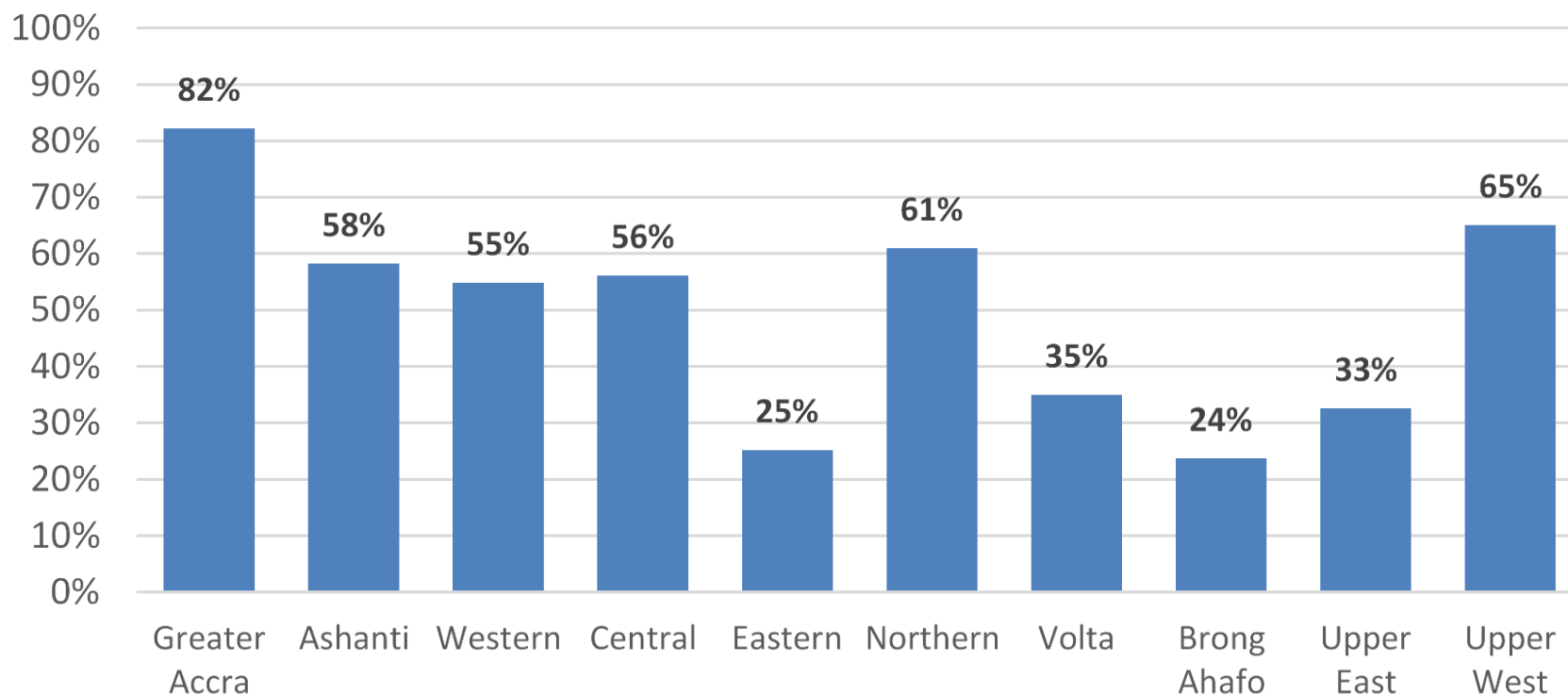
Findings - Water





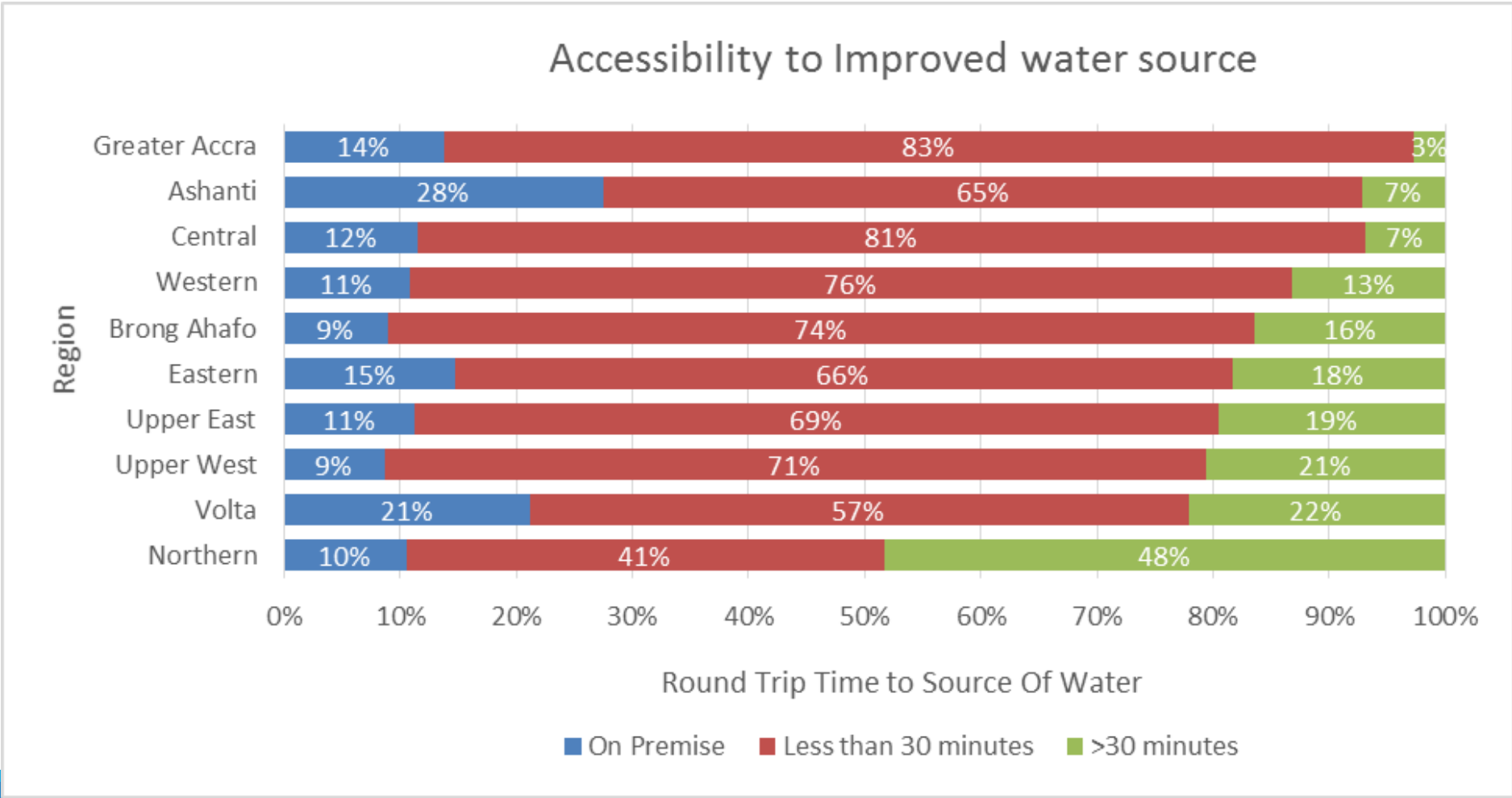
Findings - Water

Estimated demand for urban water services which is being met by Ghana Water Company Ltd. by region (2015)



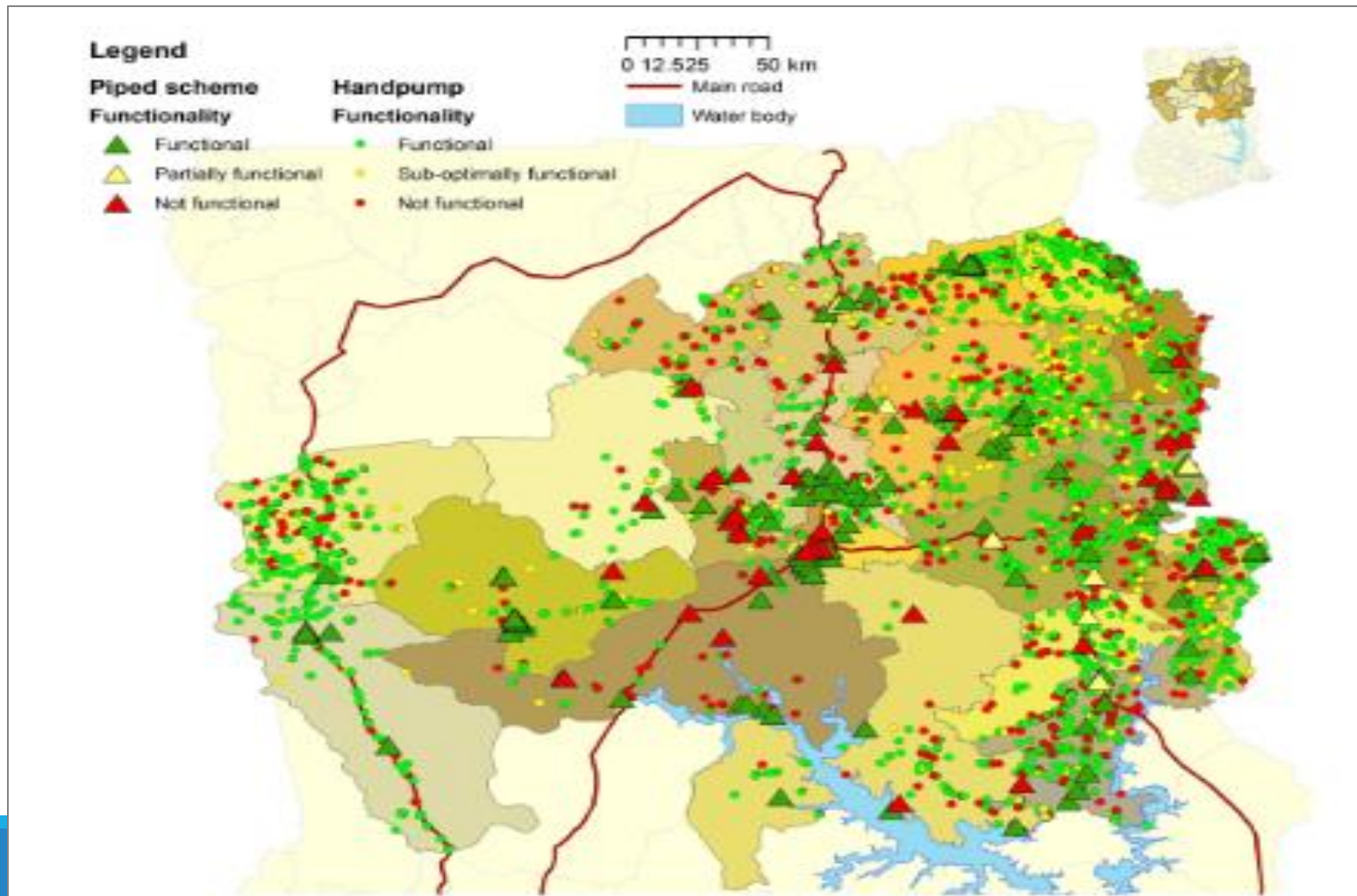


Findings - Water





Findings - Water





Findings - Water

High risk of localised geographical inequities

Hydrologically challenged areas being left behind

GWCL being led primarily by commercial interests

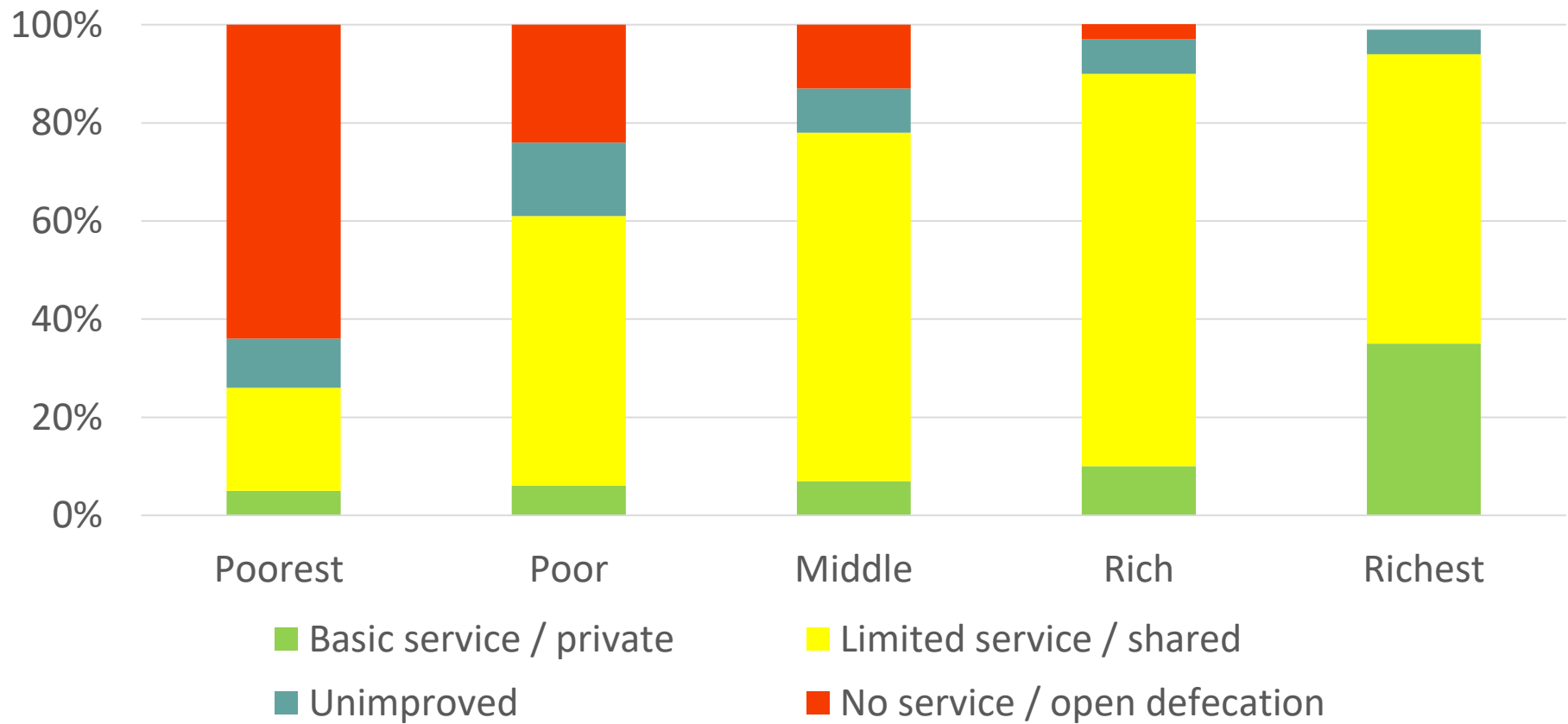
GWCL LICSU has limited resources to implement

Peri-urban fringes often go unserved

Sachet water not identified as equity issue as not bought by the poorest



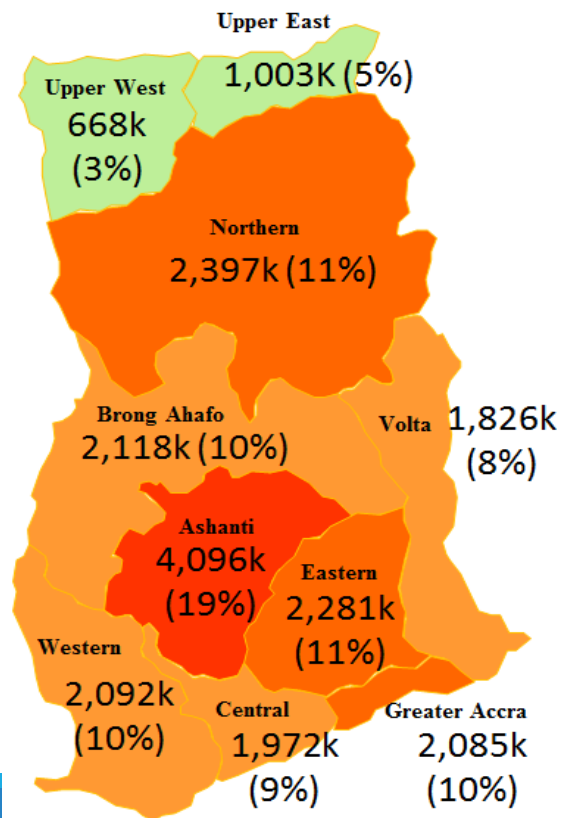
Findings - Sanitation



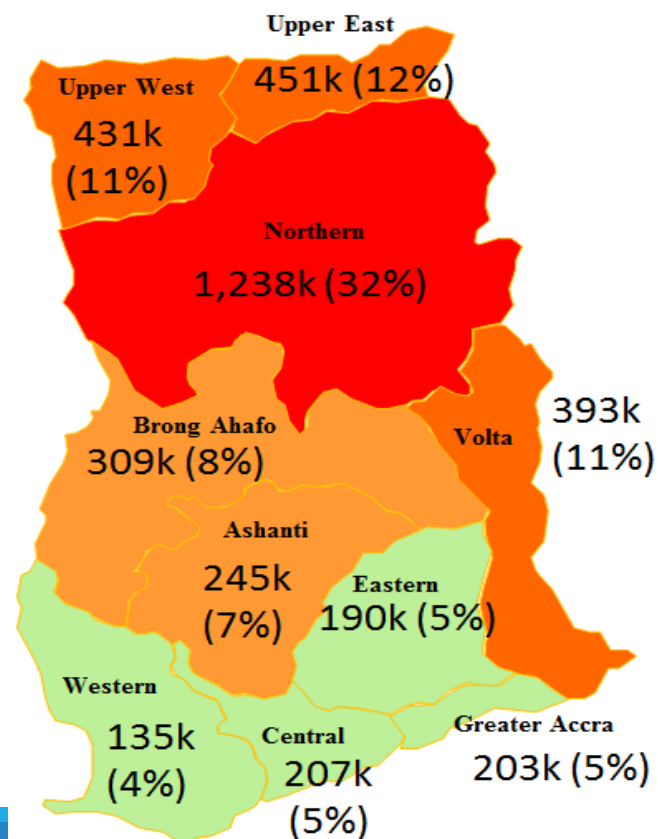


Findings - Sanitation

Map 3: Number of people without access to an improved sanitation facility, by region



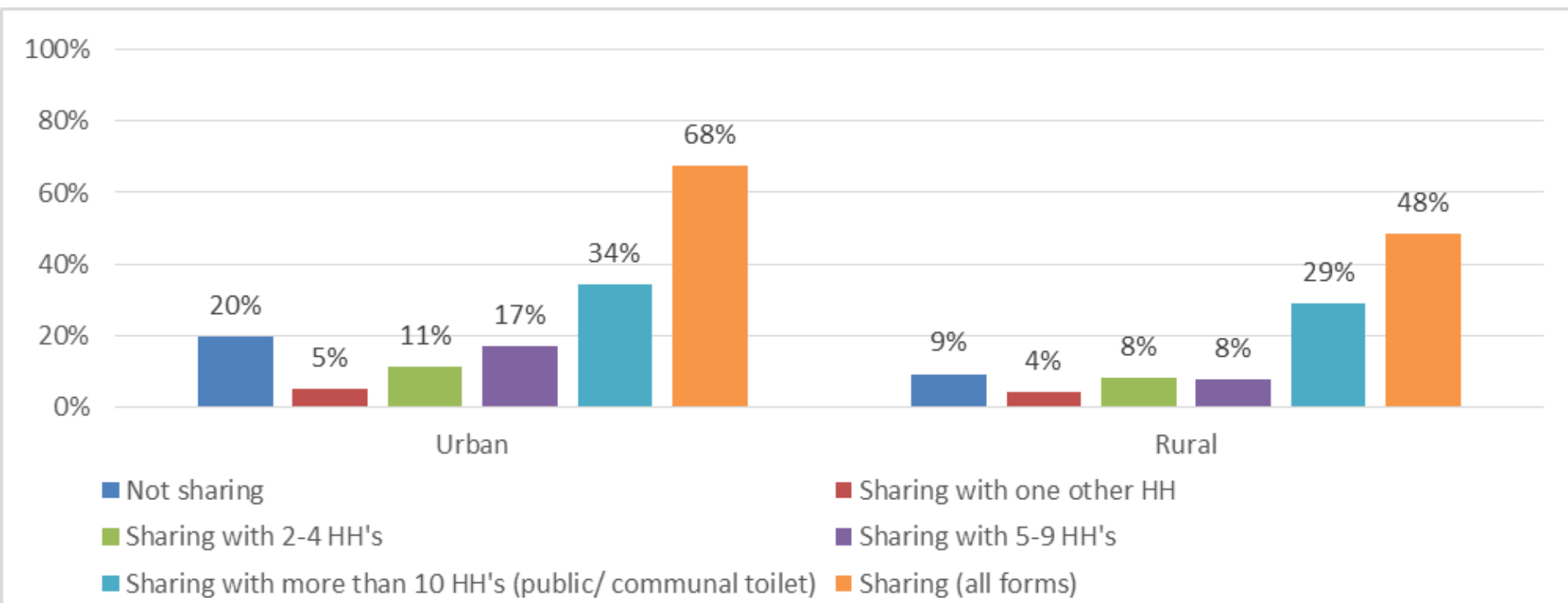
Map 2: Number of people practicing open defecation, by region





Findings - Sanitation

The question of sharing....





Findings - Sanitation

Since 1990 the proportion of rural population practicing OD has increased from 19% to 34%

Rural areas are 5 times more likely to practice OD

High reliance on public toilet in urban areas, with difficulties faced by women/disabled/children

Affordability of sanitation a significant concern

Lack of political will to enforce laws on landlords

Lack of urban sanitation policy causing issues



Findings – Coordination/M&E

Expenditure on WASH by MMDAs and GoG is low

Sector coordination and planning needs to revitalise some past good practices

Political interference is widely experienced

Monitoring systems remain unutilised

Equity indicators developed (in report)



Comments

Limited amount of data on disability access, however, some obvious conclusions

Ethnicity/religion not found to have an impact on access levels

In general the policy/strategy framework takes into account many equity concerns, but with implementation challenges (incl. conflicts)



Underlying Problems

RESEARCH IDENTIFIED 12 UNDERLYING PROBLEMS

Underlying problem #1

Poor targeting of donor funds on the hard to reach / areas of greatest need

Possible explanations why it exists

Weak coordination –
SWG / JSR

MIS or nat'l surveys
don't report equity

Disincentives to target
hard to reach

No sector review of access / equity

Strategies to reach
unserved not applied

Possible solutions

Develop performance managem't
framework with equity indicators

GoG provides funds for the revival of
the Joint Sector Review

Annual sector performance report
with equity indicators

Implement NCWSS strategies for hard
to reach (map hard to reach & cost)

Underlying problem #3

Government allocations for WASH are persistently below required levels so not enough resource to address inequities

Possible explanations why it exists

Donors typically bring funding for WASH

Resource constraints across all sectors

Preference for hardware over software

Weak transparency on MMDA WASH funding

Centrally managed contracts

Limited WASH staff influence within MMDAs

Possible solutions

Revise SIP to include estimates of decentralized WASH costs

Evidence based advocacy to show CLTS investments are cost-effective

Greater transparency of spending on liquid waste investments at MMDA

Use a Ghana ODF Strategy to leverage greater political support at all levels

Underlying problem #4

National MIS is not regularly updated and not owned at a local government level

Possible explanations why it exists

Preference for hardware investment over monitoring

Monitoring is resource intensive, especially relative to budgets

Monitoring often funded by donors

Monitoring is often treated as an ends, rather than a means

Systems developed often ignore the GoG Systems

Possible solutions

Rationalise MIS indicators to make them easier to measure, and more easily analysed at a local level

Improve local ownership of MIS by tailoring to local needs and capacity

Use EHSU staff to collect water supply data

Underlying problem #6

Lack of household sanitation facilities in urban areas,
particularly for the urban poor

Possible explanations why it exists

Paucity of low cost
sanitation options

Overcrowding of
compound HH's

Public latrines are
widely available

Low owner-occupier
rates

San. by-laws hard to
enforce/ unrealistic

Micro-credit not
available at scale

Possible solutions

Rigorously review low cost sanitation
options for urban poor

Introduce sustainable credit systems
w/ lower (subsidised?) rates

MMDA to prioritise low cost options in
sanitation promotion activities

Utilise LEAP database to target
subsidies to poorest households

Underlying problem #7

Public toilets not well addressed within the existing policy and regulatory framework – despite playing fundamental role

Possible explanations why it exists

No urban sanitation policy/strategy

Political resistance to change in stance

Little MMDA oversight of public toilets

Lack of clarity on responsibility for regulation

Commercial viability might not fit low income

Poor understanding of inequities caused by public toilets e.g. women/disabled/children

Possible solutions

Develop simple criteria for regulation of public toilets

Develop management options that benefit wider MMDA sanitation

Establish MMDA as performance regulator of public toilets

Performance assessments of public toilets routinely completed by MMDAs

Underlying problem #9

Organisational culture of the GWCL is weighted towards commercial considerations rather than serving the poor

Possible explanations why it exists

Commercial factors
are important

GWLC monitoring
does cover equity

Weak mapping/
definition of the poor

Pro-poor policies not
adhered to

PURC doesn't have
pro-poor KPI

Resistance to
standpipe expansion

Possible solutions

Strengthen the oversight role of the
MSWR w/ focus on the poor

PURC approved tariff increases based
on extending access to poor

Implement pro-poor urban water
supply indicator – see indicator list

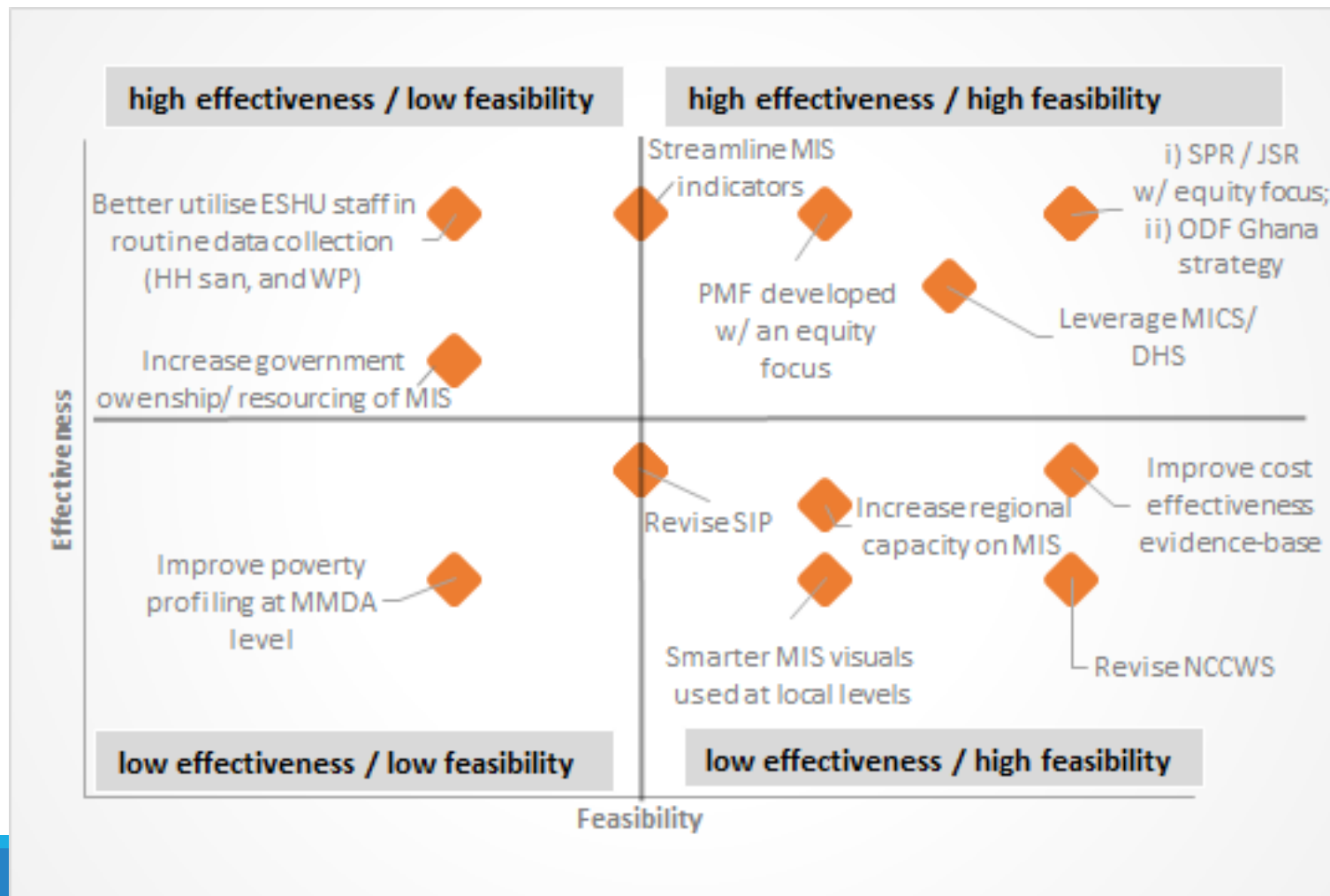
Donor support to follow OBA
arrangements

12 Problems!
35 Solutions!!!





Recommendation Prioritisation





Prioritised Recommendations

1. Adopt proposed equity indicators into PMF
2. Revitalize equity focused Sector Performance Report
3. Revive the annual Ghana Water Forum/Sector Review
4. Develop SIP with focus on vulnerable/unserved groups
5. Develop an ODF Ghana Strategy
6. Rationalise MIS indicators and enhance regional capacity
7. Ensure public toilet chapter in urban sanitation strategy
8. Empower MMDAs to regulate public toilet operators



Prioritised Recommendations

9. Develop criteria for public toilet monitoring
10. Clarify policy regarding MMDA owned/managed toilets
11. Rigorously review low cost household toilet options
12. Establish budget line reporting on hard to reach areas
13. Introduce a pro-poor indicator KPI for GWCL
14. Increase advocacy to GWCL and PURC to focus on poor
15. Reduce water charges at standpipes by reducing tariff charged to operators



Final Thoughts/Questions

Different organisations will take their own direction from the findings

Prioritisation will be different depending on role

Equity is not always an easy consideration when access is universally low e.g. basic sanitation

Ultimately means WASH for all by 2030

What is the role of Civil Society in responding?

Which recommendations are most relevant?



Thank You! Questions?



Underlying problem #5

Although the WASH sector aims for universal coverage, it struggles to measure its performance on reducing inequities

Possible explanations why it exists

Sector unable to secure funding for SIP so equity focus takes a back seat

An equity focus in national policies has not translated well to implementation strategies

Possible solutions

Leverage Ghana statistical service to include WASH equity issues in national household surveys

Develop sector equity indicators as part of a Performance Management Framework

Underlying problem #8

Potential equity risks of CLTS interventions

Possible explanations why it exists

People with disabilities can be excluded

Toilets not constructed with durable materials especially in the rural areas. Hence, in adverse weather conditions, a lot of such facilities risk being destroyed

Possible solutions

Post monitoring of ODF communities includes some analysis on its impact on vulnerable groups such as disabled, elderly and female headed households

Incremental and continuous upgrading of toilets to ensure that they become more durable and are able to stand harsh weather conditions

Underlying problem #10

Barriers to water connections for the urban poor

Possible explanations why it exists

Low Owner-Occupier
rates in urban

High water
connection costs

Standpipes operators
can exploit water
pricing in times of high
demand

Distribution system not being extended to areas
of urban poor

Possible solutions

Ensure the LICSU continues to
evaluate and scale up nationwide
suitable options for addressing water
needs of the poor

Improve GWCL oversight of standpipe
operators

Underlying problem #11

Women are being excluded from positions of leadership in WASH and it impacts on WASH service sustainability

Possible explanations why it exists

Traditional cultural and social dynamics inhibiting female leadership roles within the community – especially in the northern regions

Lack of sufficient gender mainstreaming at the formation at all levels in the sector

Possible solutions

Strengthen support to Community Based Management in both training and establishment of WSMT

Underlying problem #12

The most expensive and hard to reach communities in remote and hydro-geologically challenged area will remain unserved

Possible explanations why it exists

NCWSS guidance not implemented

No clear framework in for reviewing such cases

DiMES not fully used/ operational

VfM and cost effectiveness disincentivise donor /GoG investments in hard to reach areas

Remote communities are isolated

Possible solutions

Mobilisation of remote unserved communities to demand water services

Increased local ownership of rural water monitoring systems

Decentralised SIP takes into account higher costs of providing water supply services in hydrologically challenged areas and used to advocated for increase funding allocation

Underlying problem #2

Resource prioritisation at local level is based on incomplete data and subject to political interference

Possible explanations why it exists

Even well established information systems, such as DiMES, are not used locally for planning

Measures of poverty are not used in MTDP process in contravention of NDPC guidelines

Individual power / party political considerations, can override the establish planning mechanism

Possible solutions

Strengthen WASH evidence in planning process by district using smarter visual maps

NDPC should define a criteria for carrying out poverty profiling by MMDAs