

RE-IMAGINE

RE-BUILD

REPEAT

FUTURE
PROOFING
WATER



POLICY IMPLICATIONS ON SUPPORTED SELF-SUPPLY FOR COMMUNITY AND/OR MUNICIPAL OWNED INFRASTRUCTURE

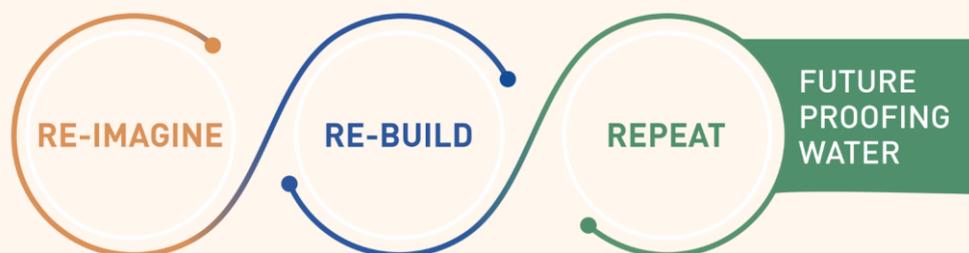
Monday, 20 September 2021 | 14:00-16:00 (CAT)

Service delivery is a commitment made by the democratic South African government especially to the poor rural communities who were unserved pre-1994. It was clear then as it is now that no one government department or institution alone is ever going to be in a position to solve huge historical backlogs — and hence effective collaboration is required. The Department of Water and Sanitation has always been tasked with overall strategic oversight, regulation and monitoring, the Department of Cooperative Governance and Traditional Affairs to support the delivery of municipal services at the right quality and standard and the South African Local Government Association to provide oversight to local government .

Although a lot has been accomplished since 1994 with huge effort going towards putting in place infrastructure to supply citizens with adequate clean water and safe sanitation, Statistics South Africa in its 2019 General Household Survey noted that access to water declined in five of the country's nine provinces between the years 2002 to 2019, with the Mpumalanga, Limpopo and Free State Provinces experiencing the highest declines. This implies that citizens in these provinces might have had to revert to using rudimentary sources for their water supply. The reasons for the decline are varied, amongst them, poor operation and maintenance of already provided infrastructure or intermittent or no service at all because of capacity constraints and service delivery backlogs within municipalities

The burden of not having access to water supply urges people to find ways of supplying themselves with water to meet their daily domestic and productive needs. Communities may for example organise themselves and contribute money to buy materials and labour to construct their water supply projects. Furthermore the communities organise themselves into local structures which operate and maintain the system . At times communities take over dysfunctional or vandalised municipal infrastructure that has been neglected over long periods of time, contribute money and carry out required minor repairs enabling restoration of water supply. Often systems like these depend on one's ability to pay, therefore the question is what happens to the poor's right to water?

Stepping in this role to supply themselves with water, communities are fulfilling a role otherwise reserved in law for Water Services Authorities (WSAs), this can be interpreted as communities supporting Water Services Authorities to fulfil their mandate. More often than not communities are



not looking to take over this function from WSAs but play this role in cases where municipal services have completely or partially collapsed or where there were no services at all. In reality communities' capacities to operate and maintain water systems is limited to basic less technical functions like opening and closing of valves, collecting monetary community contributions towards operation and maintenance of the system and overall basic repairs. For more complex technical repairs, the communities look to the WSAs to play this role because the communities would not have the skills, knowledge and money required for such repairs. In these instance it is clear that effective collaboration between WSAs and communities is in the best interest of the community to ensure uninterupted water supply. There are many examples of these forms of self-supply, i.e. community or municipal owned infrastructure, however formal agreements on these arrangments are almost non-existent.

This session intends to explore oppportunities and/or challenges in policy to enable this form of collaboration whose objective is to ensure access to water for all and leaving no one behind.

Chair: Ms Virginia Molose

14:00	Opening and welcome	Chair
Community Voices: Videos, Lived Experiences		
14:05	Operationalising community driven multiple use water services	Video
Presentations: Research findings, lessons from the field		
14:15	Policy Context	Mr Luvuyo Jalisa, DWS
14:35	Operationalising community driven multiple use water services (MUS)- South Africa	Dr Barbara Van Koppen: IWMI
14:55	Taking self-supply to scale: Experience in training and supporting local artisans in Tanzania	Ms Eugenia Kimaro – SHIPO, Tanzania
15:15	Self-supply: An option for achieving SDGs for the delivery of safe water in rural areas	Mr Adamson Sakala, WaterAid, Zambia
15:35	Question & Answer	All
15:55	Vote of thanks. Closure	Chair