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South Ari Woreda WASH Building Block Assessment

IRC WASH Ethiopia

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This building block assessment report delivers a comprehensive assessment of the strengths and areas for improvement within the WASH system in South Ari Woreda. The assessment and scoring framework present valuable insights into the current state of WASH systems in the woreda and establishes a benchmark against which future advancements can be effectively measured and tracked.

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Abbreviations

CapEx	Capital Expenditure
CapManEx	Capital Maintenance Expenditure
CLTSH	Community led Total Sanitation and Hygiene
DHIS	District Health Information System
EFY	Ethiopian Fiscal Year
ETB	Ethiopian Birr
ExDSC	Expenditure on Direct Support Cost
HCF	Health Care Facility
HDA	Health Development Army
HEW	Health Extension Workers
MHM	Menstrual Health Management
ODF	Open Defecation Free
OpEx	Operational Expenditure
SDG	Sustainable Development Goals
SME	Small and Micro Enterprises
WASH	Water Sanitation and Hygiene
WASHCO	WASH Committee
WUAs	Water User Associations

Introduction

The WASH building block assessment is a tool developed by IRC to identify the strength and weaknesses of a WASH system at the subnational (e.g., district) and national level. Critically, identifying and working with building blocks of the system makes it possible to prioritise actions and measure progress over time at a point upstream of the goal of improved service delivery. IRC and partners have identified 10 building blocks as critical components of a strong system for delivering WASH services. The building blocks are shown in Figure 1.

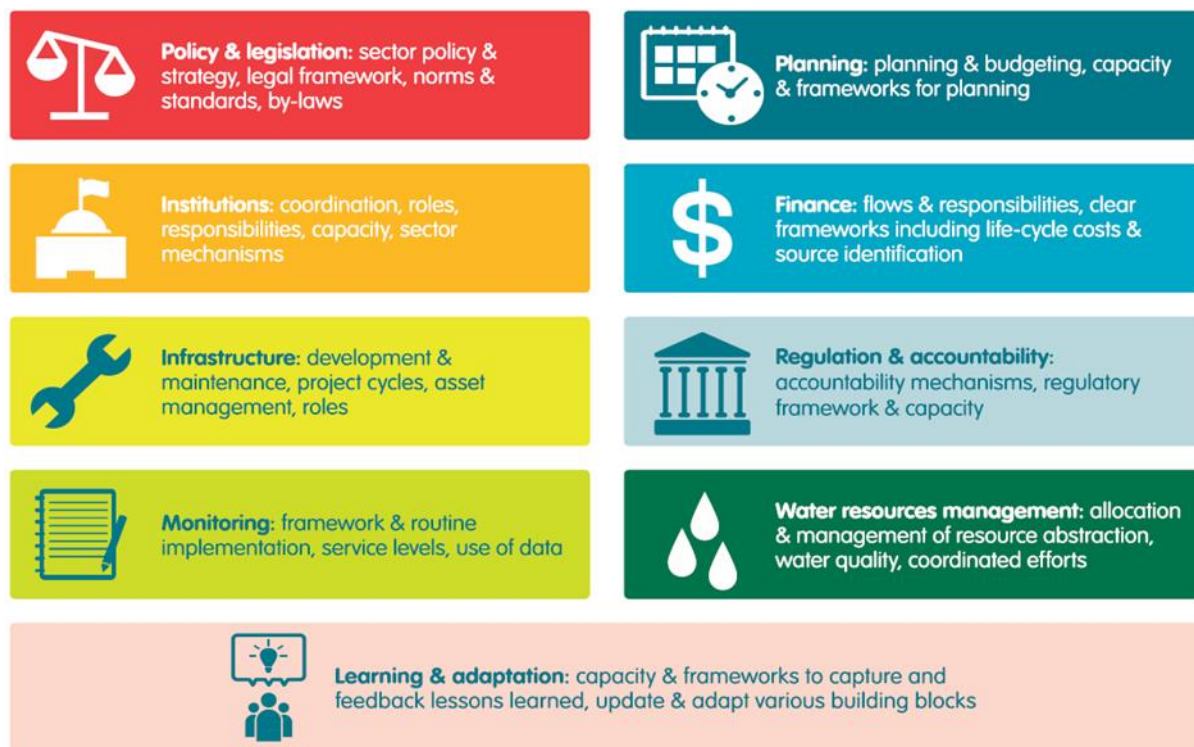


Figure 1: WASH building blocks

Following a structure based on 10 building blocks for the delivery of sustainable WASH services and based on discussions with local stakeholders, this report summarises the strengths and weaknesses of the current South Ari Woreda WASH systems. The assessment and scoring provide stakeholders insight into the status of the WASH systems in the woreda and a baseline in which the woreda’s progress can be monitored.

The building block assessment provides a qualitative description of a WASH system plus a “traffic light” score (red, orange, yellow, light green, or dark green) for each of the 10 building blocks to reflect their status. Full definitions of the building blocks and guidelines for scoring them can be found in IRC’s working paper (Huston and Moriarty, 2018). Briefly, to assess the strength of a system, each building block is scored using three to five key statements. These statements represent core elements of what may be expected in an ideal scenario for the delivery of sustainable services.

The scores for each building block are the average of the scores of the statements, which are scored 1 to 5, where 1 stands for non-existent or very weak, and 5, is fully compliant or very strong. A sixth score, ‘not applicable’ (n.a.), is possible but is not calculated as part of the average score of the building block. No individual scoring statement is defined as a minimum benchmark

statement for a functional building block, and thus the building block score indicates only the relative strength and not the functionality of the building block. The scores are most meaningful when accompanied with a narrative that explains the score (Huston and Moriarty, 2018).

This assessment and scoring was conducted through technical support from IRC WASH.

Assessment results

The building blocks can be used as diagnostic tools to identify areas in need of further support, or as a holistic framework for structuring a series of interventions aimed at system strengthening. The building block tool provides a conceptual framework to consider what is happening at different levels, what might be changing and what might be new or noteworthy in the system (Huston and Moriarty, 2018). This section presents the analysis of the strength of the WASH system as per the building blocks. The overall scores for community WASH, School WASH, and Health Care Facility WASH can be found in Table 1.

Table 1: building block summary

Building Blocks	Community WASH			Institutional WASH	
	Water	Sanitation	Hygiene	School WASH	Health Care Facility WASH
Institutions	2.0	3.0	4.0	3.0	3.0
Policy and Regulation	3.0	4.3	NA	NA	NA
Finance	2.0	2.0	3.0	2.0	2.0
Planning	4.4	4.2	3.0	5.0	4.0
Infrastructure Development	4.0	NA	NA	NA	NA
Infrastructure Management	2.8	3.5	NA	NA	NA
Monitoring	2.8	4.0	4.0	1.0	3.0
Regulation	2.8	2.5	NA	NA	NA
Learning and Adaptation	2.4	4.0	4.0	3.0	4.0
Water Resources Management	2.4	4.3	NA	NA	NA

Institutions

The institution building block helps to assess the presence of the required institutional arrangement for the WASH service delivery models, designated roles, staffing, performance assessment, and the coordination mechanisms among the actors (Huston and Moriarty, 2018).

Institutions, water

Overall, the institutional building block in South Ari is assessed as **weak for water systems**. This was assessed as **moderate** in 2020. The decrease in the score could be related to budget shortage specifically budget utilization because of cash shortage has affected the implementation of WASH activities in the woreda.

The main service delivery models in South Ari are community-managed schemes and, in Gazer Town, a utility-managed piped scheme. There are also limited self-supply schemes in the woreda. The community managed schemes are managed by WASH committees (WASHCOs) and caretakers (who are recruited by WASHCOs or selected during the WASHCO election). When legalised, WASHCOs are called Water User Associations (WUAs). WASHCOs/ WUAs consist of five members, including at least 50% women, a chair, a secretary, a cashier, an auditor, and a member. They are elected from the user community and work voluntarily. WASHCOs/ WUAs are responsible for tariff collection and day-to-day operation and maintenance of schemes. WASHCOs/ WUAs have been established in some of the water schemes but not in all of them. There are 241 water schemes and only 80 of the schemes (33%) have formally established WUAs. The remaining 132 water schemes are managed by WASHCOs. This shows that all schemes in the woreda are managed by either WUAs or a WASHCO.

There are regional level WUAs operational guidelines that are used at the woreda level. There are formalised (written) arrangements setting out the relationship and obligations between the woreda (as the main service authority for rural water) and WUAs during the construction/ establishment phase and on-going service delivery. The woreda is responsible for systems and procedures for ensuring ongoing (rather than one-off) capacity building of WASHCOs/WUAs, caretakers, and water users, monitoring functionality of water supply facilities, providing technical support to WASHCOs/WUAs where needed and in ensuring an enabling environment for maintenance service providers, and linking them to WASHCOs/WUAs who are in need for their services.

The WUAs do not receive continuous support and follow-up from the woreda water office. The woreda provides support on a demand basis and cannot provide regular support due to budget limitations. There is support from the zone and region as needed, but it is not continuous or sufficient for the woreda. In addition, most of the focus is on emergency response.

There are 63 required positions for water in the woreda water, mining, and energy office and 47 are for water. Only seven positions have been filled which shows, 15% of the total required positions have been filled.

Institutions, sanitation and hygiene

Overall, the institutional building block in South Ari is assessed as ***moderate for sanitation and hygiene systems.***

The woreda health office, health centres and health posts are responsible for creating a conducive environment, demand creation and follow up on community sanitation services. The health development army (HDA) is also capacitated to support the community in constructing toilets. All kebeles had community-led total sanitation and hygiene (CLTSH) triggering two years ago in the woreda. Once the kebeles are triggered, there is post-CLTSH follow-up. There is also a verification team that works on verifying open defecation free (ODF) villages and kebeles once CLTSH triggering is completed, based on a national level standard. The follow up and support have not been sustainable because of overlapping responsibilities and budget limitations at the woreda health office. Because of this, ODF verified kebeles often slide back to open defecation. There is also lack of commitment within the community to construct toilets and to remain ODF kebele.

There is one small and micro enterprise (SME) (service provider) established by a development partner (UNICEF) to work on the production and sell of sanitation products. They have taken training during their establishment, but their capacity is still limited. Though the enterprises require land to work on their sanitation products and services, the woreda office did not provide the land they require for this. In addition, the enterprises are not working in full capacity because of inflation and the high cost of construction materials.

There are three positions for sanitation and hygiene which are filled (100%). The staffs are in the right position as the vacancy requires. Though the requirement is three staff, in comparison to the population they need to cover and the responsibilities, three persons is not enough. There are also health extension workers supporting sanitation and hygiene activities as the 7th health extension package is specifically dedicated to WASH.

There is limited support from the zone and the region. However, when there is any emergency that needs immediate support, there is good support from the zone and the region. There is no budget that is specifically allocated to the follow up and support of the woreda from the zone and the region. The office uses some budget that comes for emergencies to cover other sanitation activities.

Institutions, institutional WASH

Overall, the institutional building block in South Ari is assessed as ***moderate for school WASH, and health care facility WASH.***

There is no formal structure in the woreda education office for WASH. The gender team handles work related to WASH. There are four required positions in the gender team of the education office, of which three are filled (75%).

WASH service is one of the criteria for school classification. There is a WASH club in all schools that is supervised by assigned teachers. The school WASH clubs work on awareness creation related to personal hygiene and environmental cleaning, use of latrine and water facilities and follow up on the personal hygiene of students.

There are 34 health posts, 6 health centres and one hospital in the woreda. Health posts require environmental health and hygiene experts, though there is no direction from the federal level for this. These are only available in the hospital. All the required health extension workers (HEWs) are in place at all health posts.

Policy and legislation

The legislation building block comprises the mechanisms by which a government sets out its vision for the sector and determines the legal framework for achieving it. Legislation must link to and support policy and provide a clear framework for the interaction of actors in the WASH institutions. Legislation is particularly important where non-state actors (e.g., communities, the private sector) are service providers.

Policy and legislation, water

Overall, the policy and legislation building block in South Ari is assessed as **very high for sanitation systems**.

There are service delivery arrangements including CLTSH, capacity building, awareness creation, establishing SMEs and providing initial resources. There is demand creation and monitoring activity done through HEWs and HDAs. Regular monitoring and follow-up are limited because of lack of logistics (transport, road access and budget for operation). The woreda tries to do the work with the limited resource but it is difficult.

All woreda stakeholders are aware of and use the national indicators and targets. District Health Information System (DHIS II) now includes indicators and data for sanitation and hygiene. There is a sanitation hygiene proclamation that is used by the woreda, which comes from the Ministry of Health and has been adopted by the region. This document guides the sanitation and hygiene activities in the woreda. Though the document is available, the contextualisation is lacking. The document lacks direction and strategy on how to serve all parts of the community (equity and inclusion).

Finance

The finance building block deals with identifying the costs of service delivery, sources of funding, roles of different actors in providing finance, effective mechanisms for long-term financial procurement, and channels for getting the money where it is needed.

Finance, water

Overall, the finance building block in South Ari is assessed as **weak for water systems, which remains the same as in 2020**.

In 2015 EFY, the total budget of the woreda was about 231.65 million ETB. The budget of the woreda water, mines, and energy office is about 14 million ETB, which is 6% of the total budget. However, the utilisation of the allocated budget is low because of a shortage of cash. Most of the budget available is currently used for the salary of staff.

The budget is set at the woreda level and the woreda water office makes budget decision based on the available budget for the year. The woreda water office proposed additional budget to water office using evidence from the woreda WASH SDG master plan. However, because of lack of attention and limited availability of budget and cash, there hasn't been much change.

Though still in need of improvement, there has been an increase in community contribution (in-kind) after the development of the WASH SDG master plan.

There is a guideline that comes from the region which is used for utilities. The communities also have a tariff based on discussions with the users. The tariff is different from scheme to scheme and not all the schemes have set tariffs. Most of the schemes collect money from users on an ad-hoc basis during emergencies for maintenance.

Finance, sanitation and hygiene

Overall, the finance building block in South Ari is assessed as ***weak for sanitation systems and moderate for hygiene systems.***

As per the National guideline, individual households are responsible for the construction of their latrines (CapEx), repairing and major maintenance (CapManEx), and operation and minor maintenance (OpEx). The woreda doesn't have the capacity to cover costs related to CLTSH and other activities because of budget limitations and cash flow problems in the woreda.

The overall woreda budget for 2015 EFY was 231.65 million ETB. The budget for health office including health centres and hospitals was 55.36 million ETB which is 23.89% of the total woreda budget. 2.3 million ETB has been allocated for sanitation and hygiene. Though the budget is allocated, the utilisation outside of staff salary is limited because of cash flow problems in the woreda.

The subsidy protocol that is available at the national level, is not known or used in the woreda. However, the woreda has subsidised Sato pan in the woreda through a UNICEF project.

The health office budgets for sanitation and hygiene, but there is no budget specifically for reaching the poorest in the community. From the sanitation and hygiene budget, the woreda health office uses some budget for hygiene promotion and other activities. Since the budget allocated for the office is limited in the first place, the office prioritises main activities during budgeting.

Finance, institutional WASH

Overall, the finance building block in South Ari is assessed as ***weak for school WASH and health care facility WASH.***

In 2015 EFY, the woreda allocated 300 thousand ETB for schools that have no WASH facility. However, the allocated budget is not sufficient to address planned activities. Even from this limited budget, the utilisation has been about 15%. Schools have plans to use their internally generated income for maintenance and rehabilitation, but this budget is not tracked and documented by the woreda government.

The woreda budget comes for the whole health office, which has the responsibility of distributing the budget as needed. The budget is allocated but is not enough to reach all HCFs and there is no specific budget line for WASH in HCFs. Most of the budget is mostly allocated for direct support rather than capital expenses. There is a capital budget allocated for WASH activities, though because of limited budget availability this is often omitted during prioritisation. The total budget of the woreda is about 231.65 million ETB of which 55.36 million ETB (24%) is for health office and from this one million ETB is for HCF WASH which is 2% of the health office budget and 0.4% of the total woreda budget.

There is no specific budget allocated to reaching disadvantaged groups. However, there are community volunteers that support menstrual health management (MHM) activities.

Planning

The planning building block is the foundation for the implementation of policies to achieve universal access to sustainable services. Plans must include expected costs and sources of financing and may involve multiple phases. The strength of this building block is assessed based on the existence of a jointly developed (multi-year) plan: it should be based on national targets; include costs for capital expenditure (CapEx), capital maintenance expenditure (CapManEx) and direct support elements, and sources of funding; and consider equity.

Planning, water

Overall, the planning building block in South Ari is assessed as **very high for water systems**. There is a significant shift in the planning building block, which was moderate in 2020.

The woreda has a strategic plan with multi-annual targets linked to national targets which is currently in line with SDG targets. The woreda has a WASH SDG master plan (developed in 2020) that is used for different planning purposes and adopted for the woreda. There are two types of plans in the woreda (the perspective plan, the SDG master plan). The master plan contains all life-cycle cost components and considers these costs accordingly. The perspective plan was developed based on the SDG master plan, therefore includes all the necessary components of the master plan. During the master plan validation, launching and endorsement, there was high engagement from woreda leadership, zone departments, and active NGOs in the woreda. However, it is not common to engage NGOs during annual planning.

The plan aims to give access to WASH services for all by 2030. Though the plan mentions the need to include accessibility of WASH facilities to vulnerable groups, there are no specific activities planned to achieve this.

The woreda has a plan to get finance from the government and community. It is difficult to plan for the funding coming from development partners as this data is not readily available. Though the woreda requires extensive finance to achieve the set targets, the source of finance is not known.

Planning, sanitation and hygiene

Overall, the planning building block in South Ari is assessed as **high for sanitation and moderate for hygiene systems**.

There are two types of plans in the woreda (the perspective plan, and the SDG master plan). The woreda has a strategic plan with multi-annual targets linked to national targets which is currently in line with SDG targets. The woreda has a vision to reach 100% at least basic sanitation and hygiene services in 2030. The woreda has a WASH SDG master plan (developed in 2020) that is used for different planning purposes and adopted for the woreda. The master plan contains all life-cycle cost components and considers these costs accordingly. The perspective plan was developed based on the SDG masterplan, therefore includes all the necessary components of the masterplan.

Though the plan is comprehensive, and it says 100% at least basic service for all by 2030, there are no specific mentions on how to address equity and inclusion.

The Woreda WASH SDG master plan considered all the life cycle cost approaches including CapEx, CapManEx, OpEx and ExDSC, with some indication to the source of finance. The plan includes different sources of finance (government, community, and development partners).

The annual plan starts at the regional level and the woreda offices produce the plan at the zonal level. Community representatives are involved in different decision-making processes in the annual planning. There are also consultations with the community at different stages. Development partners are not involved in the annual planning of the government. Though development partners come with their own plans, they consult the woreda about their plans.

Planning, institutional WASH

Overall, the planning building block in South Ari is assessed as **very high for school WASH and high for HCF WASH systems**.

There are different annual and multi-annual plans that are linked to regional and national level targets. There are targets and visions set for institutional WASH in the woreda. There is limited integration between sector offices for institutional WASH activities in the woreda. Though the plan is comprehensive, working in collaboration/integration to implement the plan is limited and not as expected.

Infrastructure development and management

Infrastructure is the essential physical component that delivers the services. It comprises not only hardware but also the mechanisms and processes for developing new infrastructure and maintaining existing facilities. Infrastructure has two components: development and management. Infrastructure development refers to capital investment for new infrastructure, with coordination of international donors, private operators, and other actors, plus support for the efficient procurement, construction, and management of assets. All infrastructure requires both ongoing routine maintenance (operation and maintenance expenditure, or OpEx) and occasional major replacement or rehabilitation (CapManEx). Infrastructure development is assessed by looking at the mechanisms that ensure due diligence, control over procurement, construction quality and adherence to construction standards. Infrastructure management assigns responsibility for these different tasks. It is assessed in terms of clarity of asset ownership, the existence of an asset inventory, and the fulfilment of roles and responsibilities for asset management by service providers and authorities.

Infrastructure development and management, water

Overall, the infrastructure development and infrastructure management building blocks in South Ari are assessed as **high and moderate for water systems respectively**. This has increased from moderate and weak respectively from 2020.

The procurement mechanism differs for government and development partner projects. The woreda has a proper procurement process in place for new investment that is developed by the regional finance bureau. The procurement and implementation are centralised for the woreda with the woreda finance office taking the responsibility. Procurement for the construction of

new projects is announced on different platforms depending on the size of the project. Development partners use their own procurement process and document for their projects.

The woreda does not have the required capacities (human, financial, physical) to properly manage procurement processes (including monitoring and supervision). The woreda lacks the technical capacity to follow up on construction quality. Logistical constraints are there to properly follow up and monitor infrastructure development. Because of this, construction quality is a major issue.

Ownership of water assets is properly defined between woredas and WUAs. WASHCO guideline 2008/102 specifically states that once constructed the schemes are handed over to WASHCOs (users) and are the responsibility of the WASHCOs. Scheme management and minor maintenance are the responsibility of WASHCOs. The woreda gives training about asset ownership and responsibilities of the WASHCOs during their establishment. However, most of the WASHCOs are not taking responsibility for their schemes.

Even though there is an asset registry (focused on the functionality of schemes) at the woreda level, it doesn't include all schemes. This is because of lack of budget to update the monitoring system. The woreda has taken the responsibility to operate the asset registry but because of logistic gaps, the implementation has been limited.

The woreda does not have the capacity (financial, physical, human) to support WASHCOs with major maintenance and rehabilitation where it is beyond their capabilities. Caretakers are trained (theoretical and practical) at Kebele level on minor maintenance and are provided with equipment and tools. However, because of limited budget, at the woreda level, the given support has been limited.

Infrastructure management, sanitation and hygiene

Overall, both the infrastructure development and infrastructure management building blocks in South Ari are assessed as **high for sanitation systems**.

All the procurement and implementation manuals, and procedures for capital investment are in place. However, the health office is not using it for sanitation CapEx because sanitation CapEx is expected to come from households. The national policy indicates individual latrines are owned by the households.

There is an issue with who is making the SME accountable because there is an overlap in responsibility. The woreda job creation office established the SME without the involvement of woreda SME office which created friction between the offices. If the SME office was directly involved in their establishment, providing land for the SME would have been easy. The woreda has not provided SMEs with financial support, didn't provide initial resources, and has not followed up. Because of this, there is currently no one from the woreda office that makes SMEs accountable and take responsibility. In addition, there is still dependency on the development partners that established the SMEs, which has created lack of ownership.

The woreda conducts household and public latrines inventory every quarter classifying them as a basic, limited, and unimproved sanitation service. This is directly fed into the DHIS 2 which now has dedicated indicators for sanitation and hygiene.

Monitoring

The monitoring building block covers the capture, management and dissemination of the information required to effectively manage WASH services at all levels. Monitoring is the basis for the information feedback loops that ensure effectiveness and allow adaptive change. Monitoring also supports both regulation and planning. The strength of the monitoring system is assessed in terms of the existence of a national system that operates at the district level, with district-wide, up-to-date data that are analysed and used by service providers and authorities.

Monitoring, water

Overall, the monitoring building block in South Ari is assessed as ***moderate for water systems***. This has increased from weak in 2020 to moderate in this assessment.

The woreda reports to the zone/region on a quarterly basis. The report includes the number of new water schemes constructed, the number of water schemes maintained, the number of non-functional water schemes, revenue collected, and financial performance. Even though there is asset inventory (scheme information), it doesn't include all schemes and is not updated regularly. In addition, the woreda has mWater monitoring system to follow up on the woreda water system that is updated on a monthly basis.

There is data on WASHCOs and their activities that includes revenue, expenditure and challenges that is updated quarterly. However, most of the WASHCOs don't share their report with the woreda water, mines, and energy office. In addition, there is no system to follow up on WASHCOs performance.

Monitoring, sanitation and hygiene

Overall, the monitoring building block in South Ari is assessed as ***high for sanitation and hygiene systems***.

DHIS 2, owned by the FMoH, has the indicators necessary for tracking sanitation and hygiene in the community. Updating data in this system is the responsibility of health centres through health information technicians (HITs). The HEWs collect the necessary data from the community and report to health posts. The health centres collect data from the surrounding health posts and upload it to the DHIS. The woreda faces challenges related to data entry. The staff dedicated to filling in the data are not committed to updating the data regularly. Because of this, we see a gap in the data. There are validation mechanisms for ensuring data quality, though we still see data quality issues and gaps in the woreda. Proper follow up and support is required to ensure this. Service provider performance is not included in DHIS 2.

Regulation

The regulation building block assesses the accountability mechanisms, regulatory framework, and capacity of the regulator. The existence of a regulatory body, the degree to which it uses monitoring data to guide regulation and enforcement, and accountability mechanisms available to citizens determine the strength of this building block.

Regulation, water

Overall, the regulation building block in South Ari is assessed as ***moderate for water systems***. This has increased from weak in 2020 to moderate in this assessment.

The WASHCOs in discussion with the community decides on the tariff. The tariff is also updated depending on the market and discussion with the community.

The woreda has no system in place to follow up on WASHCOs performance. The WASHCOs don't have a written plan but report to the woreda water office on operational challenges, revenue collected, maintenance expenditures and account balance during that month. The woreda documents all reports and support letters from the WASHCOs. The woreda is responsible for supporting and following up on WASHCOs at least every quarter. But due to human, financial, and other logistical constraints, the woreda is not giving the required follow up and support. Because of this, the woreda doesn't have the latest performance from the WASHCOs operating in the woreda.

The woreda uses the learning alliance to inform the community on service level issues. In addition, the woreda follows up at kebele level if an issue comes up. Written complaint comes from the community. The woreda tries to solve the issues with limited capacity. When the woreda holds public meetings, which doesn't happen very often, the public speaks up about WASHCOs (payment, performance, awareness). The woreda discusses with the community about services, but there is no legal accountability mechanism to make WASHCOs accountable.

Regulation, sanitation

Overall, the regulation building block in South Ari is assessed as ***weak for sanitation systems***.

There is weak support from the woreda to SMEs and consumers. Starting from the establishment of SMEs, attention has not been given to this. The woreda has not provided financial support, didn't provide initial resources, and has not followed up with the SMEs. In addition, the SMEs still assume their work is the responsibility of the development partner that started the project rather than taking ownership.

There is an issue with who is making the SME accountable because there is an overlap in responsibility. The woreda job creation office established the SME without the involvement of woreda SME office which created friction between the offices. If the SME office was directly involved in their establishment, providing land for the SME would have been easy. The woreda has not provided SMEs with financial support, didn't provide initial resources, and has not followed up. Because of this, there is currently no one from woreda office that makes SMEs accountable and takes responsibility.

The community reports informally to the woreda health office when there is issue with sanitation products and services. There are also community discussions held by the office where the community raise their concern and discuss solutions.

Learning and adaptation

The learning and adaptation building block presumes inclusive platforms for the regular sharing of information and use of data for critical analysis with participation from multiple stakeholders including civil society. The stakeholders then respond to the learning through adaptation: they alter their policies and practices, and they are willing to address failure and work with others to do things differently. The learning and adaptation building block is assessed in terms of the existence of district-level institutionalised learning platforms, linked to national-level platforms, with sufficient representation by different stakeholders. The findings and reflections of the platforms should be systematically taken up in local policies and strategies.

Learning and adaptation, water

Overall, the learning and adaptation building block in South Ari is assessed as ***weak for water systems, which was also weak in 2020.***

There is a learning alliance platform in the woreda that includes all relevant sector offices and stakeholders. There are also utility board meetings and a water safety plan technical team. There are meeting minutes for these meetings. There are also action points linked to the meeting minutes. The learning alliance is used to share experiences, identify gaps, and take action points with roles and responsibilities. Though influential, identified actions are not reflected in policy and strategies. The learning alliance is linked to the region through experience sharing.

Learning and adaptation, sanitation and hygiene

Overall, the learning and adaptation building block in South Ari is assessed as ***high for sanitation and hygiene systems.***

There is a steering committee, technical committee, and learning alliance that meets regularly for coordination. They discuss their implementation, challenges, and gaps, what needs to improve and share their experience. The learning alliance was supported by SWS at the beginning but the woreda has taken ownership of the learning alliance and has institutionalized it so far. However, there is a gap in conducting meetings regularly because of different reasons (resources, overlapping activities, commitment).

The steering committee includes WASH sector office led by woreda administration. The technical committee includes WASH sector office technical staff led by the woreda water office. The learning alliance includes woreda WASH sector offices led by the woreda finance office and is hosted by sector offices in rotation. For the steering committee and technical committee, development partners participate when there are specific activities that need to be reported and discussed, but they don't participate regularly. The involvement of development partners is limited in the learning alliance.

There is meeting minute for these platforms containing action points with defined role and responsibility and implementation timeline, gaps, challenges, implementation evaluation, and participant list. Even though it takes time, most of the action points taken during these platforms are completed. If the action point requires significant budget, it could be difficult to complete. Logistics (transport, fuel, security, road access) also play a vital role in the completion of action

points. There is also issue with high turnover at management level (steering committee, heads of offices) which affects the implementation of the action points.

Outside performance reporting (office to department) there is no linkage between zone, region, and national level of these coordination platforms. There are also experience sharing activities for technical committee at regional level. There is discussion between woreda steering committee and zone steering committee to evaluate bi-annual activities.

Learning and adaptation, institutional WASH

Overall, the learning and adaptation building block in South Ari is assessed as ***moderate for school WASH systems and high for healthcare facility WASH systems.***

There is a steering committee, technical committee, and learning alliance that meets regularly for coordination. They discuss their implementation, challenges, and gaps, what needs to improve and share their experience. The learning alliance was supported by SWS at the beginning but the woreda has taken ownership of the learning alliance and has institutionalized it so far. However, there is a gap in conducting meetings regularly because of different reasons (resources, overlapping activities, commitment).

Even though these platforms exist, institutional WASH is not a discussion point during the meetings. Except for one or two learning alliance meetings, discussion on institutional WASH activities has been limited.

Water resources management

The water resources management building block refers to the coordination and control of water allocations to different sectors. A strong system includes methods or protocols for addressing conflicts and encouraging cooperation. Both the abstraction of fresh water and the disposal of used water should be controlled, managed, monitored, and enforced.

Water resources management, water

Overall, the water resources management building block in South Ari is assessed as ***weak for water systems, which was also weak in 2020.***

Only four kebeles in the woreda have a water safety plan.

There is no formal system for conflict resolution. Upstream and downstream conflict is mostly handled by constructing multi-kebele or multi-village schemes by providing water for the upstream community as well as the downstream community.

New water supply infrastructure developments are planned based on proper water resources assessments including impacts on other users. This includes feasibility study, location distance from another borehole, number of direct and indirect beneficiaries, groundwater potential, and geophysical study.

Water resources management, sanitation and hygiene

Overall, the water resources management building block in South Ari is assessed as **very high for sanitation systems**.

The health extension workers (HEWs) create awareness about upstream and downstream latrine construction and how that affects water source quality. The community also consults with HEWs when constructing toilets. The woreda makes an effort to protect sources. There is a water safety plan developed this year for this purpose. There is a guiding document related to this.

There is a team that handles it. There is a team that includes water, education, health, and environmental protection in collaboration with HEWs that handles water resource management-related conflicts. They create awareness in the community and close down latrines that are polluting nearby waters or the environment if necessary. The community complains to water and health offices about the issues that arise related to this.

There is work related to catchment/basin protection. Regional and ministry-level activities have been seen, but the woreda is not directly involved in these activities.

Annex 1: Building Blocks and their indicators

Institutional	As defined in the national WASH implementation framework, the required institutional structure is in place (in practice, not only on paper) for community management (woreda-WASHCO), utility management (zone-utility), and Self-supply (woreda-HH)	Vacancies are filled at the woreda water office (as the main service authority for rural water) adhere <60% = 1; <70%=2; <80%=3, <90%=4, >90%=5	Regular and adequate support is provided by zones and regions to the woreda water office (as the main service authority for rural water)	There are formalized (written) arrangements setting out the relationship and obligations between the woreda (as the main service authority for rural water) and WASHCOs during construction/ formation phases and covering ongoing service delivery.	
Policy and Legislation	WASHCOs (as main service providers for rural water) have written by-laws in place	Requirements of the regional proclamation on WASHCO legislation are clearly understood at the woreda and WASHCO level	WASHCOs have a water safety plan in place		
Finance	Finance is allocated for new infrastructure (CapEx) in at least the woreda budget	Budgets for capital investment (CapEx) are utilized (where <50% utilization = 1; 50-65%=2; 65-80%=3, 80-95%=4, >95%=5	There are funds allocated by the woreda to major capital-intensive repairs and rehabilitation (CapManEx) and to support other maintenance beyond the capacity of the WASHCOs	Are the woreda and WASHCOs implementing guidelines on tariff collection?	Water is prioritised in woreda budget (where % total woreda budget <1%=1, 1-2%=2, 2-5%=3, 5-10%=4, >10%=5)
Planning	The woreda has a strategic plan with multi-annual targets linked to national (GTP-2) targets	The woreda plans to take equity into account (considering geographical equity, disability, gender, pro-poor measures, children/elderly). Allocated score of 5 if all of these are considered in plans.	The woreda plans to take into account both capital investment needs and needs to ensure sustainable service delivery (direct support and capital maintenance).	The woreda plans are costed, and all possible sources of finance identified	Stakeholders (related sectors, NGOs etc.) are consulted in the development of annual woreda water plans
Infrastructure Development	Procurement and implementation guidelines for capital investment under WMP (CWA/POM), CMP, Self-supply and NGO projects are locally available to required staff in the woreda	The woreda has required processes for (infrastructure) procurement in place including construction standards and adequate monitoring and supervision	The woreda has required capacities (human, financial, physical) to properly manage procurement processes (including monitoring and supervision)		

Infrastructure Management	Ownership of water assets is properly defined between the woreda and WASHCOs (as main rural water service provider)	There is an up-to-date inventory (at least annually) of water infrastructure assets, including age and current state	Woredas can and do (capacity and willingness) step in to support WASHCOs with maintenance where it is beyond WASHCO capabilities, and escalate to zone or region as required	Woredas provide systematic and planned support to WASHCOs to do O&M within their capabilities	
Monitoring	The woreda data is reported into a regional/ national database and that can be accessed at the woreda level	The woreda database includes all water points in the woreda	Information on WASHCO and utility performance is available at least quarterly	Data in the woreda database are updated at least quarterly at a minimum adding new sites and updating functionality status	
Regulation	The region has guidelines on tariffs, service levels and other rules that protect users and the woreda is knowledgeable about these guidelines.	The woreda uses monitoring data to track the performance of service providers and follows up to address failings	There are platforms for the public to be informed and consulted on water service delivery	There is a mechanism for the public to make complaints or hold service providers accountable and the public is knowledgeable about and using these platforms.	
Learning and Adaptation	Coordination platforms at the woreda level (e.g., woreda WASH team and SC) are expanded to provide opportunities for learning lessons as well as tracking activity progress	Coordination platforms at the woreda level engage all key stakeholders (not just woreda offices)	Meetings are properly documented, including identifying lessons learned, and minutes/ reports are available	Actions are identified to improve results and changes are reflected in policies or strategies	The woreda platforms share information systematically with relevant platforms at the zonal or regional level
Water Resources Management	Water safety plans have been developed by WASHCOs and utilities and are used to guide source protection activities	Utilities and woredas regularly meet or actively share information on the management of risks with the Abbay River Basin Authority	Planning of water supply infrastructure developments is based upon proper water resources assessments including impacts on other users	Mechanisms are in place to manage any conflicts or competition between abstraction for water supply (by WASHCOs/ utilities) and downstream users	WASHCOs and utilities properly monitor sources (e.g., production, water levels, water quality)

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