MINISTRY OF THE ENVIRONMENT, WATER AND SANITATION

GENERAL SECRETARIAT

DRINKING WATER DEPARTMENT

BURKINA FASO
Unity-Progress-Justice

INTERNATIONAL WORKSHOP ON MONITORING AND REGULATION OF THE PUBLIC DRINKING WATER SERVICE IN BURKINA FASO RURAL AREAS

REGULATORY FRAMEWORK FOR RURAL WATER SUPPLY AND SANITATION – FOCUS ON WATER QUALITY MONITORING IN ZAMBIA

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COMMUNICATION PRESENTATION OUTLINE

STRUCTURE	- Aim of reforms - Institutional set-up - Functions of NWASCO - Enforcement tools - Area categorisation - Framework for regulation of RWSS - Water quality monitoring - Conclusion
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1.0 Introduction.

The National Water Supply and Sanitation Council (NWASCO) was set up by an Act of Parliament no. 28 of 1997 (The Water Supply and Sanitation Act) to regulate the providers of water and sanitation services. Prior to its establishment, water and sanitation services in the country were mainly provided by Local Authorities (LAs) at town or district scale. Other service providers, such as mining firms or agriculture-based corporations also supplied water to communities within the vicinity of their operations.

With the establishment of NWASCO and its subsequent commencement of operations in 2000, to regulate the monopolistic tendencies associated with WSS service provision, the country embarked upon commercialisation of services. This was in an effort to instil a private-sector mentality in the business that had over time deteriorated, leading to poor service delivery. The Act provided for the LAs to establish commercial utility companies as joint ventures of several LAs or with the Private Sector. To date, eleven (11) Commercial Utilities (CUs) have been setup mostly at provincial basis and are responsible for service provision to about 99% of the country's population. The remaining 1% is serviced by Private Schemes, whose core business is not water or sanitation but provide the services to communities around their business areas as a fringe benefit.

2.0 Regulation of urban onsite sanitation and rural water supply.

Up until 2017, the CUs focused on providing reticulated water and sanitation services in urban areas. Thus, the government directed that service provision be extended to rural areas as well as the urban onsite sanitation subsector in order for the country to achieve universal coverage as espoused by the SDGs. Subsequently, following an extensive and collaborative process, NWASCO developed Regulatory and Service Provision Frameworks on rural water supplies and urban onsite sanitation in 2018 to guide interventions into these previously unchartered spheres. The Rural Water Supply and Sanitation (RWSS) Framework is designed to ensure that RWSS services are provided equitably and efficiently to all parts of the country. It provides modalities for service provision with CUs, being the principal licenced entities, at the core while also providing for third party participation through either management contracts or Memoranda of Understanding.

Figure 1 summarises the proposed model.

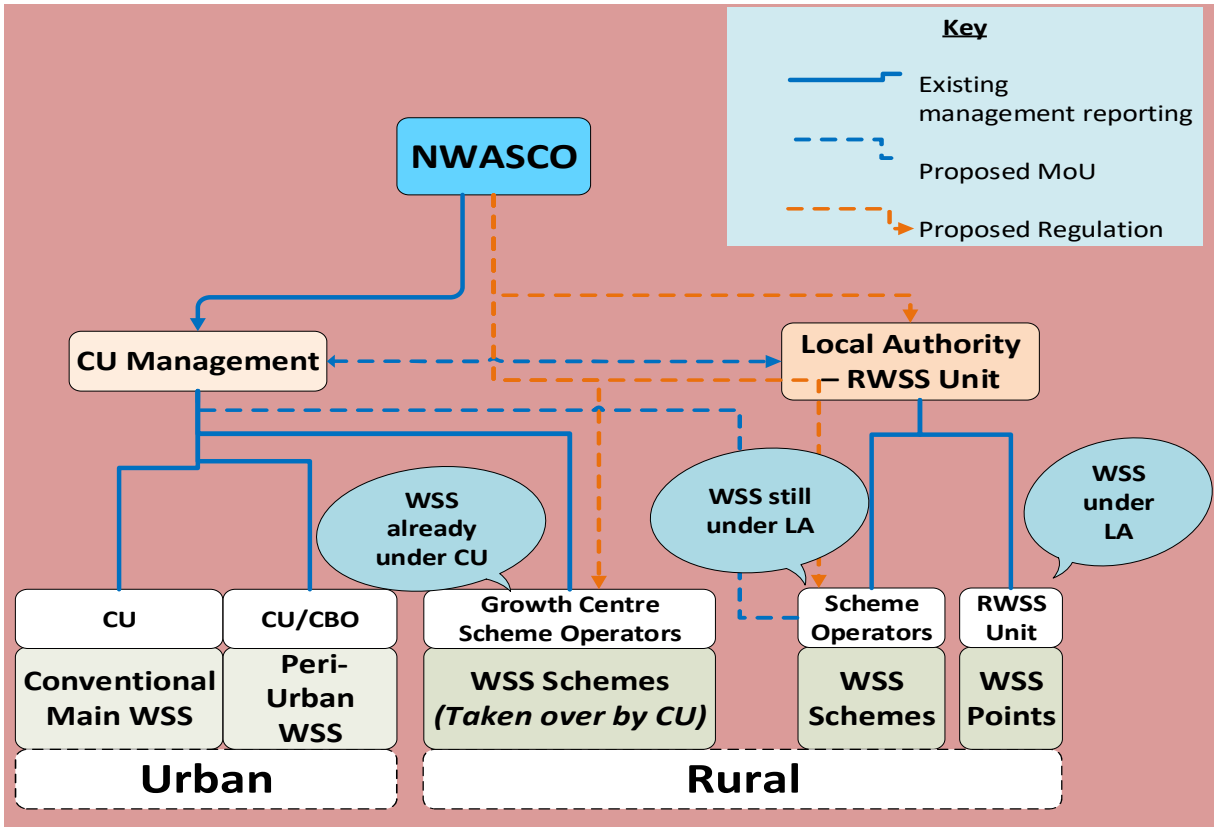

Fig 1: Proposed service provision and regulatory model for RWSS

To supplement the model and as a way of ensuring clarity and accountability, the regulator has developed guidelines such as the Minimum Service Level – which stipulates the minimum standards providers must adhere to and the Water Quality Monitoring Guidelines – which stipulate minimum required types and numbers of tests as well as sanitary inspections to be carried out.

3.0 Aim of presentation

The presentation aims at highlighting Zambia's water sector reform journey and current institutional set-up as well as underpinning legislation, drawing comparisons with that of Burkina Faso and clarifying the roles and responsibilities of various stakeholders. This will help participants understand the strengths of each respective set-up as well as bring to light the areas that require strengthening for improved service delivery. Suffice to mention, that Zambia's water sector has undergone a series of reforms from the early 1990s leading to various policy and legal amendments. More recently, the country passed the 2024 Water Policy with one of the main objectives being achieving universal access to WSS services through strengthened operation and maintenance, corporate governance and monitoring systems, as well as creating an enabling environment for private sector participation. Further, the presentation will dwell on some of the key enforcement tools that the regulator uses to enforce compliance of the service providers. Specifically, emphasis will be placed on the Water Quality Monitoring Guidelines, clearly outlining the significant difference between monitoring urban versus rural water supplies in terms of frequency of parameters, frequency of analyses and undertaking of sanitary inspections. The risk assessment and management approach of the guideline and the key stakeholders who should be involved in the process will also be discussed. Figures 2 and 3 highlight the main monitoring requirements between urban (piped) and rural (non-piped) water systems.

	Number of samples per year per parameter in the network	
	for annual water production <240,000 m^3	for annual water production >240,000 m^3
Bacteriological	12	12 + 1 for each additional 30,000 m above 240,000 m^3
Residual chlorine	48	48 + 1 for each additional 15,000 m above 240,000 m^3

Number of samples per year per parameter*	**Groundwater**		**Surface water**	
	Water production per year		Water production per year	
	< 240,000 m^3	> 240,000 m^3	< 240,000 m^3	> 240,000 m^3
Turbidity, pH, Colour (each)	4	12 + 1 for each additional 120,000 m^3 above 240,000 m^3	12	12 + 1 for each additional 60,000 m^3 above 240,000 m^3
Metal analysis for each (Manganese, Lead, Iron, Arsenic, Copper, Cobalt)	4	12	4	12
Other tests**	2***	4	2	4

Fig 2: Key parameters and number of required analyses.

Source and mode of supply	Frequency
Dug well (with or without windlass)	4 (6)*
Dug well with hand-pump	4 (6)*
Shallow and deep tube well with hand-pump	4
Rainwater catchment	4
Gravity spring	4

Fig 3: Frequency of sanitary inspections per source of water

Further, the presentation will discuss the data flow and validation mechanisms that have been put in place in Zambia and the key requirements to ensure at the very apex of decision making, be it for regulation or policy formulation, sound data is available (see Figure 4). This segment will also highlight the efforts of concerted collaboration among various stakeholders in data collection, validation and transmission but also potential constraints of such mechanisms.

Lastly, the presentation will discuss in general terms the prerequisites for effective service provision and regulation in rural areas as well as the pitfalls that need to be addressed if the continent is to achieve universal WSS coverage.

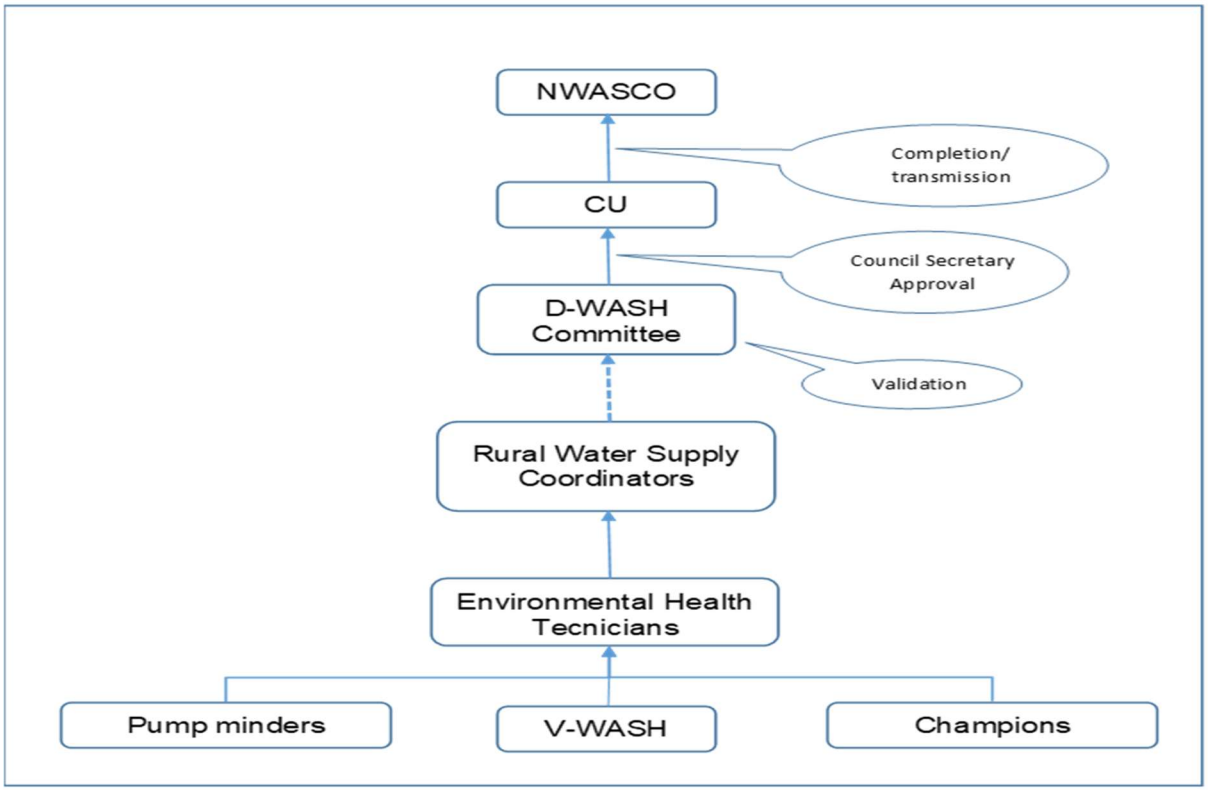

Fig 4: Data collection, validation and transmission structure.

4.0 Conclusion

To effectively implement the extended mandate of providing WSS services to rural areas, a clear and systematic strategy is imperative. The roles of the various potential players have to be well clarified. A model centred on the principal licence holder, the Commercial Utility, has been adopted in Zambia while fully recognising the collaborative efforts of other key players such as LAs and CBOs. It is obvious however, that rural WSS services are not going to be commercially viable in the immediate future owing to low economic activity in most rural places. Also, the nature of rural areas typically presents an enormous operational challenge as they lack sound infrastructure for mobility and communication and are further characterised by sparsely populated communities. Thus, an adequate financing or cross-subsidisation mechanism has to be set up to ensure utilities are not over-burdened as they provide oversight on these areas. Furthermore, capacity-building measures for institutional enhancement cannot be over-emphasised as the sector tries to adapt to the last mile endeavour.