This compilation of country summaries, comes from a study conducted in 2017 - 2018, on national accountability mechanisms for the implementation of Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 6. The research for the study was led by partners including Coalition Eau, End Water Poverty, Watershed Empowering Citizens Consortium, the Water Supply and Sanitation Collaborative Council (WSSCC) with the support of Sanitation and Water for All (SWA) along with key national civil society coalitions and organisations.

The study results are based on more than 1,000 survey responses, interviews and validation meetings with stakeholders working on water resources, drinking water and sanitation in 25 countries. Stakeholders included governments (national and decentralised), civil society organisations (CSOs), non-governmental organisations, development partners, UN agencies, research and education institutions and think tanks.

The following country summaries and their recommendations can be used to develop strong national and regional advocacy strategies to call for more effective accountability for SDG6.

To read the full report and executive summary in English, French and Spanish, visit one of the implementing partners’ websites such as End Water Poverty’s website at: https://bit.ly/2u5cvQG
Benin

**National accountability mechanisms for SDG6**

The water and sanitation sector in Benin has two frameworks for reporting on progress towards the priority targets for SDG6. These are the Water and Sanitation Sector Group (GSEA) and the annual review of the water and sanitation sector.

The GSEA is a national forum bringing together government institutions, technical and financial partners (TFPs) from all bilateral and multilateral cooperation and agencies, the ANCB, international NGOs and some national CSOs working in the water sector in Benin. It meets at regular intervals (four times a year) to discuss activities undertaken and sector-specific issues, including the implementation of improvements for the sector recommended in the annual review.

The annual review is a flexible framework for coordinating donors, implementing a programmatic approach in the sector, and closely monitoring progress towards SDG6. It involves all the bodies and organisations – the DGESA, the DNSP, the National Water Company of Benin (SONEB), the Consultative Framework for Non-State Actors of the water and sanitation sector (CANE A) and the ANCB – preparing and submitting activity reports to the organising committee, chaired by the Ministry of Water. By its nature, the review brings together all actors from the water sector, including the private sector. It is endorsed by a memorandum, jointly signed by the Minister for Water, the Minister for Health and the lead partner among government bodies. In addition, it should be noted that there is a steering committee for projects and programmes in the hygiene and sanitation sector in the Ministry of Health where members report on their activities. At the local level, there is the Water and Sanitation Sector Community Forum (CCEA). This brings actors from the sector together to help the commune authorities and administration to coordinate the actions of all those working in water and sanitation in the commune, and to overcome any challenges that may be impeding development of the sector. There are also thematic reporting sessions for water and sanitation, to record progress achieved in implementing the SDG.

**CSOs’ participation in the accountability mechanisms**

CSOs in Benin participate in the accountability mechanisms, platforms and systems through: participating in various workshops/reporting sessions on water and sanitation, preparing the civil society shadow report, contributing to the calculation of SDG6 indicators by government bodies, and contributing to the sector report. CSOs participate in the accountability mechanisms for progress on SDG6 through several forums: CANEA, CWP Benin, the Consultative Framework for Civil Society Organisations on implementing the 2030 Agenda, the Citizens’ Platform for monitoring public investments, and the Water Users’ Associations (WUAs).

**Reporting progress on SDG6**

Aware of the challenges involved, Benin started the process of implementing the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) the day after they were adopted. To enable this, the country introduced a coordination, monitoring and evaluation mechanism. Its purpose is to ensure that the priority targets in the SDGs are embedded into Benin’s national and/or sectoral planning framework, and then to report on Benin’s progress in implementing the SDGs.

This mechanism comprises two bodies: the Steering Committee and the Technical Committee. In relation to SDG6, government bodies such as the General Directorate for Water (DGESA) and National Directorate of Public Health (DNSP), the National Association of Communes of Benin (ANCB), civil society organisations (CSOs) and the National Institute for Statistics and Economic Analysis (INSAE) regularly provide data to the General Directorate for Coordination and Monitoring of the SDGs (DGCS-ODD). These data are used to prepare the annual report on implementation of the SDGs. The government bodies prepare annual reports for the water and sanitation sector, which also chart progress in implementing specific SDG targets. These reports are submitted for the annual review of the water and sanitation sector.

At the commune level, reporting is done through tools such as: activity reports, the administrative account, budget management activities, and implementation reports for the Annual Investment Plans (AIPs) arising from the Community Development Plan, which includes the management of water and sanitation installations.

**Main gaps**

1. Insufficient actions to assert political influence.
2. Insufficient involvement of CSOs in the accountability mechanisms.
3. A lack of transparency and synergy between the sector’s actors.

**Recommendations**

Although Benin has accountability frameworks and mechanisms for the WASH sector at the national and local levels, their effectiveness is gradually declining. Capacity building for CSOs, and improved collaboration with the Water and Sanitation Parliamentary Network, would increase accountability and improve Benin’s chances of achieving SDG6. Sector actors recommend:

1. Clarification of roles and responsibilities for sector actors.
2. Improved access to information and improved user participation in the accountability mechanisms.
3. The introduction of monitoring mechanisms at the sectoral level modelled on the DGCS-ODD.

**Positive experiences of participation**

1. The development of the civil society shadow WASH report, which enables CSOs to confirm or refute progress and to evaluate governance of the sector and the creation of the annual review, which enabled the government to revise its approach in calculating the coverage rate for drinking water.
2. The activities of the GSEA.
3. Press briefings or media cafés.

At the commune level, positive experiences include:

1. Organising the reporting sessions or commune public hearings on water and sanitation themes.
2. Participation in the WUAs’ general meetings.
3. Avoidance of duplication in the construction of installations.

**Main improvements needed**

1. Technical and financial assistance for organising reporting sessions. To sustain this approach, the government and decentralised local authorities must schedule regular reporting into their annual work plan.
2. Actors need to take better ownership, especially at the local level, of the annual review memorandum, while media cafés need to be more systematic.
3. The quality of the civil society shadow report needs to be improved, by preceding it with field surveys and post-An nual Review outreach sessions. This will result in improvements to: female participation and representation in the accountability frameworks, citizen oversight within communes, consolidation of the supervisory role of the media, and the quality of data published in management reports.

**Country Summaries**

Documentation: Completed questionnaires: 21; interviews conducted: three, people present at the approval meeting: 10.
Burkina Faso

Reporting progress on SDG6

To ensure accountability for SDG6 implementation, the Ministry of Water and Sanitation drew up a National Water Policy (NWP 2016–2030) broken down into five operational programmes. Implementation of these five programmes enables the government to provide information on the indicators relating to SDG6. A performance report is thus produced annually and submitted to the actors and stakeholders in the water and sanitation sector.

Through the General Directorate for the Economy and Social Development Plan (PNDES) takes place every six months and is conducted by the Permanent Secretariat of the PNDES, under the presidency of the Prime Minister.

It involves all actors from the country’s 14 development planning sectors and examines and assesses PNDES’ implementation performance. The review of the Sector Dialogue Framework for Water, Environment and Sanitation (CSD-EEA), is also conducted every six months by the Ministry of Water and Sanitation as lead agency for this planning sector. It involves water, environment and sanitation actors from the public and private sectors, civil society and local groups.

Further accountability mechanisms and platforms include the review by the NWP National Steering Committee, the steering committees for the five operational programmes and the National Water Council (CNEau).

National accountability mechanisms for SDG6

Different mechanisms are in place to ensure accountability for SDG6 implementation. A review of the National Economic and Social Development Plan (PNDES) takes place every six months and is conducted by the Permanent Secretariat of the PNDES, under the presidency of the Prime Minister.

It involves all actors from the country’s 14 development planning sectors and examines and assesses PNDES’ implementation performance. The review of the Sector Dialogue Framework for Water, Environment and Sanitation (CSD-EEA), is also conducted every six months by the Ministry of Water and Sanitation as lead agency for this planning sector. It involves water, environment and sanitation actors from the public and private sectors, civil society and local groups.

Further accountability mechanisms and platforms include the review by the NWP National Steering Committee, the steering committees for the five operational programmes and the National Water Council (CNEau).

CSOs’ participation in the accountability mechanisms

The Ministry ensures formal participation of civil society organisations (CSOs) in these mechanisms by including civil society representatives does, however, depend on the government’s awareness of the CSO actors in the sector.

Apart from large groups, such as the Permanent Secretariat for Non-Governmental Organisations (SPONG), individual non-governmental organisations (NGOs) active in the sector are also included on the list of invitees (WaterAid, the International Red Cross, Eau Vive Internationale etc). Increasingly, however, they are consulting SPONG’s Clean Water Supply, Hygiene and Sanitation (AEPHA) thematic group in order to expand this participation. It is mainly international CSOs and NGOs that participate, however, and there are insufficient local NGOs and associations participating in these bodies.

The main bottlenecks to CSO participation are: civil society’s lack of knowledge of the dialogue spaces and of the participation possibilities established by the government; the failure to provide timely information; as well as the inability of NGOs to organise their participation due to their poor structure.

Given the important role of CSOs in improving sector governance, there are nonetheless ever more places being reserved for NGOs and associations in the different consultation and dialogue frameworks. This is encouraging for the efforts being made by the NGOs and CSOs in the water and sanitation sector.

Positive experiences of participation

1. The constitutional enshrinement of the right to water and sanitation.
2. The incorporation of a strategic focus on citizen oversight into the Water and Sanitation Sector Governance Programme.
3. The prioritisation of water on the agendas of presidential candidates (source of the President’s “zero water drudgery” commitment).

Main gaps

1. The poor structure of CSOs, their problem of representativeness and credibility (lack of clarity and direction, opportunistic actions).
2. The failure to provide timely information.
3. The lack of NGO/CSO accountability to the state.

Main improvements needed

1. Increased understanding of SDG6 and all its targets on the part of all actors (government, CSOs, technical and financial partners, local authorities) nationally and regionally.
2. A citizen oversight mechanism is needed for the government’s national and international commitments in the sector.
3. Support for the production of alternative CSO reports and their dissemination at all levels.

Recommendations

1. The government should accept the significant role of civil society in improving governance and promoting dialogue between the government and civil society, and put a funding mechanism in place to support CSO participation in the different spaces for interacting with the government and other stakeholders.
2. Development partners should open specific funding lines for CSO umbrella organisations in order to support their efforts to establish a dialogue with the government.
3. CSOs and NGOs should make the most of all opportunities to remind the government of its commitments and encourage accountability.

Documentation: 20 questionnaires completed; five bilateral interviews organised; 18 participants from 15 organisations and institutions at the validation meeting.
Cameroon

Reporting progress on SDG6

A programme has been introduced to contextualise the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). It is led by the Ministry of Economy, Planning and Regional Development (MINEPAT).

The programme has adopted 46 priority targets, which will be included in its strategies, communal development plans, ministry programmes and the action plans of development partners. The government, with support from UNICEF, is currently developing specific indicators for water and sanitation in line with SDG6. The national water policy document, which was validated in November 2017, incorporates the preliminary results of this collaboration.

The baseline situation of the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals is documented through the publication of an annual report of the Ministry of Water Resources and Energy (MINEE).

National accountability mechanisms for SDG6

The WASH coalition is the main forum for actors in the water sector. It is led by two main actors: the government, which handles coordination, and the Technical Secretariat via MINEE and UNICEF (the supporting organisation). Every quarter, a national three-day meeting is organised with all stakeholders from the water sector: the State, technical and financial partners, and civil society organisations (CSOs), with the same set-up planned at the regional level.

The National Water Committee is an interministerial advisory committee that aims to study all measures or actions seeking to ensure the conservation, protection and sustainable use of water and propose them to the government. It issues a recommendation on water-related questions or problems that the government refers to it. It is formed solely of experts. The committee should hold two ordinary meetings each year. However, it has held only one session so far, on the day after it was established.

At the regional level, there is a six-monthly consultation framework that assembles mayors, CSOs, parliamentarians and decentralised state services. It includes an ‘independent observation’ component.

CSOs’ participation in the accountability mechanisms

The WASH coalition enables all stakeholders to discuss, evaluate the existing level of commitment and capitalise on new approaches to water and sanitation. Only registered, well-known CSOs are listed as stakeholders, such as the Global Water Partnership and the 12 Million Consumers Association. The National Water Committee does not explicitly allow civil society representation. Within the regional consultation framework, the CSOs are free to critique actions and decisions that are taken.

Challenges include a lack of funding which hinders the operations of the National Water Committee. CSOs are not well informed about how the various platforms work and lack coordination in their actions on water-related issues.

CSO involvement could be improved with capacity building among the various stakeholders, ensuring the National Water Committee is operational and developing a standardised structure for the regional consultation framework and its implementation in regions without this framework.

Positive experiences of participation

1. The equality among stakeholders at WASH meetings is a major asset. Involvement in the WASH Coalition has resulted in the national WASH in schools strategy and the national community-led total sanitation (CLTS) strategy.

2. Recognition of the value of proposals and contributions from civil society to public policies in this sector, including its involvement in implementing the national liquid sanitation strategies, and its role in designing and approving the national water policy.

3. CSO involvement on the various platforms allows them to relay the reference points and populations’ specific needs to the government, which can then be taken into account when planning.

Main gaps

1. The effective operation of the platforms (National Water Committee, WASH coalition).

2. Involving more CSOs in the regional consultation framework.

3. Technical capacity building and more funding for civil society.

Main improvements needed

1. Creation of a framework to capitalise on and follow up on recommendations made on the platforms.

2. The regularity of the existing platforms and the involvement of all stakeholders on them.

3. Coordination of CSO actions to ensure their effective and efficient involvement.

Recommendations

Government should:

1. Strengthen the functioning of existing platforms, make them more open to civil society organisations and take into account the recommendations in these spaces.

2. Strengthen the regional consultation framework mechanism and roll it out to other regions in the country.

3. Submit a national voluntary review on the implementation of the SDG6 to the UN High Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development.

CSOs should:

1. Strengthen coordination between actors and intervention capacity.

2. Provide advocacy to refashion accountability frameworks, improve representation and implement recommendations.

3. Improve communication and exchange of good practices for accountability among other stakeholders.

Documentation: 27 questionnaires completed, seven organisations/institutions questioned during the interviews, nine organisations/institutions present at the validation meeting.
**Ghana**

### Reporting progress on SDG6

The state has set up an office within the Presidency to track and monitor the SDG targets. The President of Ghana has also been named as a Co-Chair of the UN Secretary-General’s Eminent Group of Advocates on SDGs. The government is expected to prepare and submit SDG status reports annually. Its 2017 baseline indicator on SDG reports has already been drafted and shared with sector actors for inputs.

There is an ongoing discussion of sector progress since 2016 at the Ministry of Sanitation and Water Resources which has contributed presentations. Ghana participated in the UN High Level Political Forum held in New York in July 2017.

The country will participate again and has commenced work with development of the SDG baselines in this vein. Also, the urban advisory committee regularly reports progress on SDG6 to CSOs. This information is included in the data roadmap of Ghana’s efforts and reports. Some of the indicators and targets are also captured in Tier 1.

### National accountability mechanisms for SDG6

A CSO Platform on SDGs has been formed by CSOs and there is a convener and a co-convener for sub-platform 6. The Coalition of NGOs on Water and Sanitation (CONIWAS) also plays an active role in bringing together CSOs in the WASH sector. The Intervention Forum is an ad hoc committee organised by CSOs to review and make inputs in policy issues on WASH. The Mole Conference, the biggest WASH issues convener in Ghana, also brings together all WASH sector players including government agencies and other public institutions annually to look at government commitments and intervention to WASH and provide guides for a better WASH policy.

### CSOs’ participation in the accountability mechanisms

CSOs are part of the platform that monitors SDG6 and works as consortium to support the government’s agenda to ensure that SDGs are integrated into the national agenda. Budget tracking and stakeholder platform meetings also take place. WaterAid Ghana is a co-convener for SDG6 and participates in sessions organised by the SDG Philanthropy Platform.

The Community Led Total Sanitation (CLTS) Stocktaking Forum and the Mole Conference, the CONIWAS platform etc. are used to influence the sector and advocate for social change. The government relies on CSOs for advice and CSO-led platforms are used for accountability by the government. Where the government falls short on delivery, CSOs remind ministers of their commitments, especially through the media. One other important area CSOs are able to hold government accountable is through budget tracking of district assemblies (local authorities) through WASH budget tracking. This is done through assemblies’ medium-term plans, composite budgeting and actual expenditure tracking on WASH interventions.

CSOs are required to contribute presentations. Ghana participated in the UN High Level Political Forum held in New York in July 2017. The country will participate again and has commenced work with development of the SDG baselines in this vein. Also, the urban advisory committee regularly reports progress on SDG6 to CSOs. This information is included in the data roadmap of Ghana’s efforts and reports. Some of the indicators and targets are also captured in Tier 1.

### Positive experiences of participation

1. The existing framework of the Inter-Ministerial Coordinating Unit is good for coordinating government activities at the national level in terms of the SDGs. CSOs also constitute platforms to work with government and track progress.
2. Meetings are organised regularly to discuss the SDG6 targets with sector players.
3. Information is shared, there is improved engagement with government institutions, and strong links developed with the INGO Forum in Ghana.

### Main improvements needed

1. The wider participation of more NGOs and increased participation of media and the private sector.
2. CSOs must provide leadership in demanding improved accountability. There is a need for regular meetings on achievements so far, reminding stakeholders of their roles.
3. The responsiveness of the sector ministry towards implementing recommendations. There is also the need to utilise these accountability mechanisms with adequate evidence from research. Representatives from academia should be engaged more and more frequently.
4. CSOs should follow up to ascertain if commitments are adhered to, seeking data and information from relevant government agencies. Evidence collected by CSOs should be better distilled, concise and well-targeted.
5. There should be increased information sharing between CSO and government and among CSOs, with an expansion of the data dissemination platform.

### Major gaps

1. A lack of collaboration among government ministries and agencies on activities that contribute towards achieving SDG6.
2. A lack of adequate data on SDG6 for developing deliverable indicators.
3. Lip service from government in tackling sanitation issues. Over years, the government has enacted laws and byelaws at the local level to tackle sanitation (especially open defecation and indiscriminate littering) yet enforcement of such laws is poor. Enforcing building regulations for mandatory toilets in every home is ineffective as people still build without toilets.
4. Sustainable funding in the sector.

### Recommendations

1. Deepen collaboration and partnerships.
2. Strengthen national policies and implementation policies on WASH.
3. The private sector needs more involvement and participation in SDGs.
Guinea-Conakry is one of the countries due to present its VNR at the High-level Political Forum under the auspices of the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) in July 2018. This represents an opportunity for Guinea, which also has to provide a mid-term review of its Economic and Social Development Plan (PNDES 2016–2020) in 2018. In view of this, the Ministry of Planning and International Cooperation (MPCI) is responsible for development policies and for coordinating the SDGs.

**National accountability mechanisms for SDG6**

A mechanism has been established for monitoring and evaluating the PNDES: the institutional monitoring and evaluation mechanism (IMEM). The main aim of the IMEM is to formalise and facilitate dialogue with all stakeholders on the performance of the PNDES development actions, in accordance with the plan’s guiding principles. The IMEM brings together five categories of actors: the consultation and coordination framework (CCC) between the government and brings together five categories of actors: the consultation and coordination framework (CCC) between the government and development partners; the technical monitoring committee (CTC); the topical discussion groups (GTDs); the Ministries, through the strategy and development bureaux (BSDs); and the regions and prefectures through their respective monitoring and evaluation units (CRSEs/CPSEs). In any year, the first six-monthly review will assess the implementation of actions during the previous year, and the second six-monthly review will look at the actions scheduled for the following year. The IMEM has access to three technical tools: the performance measurement framework (CMP), the annual performance report (RAP) and the annual programming document (DAP).

**CSOs’ participation in the accountability mechanisms**

The National Coalition on Action and Advocacy for Water (CNAPE) has brought civil society and community-based organisations (CSOs/CBOs) together to support the water and sanitation sector and improve performance, in conjunction with all stakeholders. Apart from this initiative, the government shows a lack of trust in CSOs and, as a result, shares only limited information with them.

**CSOs’ participation**

- Limited human resources for WASH governance, at all levels.
- Poor understanding of the concept of accountability, at all levels.
- Disorganisation in WASH interventions.

**Main improvements needed**

1. Communication.
2. Transparency.
3. Consultation/coordination.

**Main bottlenecks restricting effective participation**

1. Poor dissemination and implementation of existing documents on policy, strategy and standards.
2. Limited collection of and access to WASH data for CSOs/CBOs.
3. Poor consultation between CSOs/CBOs in relation to WASH issues.
4. Little awareness-raising or dissemination of information to communities on their rights, responsibilities and governance of WASH aspects of interventions.
5. Poor motivation and capacity among CSOs in relation to WASH.
6. Poor implementation of functions delegated to public authorities involved in the supply of WASH services, at both the local and national level.
7. Poor integration of WASH aspects into the mechanism for disseminating official information to the community, during the drafting of local development plans (LDPs) and the annual investment plan (AIP).

**Positive experiences of participation**

The workshop to develop an action plan for the implementation and monitoring of SDG6 by CSOs.

**Opportunities presented to improve participation by CSOs**

There is currently very poor CSO participation in the sector, due to the lack of a framework for consultation between the stakeholders (public authorities, CSOs, TFPs, private sector and communities). In this context, the opportunities to enable effective participation by CSOs in the sector include:

1. Establishing a system for communicating WASH information from the local to the national level.
2. Holding consultation and community mobilisation days for CSOs, to increase engagement and commitment to transparency.
3. Lobbying partners (donors, NGOs and United Nations agencies) to support CSOs in producing information and awareness-raising materials on the accountability mechanism for SDG6, and making these available.
4. Introducing a standard template for harmonised community evaluation tools, to reflect the WASH actions planned by CSOs in the LDPs and AIP.
5. Organising awareness-raising sessions for CSOs/CBOs on participation in the budget process for financing the sector.

**Recommendations**

**Government should:**

1. Ensure effective communication from the local to the central level.
2. Mobilise financial, technical and human resources for the implementation and monitoring of SDG6.

**CSOs should:**

1. Advocate for the integration of SDG6 into the national development plan and LDPs, while mobilising the financial resources required to implement and monitor it.
2. Support actions in the PNDES related to SDG6.

The UN should support the government in developing an action plan for knowledge management and thematic learning in the water and sanitation sector in Guinea-Conakry.

The private sector should form groups of operators to improve collaboration between actors in the WASH sector.
Kenya was chosen by UN-Water for the baseline pilot voluntary reporting on SDG6 submitted in 2017 as part of preparation for the HLPF reporting in 2018. The National Steering Committee (NSC) was formed incorporating government ministries, bilateral-multilateral agencies, local and international NGOs, CSOs and the private sector. The NSC raised awareness at a national level and enhanced capacity in monitoring and understanding of global level plans for monitoring SDG6 indicators. Data was therefore collected on the SDG indicators and validation workshops were held with stakeholders as part of the reporting process. A final pilot progress report on SDG6 (using the updated methodologies adopted by the UN) was submitted to the UN and the African Ministers’ Council on Water (AMCOW) in November 2017.

National accountability mechanisms for SDG6

The NSC on SDG6 was convened by the Ministry of Water and Irrigation to coordinate and oversee reporting on SDG6. It has sub-committees responsible for monitoring and reporting on each of the six indicators. The Committee has 56 members from government institutions, academic institutions, NGOs, bilateral-multilateral agencies, CSOs and the private sector. Meetings and workshops have taken place but these focused on finalising the report to UN-Water. Members of the NSC collect data and metadata for the purpose of global reporting. So far the NSC has: identified SDG6 focal point and relevant policy and monitoring stakeholders; established an intersectoral monitoring team with technical teams for each target/indicator; identified linkages to existing policy and monitoring processes; and reviewed SDG6 monitoring methodologies, collected baseline data and finalised the progress report on SDG6 shared in 2017.

The Kenya National Commission on Human Rights (KNCHR) acts as an accountability mechanism, checking the government’s performance on delivering the population’s rights, including the right to water and sanitation. KNCHR monitors progress towards the right to water and sanitation.

The Annual Water Conference week convened by the Ministry of Water brings together all water actors in Kenya to review progress and challenges in the water sector. The Inter-Agency Coordination Committee (ICC) holds quarterly meetings and there is an annual sanitation conferences convened by the Ministry of Health. These enable stakeholders to share experiences and new technologies in the water and sanitation sector.

The Kenya Water and Sanitation Civil Society Network (KEWASNET) acts as an accountability mechanism, checking the government’s performance on delivering the population’s rights to access to water and adequate sanitation. KEWASNET compiles an annual CSO sector report.

CSOs’ participation in the accountability mechanisms

Under the NSC, CSOs are involved through KEWASNET. In annual or quarterly fora, the CSOs are involved individually by attending the meetings, participating in the discussions, presentations, validations and policy influencing.

Positive experiences of participation

1. Government acknowledges, respects and engages with CSOs in a consultative manner since they form part of the accountability mechanism. CSOs participate in the planning, execution and reviews through open sharing and discussions among WASH sector partners with government.
2. Some CSOs are co-conveners of Technical Working Groups (TWGs) that feed into SDG6 reporting, while others are members of sub-committees for SDG6 indicators under the NSC, providing opportunities to engage with the government.
3. CSOs receive updates on developments in the sector and are challenged by the government institutions on their own involvement. This acts as a peer review mechanism.

Main bottlenecks restricting effective participation

1. At the NSC, CSOs are represented by the mother organisation (KEWASNET) which consists of 30 CSOs. Sometimes this does not give full representation and feedback to members, thus limiting the capacity of individual CSOs to effectively participate in the process.
2. Meetings have cost implications for CSOs, limiting their ability to meet and deliberate on issues for effective engagement with government agencies for accountability.
3. Some CSOs are not members of KEWASNET and not all private sector players are part of Kenya Private Sector Association (KEPSA); their views and contributions are left out.

Major gaps

1. Lack of a well-structured participation by the CSOs due to ad hoc meetings.
2. Lack of capacity (knowledge and financial) by CSOs to effectively engage and hold the government accountable.
3. Poor information sharing within the organisations taking part in the SDG6 forum. Information often retained only by staff who attend meetings.

Opportunities presented to improve participation

1. According to their strengths, individual CSOs could be incorporated into the sub-committees responsible for reporting on each indicator, to increase their ability to participate in the process.
2. KEWASNET could have periodic meetings scheduled to discuss SDG6 accountability with members. In such a forum, KEWASNET could give feedback on the NSC’s progress, processes and get input from members to present in NSC meetings.
3. The capacity of the CSOs on SDG6 could be developed and CSO participation at county level strengthened.

Main improvements needed

1. County-based monitoring, reporting and accountability mechanisms need strengthening as SDG6 indicators are largely devolved in the Kenyan system of governance.
2. Both horizontal and vertical information sharing on SDG6 progress needs to be improved.
3. Adequate resources need to be secured for effective engagement and involvement; monitoring, reporting and accountability mechanisms need strengthening.

Recommendations

1. Build CSO capacity for effective participation at county level, to improve data acquisition, analysis and reporting to the NSC.
2. Improved dissemination of the processes, roles, responsibilities, timelines and outcomes of SDG6 implementation, with CSOs, the private sector and other development partners at county and national level.
3. The NSC, KEWASNET and other committees need structured, regular meetings to enable effective engagement and ownership among all stakeholders.
Mali is demonstrating accountability for SDG6 through the creation of the Ministry of the Environment, Sanitation and Sustainable Development (MEADD). A national workshop on ownership and prioritisation of the SDGs has been organised, alongside parallel regional workshops. Sectoral reviews aimed at assessing the implementation of policies and indicators are being undertaken, and a workshop to validate the roadmap on accelerating the implementation of the SDGs organised. The institutional framework for the implementation of the SDGs is being developed, meetings to report to members of Parliament organised, and consultation of water and sanitation stakeholders taking place.

National accountability mechanisms for SDG6

- The creation of the MEADD.
- A joint review of water, sanitation, the environment and state land undertaken.
- The National Water Council and local water councils to question members of the government through the Democratic Forum on the monitoring of water and sanitation issues.
- National workshops on the SDGs and high-level meetings between CSOs and water and sanitation departments organised.
- National fora on water and sanitation organised.

CSOs’ participation in the accountability mechanisms

CSOs participate in different ways, depending on the type of system. This includes, for example:

- Supporting the organisation of roadshows, marches and petitions.
- Encouraging citizen participation in infrastructure management.
- Participating in debates.
- Formulating and monitoring recommendations.
- Assessing the road map on progress towards the implementation of recommendations produced by the sectoral reviews.

These groups are largely organised by the state through the water and sanitation network. All stakeholders in the sector (civil society, technical and financial partners and the private sector) participate in preparing, facilitating and monitoring recommendations. These various frameworks allow non-state stakeholders to participate in these forums, which help accelerate the implementation of recommendations and increase the visibility of the sector year on year, as well as its funding.

Main bottlenecks restricting effective participation

1. The low level of CSO representation in these mechanisms.
2. The lack or absence of financial resources allocated to these frameworks.
3. The limited operation of some mechanisms.
4. The limited implementation of recommendations produced by these frameworks.

Positive experiences of participation

1. The joint sectoral review and annual consultation with water and sanitation stakeholders.
2. The Democratic Forum and local accountability groups in some communities.
3. Participation in the Sanitation and Water for All (SWA) process.

Main improvements needed

1. The time-limited nature of the panel in the Democratic Forum.
2. The weakness of monitoring mechanisms due to the lack of financial resources.
3. The limited incorporation of recommendations produced during the consultations on water and sanitation policies.

Opportunities presented to improve participation

1. The opportunity for a framework for stakeholders in the sector to discuss and share ideas on national interests.
2. Sharing experiences and reporting and monitoring mechanisms for the implementation of public policies.
3. Enhancing the visibility of the sector.

Main gaps

1. Funding and strengthening of the consultation frameworks.
2. Regular monitoring of recommendations produced by the frameworks.
3. CSO representation in the mechanisms.

Recommendations

1. Develop technical resources to accelerate harmonisation and data production processes for monitoring the SDGs.
2. Mobilise funding to implement Mali’s SDG roadmap and build technical capacity among stakeholders in the sector.
3. Develop communications and share information with all stakeholders in the sector.

Reporting progress on SDG6

Mali is demonstrating accountability for SDG6 through the creation of the Ministry of the Environment, Sanitation and Sustainable Development (MEADD). A national workshop on ownership and prioritisation of the SDGs has been organised, alongside parallel regional workshops. Sectoral reviews aimed at assessing the implementation of policies and indicators are being undertaken, and a workshop to validate the roadmap on accelerating the implementation of the SDGs organised. The institutional framework for the implementation of the SDGs is being developed, meetings to report to members of Parliament organised, and consultation of water and sanitation stakeholders taking place.

Documentation: 22 questionnaires completed; nine organisations/institutions surveyed; 15 organisations/institutions at the validation meeting.
National accountability mechanisms for SDG6

The National Council on Water Resources: The council invites stakeholders working on SDG6 to attend annual meetings. The Council also develops and circulates a template for submission of memoranda on issues stakeholders want the Council to address.

The National Task Group on Sanitation (NTGS): All stakeholders working on SDG6 are represented at monthly meetings. Stakeholders present reports of work done, activities to be conducted, challenges in implementation of SDG6 and discuss how best to achieve SDG6.

National Community Led Total Sanitation (CLTS): A round table conference bringing together WASH stakeholders to discuss achieving CLTS. Government agencies interact with CSOs and development partners to measure achievements and the government is held accountable on shortfalls.

The Network for Water and Sanitation (NEWSAN): A coalition of CSOs working on SDG6 who also serve as a pressure group on government.

The National Roadmap Towards Eliminating Open Defecation: Developed by the Federal Ministry of Water Resources, this document contains targets and guidance on implementation to end open defecation by 2020. The government can be held accountable against these targets.

Donor Partners Group: The group consists of INGOs which partner with the government on SDG6-related activities, as well as part funding projects and monitoring progress.

National stakeholder consultation meetings/workshops: These track the government’s progress on SDG6.

The Water, Sanitation and Hygiene Information Management System (WASHIMS): This system tracks the progress and implementation of the ODF/Total Sanitation Certification Protocol and monitors value for money of SDG6 activities.

The Inter-ministerial Committee on National Environmental Sanitation: The Committee brings together stakeholders on environmental issues which are linked to implementation of SDG6.

WASH Ambassador: The Ambassador advocates to the government on achieving SDG6 targets.

The Network for Water and Sanitation (NEWSAN): A coalition of NGOs with representation in all states. NEWSAN undertakes monitoring and evaluations, conducts advocacy, participates in government activities and serves as a pressure group on government.

The CSO Advisory Group on SDGs: Established by the Office of the Special Assistant to the President on SDGs (OSSAP–SDGs), CSOs participate in reporting on the implementation of SDG6. The government is held accountable through shadow reporting by CSOs.

The CSO Advisory Group on the SDGs: The development of a CSO platform at national collating and reporting level that brings CSOs together to contribute to reporting on SDG6.

The National Council on Water Resources: The Council provides opportunity for stakeholders working on SDG6 to participate, contribute and submit issues.

Recommendations

1. A smart way of data generation, monitoring, reporting and accountability for results should be developed. This will require the strengthening of national and sub-national capacities for data generation and processing.

2. Collaboration among development partners and international M&E bodies should be explored to build the capacity of CSOs for locally based monitoring activities and reporting.

Main gaps

1. Leave no one behind: The need to build capacity of CSOs and broaden CSO involvement at all levels with evidence-based reporting. This will decentralise accountability mechanisms, moving them closer to grassroots level, allowing more participation, wider input, critiques, evidence-based learning and M&E.

2. Legislation and political will: It is necessary to adopt and implement legislation that will promote CSO participation in SDG6, addressing gaps and challenges for CSOs.

3. Improve opportunities/mechanism: Holding the government accountable through budget monitoring, project implementation and reporting.

4. CSO funding: Increased funding to support CSO participation in regional and international meetings for peer learning and engaging with other CSOs on SDG6.

5. Payment of counterpart funding by government: The need for government to pay counterpart funds in time for projects relating to SDG6.

6. Coordination: The need for improved coordination between stakeholders.

7. Lack of data: To improve data collection, management and sharing.

8. Institutional strengthening: Institutions need to be strengthened to improve accountability mechanisms.

Country Summaries
Senegal

Reporting progress on SDG6

The country reports through the Harmonised Public Policy Monitoring Framework (CASE), which was created by the government in 2015, with reference to the Emerging Senegal Plan (PSE) and covering the 2030 and 2063 agendas. The VNR for the UN High-Level Political Forum is managed through the CASE, which is extended to encompass various sections of civil society, researchers and sector stakeholders (including technical ministries). An ad hoc committee has been created. In addition, the water and sanitation sector monitoring and evaluation (M&E) framework was created under the Global Environmental Management Initiative (GEMI) for Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 6. It is spearheaded by the Millennium Drinking Water and Sanitation Programme (PEPAM) Unit and includes river development directorates, agencies and organisations.

National accountability mechanisms for SDG6

Parliament: During plenary sessions, Members of Parliament can put oral questions to the government on matters of national importance (during government-led sessions or the annual budget debate and vote).

Government: Diverse civil society stakeholders are invited to participate in the Joint Annual Review (JAR) on public policy (covering all policy areas) via the CASE, giving them an opportunity to attend the report presentation meetings and make their opinions heard.

The Ministry of Water and Sanitation (MHA): Sector CSOs are invited to participate in the water and sanitation JAR, organised by the PEPAM Unit, in order to monitor progress in the sector.

Local level: Dialogue and discussion forums for civil society stakeholders and national directorates/agencies take place, touching on practical issues around improving people’s living and working conditions.

CSOs’ participation in the accountability mechanisms

CSOs are not directly involved in plenary sessions in Parliament. Large CSOs are invited to attend one-day meetings to contribute to the JAR process. The dialogue and discussion forums, which meet periodically, are citizen platforms created by community-based organisations (CBOs) and NGOs. Large organisations and CSOs are involved in the National Blue Book Committee and other monitoring frameworks.

CSOs do not enjoy the same level of participation in the JARs as other stakeholders. CSO representatives’ input is rarely given due consideration. This is because the information they provide is not properly codified for inclusion in the national accounts or is treated as unofficial. The JARs offer limited opportunities for participation because the organisers decide which CSOs to invite, based on criteria that are not shared with CSOs. CSOs may participate in citizen platforms in much greater numbers, but they are rarely represented by decision makers. A wide selection of stakeholders is involved in reflection and discussion around the Blue Book, but the National Blue Book Committee has remained dormant since the end of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) process due to scarce funding.

Positive experiences of participation

1. CSOs are involved in the GEMI implementation process and the NGOs that attended the workshop made contributions and learned about the ongoing process.

2. CSOs attend the national SDG progress report presentation workshops. The Council of Non-Governmental Organisations for Development Support (CONGAD) is responsible for organising these workshops, which are attended by a wide selection of CSOs.

3. CONGAD has set up a CSO working group for monitoring the SDGs in Senegal (2018–2020). The working group focuses on SDG6 and there are plans to organise thematic, national and decentralised meetings.

Main gaps

1. The government has always tended to pay lip service to CSOs. The government is disinclined to let CSOs play their role to the full or to recognise their role, outside its international commitments.

2. The JAR process is under-resourced.

3. CSOs lack the financial resources to act autonomously and independently.

Main improvements needed

1. JAR meetings, which should be annual, are not held regularly.

2. CSOs are poorly represented at JAR meetings in terms of number and diversity.

3. Dialogue and discussion forums tend to disband when the corresponding project comes to an end.

4. The Blue Book is not produced every year.

Recommendations

1. The government should involve more and more diverse CSOs in the JAR process and welcome useful contributions from CSOs in a spirit of partnership.

2. CSOs should constantly seek out funding in order to develop their own, appropriate accountability mechanisms, produce better written contributions and make more effective proposals.

3. Local authorities should facilitate and support the creation of citizen platforms for monitoring public policies, programmes, reforms and projects.

Documentation: Questionnaires completed: 14; organisations interviewed: four; organisations present at the validation meeting: 10.
The Ministry of Finance and Planning (MoFP) holds responsibility for the SDGs and prepared four frameworks for implementation, namely: the research agenda, localisation, an SDG communication and dissemination strategy and a framework on monitoring and evaluation.

The National Bureau of Statistics (NBS) prepared an SDG roadmap; in the process, the data ecosystem in Tanzania was reviewed, the SDG indicators linked with the FYDP II, the national data gap assessed. The mapping and domestication of SDGs indicators is ongoing as well as the data validation and multi-stakeholder engagement to strengthen routine data collection systems to fill the data gaps from the surveys. The baseline report on the SDGs was prepared which will form the basis of the SDG annual report.

The WASH sector is guided by the National Water Policy (2002) and the National Water Sector Development Strategy (2007 – 2025). The Ministry of Water and Irrigation is the lead ministry, in collaboration with those responsible for health, education, local government and finance. There have been efforts to mainstream SDG6 - for targets 6.1 and 6.2 under the support of Water and Sanitation for All (ISWA); 6.5 is supported by the Global Water Partnership (GWP) and Tanzania is preparing for target 6.5.

Survey data produced by the NBS and routine data collected by ministries, departments and government agencies were the main data sources used in the report for the UN High Level Political Forum.

For SDG6, routine data are produced by the ministries, departments and agencies responsible for water, sanitation, hygiene, planning, education, health, local government authorities, agriculture and natural resources. Routine data is sometimes collected and disseminated by development partners, international NGOs, CSOs and the private sector as well.

### National accountability mechanisms for SDG6

The accountability mechanisms mainly used in the sector is dialogue mechanisms; it is emphasised in the process of implementing the Water Sector Development Programme.

Accountability mechanisms include: the Technical Working Groups (TWG) which meets quarterly, the Joint Water Sector Review (JWSR) which meets annually, the Joint Supervision Mission (JSM) which meets twice a year and the Joint Annual Sector Review. Monitoring tools include water management information systems, the National Sanitation Information System and independent reports from CSOs. Using these mechanisms and tools, the government, development partners, CSOs, the private sector and other stakeholders meet and plan, endorse, assess, share and evaluate sector progress. The government convenes and facilitates the TWG, JWSR and JSM.

Other accountability mechanisms include: adherence to the required procedures in procurement, consultations and contracting; policies and strategies; the FYDP II; monitoring tools and international and regional treaties. In a nutshell, there are established accountability systems in Tanzania to be used by civil society to hold the government accountable. However, there is the need to do more to improve effectiveness.

### CSOs’ participation in the accountability mechanisms

CSOs and other organisations participate effectively in sector accountability mechanisms through the TWG, JWSR and JSM. Attending meetings and forums provides an opportunity to hold the government accountable by sharing comments, progress and opinions backed with evidence.

Opportunities for CSOs to hold the government accountable include: a favourable legal and regulatory framework, freedom to conduct research and studies. The government makes use of valid data and information from the CSOs.

Challenges facing CSOs in holding the government accountable include the different systems and regulatory bodies to register NGOs. CSOs are not centrally registered or mapped, making it difficult to unite them.

Other challenges include: insufficient competent and qualified staff, inadequate coordination and networking among the CSOs; inadequate resources for conducting research and lack of organisational transparency.

### Positive experiences of participation

1. The formation of the Community Water Supply Organisation (COWSO) to replace the Water User Committee.
2. The initiation of the National Water Development Fund.
3. Freedom in data collection and supplying the government with data, information and design plans.
4. Participation of the private sector in construction and installations.
5. Participation in various meetings and dialogues such as JWSR.

### Main gaps

1. Coordination among CSOs and with the government.
2. Inadequate resources, skills and manpower.
3. Dependence on outside support is relatively high.
4. Hygiene is not a priority in the ministry responsible for health.

### Recommendations

1. The Ministry of Finance and Planning should formalise coordination mechanisms for the SDGs by assigning responsibilities to divisions/departments/units. Currently, the Division of Poverty Eradication is responsible, but only because it was responsible for the MDGs.
2. The government should strengthen the office of the registrar of NGOs to ensure effective monitoring, including of financial management and adherence to the rules and procedures down to the grassroots. This should include the capacity to map NGOs/CSOs and their activities nationwide.
3. Appropriate coordination and sharing of skills and experience among NGOs/CSOs is required in order to be able to offer evidence-based research to advise the government.
Togo

Reporting progress on SDG6

The Ministry of Development Planning in collaboration with the Ministry of Agriculture, Farming and Water (MAEH) are responsible for drafting Togo’s report on SDG6 for the UN High-Level Political Forum (HLPF). At the HLPF in 2017, Togo submitted a VNR on SDGs 1, 2, 3, 5, 9 and 14. This year, it plans to submit another review, which will take SDG6 into account. However, the process of drafting the report or review has not yet begun.

Main bottlenecks restricting effective participation

1. The lack of communication about the mechanisms and meetings.
2. The failure to invite all stakeholders, especially small CSOs.
3. The lack of knowledge on SDG6 among CSOs.
4. The shortage of funding.
5. The lack of technical and logistical resources.
6. The lack of dialogue between CSOs.

Documentation: 47 questionnaires completed; seven institutions surveyed; 18 people at the validation meeting.

Positive experiences of participation

1. The provision of more information and resources for advocacy work.
2. The meetings provide all stakeholders with detailed guidance on the amount of equipment to install and where it should be installed, so they can set up projects accordingly.
3. Mechanisms also provide a means of holding the government to account on the progress towards the implementation of recommendations made in this respect.

Main improvements needed

1. Improve the participation of all stakeholders in the mechanisms.
2. Increase communication on the actions carried out and make this information available.
3. Improve the frequency of data updates.

Recommendations

1. Create an institutional framework to provide accountability for SDG6 at the national level, uniting all the principal stakeholders working in the sector.
2. Finalise the decentralisation process in order to delegate power to local leaders, to enable close monitoring and a high level of accountability on progress at the community level.
3. Publish the results of consultation meetings to ensure all stakeholders have the same information.

At the community level, accountability rests with village borehole management committees. Communities elect representatives responsible for managing water resources and equipment, who represent their views to local government, manage the infrastructure and disseminate information provided by the prefectoral or regional department of water and sanitation services back to the village. At the administrative region level, a framework for cooperation between stakeholders in the WASH sector has been set up in each region. This framework covers the operational status of progress towards implementing all SDG6 targets at the regional level. The Regional Department of Water, an administrative service decentralised to regional level which handles the provision of drinking water and water resources management, chairs the committee that oversees the framework.

At the national level, accountability mechanisms include: The National Water and Sanitation Forum (FNEA): The FNEA is held every three years. Its primary aim is to establish a framework for dialogue, expertise and information sharing, and conciliation that brings together stakeholders working in WASH. All SDG6 targets are discussed at the workshops, with a focus on targets 6.1 and 6.2.

Basic Sanitation Collaborative Council in Togo (CCABT). This platform has been set up by WASH CSOs to improve work on sanitation, which is a marginalised issue in the country. It focuses on target 6.2 of SDG6.

Other mechanisms: The institutional mechanism for coordinating, monitoring and evaluating development policies (DIPD) as part of the Strategy for Accelerated Growth and Employment Promotion (SCAPE) of the Department of Development Planning; the National Action Plan for the Water and Sanitation Sector (PANSEA) 1 and 2; and the National Development Plan (PND). These mechanisms are not operational as the consultation workshops are not taking place while the PND is currently being drafted.

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CSOs’ participation in the accountability mechanisms

The terms of reference and invitation notes from meetings organised by Ministry Water and Agriculture have been produced and shared with stakeholders, setting the date and location of the meetings. Some CSOs working in the WASH sector in Togo who are invited to the meetings of the accountability mechanisms do take part.

National accountability mechanisms for SDG6

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GLOBAL REVIEW OF NATIONAL ACCOUNTABILITY MECHANISMS FOR SDG6

Between October 2017 – March 2018, a study was conducted on national accountability mechanisms for the implementation of Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 6. This research was led by partners and members of organisations including Coalition Eau, End Water Poverty, Watershed Programme, the Water Supply and Sanitation Collaborative Council with the support of Sanitation and Water for All.

The study results are based on more than 1,000 surveys, interviews and validation meetings with key stakeholders in 25 countries. This research evaluated the nature of existing national accountability mechanisms as well as the challenges and opportunities, identified gaps and made specific recommendations to different stakeholders to reach SDG6.

This is the start of a crucial and in-depth conversation in the pursuit of reaching the Sustainable Development Goals for future generations; leaving no one behind.

For enquiries, please contact research@endwaterpoverty.org