

**IWA Webinar “Improving Data Systems for Sanitation” .
 Q&A Report – 07 September 2023**

Webinar recordings available at: <https://iwa-network.org/learn/improving-data-systems-for-sanitation/>

Questions received from participants:

#	Question	Speaker	Answer
1	Is there a one-stop platform for accessing, storing, analyzing and visualizing sanitation data from various sources and levels?	Chola Mbilima	live answered
2	Is there a one-stop platform for accessing, storing, analyzing and visualizing sanitation data from various sources and levels?	Chola Mbilima	I am not aware of any off the shelf system. Institutions basically have to develop their own systems that suit their needs and context.
3	Where is the balance in responding to the need of stakeholders, SDG goals, etc. plus the practical use of the data management system for fruitful decision making? In terms of number of indicators...? What is your advice specially in using the DS for national and sun national levels?	Chola Mbilima	In developing data system one of the key steps is to collect the data needs of the various stakeholders. Your system should cater (collect) for data needs of all stakeholders. Then it will be easy to package the data
4	On data on sanitation solutions in the community, how often do you collect/update this data?	Chola Mbilima	It depends on the type of data. Some data we collect annually, other, monthly, and quarterly
5	Sourcing the data from different stakeholders involved along the sanitation chain requires considerable buy-in and alignment between actors. How did NWASCO get buy in and support from the various ministries, agencies and service	Chola Mbilima	live answered

	provider associations who collect data and plug the data gaps requires for public health / performance monitoring?		
6	Is it that the water supply and sanitation provision is not keeping up with the population growth?		
7	is there a national integrated system covering rural and urban areas	Chola Mbilima	There is one under development. A lot of progress has been made in that regard. It is called the IMIS.
8	thanks for your presentation, in your analysis did you consider corruption aspect in water sector, in particular transparency?		
9	How do you bench mark the absence or presence of facility. Is it manual counting or you may use tech for example, barcodes, QR etc?	Chola Mbilima	To establish a baseline, you need a physical count. GIS mapping
10	Policy makers can be planners, legislators, or financial planners, how can you unify the form of data presentations to all?	Chola Mbilima	live answered
11	Do you think the lack of integrated sanitation master plan to integrate wastewater, solid waste and stormwater management is the main problem?	Chola Mbilima	I think that it should start with data. Master plans cannot be developed without data. The master plan can be a product of data
12	Towns design the water supply and sanitation infrastructure based on the normal forecasted population growth rate. Is it possible that incorrect census counts or the lack of updates on		

	population census has contributed to the problem?		
13	Is there any tools to guide me (to operate desludging tank) with the shortest path from Treatment plant to the household's septic tank	Chola Mbilima	live answered
14	Do you have examples of Water Infrastructure and Resource Management. based on Water Basin/Catchment life-cycle approaches? [ajay.nair@nexis.space]		
15	Will the maturity index be continent-wide or East/Southern Africa focused?	Yvonne Magawa	this will be an open tool that can be applied in any context
16	Open defecation could have a greater probability of polluting the nearby surface water resources which then be consumed by those residents who depends on unprotected water sources and downstream community. Studies revealed that open defecation is the causes of communicable diseases such as cholera, diarrhoea and dysentery that could be arisen from the release or discharge of e-coli, coliform into surface water bodies.		
17	How does this data inform WASH actors on budgeting for Sanitation and hygiene even though sanitation and hygiene doesn't get right budgeting in most developing countries.	Yvonne Magawa	Equiserve attempts to provide guidance depending on the infrastructure requirements

18	How does adopting digital methods of data collection bridges sanitation gap in rural communities?	Yvonne Magawa	live answered
19	Hi Yvonne - is Sanitracker the same as the SaniTrack tool being used in India?	Yvonne Magawa	no
20	what are the ongoing challenges in data collection system for sanitation sector?	Yvonne Magawa	I will answer with the next presentation
21	How the SaniTracker is managed financially? Service providers and regulators need to pay to access?	Yvonne Magawa	live answered
22	For future systems planned the existing system will lend itself to accommodate further data	Yvonne Magawa	live answered
23	Who has access to sanitracker? is it on play store?	Yvonne Magawa	it will be on play store from October
24	How frequent you produce the reports. from experience starting is not a challenge rather keeping/ sustaining it /what is your experience for how long you are doing this for sanitation. what is the change this has produce in raising the sanitation profile?	Yvonne Magawa	live answered
25	As mentioned, water pollution, which is very severe in almost my entire country, can i recommend ground water from a deep and good aquifer?		
26	Are solid waste management facilities incorporated in the Sani Tracker for instance, dumping	Yvonne Magawa	solid waste is not yet included but is being considered as a feature.

	sites or recycling centers for solid waste		
27	Is WS13 asked to the HH only or also to other (institutional) partners? How should HHs know where the pit emptier brings their Faecal sludge?	Yvonne Magawa	these are HH questionnaires
28	I think with the removal of waste and covered on site, can it be applied on a liquid waste and a septic tank latrine?		
29	Are the Sewage Treatment Plants designed to cater to the load for the quantity generated by the sewerage connection? If so, where are the collections form septic tanks and pit latrines managed without causing environmental issues.		live answered
30	Please can you share the link to the pilot phase report.		The presentation slides, video recording, Q&A report and recommended resources will be available in the coming week on our website: https://iwa-network.org/iwa-learn/
31	IWA is world registered institution. When we collect data do we send direct to them and if yes share the contacts		
32	unlike the biodigester toilets that can be emptied and buried or covered at the site under hygienic condition, can the septic tank latrine be done same?		live answered
33	What technology / programming language you are using to develop Sanitracker , is it		its currently available for android

	available both for android and ios devices ?		
34	how do you monitor equity and what tool should be employed		live answered
35	Thanks Yvonne. I am working with a service provider that may be interested to use Sanitracker as an alternative to their existing data management system - are you able to share any more information?		thanks Jonathan. We can share the information pack. Please email me ythagawa@esawas.org
36	Why decentralized treatment has not been considered for treating at site and maybe also reusing the revived water? That gives water for re use and cuts emission as well by Sani truckers !		
37	and is it possible to know what technology or programming language is used to develop Sanitracker		
38	Under hygienic condition, biodigester and septic tank which one will you recommend in a poor income area in terms of monitoring and collection of the sanitation data		
39	One of the challenges is definition of the contained system on how the sanitation practitioners and communities understand them. Definition and understanding of septic tanks still vary among communities. JMP definitions has been a great guidance on standardize of	Francesco Mitis	you need to engage with the various stakeholders for a common understanding that can be adopted by all. its very important to adopt international standards e.g. jmp

	sanitation terminologies, but how can we work together to have a unified terminologies and understanding.?		
40	I have not got the response on the biodigester toilets. Are these considered to be safe containments?		YES
41	Do you have gendered data while monitoring sanitation services?	Francesco Mitis	not so much. more on water. you can have a look at the last jmp report which has a focus on gender: https://washdata.org/reports/jmp-2023-wash-households
42	I'm Babalola Taiwo Any indicator for sanitation in prison?	Francesco Mitis	not yet. they are very rare. we have a lot on schools and health care facilities
43	Could you please elaborate on the code of conduct of the sanitation a bit. Thank you	Chola Mbilima	contact me on cmbilima@gmail.com or cmbilima@nwasco.org.zm for a bilateral conversation