

Vanuatu National Implementation Plan for Safe and Secure Community Drinking Water

A Guide to the Plan

21 August 2018

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1 INTRODUCTION

Building on Vanuatu’s progress towards the Millennium Development Goal 7 (MDG7) target to reduce the number of people without access to safe drinking water by 2015, and progressive national planning towards the Sustainable Development Goal 6 (SDG6), the Vanuatu National Sustainable Development Plan 2016 (NSDP) includes a policy objective (ECO2.2) “Ensure all people have reliable access to safe drinking water and sanitation infrastructure.”

The Water Resources Management (Amendment) Act No. 32 of 2016 and the Water Supply (Amendment) Act No. 31 of 2016, the Vanuatu National Drinking Water Quality Standards 2016, and the Vanuatu National Water Policy 2017–2030 all require community water supplies to have a Drinking Water Safety and Security Plan (DWSSP), an internationally-recognised approach for achieving safe drinking water. Both the current Vanuatu National Water Strategy 2008–2018 and the draft Vanuatu National Water Strategy 2018–2030 (NWS) include strategic directions and targets for introducing Drinking Water Safety and Security Planning to rural community water supply schemes (i.e. departments, private, communities, schools, health facilities and households). The National Environmental Health Policy and Strategy 2012–2016 (NEHPS) also sets DWSP targets.

Drinking Water Safety and Security Planning is a process of community engagement in identifying and discussing threats to safe and secure drinking water, and making plans to manage these threats. The resulting community DWSSP guides day-to-day water supply operation and maintenance, as well as improvements.

The Government of Vanuatu (GoV), through the Department of Water Resources (DoWR) and the Ministry of Health’s Environmental Health Unit (MoH), has been developing capability in Drinking Water Safety and Security Planning since 2006.

The Drinking Water Safety and Security Planning approach has been used effectively in a number of community-level projects in Vanuatu. Drinking Water Safety and Security Planning was adopted as a starting point to engage with communities about water supply recovery and improvements after Tropical Cyclone Pam (2015) and in preparation for El Nino seasons, supporting “Build Back Better” infrastructure and more resilient communities to future natural disasters. However, to achieve 100% of community water supply systems with a DWSSP by 2030, a significant step-up from on-request community project-based support will be required.

1.1 THE GAP

There are over 2,000 community water supply schemes throughout the six provinces of Vanuatu that require support to develop a DWSSP before 2030, and will require on-going support to implement and regularly review and update these. Recognising that there is not the capacity (workforce or funds) to support every community at the same time, this guide to the *Vanuatu National Implementation Plan for Safe and Secure Community Drinking Water* (the *National DWSSP*) provides a service delivery approach that focusses coordinated support where it is most needed, targeting the most at-risk or vulnerable communities.

Essential to the effective delivery of the *National DWSSP* are standardised support tools and processes, the foundation being community-level Drinking Water Safety and Security Planning. Essential to efficient delivery of the *National DWSSP* is reaching as many communities as possible by devolving responsibility and support to provincial government, coupled with national oversight and coordination of the many government agencies, implementing partners, technical support agencies,

NGOs and private sector, and donors. Keeping track of progress, and understanding and overcoming barriers to progress is also important for effective and efficient delivery.

The gap that the *National DWSSP* addresses is how to mainstream Drinking Water Safety and Security Planning through GoV policies and regulations, provincial government planning, and as a regular community support tool that guides day-to-day water supply operation and maintenance and improvements. The *National DWSSP* supports national scale-up through devolving responsibilities and actions from government to provincial governments and area councils, creating demand-driven requests for support, and supporting local community participation in planning and action.

1.2 AT-RISK DRINKING WATER SUPPLY

Resilient community water supply (i.e. a continuously safe and secure supply) is constantly being challenged by limited and fragile water resources at the mercy of natural hazards such as cyclones, droughts, earthquakes and volcanic eruptions, and the impacts of climate variability and change. Small communities spread over vast distances, and limited human and financial resources to reach out to these communities add to their vulnerability. The behaviours and practices of people, often the consequence of inadequate awareness, put water supply at risk, for example through inappropriate water use and wastage of water, activities that introduce contamination into the water, poorly configured and maintained infrastructure, or inadequate planning and preparedness.

1.3 MANAGING THREATS TO SAFE AND SECURE DRINKING WATER

The historical approach to drinking water quality management was by water testing and comparison with drinking water quality standards. This approach, however, only established whether the standards were met at the time and the place the water sample was taken. Because of the assumed sporadic nature of waterborne contamination, the single test said nothing about the quality of water in the days before or after the sample was taken, or from other parts of the water supply. Furthermore, because the testing took a few days to complete, by the time contamination is found something had already gone wrong and people had been drinking the contaminated water, putting their health at risk. No amount of testing will actually make the water safe. What makes it safe is the actions that people take.

What was called for was a preventative and practical management approach for continuous safe drinking water. Drinking Water Safety Planning became an internationally accepted approach in 2004 when it was included in the 3rd edition of the World Health Organization (WHO) *Guidelines on Drinking-water Quality*. The Pacific islands, including Vanuatu, were triggered to adopt the approach in 2005 following the WHO Workshop on Drinking Water Quality Standards and Monitoring in Pacific Island Countries. The addition of a second “S” for security in DWSSP has been a more recent explicit addition by Vanuatu to the approach to acknowledge the heightened need to also plan for adequate supply of water, especially in anticipation of, and during times of drought.

Drinking Water Safety and Security Planning adopts a multi-barrier approach. It assesses strengths and weaknesses in the barriers of a drinking water supply, starting with reducing the likelihood of contaminants entering the system, then removing contamination through treatment processes, and finally preventing recontamination during storage and distribution. From a water quantity perspective, effective water harvesting and adequate storage, careful management of water demand, and having an alternate or supplementary water source available provide water security.

1.4 THE STRUCTURE AND CONTENT OF THIS NATIONAL DWSSP GUIDE

This *National DWSSP Guide* helps all those who support improvements in provision of safe and secure community drinking water to understand their part in the *National DWSSP*, and the approvals and processes that need to be followed.

For the purposes of the *National DWSSP*, a community drinking water supply refers to water supply schemes owned and operated by the community as defined in the Water Resources Management (Amendment) Act No. 32 of 2016. Consistent with the NWS, the *National DWSSP* also applies to rural community-service facilities including Government departments, education and health facilities. Water supply systems operated by a professional operator as defined in the Water Supply (Amendment) Act No. 31 of 2016 are not covered by this guide.

This guide is structured to first provide an overview of the *National DWSSP* service delivery approach (Section 2), and then describe each of the components in more detail (Sections 3.1 to 3.7). The descriptions of each component cover its purpose, who should be involved with what responsibilities, and what types of resources are required. The final section (Section 4) describes the approach for national oversight and coordination to support safe and secure community drinking water. This guide is supported by a number of supplementary procedural guides.

A transitional plan will accompany the *National DWSSP*. The transitional plan maps a pathway from the current situation to the fully functioning national implementation plan. Its main purpose is to highlight where current capabilities (knowledge and skills of people) and capacities (numbers of people) need to develop, without which puts at risk delivery of the national implementation plan and the overall national target of 100% of community water supply systems with a DWSSP by 2030. The transitional plan includes a pilot of the *National DWSSP* service delivery approach in one province, and including process and outcome monitoring and evaluation to inform revisions of the *National DWSSP* before going nationwide.

2 OVERVIEW OF THE NATIONAL IMPLEMENTATION PLAN FOR SAFE AND SECURE COMMUNITY DRINKING WATER

Community-level DWSSP is at the heart of the *National DWSSP*. But the *National DWSSP* recognises other functional components and connections between the components if it is to achieve sustainable national scale-up. Figures 1 and 2 summarise the *National DWSSP*. The numbered boxes on the figure refer to the sections that follow in this guide, e.g. Box number 1 in Figures 1 and 2 refers to Section 3.1 Community Triggering.

In Figure 1, the activities in red are required by law, regulation or standard. These must be carried out regardless of funding source.

The *National DWSSP* coordinates the activities at four levels – community, area/ward council, provincial government, and government. Information and expertise flow between these levels, always in support of decentralised decision making, assistance and action.

The function assigned to the government-level relates to national oversight and coordination, and includes activities that:

- Track community demand for DWSSP development, and implementation progress.
- Ensure legal and regulatory compliance.
- Provide a conduit for allocating funds, including the Capital Assistance Programme (CAP) fund (see *A Guide to the Capital Assistance Programme*).
- Coordinate the involvement of government agencies.
- Provide a coordinated conduit between communities and implementing agencies.
- Provide DWSSP and technical training to provincial government officers and implementing agencies (including NGOs).
- Provide a national drinking water quality testing and compliance programme, and provide training to provincial government officers.
- Produce national status reporting on safe and secure community drinking water.

The function assigned to provincial government-level relates to administering decentralised assistance to communities; it is the decision making conduit between its communities and government. It includes activities that:

- Encourage communities to engage with DWSSP.
- Provide DWSSP and technical training to communities.
- Administer and coordinate community requests for support to develop and implement DWSSP, allocating provincial expertise and support from NGOs or other technical expertise to assist communities.
- Compile and prioritise community DWSSP improvements that require government assistance.
- Administer and coordinate interactions with government for DWSSP approvals, Rural Water Committee registration, requesting government assistance, tracking and reporting on spend and progress.
- Implement a provincial drinking water quality testing and compliance programme.

The function assigned to area/ward council-level relates to supporting decentralised assistance from provincial government to communities; it is the conduit between its communities and provincial government. It includes activities that:

- Encourage communities to engage with DWSSP.
- Support and coordinate community requests to provincial government for support to develop and implement DWSSP.
- Support and coordinate provincial government engagement with communities.

The function assigned to community-level relates to community responsibilities in maintaining a safe and secure drinking water supply (see Figure 2), and creating demand for government support when improvements are beyond the means of the community. It includes activities that:

- Engage in activities to gain knowledge about their water supply, and in assessing the threats to safe and secure drinking water, and in finding local solutions to their situation.
- Plan and assign community responsibilities and provide resources to ensure the water supply will continue to be operated and maintained by the community.
- Work alongside provincial and government expertise to make improvements.
- Plan ahead to be able to anticipate and respond when their water supply is threatened.

All *National DWSSP* activities must be incorporated into the DoWR Business Plan.

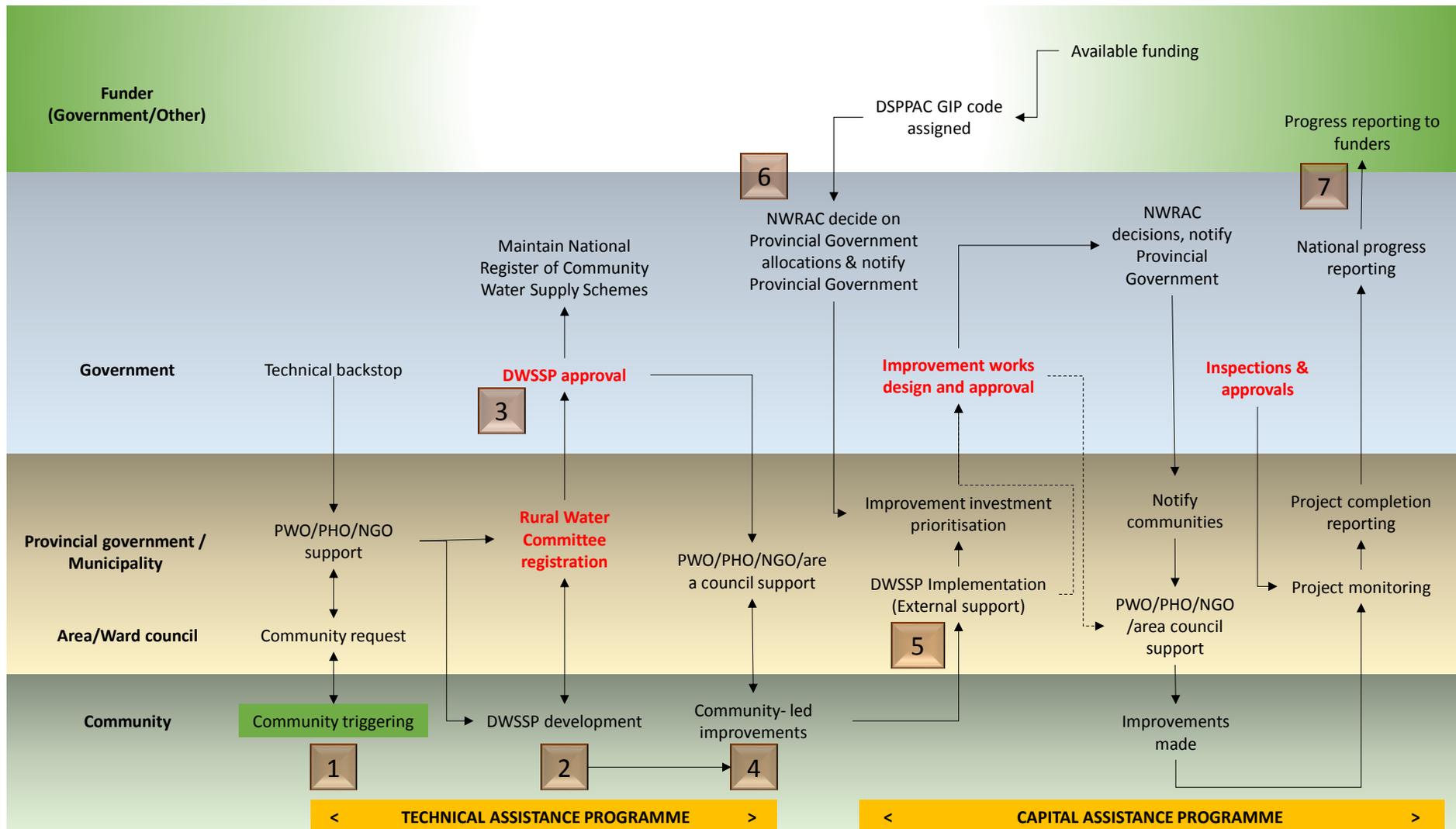


Figure 1: Overview of National Implementation Plan for Safe and Secure Community Drinking Water

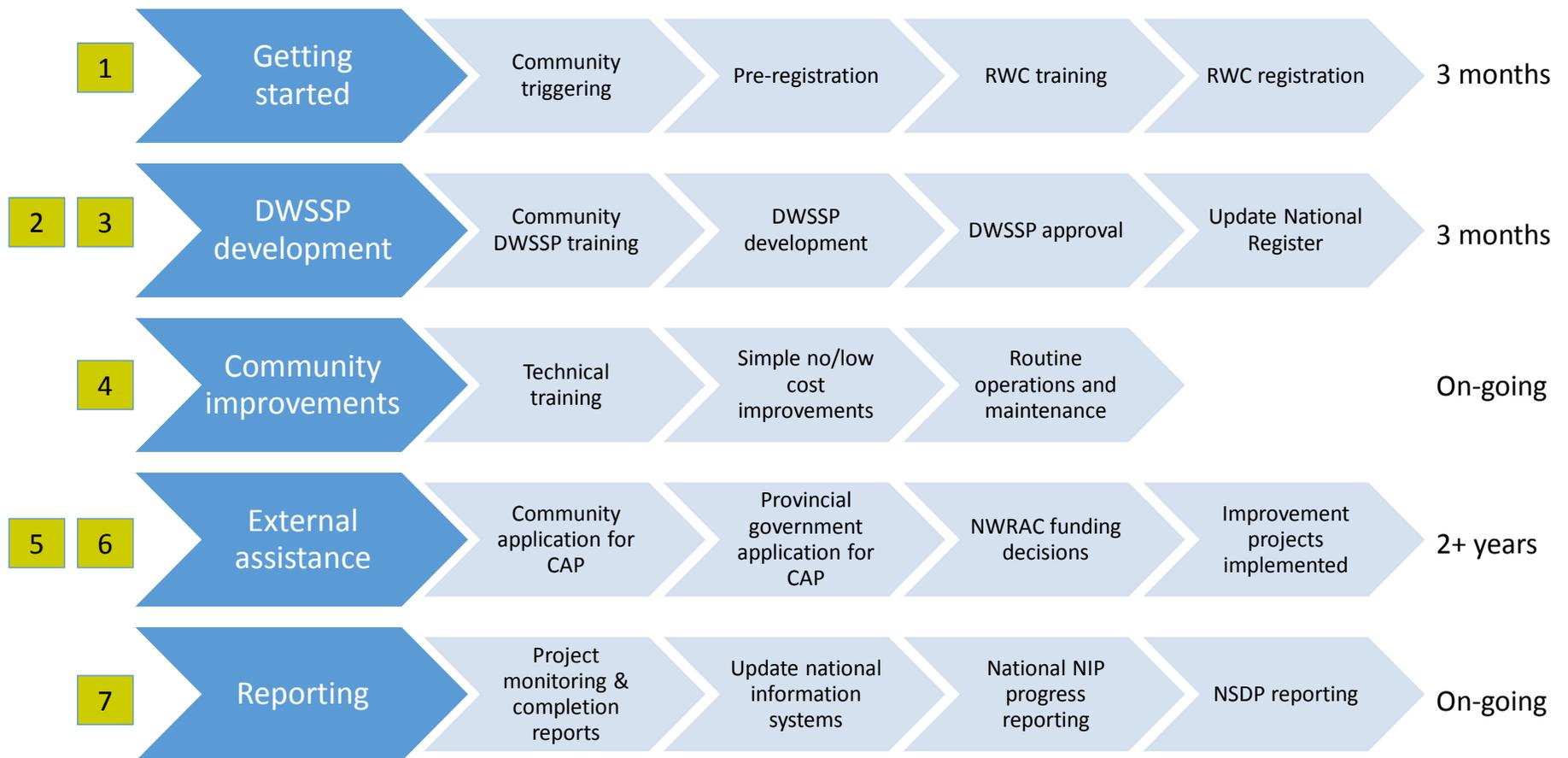


Figure 2: Community perspective of the National Implementation Plan for Safe and Secure Drinking Water

3 NATIONAL DWSSP SERVICE DELIVERY APPROACH COMPONENTS

3.1 COMMUNITY TRIGGERING

Purpose

To help communities understand the value to them of maintaining a safe and secure drinking water supply, and the part they have in this.

A triggered community is empowered to collectively find local solutions to their situation, focusing on community behaviour change and outcomes, and not just on hardware inputs.

Description

Community engagement is stimulated from either within or outside the community, and either because of experiencing something that threatened the water supply, or in anticipation of what could happen.

Communities with active water committees may decide on their own that their water supply needs improving. They may be able to make these improvements themselves, but more likely will seek assistance from provincial government. Communities can request assistance in triggering from provincial government by completing and submitting a form. As early as possible from the commencement of triggering, a community can request provisional registration of its Rural Water Committee (RWC). Provisional registration assists in planning to deliver the required community development training. Once the necessary community development training has been provided, the registration can be completed (Section 20F of the Water Resources (Amendment) Act No. 32 of 2016). The Act also requires at least 40% of the members of a RWC must be women.

From the start of area and provincial government involvement, the community begins engagement with the *National DWSSP*, assisted by the Provincial Water Officer (PWO) and Area Secretary to progress to DWSSP development (see Section 3.2).

Some communities may have been triggered by development projects, for example disaster response and preparedness, climate change or health projects. Implementing agencies for these projects, whether government or non-government organisations, need to respect the *National DWSSP*, and engage with it as early as possible so that the community water supply component of the project is informed by a DWSSP and the required approvals are obtained. Projects funded from sources other than DoWR-administered CAP are still expected to follow the *National DWSSP*, but will move more rapidly through the externally-supported DWSSP Implementation step (see Section 3.5) because finance is already available.

Area councils and Provincial government are central in community triggering. Where communities have not self-triggered, provincial government will need to take the lead through Area Secretaries who can reach out to their communities. Easily understood information on what safe and secure drinking water means and how to achieve it through DWSSP will be needed. It is the responsibility of government to provide provincial government with the information needed to share with communities. In the early stages of implementing the *National DWSSP*, government will need to assist provincial government to engage with communities. Over time, provincial government capability will develop to stand alone in this role.

Resources Required

- i. A summary of the *National DWSSP* and easily understood information on what safe and secure drinking water means and how to achieve it through DWSSP, strategically and repeatedly disseminated by DoWR:
 - To other government departments and implementing partners, so they will respect and engage with the *National DWSSP*. This is essential for government oversight and coordination.
 - To provincial government (including area councils), so they can promote to communities the value of maintaining a safe and secure drinking water supply, and the part each community has in this.
- ii. Template for communities to request triggering support.
- iii. Mechanisms to ensure effective triggering, community engagement and workshop delivery, including train-the-trainer sessions with regular refresher courses.
- iv. Provincial governments need to develop and maintain a register of community water supply schemes, which can track every community's progress through the *National DWSSP*. Ideally, there should be a common format and platform for these provincial registers so they are easily able to be consolidated on a regular basis into a *National Register of Community Water Supply Schemes* held by DoWR (see Section 4), which tracks every community's progress through the *National DWSSP*.

3.2 DWSSP DEVELOPMENT

Purpose

To help communities systematically assess every aspect of providing safe and secure drinking water, identifying what threatens the continuous supply of safe drinking water, and developing plans to manage these threats.

The aim is to make as much use of local knowledge and resources as possible before seeking government assistance.

Description

The Rural Water Committee usually takes overall responsibility for developing their supply-specific DWSSP. However, technical and facilitation support will be needed to develop a DWSSP. A community DWSSP team needs to be established, usually comprising members of the Rural Water Committee, women's, men's, youth and church group representation, local plumbers and carpenters, and the head person. This brings together a variety of perspectives from the people who know the water supply and how it is used.

Provincial government manages community requests for DWSSP development support, assigning a facilitator (if one is not available from within the community) to work alongside the community DWSSP team and Provincial Water Office staff (PWO) who understands the DWSSP approach. The role of the facilitator is to guide the community in discussing each step of the DWSSP and record these discussions by whatever means suit the community as their preferred reference. If required, for example because the water supply scheme is particularly complicated, other external technical expertise may join to provide support. During this engagement, the PWO and Area Secretary will assist the community with estimating costs for the identified improvements.

There is a prescribed template for the DWSSP. However, this is not required until the community is ready to progress to the more formal steps of DWSSP implementation (Section 3.3). Expecting the community to fill in the prescribed template as you go is not necessary and may be disengaging. Using the community's own workshop record will encourage it to get started in doing what it can to make improvements to the water supply before asking for assistance. The template can be completed after the community consultations, using the notes generated by the community, by the PWO/facilitator if the DWSSP team is not able to complete it themselves. The community should receive a copy of the completed DWSSP template, but their own workshop record will likely be their preferred reference.

Note, at this point in the process, the community should be encouraged to progress immediately with low-cost improvements (see line between Steps 2 and 4 on Figure 1).

Once the Rural Water Committee and the PWO are satisfied with the completed DWSSP template, it needs to be sent via the provincial government to DoWR. DoWR will use the information in the DWSSP to fulfil requirements of the Water Resources Management (Amendment) Act No. 32 of 2016: (i) register the Rural Water Committee (Section 20F of the Act), (ii) extract other information required to be in the *National Water Resources Inventory* and the *National Register of Community Water Supply Schemes*. Submitting the DWSSP will also trigger the process of DWSSP approval by DoWR/MoH (see Section 3.3), before proceeding to community-led improvements (see Section 3.4).

Provincial government should update its register of community water supply schemes when a community's DWSSP has been sent to DoWR.

It is the responsibility of DoWR to provide PWO and supporting NGO staff training in the concept and development of DWSSP, adopting a train-the-trainers model. In the early stages, DoWR will need to assist PWO and supporting NGO staff with community DWSSP development. Over time, their capability will develop to stand alone in this role.

Resources Required

- i. Communities, facilitators and technical support will follow the standardised DoWR/MoH approach to developing a DWSSP. A facilitator's guide to the prescribed DWSSP template is available. The template can be filled out by the facilitator or PWO during or after the consultations, using the notes generated by the community. The community should receive a copy of the completed template.
- ii. Government should maintain a small group of master DWSSP trainers who can be deployed to assist PWO. Providing regular opportunities for DWSSP specialist and community-based trainers to come together and share experiences should be encouraged.

3.3 DWSSP APPROVAL

Purpose

To maintain national consistency and quality assurance of the DWSSPs, especially since there will be many NGOs and individuals supporting communities to develop DWSSP.

The DWSSP is the guiding document for improving the way the community water supply is operated and maintained. If the DWSSP is found to be inadequate, the changes made will not result in the desired outcome of continuously safe and secure drinking water.

The DWSSP is the source of information for prioritising communities to receive government financial assistance (see Section 3.5 **Error! Reference source not found.**), so the DWSSP approval ensures all applications can be considered on an equal basis.

Description

A DWSSP approval needs to be carried out by suitably competent persons, who cannot be the same person that supported the community to develop the DWSSP. This would be a conflict of interest.

The approval process:

- Checks that the DWSSP is on the prescribed template.
- Checks that the community DWSSP team has an appropriate mix of people to represent the community.
- Reviews information on the characteristics of the drinking-water supply.
- Verifies that the description of drinking-water supply is complete, and describes the entire water supply and sanitation system.
- Verifies that the DWSSP identifies water safety and security threats, and qualitatively ranks these.
- Verifies that existing ways of managing threats are recorded, and are appropriate, and that necessary additional preventative measures and improvements have been identified.
- Reviews the operation, monitoring and management plan, to be satisfied that the community is doing all it can to keep the water supply scheme functioning.
- Reviews the adequacy of incident and emergency plans for the water supply.
- Reviews the adequacy of the improvement plan, that it links back to the identified priority threats, and is satisfied with the improvements identified for government assistance.

The approver compiles a report and provides it to the community via the provincial government.

The report will say whether the DWSSP has been approved, or whether changes are needed.

Provincial government should update its register of community water supply schemes when approval has been received, and inform the community. A file copy of each approved DWSSP should be kept by provincial government and DoWR.

Resources Required

- i. The designated DoWR/MoH approvers, selected from the group of master DWSSP trainers, will follow the standardised approach for DWSSP approval. A *Guide to DWSSP Approval* and template are available.

3.4 COMMUNITY-LED IMPROVEMENTS

Purpose:

To ensure the community is doing everything possible to address the priority threats, including following the preventative operation, monitoring and maintenance plan, before asking for government assistance and/or approval for improvements.

This builds more resilient communities, able to cope for longer without government intervention, and especially when government is overloaded with requests during times of emergency.

Description

The Rural Water Supply Committee usually takes responsibility for community-led DWSSP improvements and routine operation, monitoring and maintenance. Responsibilities are assigned to suitably experienced and skilled people in the community, including committee members themselves and also community members with specific skills such as the plumber or carpenter.

The community is expected to attend to DWSSP actions that it has been assigned:

- Simple, no/low cost improvements. First priority should be to get the best out of what exists, fix what is broken and use it properly. It is difficult to make the case for funder investment until this is done. Experience tells us that there are many simple no/low cost improvements that can be made.
- Implement the operation, monitoring and maintenance plan. Every part of the water supply requires some looking after so that it is less likely to fail and prolongs its life (preventative maintenance). Different parts of the supply and different technology options have different operations and maintenance (O&M) requirements. O&M activities may be needed daily, weekly, monthly, annually and occasionally. Different skills and tools will be required for different O&M activities.

The provincial government, through the PWO, is responsible to provide on-going technical training and assistance to the Rural Water Supply Committee.

It is the responsibility of DoWR to provide PWO with training in water supply operation and maintenance.

Resources Required

- i. Adequately trained PWOs and community trades people in water supply operation and maintenance.
- ii. Appropriate tools, equipment and spare parts to operate and maintain each water supply. Some of this needs to be held at the community-level, and some can be held by provincial government and made available to communities when required.

3.5 EXTERNAL SUPPORT DWSSP IMPLEMENTATION

Purpose

To assist communities access government-level technical and financial assistance to make the more substantive water supply improvements.

Description

When the community is ready to progress beyond routine operation, monitoring and maintenance, and improvements they can make for themselves (see Section 3.4) or with the support of provincial government, to improvements that require more substantial technical and financial assistance, a request is made via the provincial government to government.

To coordinate and manage fair and transparent decisions on access to government financial assistance, a government Capital Assistance Programme (CAP) fund has been established. Recognising that requests for assistance will likely exceed the government funds available at any one time, the CAP fund uses a prioritisation approach that focuses support where it is most needed, targeting the most at-risk or vulnerable communities first.

The Provincial Water Resources Advisory Committee (PWRAC), supported by the Provincial Technical Advisory Group (PTAG) and Provincial Water Supervisor (PWS), has a responsibility to check and approve requests from communities, to ensure that they meet the eligibility criteria for the Capital Assistance Programme (CAP) fund (see *A Guide to the Capital Assistance Programme*, Section 3). The PWRAC also has a responsibility to prioritise the community requests for financial assistance, according to the requirements of the CAP fund (see Section 4 of *A Guide to the Capital Assistance Programme*).

The National Water Resources Advisory Committee (NWRAC) will notify each Provincial Government of its allocated annual budget (see Section 3.6) available to implement improvements that have been identified in community DWSSPs. The expectation is the funds will be used to carry out the highest priority improvements first, working down the prioritised list until allocated funds are exhausted. However, exceptions will be considered on a case-by-case basis.

Each provincial government will submit its prioritised list to DoWR on a quarterly basis for detailed engineering improvement works design to the appropriate standards and a detailed project plan and budget for the works, and/or approve works designs of other qualified engineers that conform to the DoWR construction standards. To manage the workload of the DoWR engineer, detailed designs will only be prepared/approved for the community improvements that are prioritised and likely to fall within the annual budget allocated by NWRAC.

For those communities that seek GoV assistance, the fully-costed improvement requests are forwarded to NWRAC on an annual basis, to review and make decisions on which community improvements will proceed. NWRAC will notify each provincial government of these decisions, and the decisions will be made public. Provincial government will notify communities of the outcome.

Provincial government, with the support of area/ward council, assumes responsibility for managing and monitoring delivery of the improvement according to the project plan, using as much local skill and material as possible. Provincial government is responsible for progress and completion reporting to DoWR. DoWR will carry out construction inspections during the project, as required by the construction standards.

Where the technical requirements of the project plan are beyond the capabilities of provincial government, DoWR will make available the required expertise, from its own staff or external. In consultation with provincial government, DoWR may choose to engage an implementing partner to deliver the project.

Provincial government should update its register of community water supply schemes when the request for assistance has been lodged with government and when the approval of assistance has been received.

Note, the community can proceed with improvements using funding secured from sources other than the CAP (see dotted lines on Figure 1). However, projects funded from sources other than DoWR-administered CAP are still expected to follow the National DWSSP up to the improvement works design and approval step, at which point they follow their own project management process. Provincial government should update its register for these community water supply schemes when design approval has been received, and when projects are complete.

Resources Required

- i. *A Guide to the Capital Assistance Programme* describing the eligibility criteria for financial assistance to improve community water supply schemes, the process for applying to government for financial assistance, and the process used to assess applications.
- ii. Requests from community to provincial government are made on a prescribed application form (see *A Guide to the Capital Assistance Programme*). Requests from provincial government to government are made on a prescribed application form (see *A Guide to the Capital Assistance Programme*).
- iii. Appropriate financial procedures to monitor allocation and spend of funds at provincial and national levels.
- iv. DoWR maintains appropriately qualified engineers who can design improvement works to the appropriate standards, and prepare detailed project plans and budgets. DoWR follows a standard process for approving water supply system designs, and has the means to keep appropriate records.

3.6 PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENT ALLOCATIONS

Purpose

To allocate available government/donor funds to provincial government in a fair and transparent way, for use in implementing community DWSSP improvement plans.

Description

NWRAC will make a decision on an annual allocation to each provincial government. To make these provincial allocation decisions transparent, NWRAC will follow allocation guidelines. NWRAC will notify each provincial government of its annual allocation, and the decisions will be made public.

Once decisions are made by NWRAC on which community improvements will be funded, DoWR will administer the funds against a Government Investment Project (GIP) code, the manner depending on the value of the procurement and provincial government and community ability to manage the funds and procurement.

Resources Required

- i. Allocation guidelines for NWRAC allocation decisions to provincial government.
- ii. Appropriate financial and procurement procedures to administer funds and procurement at provincial and national levels.

3.7 NATIONAL PROGRESS REPORTING

Purpose

To track, review and report on progress of implementing government-funded drinking water supply improvement projects, against project milestone indicators.

Tracking and reviewing progress enables DoWR to assess and revise project plans. Progress reports for government and donors keep them informed of progress and provide assurance that their investment is being well managed and achieving the expected results.

Description

DoWR is accountable to government and donors for delivering DoWR-administered projects.

The form of reporting will depend on the requirements of government and donor. In some cases, the donor will have provided a sum of money, pooled with other money, to be spent on implementing a programme of work based on prioritised DWSSP improvement plans, the CAP fund. In this case, it is not possible to link a specific community improvement to a specific donor, but reporting still needs to inform the donor that its investment has contributed to agreed project outputs. In other cases, the donor will have invested in specific deliverables (e.g. 10 new water tanks installed in one province), and would expect reporting against these specifics.

DoWR will prepare progress reports for DoWR-administered projects, drawing on information provided by provincial government, and submit these to NWRAC for review and approval, and provide to Government and donors.

For projects funded by sources other than DoWR-administered funds, a project completion report should be provided to DoWR. This enables DoWR to keep a national overview of all completed community water supply improvement projects, regardless of lead agency or funding source.

Resources Required

- i. Experienced project manager(s).
- ii. Reporting templates.
- iii. An up-to-date *National Register of Community Water Supply Schemes* and *National Water Resources Inventory*.

4 NATIONAL OVERSIGHT AND COORDINATION

Purpose

To be fully informed about the status of safe and secure community drinking water supply throughout Vanuatu, and able to develop, assign and coordinate the resources required to address the community- and provincial-level shortfalls.

Specifically, this enables DoWR to fulfil its duties under the Water Resources Management (Amendment) Act No. 32 of 2016, as operationalised in the Vanuatu National Water Strategy 2018–2030 (NWS). DoWR is taking on the role of sector facilitator, coordinator and regulator, and building decentralised capacity and decision making at the provincial and community levels.

Description

Overall, the *National DWSSP* provides government oversight, coordination and management of their resources and investments, including donor contributions.

Communities interact with government, via provincial government administration, several times as they progress through the *National DWSSP*. Each interaction is recorded in the provincial government *Register of Community Water Supply Schemes*. On a regular basis (quarterly), provincial government-level registers are consolidated into a *National Register of Community Water Supply Schemes* by DoWR. This *National Register of Community Water Supply Schemes* enables DoWR to track the coverage of DWSSP and status of community water supply schemes through the *National DWSSP*. From information held in the *National Register of Community Water Supply Schemes*, the *National Water Resources Inventory* and the *National Drinking Water Quality Database*, DoWR will be able to prepare an annual (or required frequency) report to government, from which progress towards the NSDP targets can be determined.

The national information system enables coordination of (see Figure 3):

- Community-level activities, supported by provincial government.
- Development of, and access to technical support.
- Implementing agencies, all of which must follow the *National DWSSP* service delivery approach.
- Financial assistance.
- The national drinking water quality testing and compliance programme.

The national information system needs to be accessible at the provincial-level to assist provincial government to plan and manage its support for communities.

The *National DWSSP* incorporates quality assurance features of DWSSP approval, engineering approvals, managing and monitoring delivery of the improvement projects, and a transparent prioritisation approach for accessing financial assistance, which serve to assure GoV and donors that their investments are for priority improvements.

The national oversight and coordination function also includes a broad auditing and inspection activity, delivered by DoWR, including but not limited to prioritisation of improvements, allocation of funding and administration of the funding (have the *National DWSSP* rules been followed). MoH contributes to the auditing and inspection activity with the national drinking water quality testing and compliance programme. MoH also contributes periodic auditing of community-level DWSSP implementation, as allowed for the in the DWS, is another quality assurance activity. This activity

assesses whether the DWSSP is being implemented, as written. This includes assessing whether O&M tasks are being carried out as scheduled, and whether the improvement plan is being followed.

Resources Required

- i. The national information system, incorporating the *National Register of Community Water Supply Schemes*, the *National Water Resources Inventory*, and the *National Drinking Water Quality Database* is central to effective and efficient national oversight and coordination.
- ii. A Capital Assistance Programme (CAP) is required to manage government financial assistance.
- iii. National Drinking Water Quality Standards.
- iv. A *DWSSP Auditing Guide* and template.
- v. Sufficient and adequately trained technical expertise is required at DoWR (DWSSP process, drinking water quality, water and sanitation engineering, source water protection, data management and interpretation) and at MoH (DWSSP process, drinking water quality, public health responses) in all aspects of the *National DWSSP*, to support the expertise available through provincial government to communities.
- vi. A National DWSSP Manager is responsible for delivery of the *National DWSSP*, and reports through DoWR to the NWRAC. The NWRAC has oversight of the *National DWSSP*.

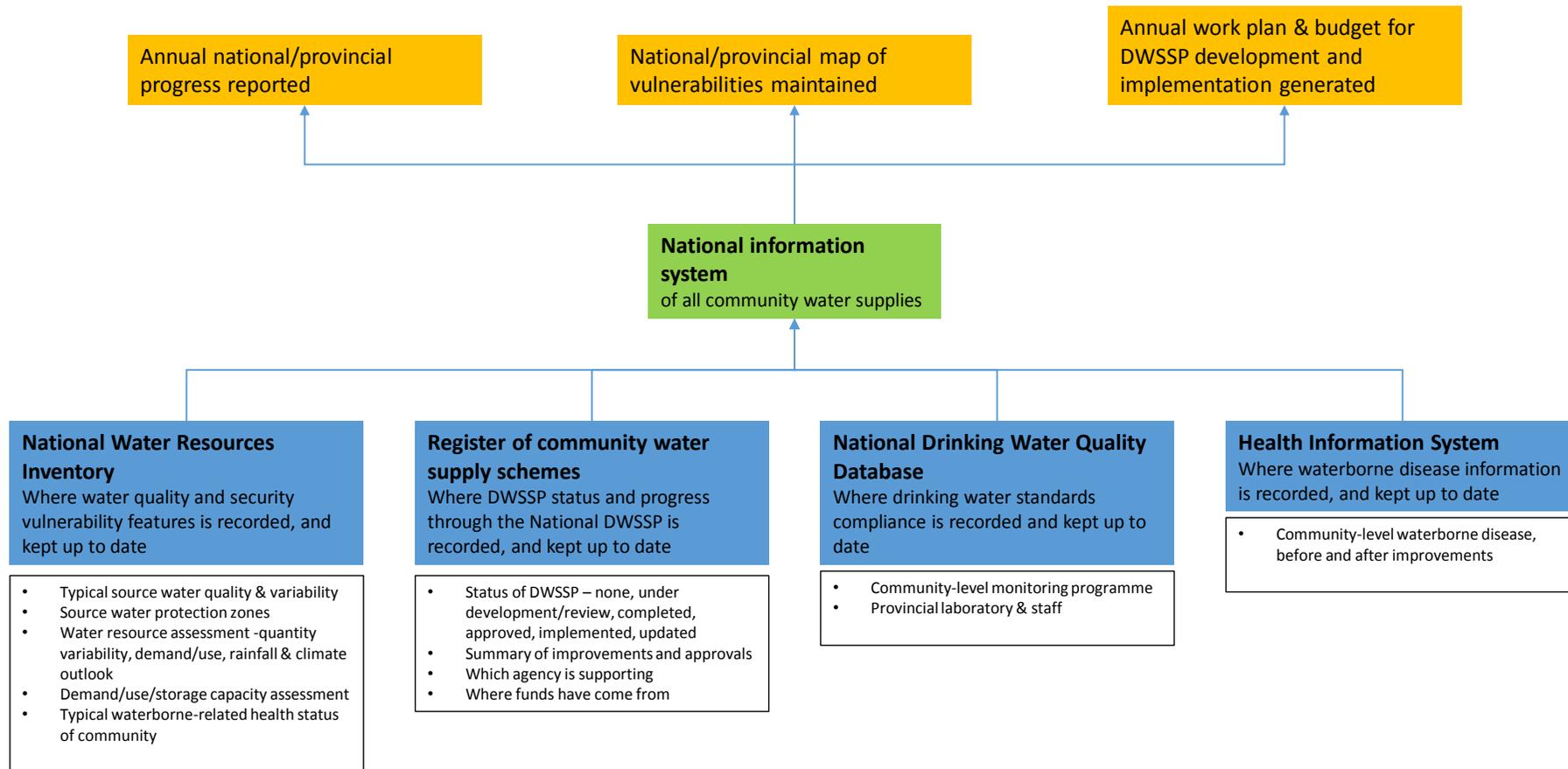


Figure 3: National oversight and coordination for safe and secure drinking water for all