



Programme Summary

Background to the project

The Fair Water Futures Programme aims to improve water resource management in Tanzania and Zambia by using social accountability, budget tracking and evidence based advocacy. The project intends to raise the voice of marginalised water users by increasing their capability to express their views and to demand their rights and entitlements. The performance, as well as budget and resources, of government agencies are tracked to identify bottlenecks and areas where improvements could be made. Advocacy material drawn from this evidence is produced and targeted to improve sector-wide performance on water resource management (WRM). The project will help 840,000 vulnerable water users achieve improved water security.

Project leads: Water Witness International, Shahidi wa Maji, Action for Water	Duration: Phase 1 (TZ only): April 2013 – March 2016 (3 years) Phase 2: January 2015 – July 2017 (2.5 years)	Total budget: Phase 1 (TZ only): £250,000 Funded by DFID UK Phase 2: £639,688 Funded by Scottish Government
---	---	--

“The project made important contributions to raising the profile of WRM, both within and outside the water sector. It highlighted specific, systemic challenges facing WRM processes, showcased the impacts these are having on communities using insights from case studies, and built the capacity of civil society groups to positively influence the sector. This is likely to contribute to increased funding allocations to WRM in future”.

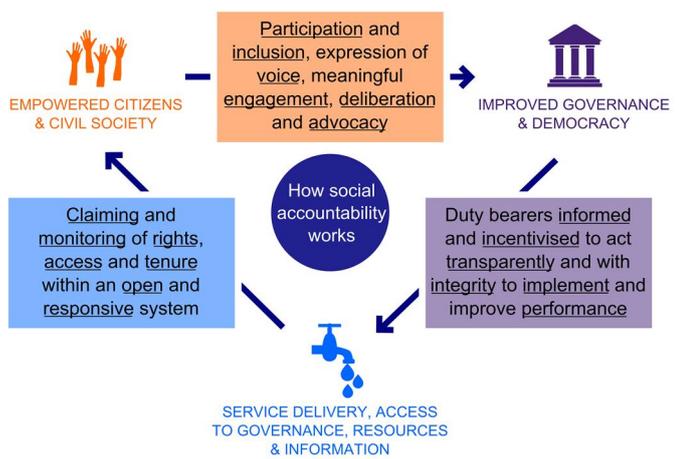
“Few people would have predicted that such a short-term advocacy project would have been able to contribute to tangible improvements in water security within only three years; the efforts that have been put in to achieve these results must be commended”.

Oxford Policy Management (External Evaluator)

The project has sent shockwaves through the sector; particularly by highlighting the funding shortfalls facing the work of water resource management.

Secretariat, Donor Partner Group on Water

How social accountability on water works



...at community-level



922 citizens with improved awareness of water resource rights, obligations and institutional responsibilities



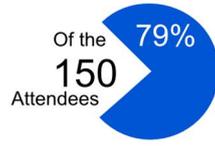
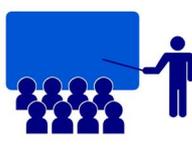
183 community members volunteered to become project change agents ('Water witnesses' or 'Mashahidi' in Kiswahili)



148 community actions implemented to 'activate' law and policy and improve water security

...at national and regional level

'Learning-by-doing' workshops



reported newly acquired capability and intent to apply the knowledge and skills gained

Achievements...

External evaluation by Oxford Policy Management shows Fair Water Futures Phase 1 contributed towards increased water security for 159,000 people at a cost of £0.79 per beneficiary

Examples of improvements in water security achieved to date include:

- ◆ Prosecution of water polluting industries
- ◆ Water User Permits (WUPs) issued
- ◆ Water User Associations (WUAs) established/strengthened
- ◆ Supporting processes for the construction of a new water treatment facility
- ◆ Reduced dumping of solid waste

Participatory analysis of **budget allocation, expenditure flows and staffing levels** within the Ministry of Water & Irrigation of Tanzania were undertaken in 2014 and 2016.



These analyses clearly highlight the staffing and funding shortfalls facing Basin Water Boards (BWBs).

This work has led to Ministerial commitments in Tanzania to provide 'adequate and sustainable funding' for water resources management, and to review water permitting and pollution control processes nationally.

Evidence-based advocacy for improved WRM drawn from case studies and budget analysis, and disseminated by:



Presentations at the Joint Water Sector Review (Tanzania) in 2014 and 2015, 2016



To share the approach and the lessons-learned a **project handbook** was produced and shared at a **regional learning event**.



This event was attended by 31 Civil Society Organisation (CSOs) practitioners from 8 African countries. Interest and demand for using the approach is significant with 53 organisations requesting training on the approach.

Challenges

Tight project time-frame



Limited staffing



Limited funds



Slow response from Gov't authorities



In terms of external factors beyond the project's control:



The presidential elections in Tanzania and Zambia have caused delays. For example, community engagement was stopped during campaigning periods, and the production of TV spots and radio dramas were delayed.

Staff turnover within Government institutions, donors and the project's regional partners poses challenges in regards to sector engagement.



Lessons...

- ◆ Given the beneficial results seen from this project, both at community and national level, and the regional and global interest in the approach, it is recommended that social accountability work within the WRM sector be continued and strengthened.
- ◆ Social accountability and advocacy approaches require long-term engagement to embed and sustain impacts. It is important to allow processes to evolve and capacities on all sides to be built and implemented over an extended period.

◆ It is recommended that a higher level of longer-term funding be made available to support this work. Social accountability work needs to be long-term, tenacious, and adaptive, yet the funding environment for civil society conspires against this.

◆ Spaces for social accountability in the water sector already exist. Because of the historical importance placed on participation, multi-stakeholder oversight and co-management mechanisms feature throughout the water sector and its institutions. Examples include the Joint Water Sector dialogue process, multi-stakeholder Basin Water Boards, and the National Water Board in Tanzania, which have been engaged by Fair Water Futures.

◆ Citizens and civil society are non-homogenous and so special attention should be afforded to agency, politics, and power dynamics. At design stage, the political risks to project delivery should be thoroughly assessed.

Priorities...

...for the Fair Water Futures programme:

- ◆ Broaden impact through wide geographical application to increase the number of direct beneficiaries, expand the evidence base and build representation and legitimacy.
- ◆ Strengthen vertical impact through making advocacy more powerful and effective in unlocking institutional and system change.
- ◆ Embed long-term change by supporting citizens and civil society to enact social accountability into the future with the tenacity required to sustain change.
- ◆ Detailed political economy analysis, and assessments of partner capacity and needs to adjust the Fair Water Futures approach for application in other countries.

...for promoting social accountability in the water sector:

- ◆ Strong coordination and improved communication between donors, states, civil society and NGO actors to ensure effective collaborative action and learning, and to avoid the chaos of overlapping initiatives.
- ◆ Adequate funding and structural support for social accountability work. Although external funding is often essential, its delivery can also stifle, crowd out or delegitimise autonomous local efforts and this tension needs to be resolved effectively.
- ◆ Improved monitoring and evaluation to untangle attribution and impact, and support learning as social accountability approaches do not lend themselves well to enumeration using traditional frameworks for monitoring and evaluation. Outcomes are unpredictable and happen along 'long and twisting rivers of change' (Carothers 2016).

For more information about Water Witness International and the Fair Water Futures Programme, visit:

waterwitness.org