![RWSN logo]

Strategic Workshop
Rural Water Supply Network: Designing a regional presence in Southern Africa
29 June 2021

Most urgent challenges in SADC region, as perceived by workshop participants

Organised, moderated and summarised by Sandra Fürst (Skat/ RWSN), Aline Saraiva Okello (RWSN), Muthi Nhlema (Baseflow) and Sean Furey (RWSN)

Introduction

As the global leader in knowledge sharing and collaboration in the rural water supply sector, the **Rural Water Supply Network** (RWSN) aims to develop an active presence and regional leadership in the Southern African region. The SADC region was selected as a result of member demand, following the RWSN roadmap e-discussion. Furthermore, the region has a diverse mix of countries when it comes to existing national WASH/water networks, with different levels of engagement with RWSN.

The workshop, held online on 29th June 2021 from 14:00 to 16:00 CAT, had 142 registered participants, from 24 countries, and about 53 participants attended the live workshop (list of participants in annex). The workshop was chaired by Muthi Nhlema, from Baseflow (Malawi), and co-facilitated by 10 volunteers, members of RWSN secretariat, theme leaders and chair.

Sean Furey, current director of RWSN started by introducing RWSN, explaining RWSN activities, thematic priorities and niche. He further explained the roadmap process RWSN is undertaking, and the emergent need to focus, decentralize and localize the network to regional/country level.

Three guest speakers were invited, representing WaterNet (Dr. Jean Marie Kileshye-Onema), Africa GroundWater Network (Dr Richard Owen) and SADC Groundwater Management Institute (SADC-GMI, Brighton Munyai). They described their organization's missions, membership, core activities and focus, as well as how they perceived the presence of RWSN in the SADC region.

Do we see potential in a regional RWSN presence?

The discussion was opened to all participants, and below are some of the key messages that came out:

- There is great opportunity, because RWSN has a body of knowledge and experience that blends extremely well with the requirements within the region. Coherent collaboration could enhance and build on what exists in the region.
- The potential lies in linking stakeholders confronted with similar issues/topics within rural water supply.
- There is an opportunity to standardize the way each country maps aquifers, so that the datasets can be integrated in a regional platform.

HOW could a regional RWSN presence look like for exchanging knowledge and expertise in the region?

Working groups (breakout rooms) were convened to discuss this guiding question in more detail (in English, French and Portuguese). Below are the main challenges, gaps, and ideas for establishing RWSN in the region.

Main challenges and gaps

- Fragmentation in the region; institutions and organizations working as silos
- Communication within countries and region (language barriers, accessibility, fragmentation of institutions and actors)

- Knowledge exchange is mostly top-down, and informal (word of mouth). There are no/limited procedures for knowledge sharing, knowledge exchange, knowledge management in rural water
- Gap in linkages between different information sources; knowledge sharing events attended mostly by academics, and information/knowledge does not reach practitioners
- Many players in place, but weak institutions, especially public/government
- Lack of platforms for knowledge sharing for local government to rural areas and back
- Some institutions already promote knowledge sharing in the region, for example, Waternet, UNICEF, World Vision, World Bank, ADRA – but lack of a platform focused solely on rural water.

Ideas to establish RWSN presence in the region

- Make a survey of what is already in place: who is doing what, where and how? What are existing platforms, and how are they being utilized?
- Create or improve on a (visual) **platform** for knowledge sharing, knowledge management in the region; make use of visual tools;
- Convene donors, government, Civil Society Organizations (CSOs), Community Based Organizations (CBOs), Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs), Water Service Providers (WSPs) to share understanding of challenges, improve application of best practices, set up standards and identify barriers to application of solutions;
- Enable exchange that is appropriate for rural dwellers (limited connectivity and education): use of radio, locally used messenger apps (eg WhatsApp), TV and other channels more adequate for the locations;
- Have a central network or platform covering the region to help identify, connect and facilitate the sharing of local expertise and experience; success stories and lessons (oops);
- Identify champions to promote ownership from the region and setup regional presence;
- Build synergies with existing networks, co-host events, pool resources together;

● It would be essential for the network to engage donor organisations as well as regional and country-based networks representing NGOs active at community level rather than actually trying to stretch to local level directly. Therefore, influence, guide and direct as opposed to doing.

HOW could a regional RWSN presence look like for exchanging knowledge and expertise in the region?

Room 1: Context matters, local government is an important link, there are many important issues/topics to cover, and consider use of radio!

Room 2: Connect community water management committees through active networking and coordination, and other research and local practitioners to national platforms and to regional and global

Room 3: A central network, covering the region, which helps identify, connect, and facilitate the sharing of local expertise and experience. A central starting point to discover other localised networks and success stories etc.

Room 4: Mechanism with regional ownership for bringing people together and consolidating what we already know and have learnt about best practice (lots already known or in policies), what are the barriers to it being put into practice, setting a best practice standard for people to be accountable to - not just sharing knowledge but pushing for actual practice change and policy influence

Room 5: Networking is a problem, and yet we have a lot of players in the region. We agreed that we should have a regional hub which could be first virtual then also f2f (cross-regional knowledge exchanges, conferences…).

Room 6: Linking with the current initiatives and broadening the expertise area (based on the clear niche and data)

Room 7: RWSN should promote visual tools, maps, schematic diagrams, or other innovative ways for sharing data/knowledge/information and data platforms

Room 8: FR Identifier une ou plusieurs personnes (idéalement déjà membre du RWSN) de la région pour mettre en place une présence régionale, virtuelle pas forcément un bureau 'physique', permettant plus d'échanges en français. EN: Identify one or more people (ideally already a member of the RWSN) from the region to set up a regional presence, virtually not necessarily a 'physical' office, allowing more exchanges in French

Room 9: PT - We should consider creating networks in each country that would serve as communication hubs with RWSN and the government. Create a mechanism that elaborates regional objectives that can respond to national ones through quantitative and qualitative data
- Devemos considerar a criação de networks em cada país que serviriam de polos de comunicação com RWSN e o governo.
- Criar um mecanismo que elabore objectivos regionais que possam responder aos nacionais através de dados quantitativos e qualitativos

Join on dgroups.org/rwsn/   **Rural Water Supply Network**

In the last step of the workshop, a poll assessed what level of activities would be valuable for the region. The majority opted for the highest level, which included regular newsletters; regular face-to-face networking meetings; webinars or online events with presenters and panelists chosen from the region; and training events, collaborative projects, political advocacy on behalf of the rural water sector. Several participants indicated that they would like to further engage in setting up the regional presence of RWSN in the region.

Poll results - level of activity prefered

■ Level of activity in the 1st year   ■ Level of activity in 3-5 years
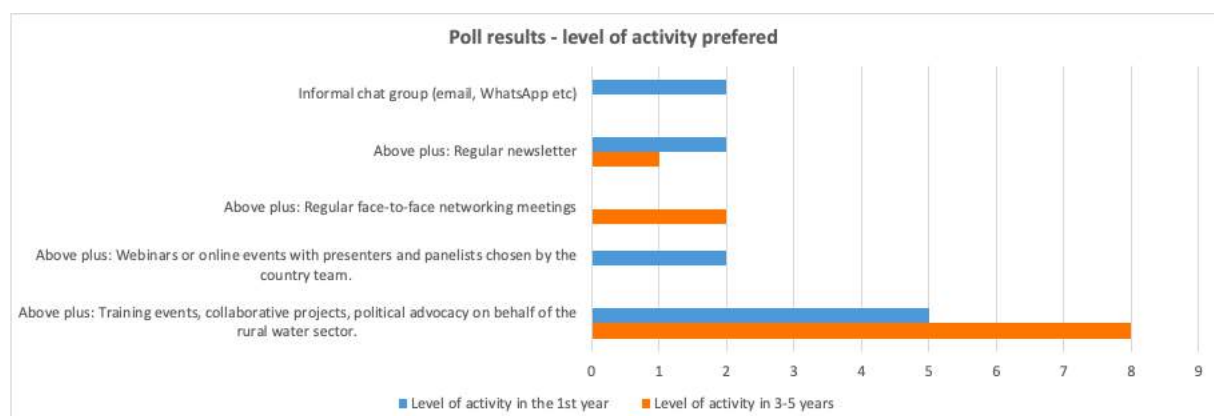
Next steps: Sign up to shape the strategic process in SADC

If not done yet, you are invited to fill out the following sheet to shape the regional RWSN presence in the SADC region:

> ➔ **Click here to join the RWSN Strategic Process in the SADC region**
>
> Please also send an email to ruralwater@skat.ch or indicate your contact on the sheet, so that we can reach out to you.

Based on your interest and ideas for working groups or other engagements, RWSN will suggest further steps, topics and teams for the next months.

Annex 1: slides of the workshop

Annex 2: list of participants that attended the workshop

Name	Organization	Organization Type	Country
Sankwe Kambole	RZL	Consultant	Zambia
James Sauramba	SADC-GMI	Not-for-Profit Company	South Africa
Brighton Munyai	SADC-GMI	Not-for-Profit Company	South Africa
Munyaradzi Jambaya	Munharadze Solutions	Consultant	Mozambique
Edson Monteiro	UNICEF	Not-for-profit agency	Angola
Souffrence Duopolin NGNOUPAAH TEGOU	UNHCR	UN Agency	DRC
Vincent Pfumo	Student at CIHEAM Bari Italy	Research Institution	Zimbabwe
Kudzanai Ndemere	MSc Student-University of Zimbabwe	Academic	Zimbabwe
Karen G. Villholth	International Water Management Institute	Research for Development Institute	South Africa

Damaris N. Oriang	Wellfield Engineering	Private (Civil Engineering Consultancy)	Botswana
Dr. Gislar Edgar Kifanyi	Ruzivo Trust	NGO	Zimbabwe
Meleesa Naughton	RWSN/ Skat Foundation	NGO	UK
Rena Salzmann	RWSN/ Skat Foundation	NGO	Switzerland
	PhD Student - Mzuzu University, Malawi	Academic	Malawi
Adão Augusto	Development Workshop	NGO	Angola
Steve Thompson	Global Aid Network (Canada)	NGO	Canada
Tara Bartnik	WaterAid	NGO	UK
Jude Cobbing	Save the Children	NGO	USA
Celso Muima	Technical University of Mozambique	Academic	Mozambique
Gert Nel	SRK	Private (hydrogeological consultancy)	South Africa
Temple Oraeki	RWSN/iTEM Consult	Consultant	Nigeria
Miguel Alonso	WB	consultant	Angola
Samuel Mwangala	Natural resources Development Collage	Student	Zambia
Pascal Kalenda	JP Consult Ltd (Formerly COWI Zambia)	consultant	Zambia
Tarisai Kanyepi	MSc Student -PAUWES , Algeria		Zimbabwe
Chandrasekaran Jayaraman	Founder Director, Watsan Envirotech Pvt Ltd	Social Enterprise	India

Aline Saraiva Okello	RWSN	NGO	Mozambique
Elodie Feijoo Seara	RWSN / Skat	NGO	Switzerland
Dr. Gislar Edgar Kifanyi	Mbeya University of Science and Technology (MUST)	Public University	Tanzania
Dr Richard Owen	Africa Groundwater Network	Network / Academic	Zimbabwe
Donald Robertson	University of Strathclyde	Academic	UK
Juan Smulders	Aquaquest	Consultant	Zambia
Cephas C. Ngazimbi	Aquaquest	Consultant	Zambia
Chaiwe M. Sanderse	Sustainable Sanitation Alliance (SuSanA) Forum	Consultant	Zambia
Muthi Nhlema	BASEflow	NGO	Malawi
Banda Tiza	Nisco Grouup of Companies	Consultant	Zambia
Adam Haidary	Protecno Srl (PU) Italy - Tanzania Branch	Private Company (Media, Filters & Reverse Osmosis Plants)	Tanzania
Sara Ahrari	Simavi/RWSN	NGO	The Netherlands
Geoffrey Weyinda	Norwegian Church Aid (NCA)	NGO	Angola
Dalva Isidoro	TetraTech	Consultant	Mozambique
Chrispine Songola	Ministry of Water Development Malawi	Government Officer / RWS	Malawi
Louisa Gosling	RWSN/WaterAid	NGO	UK
Monja Esterhuizen	Mariswe; Vuthela iLembe Local Economic Development Programme	Consultant	South Africa

Kerstin Danert	Ask for Water GmbH and RWSN	Consultant	Switzerland
Rachel Mpe	Department of Water and Sanitation	Government Officer / RWS	South Africa
Geraldine Schoeman	GOPA	Consultant	South Africa
Mendy Shozi	UKZN WASH R&D Centre	Research Centre/Academia	South Africa
Boniface Aleobua	AFDB	Development Financing Institution	South Africa
Beatrice Chisenga	Design Outreach	NGO-Regional Director	Malawi
Imani Haule Mathias	Southern Highlands Participatory Organization (SHIPO)	NGO	Tanzania
Silwimba Kalle	UNHCR	Humanitarian	Zambia
Florette Razafimeva	Diorano WASH	NGO	Madagascar
Zenebe Amele Sahile	senior Lecturer and Dean of Water Supply and Environmental Engineering	Academic	Ethiopia
Sandra Fürst	RWSN/ Skat Foundation	NGO	Switzerland

RWSN Membership

Join future activities by becoming a member of RWSN: **You can join here**

Rural Water Supply Network (RWSN)

www.rwsn.ch
ruralwater@skat.ch

RWSN secretariat c/o Skat Foundation (host organisation of RWSN)

Benevolpark
St.Leonhard-Strasse 45
CH-9001 St.Gallen
Switzerland

Schweizerische Eidgenossenschaft
Confédération suisse
Confederazione Svizzera
Confederaziun svizra

Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation SDC

Welcome to "Who Is Who"? Tell us who you are and see who else is participating today:

https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1cGm2bnIHk9YnHFvQWYMVFjXeQ8slk6o7-wZgkcDnue4/edit?usp=sharing

Welcome to this Strategic Workshop

The Rural Water Supply Network -
Designing a regional presence in Southern Africa

With thanks to financially support by:

Schweizerische Eidgenossenschaft
Confédération suisse
Confederazione Svizzera
Confederaziun svizra

**Swiss Agency for Development
and Cooperation SDC**

Join RWSN on dgroups.org/rwsn/

Housekeeping for online meetings

1. The meeting will be recorded
2. Please keep yourself muted in the main session
3. Raise your hand in Zoom, if you like to make a comment
4. Switch on your camera when you are speaking, if possible
5. Find the chat box
   a. to pose questions in your preferred language
   b. for translation support

FRANÇAIS : Si vous préférez parler français dans le groupe de discussion plus tard, veuillez trouver votre nom dans la liste des participants sur Zoom, cliquez sur "plus et renommer" et ajoutez FR pour français au début de votre nom.

PORTUGUÊS : Se preferir falar português no grupo de discussão, por favor encontre o seu nome na lista de participantes en Zoom, clique em "mais e renomear" e adicione PT para português no início do seu nome.

Agenda

10 min	**Welcome**
	Meet and greet
35 min	**A regional presence in Southern Africa ?**
	Voices from RWSN and partners
	Discuss with all
60 min	**Working groups: Designing for useful exchange in Southern Africa**
	Meet, discuss and create jointly
	Discuss with all
15 min	**Feedback and next steps: At which levels of activities do we engage in future?**
	Discuss with all

Poll: Let's get started

Rural Water Supply Network

RWSN - why designing a regional presence in Southern Africa?

What is RWSN?

A global space to meet, share and learn about practical rural water supply

Photo: SHIPO training centre, Tanzania

RWSN

RWSN activities

✓ Network Services

🌐 **Curated global library and news service**

📖 **Publications: documenting practical experience with peer-review rigour**

🖥 **Online, multilingual exchange between members**

🧩 **Sector coordination and knowledge brokering between research and practice**

👩‍🏫 **Online and face-to-face specialist training**

🏃 **Young Water/WASH Professional online community and mentoring**

👥 **RWSN Forum: member-driven global conference**

✺ **Catalyzing and managing collaborative projects**

Thematic Priorities (2018-23)

Leave No-one Behind
(Inclusion, Human Rights, Equity)

Sustainable Groundwater Development
(Pumping Technology, Drilling Professionalisation, Groundwater Management)

Sustainable Services
(Professionalisation, Business Models, Finance)

Self-supply
(Entrepreneurs, Rainwater harvesting, household investment)

Mapping & Monitoring
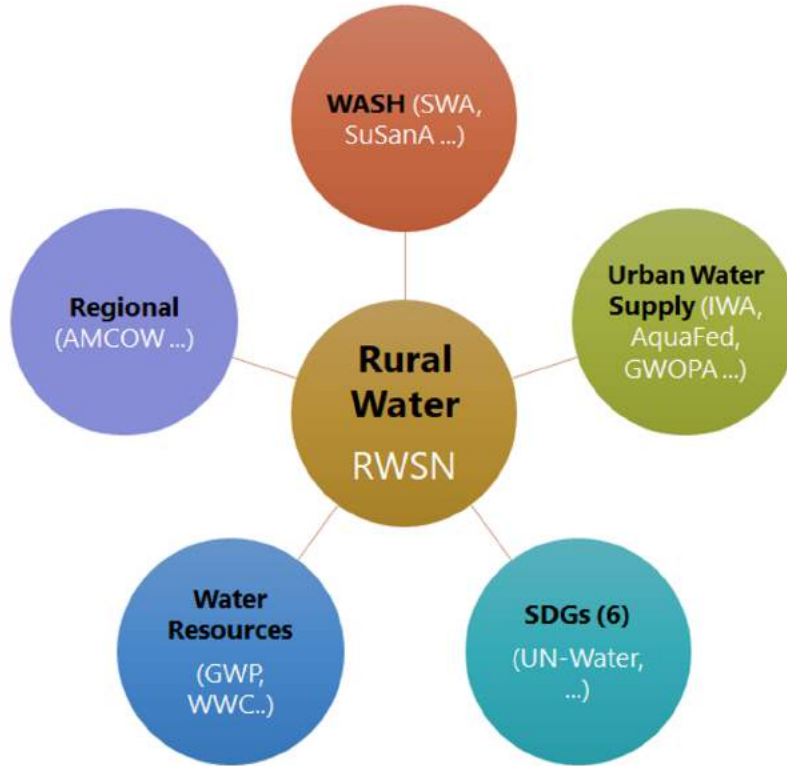(Data for decision-making, water quality for water safety)

Multiple Use of water Services (MUS)
(Domestic + Smallholder Agriculture, climate change resilience, climate change)

RWSN has a well defined niche

Scenarios: Focus of effort?

Individual Members	Organisation Members	Training and Professional Development

• Focus on creating decentralised peer-to-peer sharing and mentoring spaces
   • Global
   • Regional
   • National
 	
• Global Information Hub where trustworthy guidance and evidence is discoverable
	• Focus on services that benefit organisations
	
	• Work with directly organisations to raise professionalism of their staff, partners and programmes
	
	• Take on an advocacy role for rural water organisations and issues
		• Collaborate with leading institutions to develop and run specialist, world-class online and face-to-face training
		
		• Mentoring and continued professional development.
		
		• Provide a quality-controlled framework for 3rd party training and education partners.

Rural Water Supply Network

Voices from partners: Do we see potential in a regional RWSN presence?

A network for capacity building in IWRM

WaterNet Trust

79 members

All SADC countries

except Seychelles

WaterNet Msc programme

CORE MODULES AT THE UNIVERSITY OF DAR-ES-SALAAM AND THE UNIVERSITY OF ZIMBABWE (8 MODULES)

Principles of IWRM	Principles of Aquatic Ecology
GIS, database management and analytical tools	Principles of Water Quality & Environmental Management
Principles of Hydrology	Socio-Economics of Water & Environmental Resources
Water Resources Analysis & Planning	Policies, Laws & Institutions

OPTIONS (4 MODULES)

UNIVERSITY OF DAR ES SALAAM	UNIVERSITY OF ZIMBABWE	UNIVERSITY OF BOTSWANA	UNIVERSITY OF KWAZULU-NATAL	UNIVERSITY OF MALAWI	POLYTECHNIC OF NAMIBIA	UNIVERSITY OF THE WESTERN CAPE
Hydrology	Water Resources Management	Water and Land	GIS and Earth Observation	Water and Environment	Water Supply and Sanitation	Water and Society
Hydrogeology	Water Resources Assessment and Monitoring	Agricultural Water Management	Advanced GIS	Water Quality Management	Waste Water Management	Water and Security
River Engineering	Groundwater Management	Wetlands and Agriculture	Spatial Analyses for Water Resources Management	Environmental Management Tools	Water Supply	Environmental Education
Hydrological Processes	Water Resources Modelling	Agro-Industrial Water Use	Earth Observation and Hydrological Analyses	Environmental Water Management	Water Utilities Management	Water and Development
Hydrological Modelling	Catchment Water Management	Catchment Management	Earth Observation Project	Management of Aquatic Ecosystems	Environmental Water Quality Process	Water Demand Management

GROUPWORK PROJECT

DISSERTATION RESEARCH PROJECT (6 MONTHS)

WaterNet symposia

Thank you

Jmkileshye-onema@waternetonline.org

Africa Groundwater Network – est. 2009

an open free voluntary network for the African groundwater community. Membership ~ 400.

Key focuses:

Capacity building – delivery and development of short courses on eg Groundwater Management / Drilling Supervision / Groundwater Management in Transboundary River Basin Organizations.

Information sharing – via website: www.agw-net.org and newsletters (French and English).

To contribute towards the development of a code of practice for the groundwater community

To establish links and develop partnerships with eg. AGWC (AMCOW) IAH, SADC-GMI, RWSN, CapNet, BGR, BGS, River Basin Organizations etc

Structure: Elected by the membership approx. every 4 years.

Network manager: Moustapha Diene (Senegal)

Steering Committee: 9 – from various countries (South Africa, Zimbabwe, Zambia, Uganda, Ghana, Nigeria, Senegal, Ethiopia and Egypt)

Recent Activities:

Redevelopment of Website

Development of online courses (Groundwater Management, Drilling Supervision, Solar Pumping.

Strength: Professional Membership   **Constraint:** Funding

SADC-GMI – OVERVIEW – POSSIBLE SYNERGIES

29th June 2021

Brighton Munyai

Components of SADC Groundwater Management Project

The Project has four components funded by GEF and CIWA through the World Bank .

- Component A. Operationalization of the SADC Groundwater Management Institute (SADC-GMI) to serve as a center of excellence for groundwater in the region.

- Component B. Strengthening institutional frameworks for sustainable groundwater management

- Component C. Advancing knowledge & information-sharing on transboundary and national groundwater

- Component D. Promoting groundwater infrastructure development, financing infrastructure as a means to develop opportunities for more sustainable management of groundwater.

The project is scheduled to be completed by December 31, 2020 but delays in the implementation of many field and in-country activities, caused by the COVID-19 crisis, do justify a no-cost extension till mid-2021.
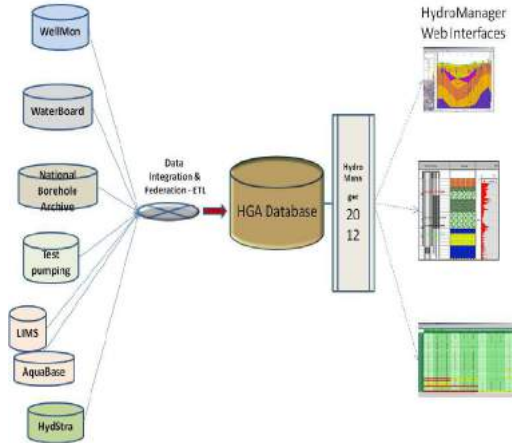
Promoting Groundwater Infrastructure Development

Ongoing Sub-Grant pilot projects for sustainable groundwater infrastructure development, "Learning by doing"
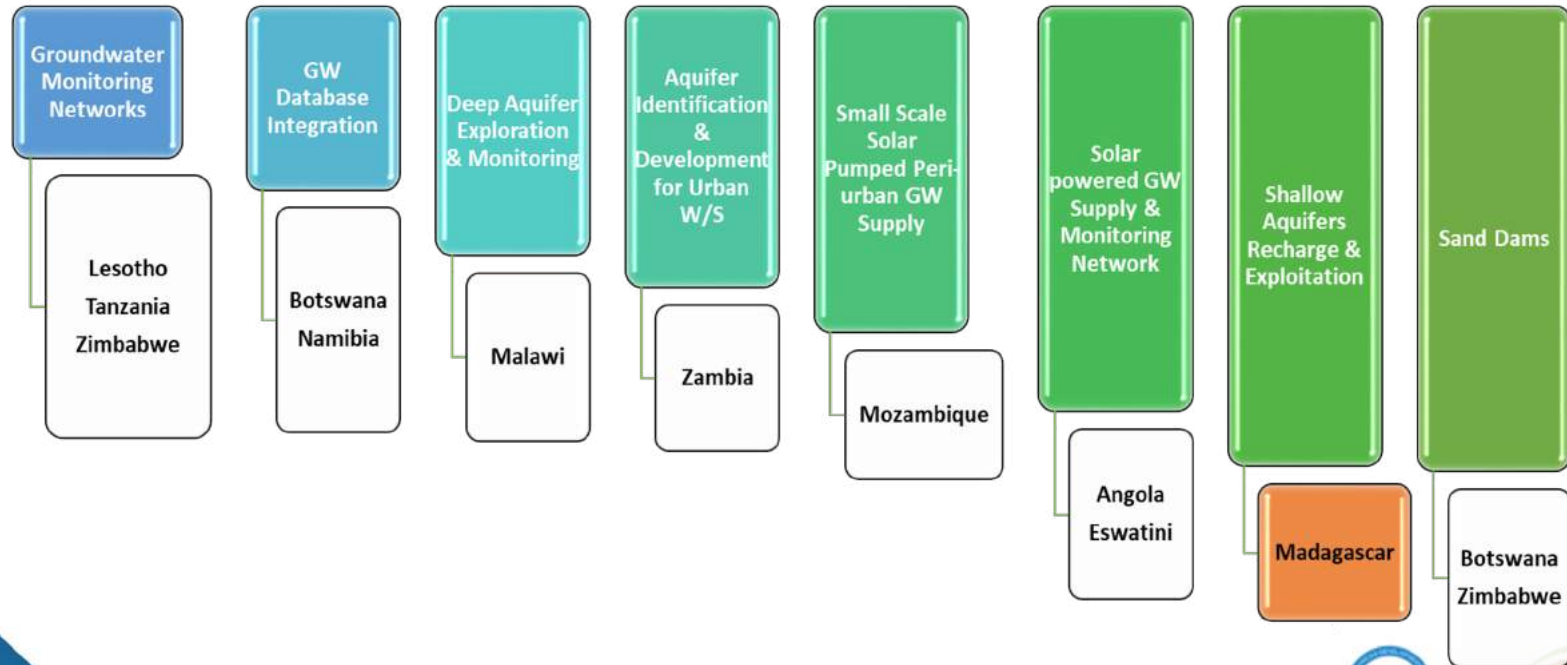
Overview of Sub-Grants Projects in the Member States

Botswana: **Integration of Groundwater Resources Data Management System (IGWRMS) for Water Resource Management in Botswana**.

Lesotho: **Expansion of national groundwater monitoring project.**

Namibia:
Review and update of the Hydrogeological Map of Namibia

LOOKING AHEAD

Objectives of the Sustainable Groundwater Management in SADC Member States **Project Phase 2**

The Project Development Objective of the new Program is:
"to develop capacity and knowledge for inclusive groundwater management and use in the SADC region at national and transboundary levels.**"**

Projected Budget: 4 year program (2021-2025)

The Key Result Areas are:

SADC-GMI Management and Coordination of Program

Component 1
Capacity building for sustainable groundwater management

Component 2
Knowledge development, dissemination, and advocacy

Component 3
Building resilient livelihoods and inclusive groundwater management

Component 3: Building resilient livelihoods and inclusive groundwater management

1. Implementation of innovative & ESS compliant infrastructure projects promoting sustainable groundwater management practices for socio-economic development piloted and upscaled in SADC Member States;

2. Capacity of communities in the Member States to improve resilience and socio-economic development through GW use enhanced;

3. Groundwater Monitoring Networks in National and Transboundary Aquifers designed and installed to support sustainable use of GW for socio-economic development.

SAVE THE DATE

4th SADC GROUNDWATER CONFERENCE

10th - 12th of November 2021

VIRTUAL CONFERENCE

THEME: Towards a Water Secure SADC- Groundwater Systems Thinking.

Questions and Discussion: Do we see potential in a regional RWSN presence?

Different scenarios in different nations: what approaches and technologies could be shared?

Particularities need to be addressed

Groundwater is a transboundary issue: share information on how aquifers are managed, how much water can be pumped out etc.

Absolutely believe that there is the potential as well as the need for ensuring a regional presence for RWSN. There is a body of knowledge and experience that blends extremely well with the requirements within the region. Coherent collaboration could enhance and build on what exists in the region

C'est un grand potentiel, car comme vous le savez dans la politique du HCR pour la protection des personnes sous mandat, nous allons dans un vision d'installation des réfugiés dans les communauté et cela implique la mise en place de WSN dans ces milieux ruraux.

2 aspects need to be considered:
- Membership type
- Economic implications

Objectives of already existing institutions: very specific goals in different regions; Working together could help achieving them.

The potential lies in linking stakeholders confronted with similar issues/topics within RWS.

Questions and Discussion: Do we see potential in a regional RWSN presence?

I think there is an opportunity to standardize the way each country maps aquifers so that the datasets can be integrated in a regional platform. This is just an example looking at groundwater management. I believe that because of the similarities that SADC countries have, we could also discuss SOP´s and related documents for O&M. These documents will have to be developed with time as we learn more and more.

Indeed, there is potential of RWSN in the region as it provides a platform to share knowledge on RW resources management in the region.

I appreciate that the RWSN is a global network. There is a lot to share across the different continents and regions and of course complement the regional specific networks.
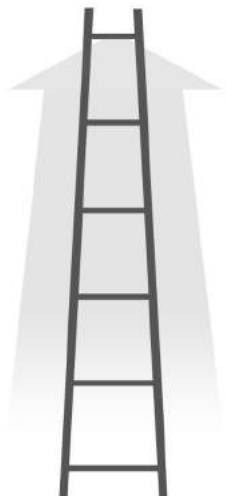
Rural Water Supply Network

Working groups

Designing for useful knowledge exchange:

How might we share rural water supply knowledge and expertise in the region?

What, So What, Now What?

NOW HOW could a regional RWSN presence look like for exchanging knowledge and expertise meaningfully in the region?

SO WHAT does this tell us about good knowledge exchange?

WHAT do we notice about how knowledge and expertise for rural water supply is exchanged in the region?

Overview on Rooms

Room 1

English

Host: Kerstin

Room 2

English

Host: Louisa

Room 3

English

Host: Donald

Room 4

English

Host: Tara

Room 5

English

Host: Chrispine

Room 6

English

Host: Sara

Room 7

English

Host: Rena

Room 8

Français

Host: Elodie

Room 9

Portuguese

Host: Aline

Join on dgroups.org/rwsn/   **Rural Water Supply Network**

How does this work?

- You will be randomly allocated to a room

- Find your room number on the next slides and follow the steps

- Facilitators will be in some of the rooms to support you.

- Take notes directly on the slides - they will be really important for the next steps.

- Technical issues? Try to help each other, use the chat, send a message to the help desk and if nothing works leave the break-out room or log-in again

Comment ça marche?

- Choisissez une salle dans la langue de votre choix.

- Trouvez votre numéro de salle sur les diapositives suivantes et suivez les étapes.

- Des facilitateur-rice-s seront présent-e-s dans certaines salles en soutien. Si ce n'est pas le cas, organisez-vous au sein de votre groupe.

- Prenez des notes directement sur les diapositives - elles seront très importantes pour les étapes suivantes.

- Des problèmes techniques ? Essayez de vous entraider, utilisez le chat, envoyez un message au service d'assistance et si rien ne fonctionne, quittez la salle ou reconnectez-vous.

Como é que o breakout room funciona?

- Pode escolher a sala (breakout room) na sua língua preferida

- Encontre o número da sua sala nos próximos slides e siga os passos

- Os facilitadores estarão em algumas das salas para o apoiar. Caso contrário, auto-organizem-se dentro do vosso grupo.

- Tome notas directamente nos slides - eles serão importantes para os próximos passos.

- Questões técnicas? Tente ajudar-se mutuamente, use o chat, envie uma mensagem ao balcão de ajuda (help desk) e se nada funcionar, saia da sala ou volte a entrar no sistema

WHAT do we notice about how knowledge and expertise for rural water supply is exchanged in the region?

SO WHAT does this tell us about good knowledge exchange?

NOW HOW could a regional RWSN presence look like for exchanging knowledge and expertise meaningfully in the region?

● *Step 0: Identify a main notetaker. The notetaker is responsible to capture all thoughts on this slide. To get space, you may delete these instructions in italic once they are done.*
● *Step 1: Take 1 minute on your own and write down first thoughts that come to your mind directly in this text field here. If it does not work, use the chatbox and ask the notetaker to put the the note in here. (1 min)*
● *Step 2: Discuss your answers in the group. Introduce yourself shortly once you start speaking. (5 - 9 mins)*

● *Step 1: Take 1 minute on your own and start writing (1 min)*
● *Step 2: Discuss your answers in the group (5 - 9 mins).*

● *Step 1: Take 3 minutes on your own and collect as many ideas as possible (3 mins)*
● *Step 2: Explain and discuss your favourite ideas in the group (5-10 mins).*
● *Step 3: Choose one idea in the group, that seems the most promising. If you cannot decide, vote (4 mins).*
● *Step 4: Write one easy sentence that explains the idea and share it with all in the plenary afterwards (2 mins)*
● *Step 5: If you still have time left, take a break until the plenary session starts.*

Room 1

40 Minutes

Participants of this room:

- **Kerstin Danert**
- **Monja Esterhuizen**
- **Steve Thompson**
- **Dr. Gislar Edgar Kifanyi**

WHAT do we notice about how knowledge and expertise for rural water supply is exchanged in the region?

- Top down, mostly by government (local) institutions…(depends on the arrangements in-country)
- 1-to-1 between individuals or individual water point providers in a specific region…(use of personal or local networks). Word of mouth dominates.
- In Tanzania, local governments are linked to Water User Associations. Chain from village to district to region to national level.
- Some remote areas face challenge of communication. Knowledge sharing happens when an official visits the village and asks, otherwise it is difficult.
- Importance of water user associations
- Local government is responsible and does share knowledge (in S.A).
- IWMI is promoting MUS in a province in South Africa (Limpopo); another sample: United Nations Development Programme, INR - Food & livelihood security project, KwaZulu-Natal Province, SA.

SO WHAT does this tell us about good knowledge exchange?

- Context matters
- There can be a disconnect between local issues (what matters locally) and national policies
- Lack of a platform(s) for knowledge exchange for local governments to rural areas and back
- Very difficult (too difficult) for villagers to get knowledge.
- Need more initiatives to illustrate, show: learn by doing
- Many rural dwellers lack education, which makes some materials inaccessible; so have to think how to share information - by hard copies; cellular (but need network & data); media such as radio & television; at community gatherings with water services provider / institutions

NOW HOW could a regional RWSN presence look like for exchanging knowledge and expertise meaningfully in the region?

- Tapping local knowledge of that local governments have of local conditions…
- What type of knowledge are we talking about - there are many many issues that are important for sustainability, e.g. finance, management, operation & maintenance, self-supply (whether small community water networks or individual household supply), self-organisation (establishing roles, responsibilities, accountability, processes).
- Enabling exchange that is appropriate for rural dwellers.
- RWSN materials are very useful, but not necessarily specific enough to local geography (countries or regions).
- Understand the region/ country's water services provider arrangements & see how to assist those institutions, whether government or non-government
- Be accessible for rural dwellers, e.g. link through local governments.
- Use of radio

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Room 2

40 Minutes

Participants of this room:

- Louisa Gosling
- Lamech Malawi PhD on rural water supply
- Patience Mukuyu Int Water management institute South Africa PhD water security small scale farmers
- Bwalya Lusaka City Council…

WHAT do we notice about how knowledge and expertise for rural water supply is exchanged in the region?

SO WHAT does this tell us about good knowledge exchange?

NOW HOW could a regional RWSN presence look like for exchanging knowledge and expertise meaningfully in the region?

- *In several groups. Good sharing of info about what is happening, new developments. Most important - RWSN - one of key areas, waternet,*
  - Operate in South africa; agriculture water knowledge in agricultural networks
  - Water supply networks, municipalities. Have their own challenges can't supply water. Other actors.
- Realised that MUS systems really important. KNowledge in community based organisations. Not in formal institutions but with
- Lusaka water security initiative can share information but experience - institutions working in silos. Can't access at city level. Initiative trying to establish exchange between platform
- Exchange ICRI

- Most interaction at global platform but limited interaction with regional perspective
- Strengthen national platforms for sharing information, institutions and students.
- WaterNet - how active is managing the website, sharing best practices, other players in forum, involve institutions and universities.
- Regional depends on good national engagement
- Sharing best practice where community based organisations can come together and be coordinated.
- Online - engaged in drilling boreholes - on the ground would be more useful, coordinator of organisations. Use facebook.
- Whatsapp more task
- Coordinating national institutions could be another platform. 1 or 2 workshops a year to touch base. Most gov institutions don't like to engage online.
- Get most info through emails, susana, water research foundation.
- Website to share info. Maybe scaled down to go from global to regional?
- National committees? Who are constituents at global level?
- Institutions sharing up
- Knowledge sharing - what is best way Global whatsapp, research cohorts, updates. Emails and website and facebook.

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Room 3

40 Minutes

Participants of this room:

- **Donald Robertson**
- **Muthi Nhlema**
- **Brighton Munyai**
- **Dada Kanyinji**
- **Samuel Mwangala**

WHAT do we notice about how knowledge and expertise for rural water supply is exchanged in the region?

SO WHAT does this tell us about good knowledge exchange?

NOW HOW could a regional RWSN presence look like for exchanging knowledge and expertise meaningfully in the region?

- Online platforms e.g. SADC-GIP
- Gap in linkages between different information sources
- Strong examples exist at local (sub-region) level
- Informal knowledge exchange takes place
- Should be part of institutional operation, but sometimes that doesn't happen e.g. within a government

- Has to be institutionalised
- KE is relevant to the audience - not just talkshops about 'what we're doing'
- The availability of knowledge (e.g. is it publicly accessible)
- Institutional knowledge can be lost when moving/leaving post - transition plans should exist for knowledge
- Local ownership/motivation/driven

- Identification of local networks/expertise at a regional scale - where are the gaps?
- Create and identify synergies - help generate connections
- Showcasing success stories
- A central network, covering the region, which helps identify, connect, and facilitate the sharing of local expertise and experience. A central starting point to discover other localised networks

Room 4

40 Minutes

Participants of this room:

- **Geraldine Schoeman**
- **Tara Bartnik**
- **Beatrice Chisenga**
- **Jean-Marie**

WHAT do we notice about how knowledge and expertise for rural water supply is exchanged in the region?

SO WHAT does this tell us about good knowledge exchange?

NOW HOW could a regional RWSN presence look like for exchanging knowledge and expertise meaningfully in the region?

Write your comments here:

- …network disseminating literature
- …gaps - info does not reaches practitioners as most not at national conferences (more academics attend instead)
- … would be good to find new modalities to reach practitioners
- …knowledge management and knowledge sharing - value of network. Synergies, learning from what is happening elsewhere, exchange of good practices, experiential learning (learning by doing and interacting)
- …issue - communication, can be improved
- …added value of RWSN, not limited to a closed club interaction for exchange, but go beyond and try and improve the livelihoods of people. Push for practices changing, policies influenced as a result of the network
- …agree that we need a distinct strong influence on policy.
- Current issue: Good practice / lessons that we know, can go out the window during implementation as projects are time driven
- Promote best practice for sustainability, job creation
- A lot happening already - **could a survey of what's happening be useful to understand what is happening already (who are the players, what are they doing)**
- It is time to look at knowledge management - what are the big issues, how can we address them, as access to rural water supply is still a major challenge.
- Main focus is cross sharing among countries, we need to see success stories, what is working or not working. There are differences between the country contexts.
- A lot of info around about what works
- Lack of impact assessments on what was done - accountability

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Collect all your ideas here:

- …critical is issue of ownership - need people to own and run with the process from within the region, need to identify champions
- …need to institutionalise some processes to avoid risk of individuals losing interest - do you have a small secretariat, or do you have institutions in the region to anchor the activities
- …number of networks/activities existing already - beneficial to build synergies with existing networks (i.e. GMI already have a link to RWSN through CAPnet). Also allows resources to go further, i.e. co-hosting events, while keeping RWSN rural niche
- …practical issues on the ground - policy might say one thing, doesnt mean its happening in practice - linking policy and practical side of it
- …A lot of info around about what works- need to consolidate, make sure that lessons that are learnt are practically applied
- …get everyone speaking together (including donors) and having shared understanding on approaches to addressing challenge- "holding place for best practice", "champagne understanding but watered down application"
- Ways of holding people accountable to best practice in the approach
- …"consolidating knowledge on learning on best practice, identifying barriers to it being applied, setting the standard
- *Mechanism with regional ownership for consolidating what we already know and have learnt about best practice (lots already known or in policies), what are the barriers to it being put into practice, setting a best practice standard for people to be accountable to - not just sharing knowledge but pushing for actual change*

Room 5

40 Minutes

Participants of this room:

- **Chrispine Solanga**
- **Vincent Pfumo**
- **Chaiwe Mushauko-Sanderse**
- **Meleesa Naughton**
- **Imani Mathias**
- **Adam**

WHAT do we notice about how knowledge and expertise for rural water supply is exchanged in the region?

- *Vincent (Zimbabwe): shortfall in terms of cooperation. Organisations do not know each other. Duplication of roles/ activity. Eg smaller NGOs working in different rural areas in Zim are not sharing knowledge.*
- *Chaiwe (Zambia): not a lot of looking outside the borders, not enough platforms to share information across the region. Some of the networks present today were new to me. Knowledge management expertise is needed in the region in the sector. Local initiatives in Zambia are not always constant / well structured (eg annual conference). At institutional level knowledge management is not a core service.*
- *Adam (Tanzania): knowledge on groundwater sources / drilling - boreholes drilled in rural areas sometime do not sustain services to users. Would be good to share knowledge on this across borders.*

SO WHAT does this tell us about good knowledge exchange?

- *Vincent (Zimbabwe): good knowledge exchange should support smaller organisations, e.g. get data, experience from past activities;*
- *Chaiwe (Zambia): difficult to know what is needed in the knowledge exchange space; we should map existing needs across different institutions. First step would be to find out the find out the knowledge exchange needs across the sector, across countries…. Would the needs in Zambia be the same as in Zimbabwe?*

NOW HOW could a regional RWSN presence look like for exchanging knowledge and expertise meaningfully in the region?

- *Chaiwe: Virtual space could allow for different regions to be in touch at first. Then could move to f2f opportunities when it is allowed (regional knowledge exchanges, conferences…). I have had some experiences with GIZ where I work. We initiated physical knowledge exchange, we phyiscally moved a team from Zambia to Uganda to see what was being done in Uganda.*
- *Adam: regional RWSN could enable access to the highest level of expertise and exchange of ideas.*
- *Networking is a problem, and yet we have a lot of players in the region. We agreed that we should have a regional hub which could be first virtuall then also f2f.*

Room 6

40 Minutes

Participants of this room:

- **Sara Ahrari**
- **Sean Furey**
- **Richard Owen**
- **Miguel**
- **Boniface Aleobua**

WHAT do we notice about how knowledge and expertise for rural water supply is exchanged in the region?

- Regional courses always have limited countries, which helped knowledge sharing during the 5-6 days workshop, not sure how it shape up after COVID (exchange visits have not been possible, which has been an important aspect of learning

SO WHAT does this tell us about good knowledge exchange?

- Establishing the interest and allow fishing knowledge from workshops, trainings, then you go home. It needs to be followed up bi-laterally based on what might work in your country, getting the exact information, data, approaches etc. and implement your learning.

NOW HOW could a regional RWSN presence look like for exchanging knowledge and expertise meaningfully in the region?

- … Linking with the current initiatives and broadening the expertise area (based on the clear niche and data)

RWSN

Room 7

40 Minutes

Participants of this room:

- **Rena (SF)**
- **Jude Cobbing (Save the Children, US)**
- **Juan Smulders (Aquaquest, Zambia)**
- **Temple Oraeki (RWSN)**

WHAT do we notice about how knowledge and expertise for rural water supply is exchanged in the region?

- Not as much knowledge exchange as there should be - too few mechanisms to promote this?
- Sharing of data is uncommon (even between countries that share a common language)
- Language barriers?

ONE SENTENCE: RWSN should promote visual tools, maps, schematic diagrams, or other innovative ways for sharing data/knowledge/information and data platforms > so that people can see who is doing what, where, how etc.

SO WHAT does this tell us about good knowledge exchange?

- Relies on mechanisms and institutions that promote good knowledge exchange - i.e. these things don't just happen by themselves.
- Need better career trajectories for groundwater specialists, too.
- Needs to be made available across platforms
- Data ownership and protocols
- Newness of the theme, lack of recognition
- Invisibility of groundwater is an issue, too - not as obvious as surface water
- Public data not always made available, even when it should be "free"
- NGOs don't always collect the data that they could, from ongoing groundwater projects.
- Review: What are the existing platforms? How are they being utilised?
- Inclusiveness is key
- This is something Save the Children has just completed, it's a listing of easily accessible sources of groundwater data for Africa: https://www.fsnnetwork.org/resource/guide-online-and-accessible-resources-groundwater
- I found this very interesting during a mission I did in South Africa responding to Covid: https://hygienehub.info/en/covid-19

NOW HOW could a regional RWSN presence look like for exchanging knowledge and expertise meaningfully in the region?

- Platform: should include not only civil society but also CSOs and WSPs, as well as community-based organisations (inclusive!)
- Collaborate with existing knowledge bases and organisations
- Keep doing what you're doing!
- By meeting like we are doing now!
- A map of who is doing what, where, when, how
- Advocating sharing of project data and lessons learned
- Example: Hygiene Hub, mWater, UNHCR WASH database:
- https://wash.unhcr.org/wash_taxonomy/groundwater/
- https://www.mwater.co/
- https://hygienehub.info/en/covid-19
- Please: move forward with registering drillers and asking them to submit info to central databases
- Visual platforms: who is there? Doing what? Potential for collaborations? Example: an interactive map (e.g. hydrogeology map)

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Salle 8 FR

40 Minutes

Participant-e-s de cette salle:

- **Elodie Feijoo, RWSN, CH**
- **Souffrence Duopolin HCR, DRC**
- **Florette Razafimeva Diorano WASH, Madagascar**

QUE constatons-nous sur la manière dont l'échange de connaissances et l'expertise pour l'approvisionnement en eau en milieu rural est conçu dans la région ?

ALORS cela nous apprend QUOI sur un bon échange de connaissances ?

MAINTENANT, Ã QUOI pourrait ressembler une présence régionale du RWSN pour échanger les connaissances et l'expertise de manière significative dans la région ?

- Beaucoup d'informations données sur les recherches qui pourraient être appliquées sur le terrain pour l'approvisionnement en eau mais celles-ci ne sont pas partagées (toutes catégories d'acteurs).
- Manque de capacité de mutualisation de ressource financière.
- Travailler directement avec populations rurales, ou aussi gouvernements? Problème de corruption?

- Opportunités des outils en ligne /virtuel pour un accès à un public plus large
- Créer un réseau décentralisé dans les pays, échange à l'intérieur des pays est aussi un problème
- Spécialisation thématique utile (savoir ou chercher connaissances, pas besoin de consultants externes)

- Identifier une ou plusieurs personnes (idéalement déjà membre du RWSN) de la région pour mettre en place une présence régionale, virtuelle pas forcément un bureau 'physique', permettant plus d'échanges en français

[Translation to English]
- A lot of information given on research that could be applied on the ground for water supply but this is not shared (all categories of actors).
- Lack of capacity to pool financial resources.
- Working directly with rural populations, or also governments? Problem of corruption?

[Translation to English]
- Opportunities of online/virtual tools for access to a wider audience
- Creating a decentralised network in countries, exchange within countries is also an issue
- Useful thematic specialisation (know or seek knowledge, no need for external consultants)

[Translation to English]
- Identify one or more people (ideally already a member of the RWSN) from the region to set up a regional presence, virtually not necessarily a 'physical' office, allowing more exchanges in French

O QUE notamos sobre como a troca de conhecimentos para o abastecimento de água rural é concebida atualmente na região?

O QUE é que isto nos diz sobre a boa troca de conhecimentos?

COMO poderia ser uma presença regional da RWSN para o intercâmbio de conhecimentos e experiências de forma significativa na região?

40 Minutos

Participantes desta sala:

- **Aline Okello (Mz)**
- **Edson Monteiro (Ang)**
- **Dalva Isidoro (Mz)**
- **Celso Muima (Mz)**

- Experiência da UNICEF - documentação da água rural para pequenos centros urbanos (Moz, Namibia, ..). Unicef tem um escritório regional, troca de experiencias (gestao de contratos, conhecimentos, etc).
- Outras entidades têm igualmente feito trocas de experiências em várias áreas ;
- World Vision - trocas de experiencias com Zambia e Zimbabwe
- People in need - manual drilling
- ADRA, Federacao luterana (experiências do Brasil e outros países - armazenamento de água de chuva)
- DNAAS (Moz) - PRONASAR (água e saneamento)

- UNICEF experience - rural water documentation for small urban centres (Moz, Namibia, ...). UNICEF has a regional office, exchange of experiences (management of contracts, knowledge, etc.).
- Other entities have also exchanged experiences in various areas;
- World Vision - exchanges with Zambia and Zimbabwe
- People in need - manual drilling
- ADRA, Federacao luterana (experiences from Brazil and other countries - rainwater storage)

- A troca de conhecimento é boa mas deve ir além do sector, envolvendo a academia, sector privado. Criação de conhecimento.
- CFPAS (Angola) ainda não funciona
- CFPAS (Moz) Está a funcionar e estão a dar formações sobre contratos de água

[Translation in English]
- Knowledge exchange is good but should go beyond the sector, involving academia, private sector. Knowledge creation.
- CFPAS (Angola) does not yet function
- CFPAS (Moz) is working and they are giving trainings on water contracts

- Devemos considerar a criação de networks em cada país que serviriam de polos de comunicação com o governo.
- Criar um mecanismo que elabore objectivos regionais que possam responder aos nacionais
- Criação de uma base de dados a nível regional que possa providenciar informação qualitativa e quantitativa dos países
- Melhorar a base de dados nacional acessível a todos

[Translation in English]
- We should consider the creation of networks in each country that would serve as communication hubs with the government.
- Create a mechanism that elaborates regional objectives that can respond to national ones
- Creation of a database at regional level that can provide qualitative and quantitative information on the countries
- Improve the national database accessible to all

HOW could a regional RWSN presence look like for exchanging knowledge and expertise in the region?

Room 1: Context matters, local government is an important link, there are many important issues/topics to cover, and consider use of radio!

Room 2: Connect community water management committees through active networking and coordination, and other research and local practitioners to national platforms and to regional and global

Room 3: A central network, covering the region, which helps identify, connect, and facilitate the sharing of local expertise and experience. A central starting point to discover other localised networks and success stories etc.

Room 4: Mechanism with regional ownership for bringing people together and consolidating what we already know and have learnt about best practice (lots already known or in policies), what are the barriers to it being put into practice, setting a best practice standard for people to be accountable to - not just sharing knowledge but pushing for actual practice change and policy influence

Room 5: Networking is a problem, and yet we have a lot of players in the region. We agreed that we should have a regional hub which could be first virtual then also f2f (cross-regional knowledge exchanges, conferences…).

Room 6: Linking with the current initiatives and broadening the expertise area (based on the clear niche and data)

Room 7: RWSN should promote visual tools, maps, schematic diagrams, or other innovative ways for sharing data/knowledge/information and data platforms

Room 8: FR Identifier une ou plusieurs personnes (idéalement déjà membre du RWSN) de la région pour mettre en place une présence régionale, virtuelle pas forcément un bureau 'physique', permettant plus d'échanges en français. EN: Identify one or more people (ideally already a member of the RWSN) from the region to set up a regional presence, virtually not necessarily a 'physical' office, allowing more exchanges in French

Room 9: PT - We should consider creating networks in each country that would serve as communication hubs with RWSN and the government. Create a mechanism that elaborates regional objectives that can respond to national ones through quantitative and qualitative data
- Devemos considerar a criação de networks em cada país que serviriam de polos de comunicação com RWSN e o governo.
- Criar um mecanismo que elabore objectivos regionais que possam responder aos nacionais através de dados quantitativos e qualitativos

Discussion: Out of these ideas, what could work and what not? Why?

All ideas are good and would help linking the countries with regard to groundwater table management

All ideas could actually work, need to be innovative and share knowledge, challenge each other - networks is only way to survive considering CC issues

This is not an either x or discussion; RWSN people can come together and energise activities

Can RWSN in SADC be a vehicle to try knowledge sharing between rural communities in the SADC region - this would mean going beyond sector professionals at national level, and to local government level and even more locally?

RWSN as a knowledge hub has global expertise and this is where its role in SADC region fits in. (i.e. RWSN as the global expertise partner)

Linking who is doing what, where, when.

My sense is that it would be essential for the Network to engage donor organisations as well as regional and country-based networks representing NGOs active at community level rather than actually trying to stretch to local level directly. Therefore, influence, guide and direct as opposed to doing.

Need a communication plan – on the modes (use of media, cellular, workshops, training the trainer, etc.) of sharing knowledge; on what knowledge is required (technical, financial, organisational, establishing procedures for operation & maintenance, monitoring and reporting, etc.) to establish appropriate, sustainable water & sanitation services.

Then leadership – to implement the communication plan, to share the necessary, appropriate knowledge suited to the context (political, institutional, natural resources, financial resources, technical resources) and users/consumers/communities. Establish and maintain person-knowledge networks.

Opportunity to share also what did not work. Not only success studies, but share lessons learnt (the "Oops space"). Help normalize and harmonize any kind of tensions that might arise.

Our group talked a lot about isolated communities, and the fact that they are not reached, or rarely communicated with. Perhaps a discussion with the stakeholders you suggest that can reach out in new ways. I am a great fan of radio, and that there are some great radio methods such as farmer voice radio, which could be used really well to address common community issues :-).

Poll on Knowledge and Networking: Which levels of activities would be valuable for Southern Africa?

Level	Activities	External Support Needed (mentoring/ facilitation/ shared platforms)
1	Informal chat group (email, WhatsApp etc)	None/Low
2	*Above plus:* Regular newsletter	Low
3	*Above plus:* Regular face-to-face networking meetings	Low–High
4	*Above plus:* Webinars or online events with presenters and panelists chosen by the country team.	Medium–High
5	*Above plus:* Training events, collaborative projects, political advocacy on behalf of the rural water sector.	Very High

Poll on Knowledge and Networking: Which levels of activities would be valuable for Southern Africa?

Knowledge and Networking

- Above plus: Regular newsletter
- Above plus: Regular face-to-face networking meetings
- Above plus: Webinars or online events with presenters and panelists chosen by the country team.
- Above plus: Training events, collaborative projects, political advocacy on behalf of the rural water sector.

2. What level would be realistic to get to over 3-5 years?

- Informal chat group
- Above plus: Regular newsletter
- Above plus: Regular face-to-face networking meetings
- Above plus: Webinars or online events with presenters and panelists chosen by the country team.
- Above plus: Training events, collaborative projects, political advocacy on behalf of the rural water sector.

3. Would you like to be engaged more strongly in building up a regional RWSN in Southern Africa?

- Yes, count me in
- Maybe, keep me in the loop
- Rather not

1. What activity level would you be interested in establishing in the first year?

2. What level would be realistic to get to over 3-5 years?

3. Would you like to be engaged more strongly in building up a regional RWSN in Southern Africa?

Next steps: Create a working group

May **E-discussion** All languages	→	29 June **Strategic Workshop** English + support in French and Portuguese	→	Quarter 3 **Working Groups** All languages

Next steps: Create a working group

1. Would you like to join and/or lead a SADC working group?

1. If yes, what thematic or strategic focus do you suggest for this working group?
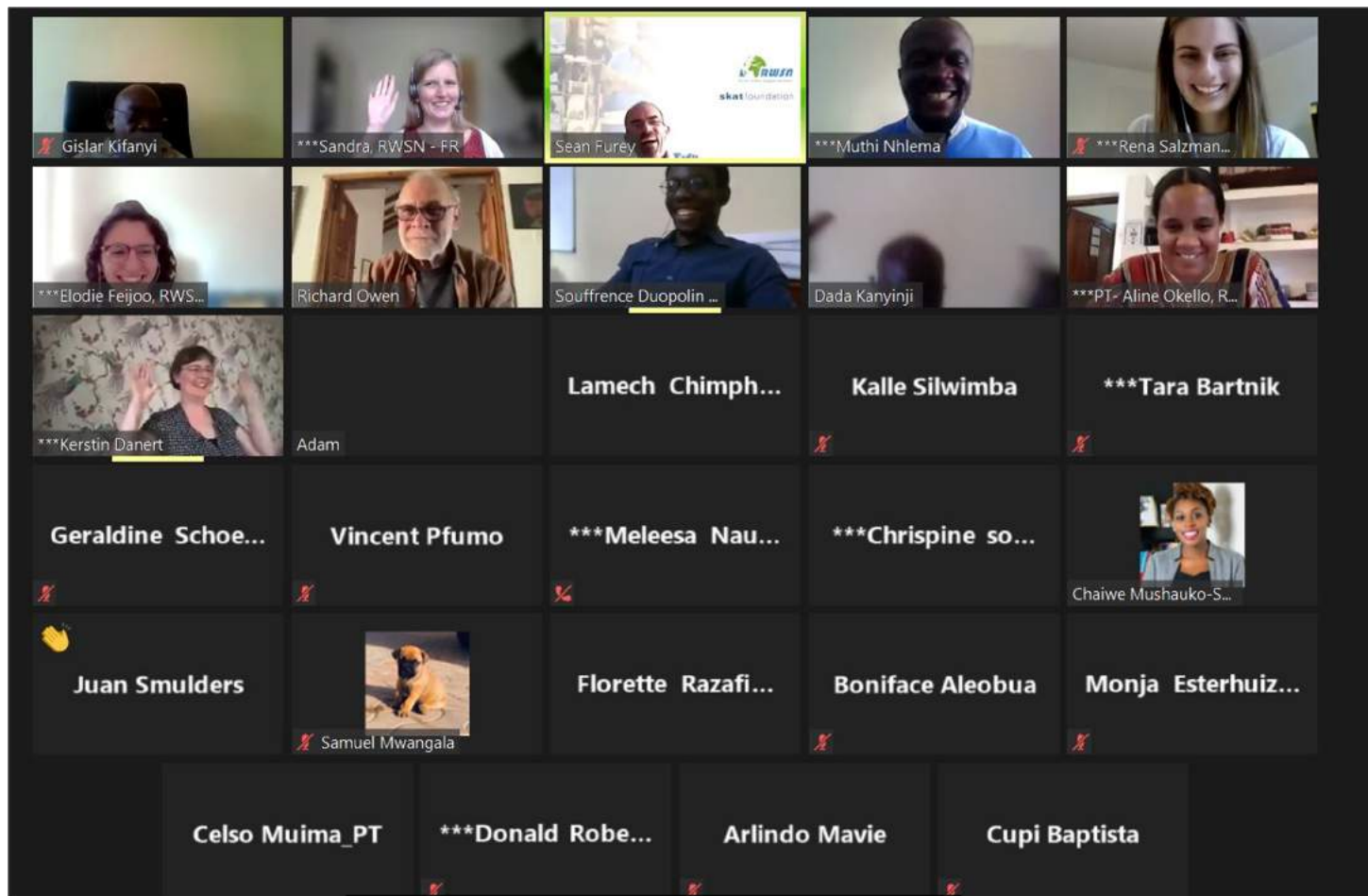
1. Do you have any other idea for engagement?

You can suggest a working group by answering these questions in the who is who sheet next to your name: https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1cGm2bnIHk9YnHFvQWYMVFjXeQ8slk6o7-wZgkcDnue4/edit?usp=sharing

We will follow up with next step, based on your suggestions.

RWSN

Rural Water Supply Network

Let us continue the design

Keep in touch with us on **dgroups.org/rwsn**/
or send us a message on **ruralwater@skat.ch**