# Translating Research Ideas into Water Security Impacts for the Poor in Rural Kenya





UNIVERSITY OF

OXFORD

10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Conference of the ESRC-DFID Joint Fund for Poverty Alleviation Research Lessons from a Decade's Research on Poverty:



Pretoria – 16-18 March 2016 Rob Hope & colleagues, Oxford University

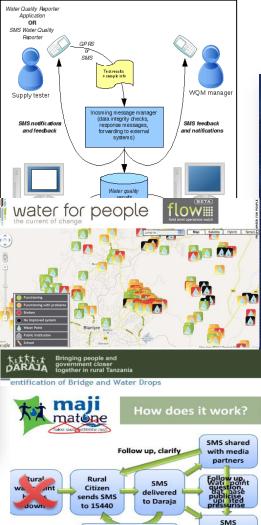
## Can the convergence of mobile networks, money and monitoring improve water security for the poor in rural Africa?

(Smart Water Systems, DFID New & Emerging Technologies, 2010-11)









**Local Government gets** 

the waterpoint fixed

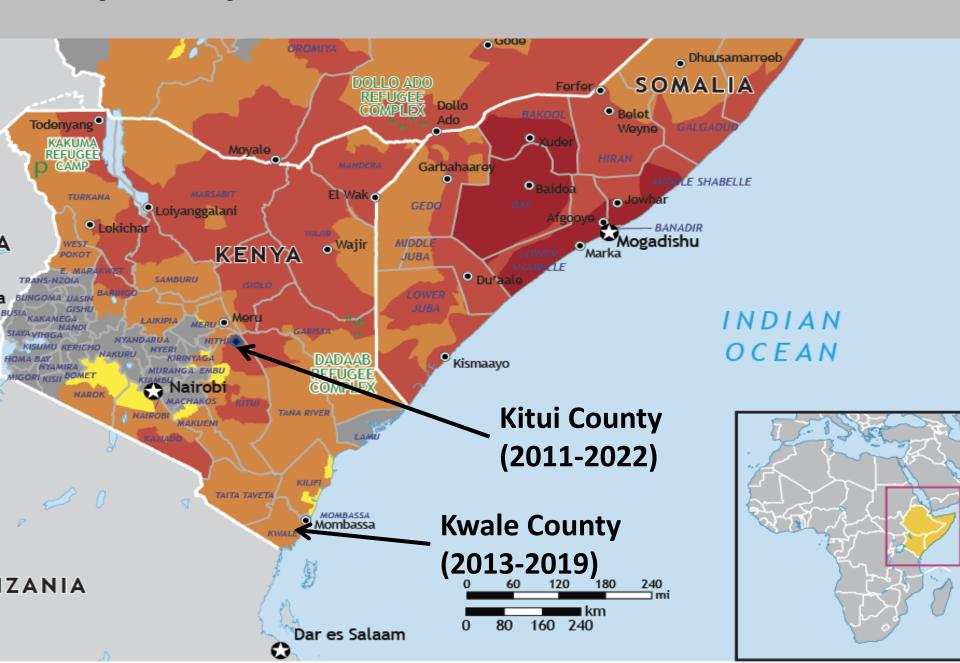
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Rapid expansion of mobile banking services in Sub-Saharan Africa: 2007-2011



## Kenya study sites

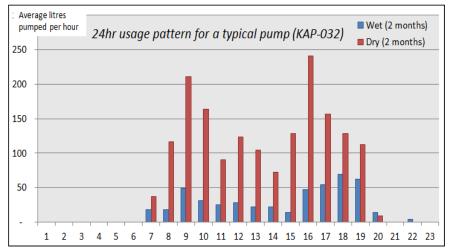


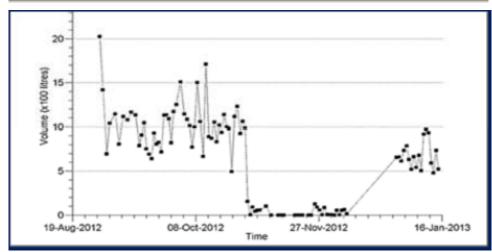
### Can information improve institutional design?

(New mobile citizens and rural water sustainability in Africa, ESRC/DFID, 2012-15)



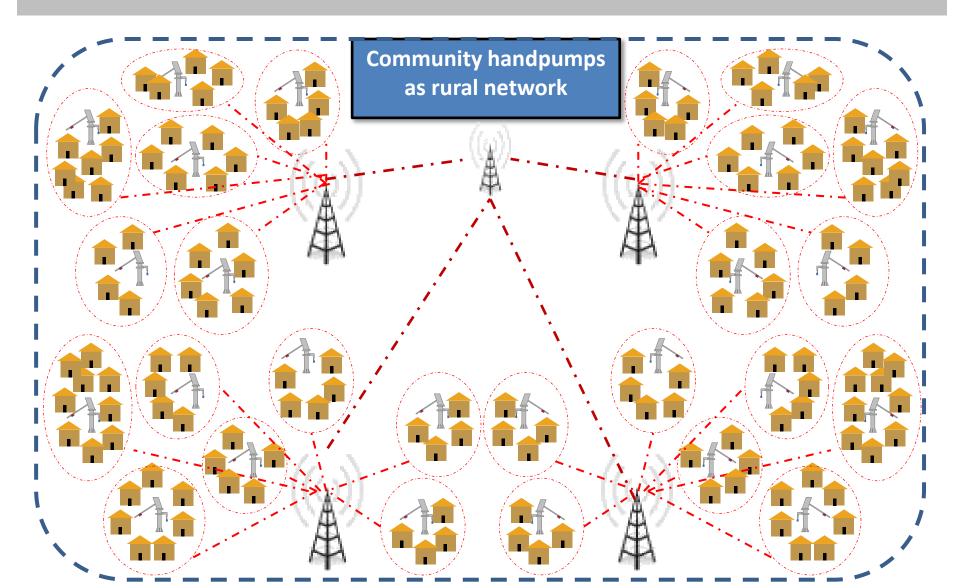
A smart handpump has a GSM transmitter securely fitted in the handle of the pump. The transmitter automatically sends data on handpump water use via SMS over the mobile network. A user interface provides immediate performance metrics. The transmitter is small and robust with no moving parts. Installation is simple, enabling it to be retrofitted to existing pumps in the field or built into new pumps prior to deployment.



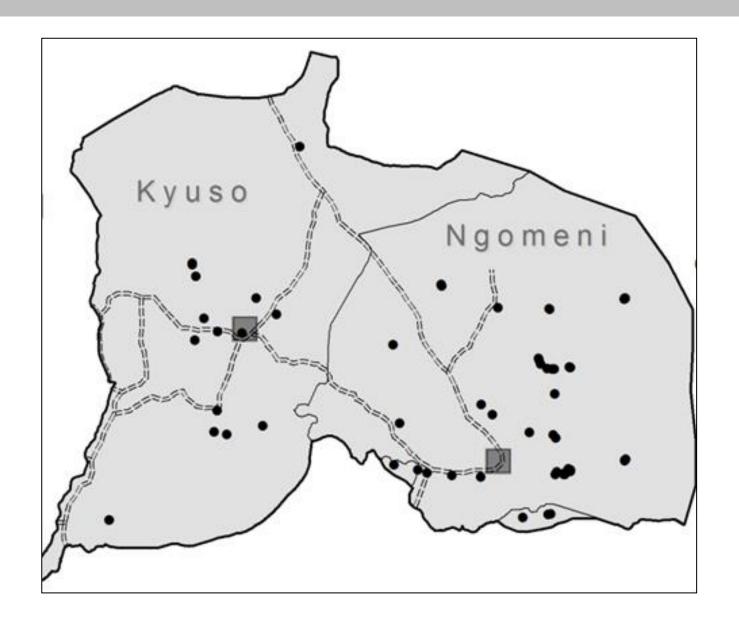


### Does scale reduce risk? (operational, financial, institutional)

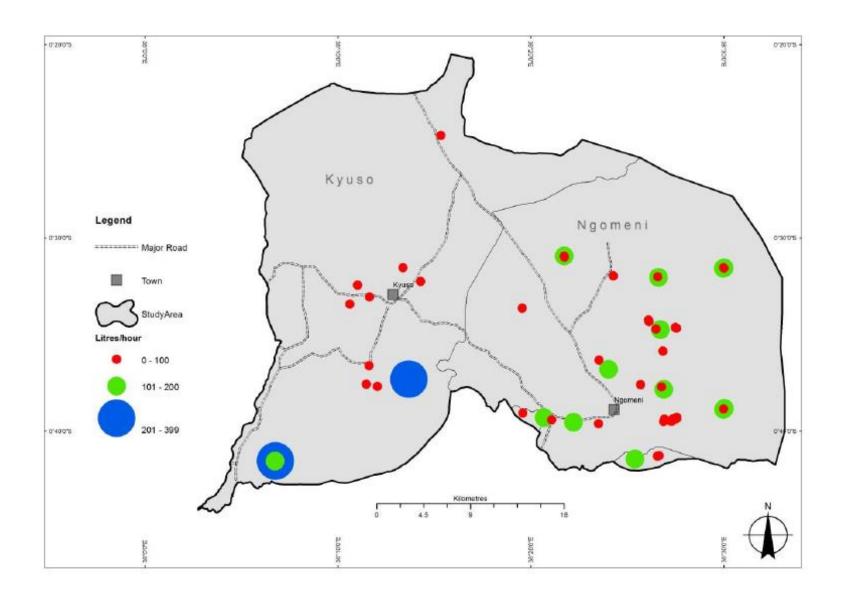
(Reducing Risks to Rural Water Supply in Africa, Development Frontiers, ESRC/DFID, 2013-16)



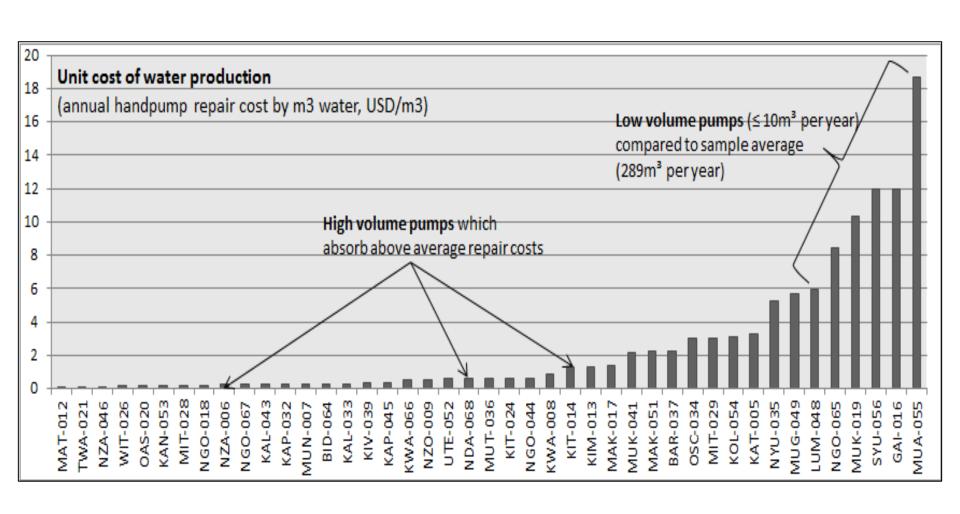
### Where would you install the next pump?



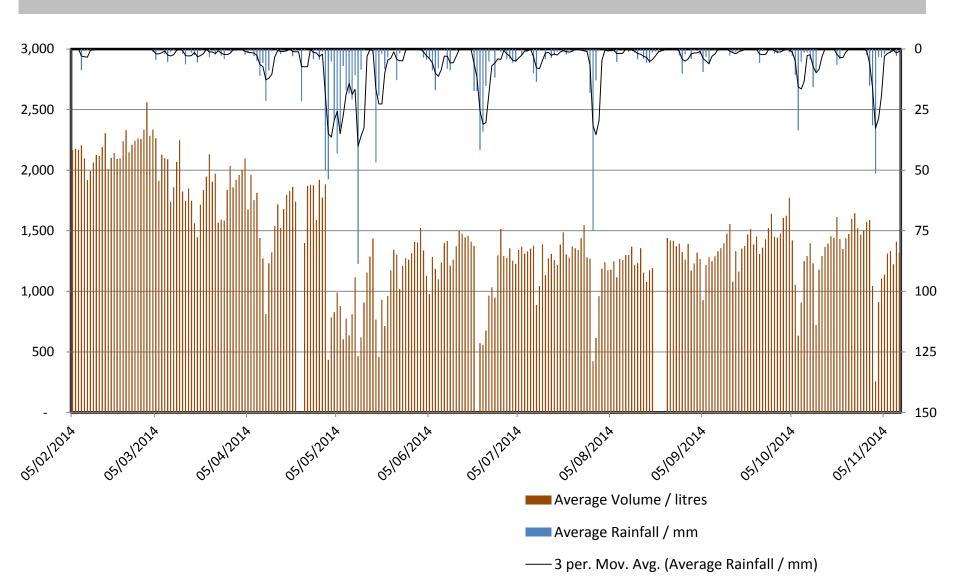
### ...for more accountable and fairer investments?



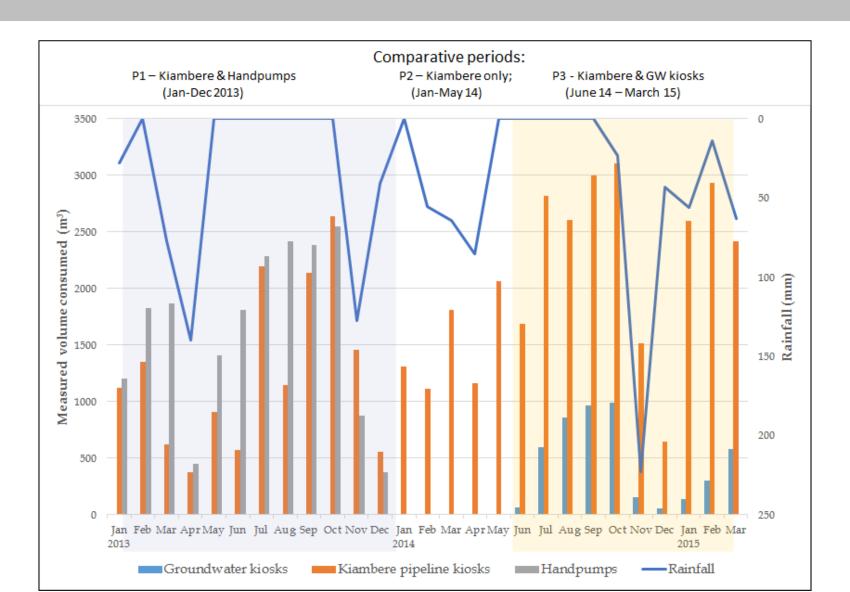
# Asset management to manage new and existing infrastructure - unit cost of production (USD/m3)



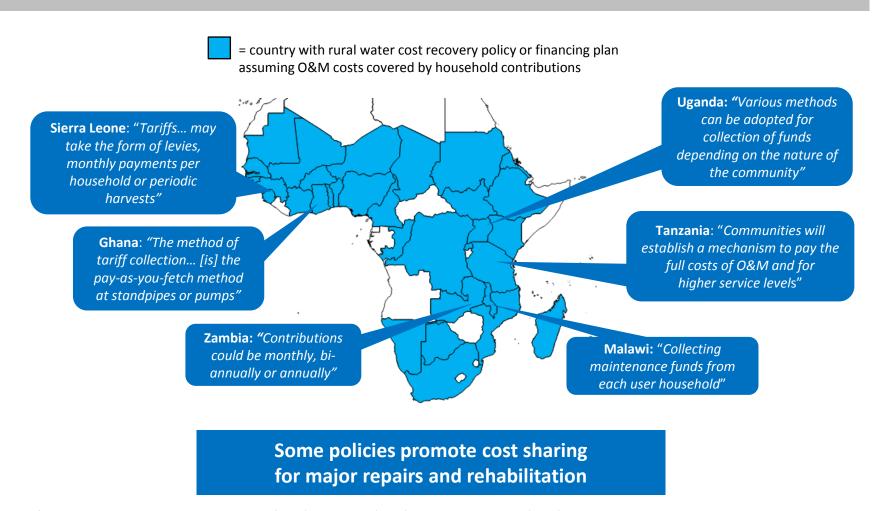
# New insights into rainfall patterns and water use behaviour (Kwale, Kenya, Feb-Nov 2014)



# Similar behaviour observed with piped schemes, groundwater kiosks and handpumps in Kitui County



# **Theory & practice -** Community-based management of rural water established in policy but contested in practice

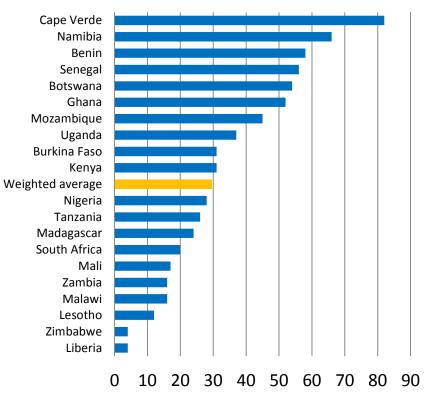


1. Based on information presented in Banerjee & Morella (2011) and GLAAS (2014). Banerjee & Morella (2011) listed countries with a rural water cost recovery strategy. GLAAS (2014) listed countries with a "financing plan [which] defines if operating and basic maintenance is to be covered by tariffs or household contributions". Quotes taken from the following sources: Malawi Ministry of Irrigation and Water Development (2010), Tanzania Ministry of Water and Livestock Development (2002), Zambia Ministry of Local Government and Housing (2007), Uganda Ministry of Water and Environment (2011), Sierra Leone Ministry of Water Resources (2013), Ghana Community Water & Sanitation Agency (2011),

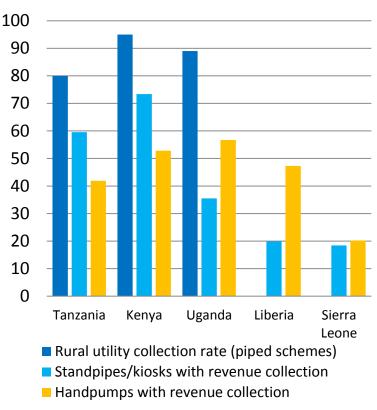
### Mismatch between policy and reality

### Majority of waterpoints lack revenue collection

#### Rural households paying for water (2008-09)<sup>1</sup>



#### Revenue collection rates<sup>2</sup>



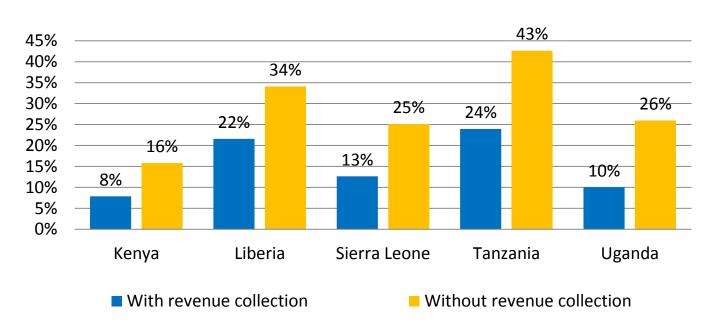
<sup>1.</sup> n=17,515 (Afrobarometer, 2014). Available at: http://afrobarometer.org/data.

<sup>2.</sup> Piped scheme data obtained from Uganda Ministry of Water and Environment (2014), WASREB (2014), EWURA (2014). Analysis excludes waterpoints located in urban areas. Analysis based on publicly available waterpoint datasets (Virtual Kenya, 2015; National Water Sanitation and Hygiene Promotion Committee, 2014; Sierra Leone, STATWASH Portal; Government of Tanzania, 2014; Government of Uganda, 2012). For additional data see Waterpoint Data Exchange http://www.waterpointdata.org

### Inadequate finance has major operational implications

Non-functionality rate twice as high when no revenue collected

#### Rural waterpoint non-functionality rates (n=183,149)<sup>1</sup>



If SDG is to be achieved in rural Sub-Saharan Africa then financial sustainability must be addressed

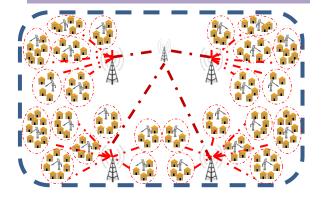
1. Waterpoints analysed include standpipes, kiosks, handpumps and protected springs. Analysis excludes waterpoints located in urban areas. Data drawn from publicly available waterpoint datasets (Virtual Kenya, 2015; National Water Sanitation and Hygiene Promotion Committee, 2014; Sierra Leone, STATWASH Portal 2014; Government of Tanzania, 2014; Government of Uganda, 2012). For additional data see Waterpoint Data Exchange http://www.waterpointdata.org/

# Collaborative design with government, communities and other partners (UNICEF, private sector, FrontlineSMS, etc.)

## Community support for trial and performance payments



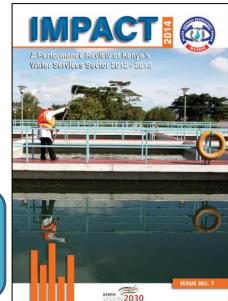
## Handpumps are clustered and monitored at scale



#### **FundiFix Ltd.**

- trained, stocked, mobile









Institutional design to align with national/county policy and water service regulation, and be replicable at scale

# FundiFix Ltd. – a local enterprise to promote sustainability

#### Phase 1 – Maintenance system (14/15)

- One year 'free' trial control/treat.
- 369 repairs for 213 treated pumps over 12 months.
- Ave. 1.7 repairs per pump per year.
- Mean days to repair <3 days.</li>
- Hourly data on pump usage

### Phase 2 – Institutional design (16/17)

- Community monthly fees to register with FundiFix
- Design of Water Services
   Maintenance Fund blending user
   fees, county government and donors
- Universal rural drinking water security at county level





#### Utapata manufaa gani kutokana na malipo yako?

- Huduma ya haraka isiyozidi siku 3 (au huduma ya mwezi mmoja bila malipo)
- Kubadilisha vifaa vilivyofunjika kwa vingine vipya na bora zaidi
- Mafundi walio na ujuzi na uzoefu na wanaopatikana kila wakati

#### Jukumu lenu ni nini?

- Kulipia huduma kwa kutumia M-PESA (kila mwezi, baada ya miezi mitatu ama kwa mwaka – vile ambayyo mtakubaliana)
- Kutoa usaidizi wakati wa marekebisho
- Kusajili nambari 10 za simu za wanajamii zitakazopokea ujumbe kila wakati wa malipo

#### Taarifa nyingine

Huduma hii haitasimamia marekebisho yatakayo sababishwa na wizi wa vifaa, uharibifu ama kupungua kwa kiwango cha maji katika kisima

## Reflections

### Social impacts

- Over 50,000 rural people experience reliable water supplies
- Established local maintenance companies, FundiFix Ltd.
- Communities pre-paying each month by MPESA to FundiFix Ltd
- Collaboration with UNICEF and Govt (Kenya, Zimbabwe, Bangladesh)
- Kenyan water policy reviewing new legislation for a 'maintenance fund'

### Policy orthodoxy - shaken not stirred

- Politics of change design a 'solution' to a political problem
- Investment orthodoxy insulates 'principals' from 'agent' accountability

### Don't wait for the phone to ring

- New finance model blending govt, donor and user funds
- 'Accidental infrastructure' to predict failure and shallow aquifer depth











### If you want to know more...

- Thomson, P. et al (2015) Distributed Monitoring of Shallow Aquifer Level using Community Handpumps. At: <a href="http://goo.gl/8uvcPE">http://goo.gl/8uvcPE</a>
- Oxford/RFL (2015) Financial Sustainability for Universal Rural Water Services evidence from Kyuso, Kenya. SSEE Water Programme, Working Paper 2, Oxford University, UK
- Koehler et al. (2015) Pump-Priming Payments for Sustainable Water Services in Rural Africa. World Development Vol. 74, pp. 397–411, 2015
- Hope, R.A (2015) Is Community Water Management the Community's Choice? Implications for Water and Development Policy in Africa. Water Policy, 17: 664-678
- Oxford/RFL (2014) From Rights to Results for Rural Water Services evidence from Kyuso, Kenya. SSEE Water Programme, Working Paper 1, Oxford University, UK
- Thomson et al., (2012) GSM-enabled monitored of rural handpumps a proof-of-concept study. Journal of Hydroinformatics, 14(4): 29-39
- Water Programme, Smith School of Enterprise and the Environment
  - http://www.smithschool.ox.ac.uk/research-programmes/water-programme/
- REACH Improving Water Security for the Poor
  - www.reachwater.org.uk/
- Groundwater Risk Management for Growth and Development (Gro for GooD)
  - http://upgro.org/consortium/gro-for-good/