

A Business Case for Private Sector Capacity Building: Supported Self-Supply

Anthony Waterkeyn, AfricaAHEAD /
André Olschewski, Skat Foundation

Paper: **A business case for supported Self-supply as service delivery approach to achieve the SDGs (A. Olschewski)**



1: Definitions

- **Definition of Self-supply: incremental improvements in WASH services along the water ladder which are mainly financed by households.**
- **Supported Self-Supply** is a **service delivery approach, which** is the **deliberate** strengthening of market-based interventions (which can be led by government agencies, NGOs or other stakeholders)
- **Examples for supported Self-supply:** Training of manual drillers or Rope Pump manufacturers, business development of local private sector involved in producing and selling WASH products and households, combined with a strengthening along the whole value chain.



Left: Upgraded Family Well, Centre: Upgraded traditional well, Right: Solar-powered pump for multiple uses

2: Introduction

- Self-supply is **common practice** in many countries, including industrialized countries.
- In combination with specific support services, Self-Supply has a **great potential** for supporting and achieving several of the SDGs.
- Government has to take on **specific roles and tasks** so that **Supported Self-supply** complies with the requirements and principles of the **Human Right to Water**.
- Previous to the study presented here, **no systematic review** of Self-Supply approaches took place.



3.Objectives

- In 2015, UNICEF commissioned a study on Self-Supply in Zambia and Zimbabwe, focusing on the **impacts** and **costs of Supported Self-supply as a service delivery approaches**, the **role of government** and the need for **embedding support services** in existing structures.
- Objectives:
 - 1) assess the impact of former piloting and scaling up of Self-supply in Zambia and Zimbabwe, and
 - 2) assess the potential of Supported Self-supply as a complementary service delivery approach for achieving the SDG on water.

4: Context

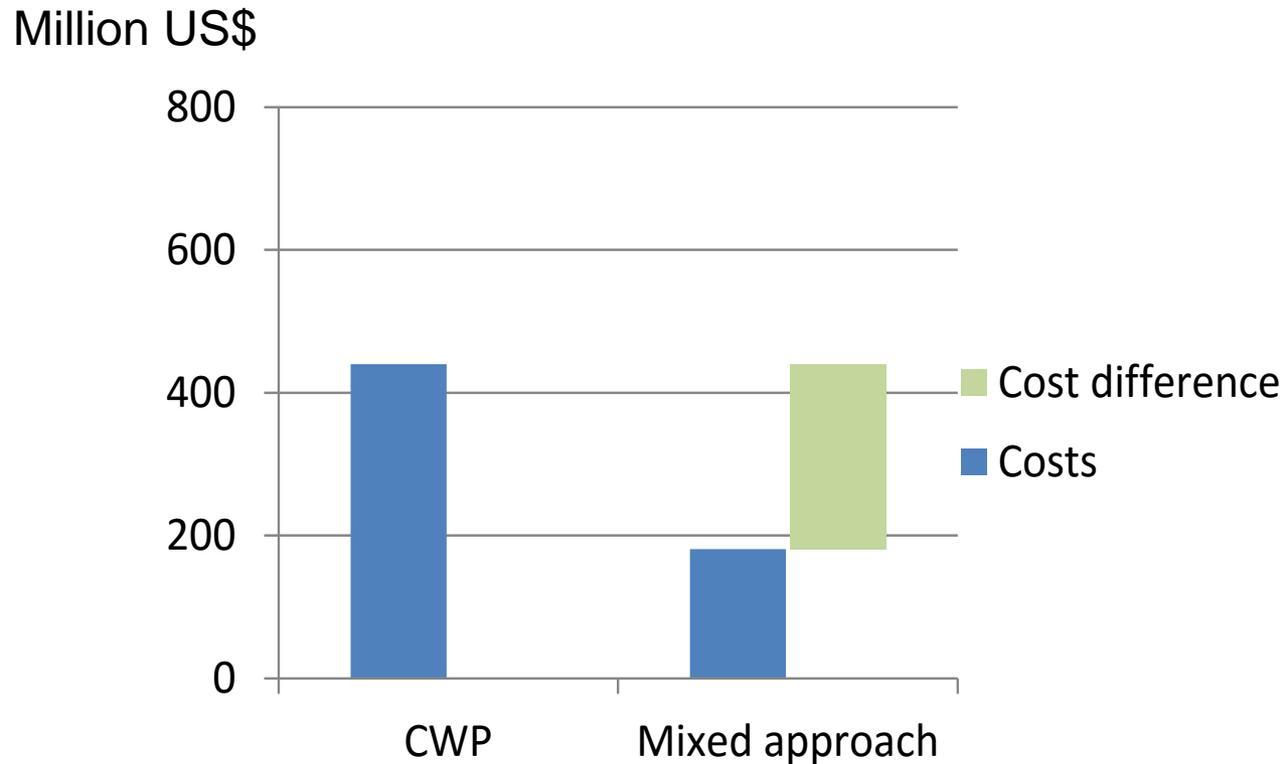
- Supported Self-Supply was implemented in Zambia and Zimbabwe over prolonged periods of time (15-20 years).
- Focus on rural, sparsely populated areas.
- Zambia: rather small scale, regional focus, through projects funded by UNICEF and implemented by NGOs (WaterAid, DAPP).
- Zimbabwe: as part of government strategy for rural water supply, trainings and subsidies implemented by NGOs, with donor support. After 2000, due to economic crisis, funding collapsed (but in spite of this, Self-Supply spread quickly across the country, reaching about 180,000 wells in 2015)



5: Methods

- Field survey and household interviews
- Key informant interviews
- Workshops at regional and national level for Focus Group Discussions
- Water quality surveys at point-of-use
- Cost analysis of different delivery strategies

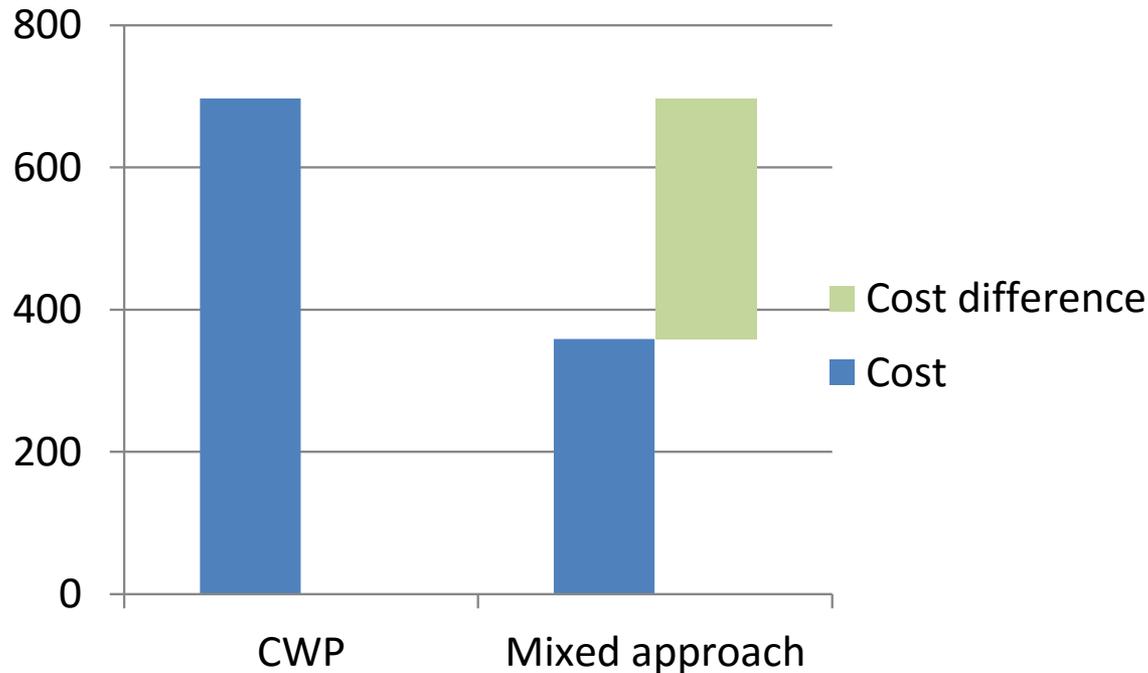
6a. Results



Life Cycle Cost for governments to reach full water coverage in Zimbabwe by 2030. CWP: Community Water Points, Mixed approach: Using CWP and Supported Self-Supply

6b. Results

Million US\$



Life Cycle Cost for governments to reach full water coverage in Zambia by 2030. CWP: Community Water Points, Mixed approach: Using CWP and Supported Self-Supply

7. Discussion

- Serving households in remote scattered settlements with Community Water Points is **extremely costly** as the specific costs increase dramatically when extending to more **remote** areas.
- Using a mixed approach for reaching full coverage translates to **reduced costs of about 50% in Zambia and about 60% for Zimbabwe.**
- Part of the **massive cost savings** can be explained by the fact that a part of the investment costs in the mixed approach is being covered by the households (by definition for Self-supply).
- However, the biggest part of the cost reduction is due to the **choice of more cost-efficient solutions** in supported Self-supply particularly in remote areas.

8. Lessons Learned

- **Supported Self-Supply as an approach worked well** in Zambia and Zimbabwe, in spite of unfavourable settings.
- People highly value the **convenience** of Self-Supply sources (as well as privacy, proximity, having more water for different uses, etc.)
- Self-Supply has to be **fostered and supported**, it often does not evolve spontaneously (thus, “Supported Self-Supply”)
- Supported Self-supply has a key role to play for achieving several SDGs (and not only in the water sector)
- Self-Supply sources are delivering relatively high-quality water (83% with 0 TTC, 95% below 10 TTC), which contradicts common perceptions of some of the technologies used. However, water safety measures (including HWTS) will continue to be important.



9. Conclusions

- The SDGs for water can only be achieved using a **mixed approach** combining community supplies and Supported Self-supply.
- Supported Self-supply should be **recognised and used** by more governments and development partners as a viable complementary service delivery model for water, which also supports achieving other SDGs such as those for health and nutrition.
- Supported Self-supply is not a way to exempt government from its duties. It implemented properly, it is in line with the Human Rights to Water and Sanitation.





With thanks to

A. Olschewski, Skat/RWSN (andre.olschewski@skat.ch)

Peter Harvey, UNICEF ESARO

Sally Sutton, UK

Regis Matimati, AfricaAHEAD, Zimbabwe

Michael Ngoma, Water Aid Zambia