



RWSN Webinars – mini series 2017

Rural Water Supply Network

November 2017



WORLD BANK GROUP



Supporting water sanitation
and hygiene services for life

skat Swiss Resource Centre and
Consultancies for Development



Schweizerische Eidgenossenschaft
Confédération suisse
Confederazione Svizzera
Confederaziun svizra

Swiss Agency for Development
and Cooperation SDC



Webinar 1:

Results from the 2017 RWSN evaluation and development of the new RWSN Strategy

Summary of Findings and Recommendations of RWSN External Evaluation for Webinar

Full report available on rwsn.blog

Leslie Morris-Iveson - Team Lead

Simon Thuo – WASH Expert

Lida Rodriguez – Networks Expert

Kris B. Prasada Rao - Director



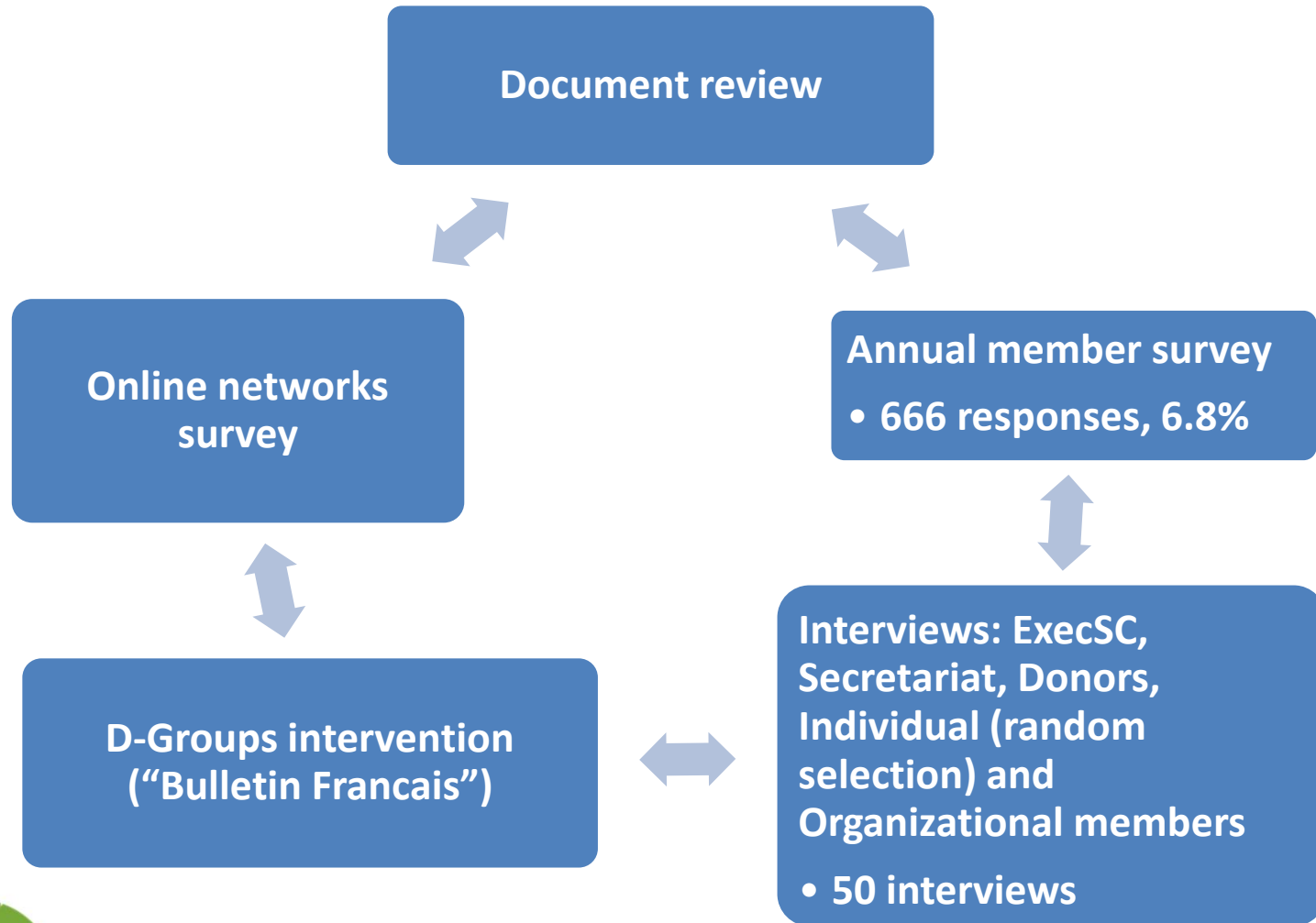
Evaluation purpose & scope

The main objectives of the evaluation are to:

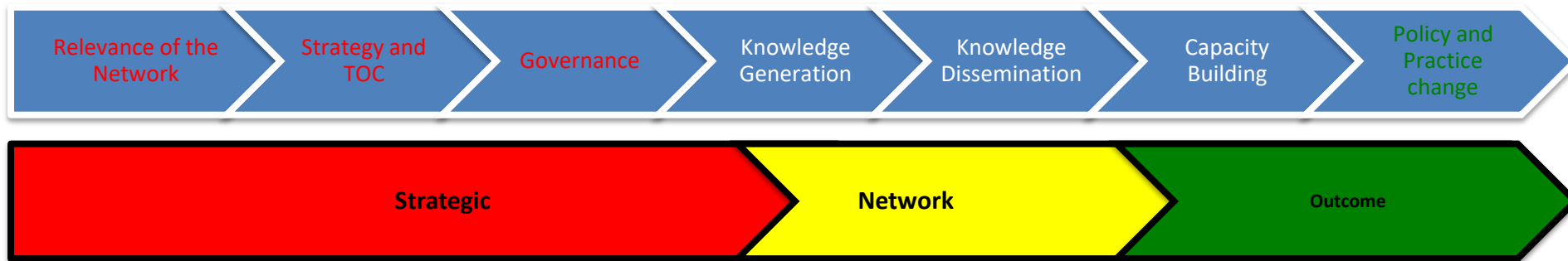
- Look at **relevance, effectiveness, efficiency, governance and sustainability** of RWSN (in relation to specific questions)
- At the **strategic** level, review at the results of RWSN Strategy over the period of 2012 – 2017 for thematic relevance
- On the **governance**, analyse the organisational set-up, functions of the secretariat/ExecSC
- On the **operational**, analyse knowledge sharing/networking, knowledge products, pathways for dissemination and impact on policy and practice.
- Recommendations for upcoming strategy



Methodology



Structure/Format



Findings: Targets and Available Data

	Evaluation Area	Output or Outcome Targets/Available Baseline Data
Strategic findings	Overall relevance and effectiveness of the network (Section 3.1)	RWSN Vision and Mission Statement
Strategic findings	Network strategy, Theory of Change and Monitoring of the Network (Section 3.2)	Network Strategy (2012-2014; 2015-2017) Theory of Change (deconstruction)
Strategic findings	Governance of the network (Section 3.3)	RWSN Governance Roles and Responsibilities (2016-2018)
Network findings	Knowledge development (Section 3.4.1)	No current targets
Network findings	Knowledge sharing and Dissemination (Section 3.4.2)	No current targets; Strategic targets from 2012-2014
Attainment of Outcome	Capacity Development (Section 3.4.3)	No current targets
Attainment of Outcome	Embedding improved practices to change policy and practice (Section 3.4.4)	Theme specific objectives and expected outcomes (2015-2017)
Attainment of Outcome	Thematic outcomes and synergies between themes (Section 3.5)	Theme specific objectives and expected outcomes (2015-2017)

Strategic Recommendations: Relevance of the Network





- **Findings:** RWSN is a highly competent, agile and advanced network, reflects evolving members needs into networks functions
- Members strongly believe network helps to advance their work (74% in survey); known for knowledge dissemination
- **Recommendation:** Consider broadening the scope of the network in strategic areas through introducing new topics (e.g. peri-urban areas), and strengthen the cooperation with other networks, especially SuSanA and networks that cover water quality.

Strategic Recommendations: Strategy, Theory of Change and Monitoring/Reporting





- **Findings:** RWSN has a clear vision, mission, however lack of network level objectives (current strategy)
- Theme and topic structure are flexible although topic changes not reflected in monitoring/reporting, selected themes important for membership base



- **Recommendation:** Build partnerships that integrate country level needs into strategy, and further develop RWSN's network level approach to change
- Improve RWSN's performance assessment framework with clearer and results-oriented reporting on outputs and outcomes at the network level.

Strategic Recommendations: Governance





- **Findings:** Largest asset is buy-in from governance level membership (in kind support); Theme leads critical to RWSN's productivity and highly effective
- Diverse individual membership base however appears lack of involvement with organizational members
- Major area of demand: strengthened in country or regional presence, country focal points, face to face etc.





- **Recommendation:** Strengthen links with strategic organizational members, in order to strengthen regional and/or in-country presence and consider country level specific platforms to improve network access to practitioners (potentially in remote locations) to network in country specific languages
- Encourage individual members to use the network more strategically, and to consider their own possibilities in contributing to the network beyond accessing knowledge.

Operational Recommendations: Knowledge Development, Dissemination

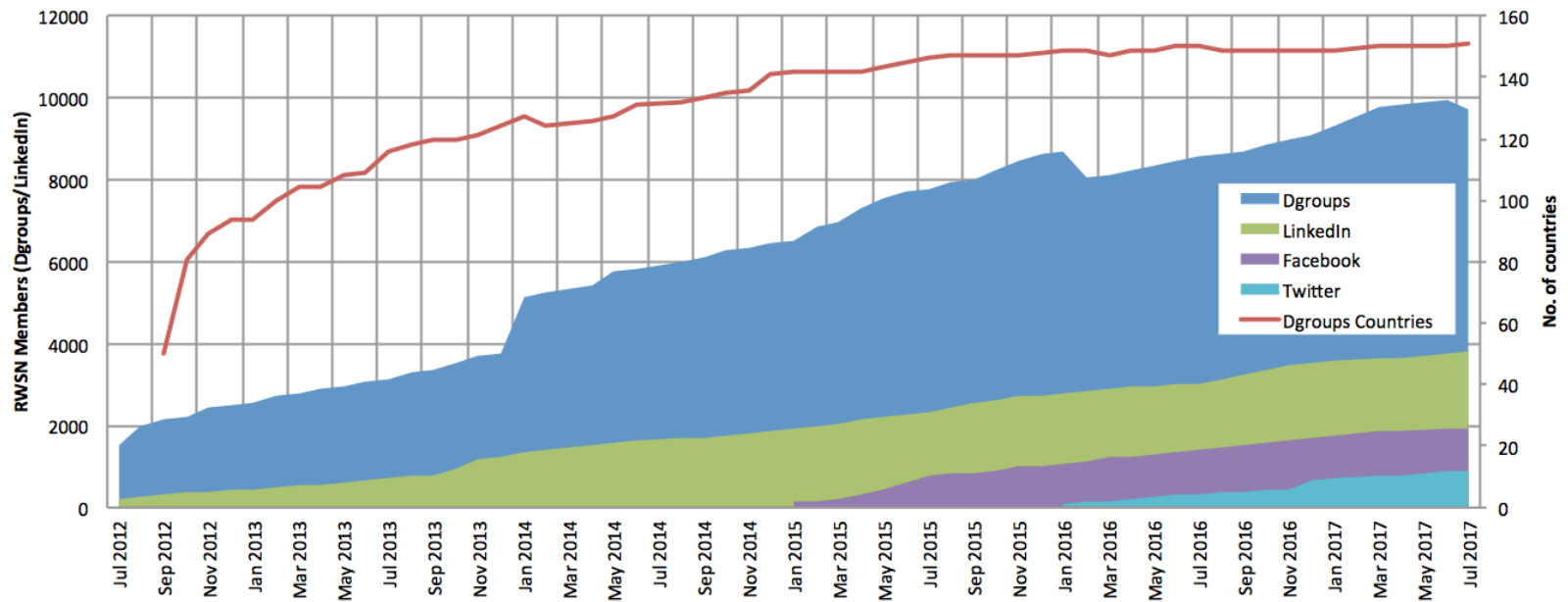




Findings

- Platforms show significant growth; evidence (from dissemination data e.g. downloads) high level of access in different regions; challenge to meet remote members needs
- **RWSN platforms broadly show good geographic spread of users/uptake** – there are indicators that professionals are being reached for instance, the d-group discussions show that people at subnational level are part of discussions

Networks Analysis



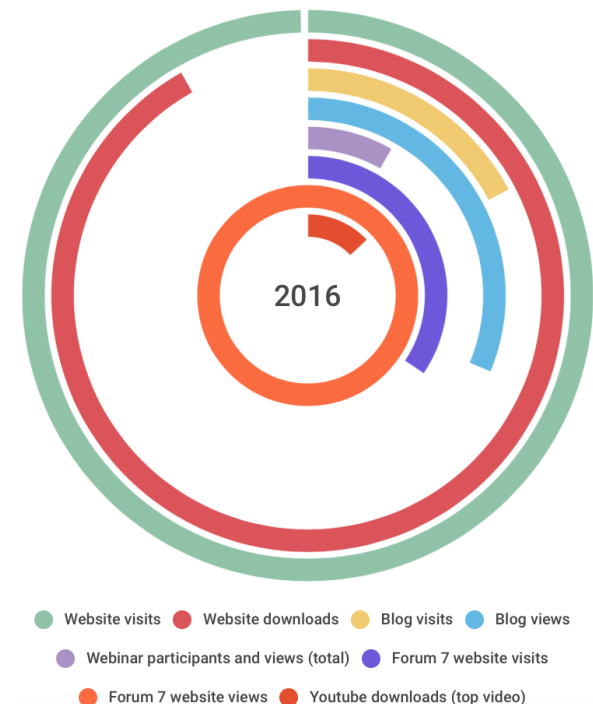
Source: RWSN Secretariat

Demand for Knowledge

- 2 platforms for debate: D-groups, website/blog – d-groups have bottom up genesis of topics
- Platforms for sharing information (through likes and shares): Facebook, LinkedIn, Twitter.
- Facebook - sharing rural water information in the global South.
- RWSN + RWSN Forum 7 website is by far the largest source of downloads and access -> demand for high quality, peer reviewed knowledge rather than informal sharing



Website visits and views





- **Recommendation:** Consolidate RWSN's knowledge generation aims, and strengthen these aims to contribute to national changes in practices and policies
- Enhance regional/country level networking, and develop stronger platforms to display country specific content.
- RWSN should continue to improve its dissemination platforms for better accessibility by remote members.

Theme and Outcome Level Recommendations: Capacity Building, Change in Policy and Practice





Findings

- From survey, 52% believe RWSN's unique added value was access to capacity building. However interviews highlighted network's uncertain contribution
- Influencing policy – through members actions who use knowledge gained from network (not through network itself)
- RWSN has played a significant role in connecting members to knowledge, however need clear TOC relating to national change



Recommendation

- Articulate better the network's role in capacity building and continue to work on links with outside capacity building initiatives.
- Develop clear examples of how influence has happened in the past through networks, to guide members in understanding how networks can support change, and to support RWSN to develop an understanding of what its role should be in influencing change.

Snapshot - Conclusions based on Evaluation Criteria

Criteria	
Relevance	Highly relevant for the rural water sector. The network will remain relevant provided it continues to adjust to respond to emerging challenges and demands and continues with high level partnership.
Effectiveness	Effective network on the basis of community building, knowledge generation and knowledge sharing, some benefit to more remote members should be observed, should be the focus in future if resources become available
Sustainability	RWSN is not entirely sustainable, and will likely come from gaining funding from a diverse range of sources
Efficiency	Highly efficient network, with the Secretariat being able to work resourcefully and proactively. Further improvement of network to network collaboration could further improve efficiency.
Governance	RWSN's governance is accountable, effective and efficient. Any decrease in the Secretariat's staffing structure could risk RWSN's ability to be fit for purpose.

THANK YOU





RWSN Webinars - 2017

Rural Water Supply

November 2017



WORLD BANK GROUP



Supporting water sanitation
and hygiene services for life

skat Swiss Resource Centre and
Consultancies for Development



Schweizerische Eidgenossenschaft
Confédération suisse
Confederazione Svizzera
Confederaziun svizra

Swiss Agency for Development
and Cooperation SDC