Potable Water in Belize

Voices from the field
Access to water before implementation of RWS
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RWS in Belize
Opportunities
Big Falls Pump House and Chlorinating Pump
Background

• GOB - responsible for the provision of potable water
• Provision of water
  • Towns and cities BWSL
  • Rural areas Rural Development Department
• 117 RWS serving 132 villages
• 16 RWS are joint water systems
• 29 villages BWSL
• 12 RWS are managed by females.
Appointment of WBs

- The RWS are managed by Water Boards.
- Boards are appointed by the Minister.
- The Board is comprised of seven members.
Composition of a Water Board

- The Chairperson of the Village Council
- A member of the Village Council nominated by the Village Council
- Five other members appointed by the Minister
- The minister also appoints the:
  - Chairperson
  - Deputy Chairperson
  - Secretary and
  - Treasurer
  - Member
Compliance with the Law

- In accordance with the Village Council and Water Board Accounting Regulations S.I #190 of 2004
  - Proper record keeping
  - Monthly Financial Reports
  - Submit to Ministry for Inspection
  - Application of Revenue
Responsibilities of a WB

• All operations and maintenance activities of the water system
• Regulating pumping hours to ensure uninterrupted and continuous water services.
• Keeping proper records and accounts.
• Undertaking expansions of water supply as occasion demands. (through, across, over or under any land, private or public)
Carrying out disconnection procedures.
Collection users fees.
Effectively and efficiently undertaking any other function to the supply of water.
Enter or authorise any of its employees to enter upon any land, private or public given that the owner/occupier is notified.
Improve /Upgrade – Work professionally - Have an office!
Submit financial report **MONTHLY** to the Ministry.
Strengths

• Build relationship with customers (women)
• Multi-task
• Prioritize the importance of water
• Collaboration, communication with relevant authorities.
• Good money manager
• Compliance with the law
• Equal rights for all
Challenges:

• Cultural practices within the village
• Villagers cooperation
• Tampering
• Monitoring of daily operation
• Cooperation of village leaders
• Working with limited resources
• Enforcement of water system by-laws
• Political interference
thank you 😊