

SELF-SUPPLY

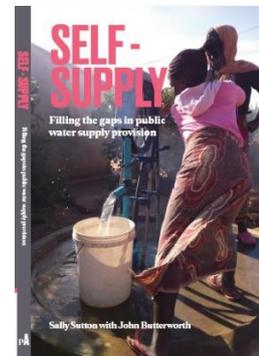
Filling the gaps in public water supply provision

By Sally Sutton,
with John Butterworth

Selected Quotes – What is Self-supply?

INTRODUCING SELF-SUPPLY: WATER'S ADAPTIVE FUTURE

“WASH self-supply is the provision of services through the initiative of householders (and usually at their cost), complementing publicly or commercially funded provision.”



- Self-supply is not a new phenomenon but demonstrates the fundamental need, not just for humans to have water somewhere, but the specific desire to have it as near as possible to the home and to have control over it.
- ‘Convenience’ is almost always named by families as the paramount reason for supply construction and the greatest perceived benefit from it.
- Self-supply is an almost universal phenomenon but also widely ignored by authorities.
- In most countries, rural economies have developed hand in hand with water supply, but the process can be speeded up in weaker economies by improving the availability of affordable technologies, advisory services, microfinance, a skilled private sector, and sometimes by incentives or subsidies.
- Delivery of these support services which help families to get onto, or to accelerate up, the ladder to safely managed supply largely through their own initiative is called supported self-supply.
- Self-supply is one of a range of service delivery options. As economies improve, more and more households take the initiative to provide their own on-premises supply or augment less than basic supplies provided by public or commercial services.
- Self-supply can be found in most countries and in urban and rural areas. For very remote households and communities it may be the only viable option. In middle-income countries, self-supply is falling where governments can afford the expansion and maintenance of reliable piped supplies.
- Recognition and regulation by government bodies are important in raising quality and water safety of self-supply water supplies.

Published 15 February 2021

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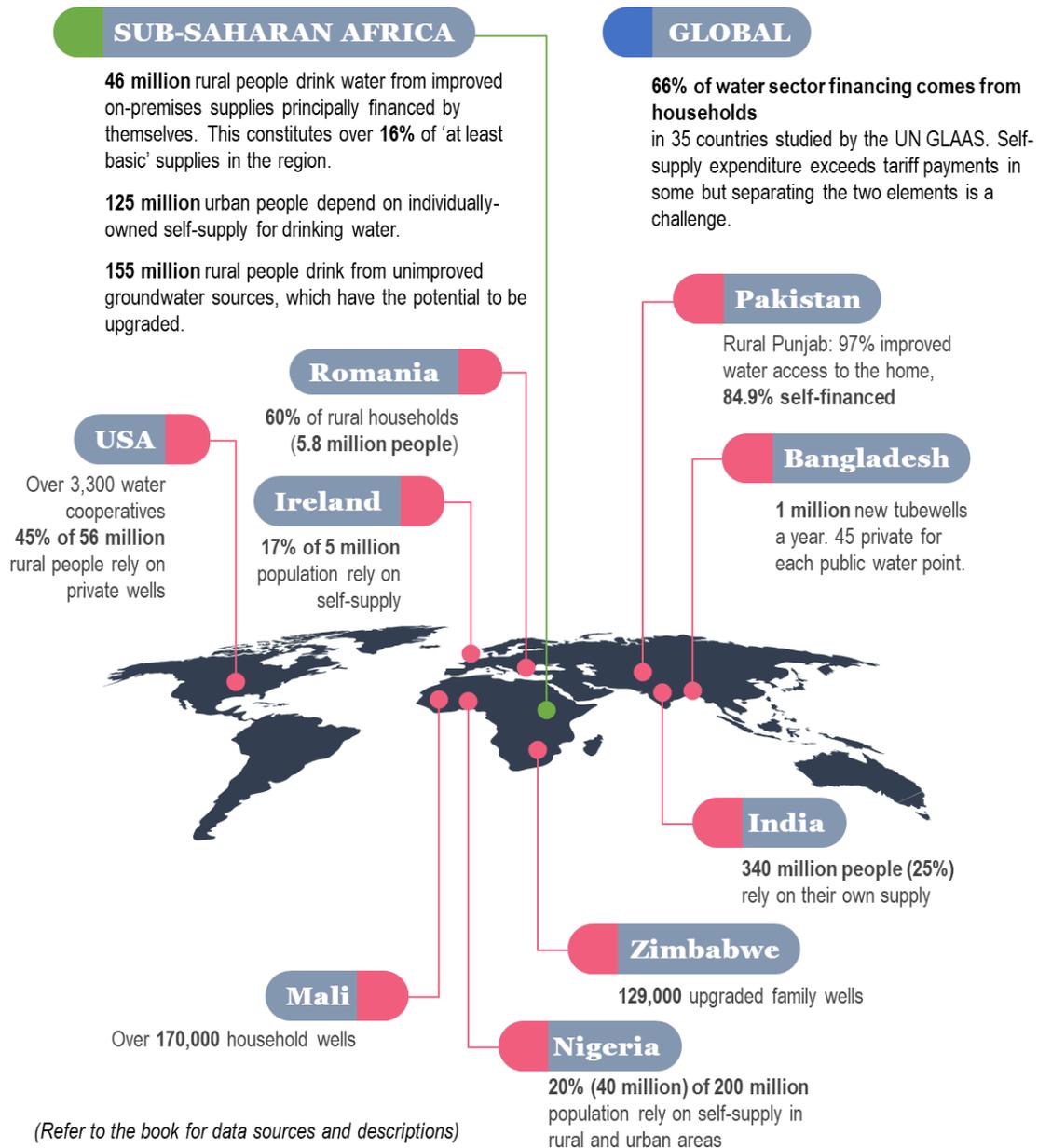


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Selected Quotes – Standout facts and figures from the book

SELF-SUPPLY IN NUMBERS



(Refer to the book for data sources and descriptions)

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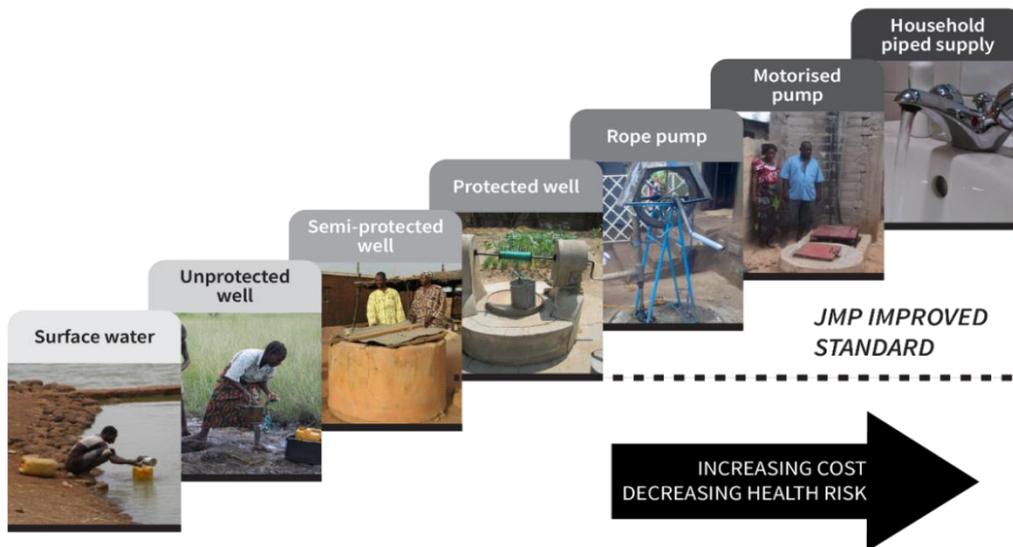


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Selected Quotes: Highlight figures and diagrams from the book

SELF-SUPPLY IN 2 DIAGRAMS



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Selected Quotes: why this book will be useful to you.

TOP TAKEAWAYS

Read the book to discover more specific and practical advice.

For everyone interest in domestic water supply

- Hundreds of millions of people worldwide rely on self-supply every day. More than half qualify as 'protected' but almost all merit further improvement.
- Supporting self-supply can be a way of working “with the grain” of local societies and economies to create incremental but lasting gains in water access.
- Private convenience is a major driver for self-supply but sharing between neighbours is widespread, spreading the benefits.
- Self-supply is a proven way of unlocking household investment for water supply access that is suitable especially where public supplies are inadequate or non-existent.

for governments

- Self-supply does not absolve the State from its Human Right to water obligations but supporting it can make big savings to public funding.
- Measure to manage: systematically include self-supply in national and city-wide monitoring to be able to increase effectiveness of water plans and policies.
- Affordable household technologies require official recognition as service levels to become eligible for subsidies, government training programmes, and social marketing. To achieve recognition robust local evidence on their performance needs to be made available.

for international donors, agencies and INGOs

- Supported self-supply is compatible with the human rights approach.
- Rural development is a slow process, but big changes can be achieved over time where simple technologies build on existing skills and liberate suppressed demand. This has been shown in Tanzania and Zimbabwe.
- Supported Self-supply has strong parallels with Community-led Total Sanitation (CLTS) in its focus on training and mobilising entrepreneurs and microfinance to meet household demand, with little or no subsidy.

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Selected Quotes: Self-supply in towns and cities

URBAN SELF-SUPPLY – FRIEND OR FOE TO WATER UTILITIES?

“Public water supplies are a feature of civilization, allowing the growth of cities. However even in the best organized societies self-supply has tended to form a necessary stage in development for those being left behind or wanting a better service than the state can provide.”

- For the **poorest**, water from self-financed shallow wells (owned or shared at low or no cost) is a practical necessity. For the **richest**, especially in peri-urban areas, self-supply investment at higher levels (boreholes and submersible pumps) offers greater autonomy and assurance of a reliable supply. For both, self-supply is an integral part of access to water but requiring **different policies**.
- Urban self-supply is **well-developed in South Asia but is now increasing in sub-Saharan Africa** because of rapid urban population growth and poorly operating utilities with limited capacity to expand.
- **Urban self-supply needs better quantification and official recognition** so that cohesive planning can compensate for utilities' limitations but not check their effectiveness and expansion. Context-specific regulation is necessary to accommodate different source types, uses, and water quality, in various urban, peri-urban, and rural environments.
- With the increasing pressure that most urban supplies now face throughout the world, a move towards greater understanding of informal supplies, and their **greater inclusion in planning and regulation** in the urban environment seems essential.
- Water supply is a fundamental service. Even when all households have a good piped supply in their house there is still motivation to invest in supplementary supplies or better quality. Self-supply in terms of private wells or boreholes may be superseded, but **the desire to improve the service as a householder never completely goes away**.

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Selected quotes: Self-supply in rural areas

SELF-SUPPLY IN THE LANDSCAPE OF RURAL WATER

“Water is not a normal economic or social commodity, but ownership and access are woven into the fabric of rural communities, linking also to traditional beliefs and village history. The psychological and social/anthropological aspects of water supply can play a major part in their success or failure ... and in the maintenance of community cohesion.”

- Owning a well is a **statement of status** and some families put much effort and resources into it, generally not with productive use being the primary aim.
- How people think is fundamental to the sustainability of supplies and means that each system is unique and **influenced by their thoughts as individuals and as a group**, and by the cultural context in which they operate.
- Thus, the secret of uptake lies in a variety of economic and psychological factors, however, **domestic needs often provide the initial push**.
- Despite the scarcity of cash and subsistence levels of living for most rural people **there is a long tradition of saving**, mostly in rotating savings and credit associations (ROSCAs) or investing in livestock. Some are already used to support water supply investment but for many the advantageous link between the two has yet to be made.
- **Initiatives where the State cannot provide directly include:** offering advice, performance monitoring, and strengthening private sector technical services.
- Some women do voice one disadvantage: forgoing the daily visit to a more distant communal water source **cuts down social interaction** and the opportunity to meet others and chat. But overall household supplies are preferred due to convenience and men are more likely to collect water.
- Looking at the amount paid for other home improvements, such as roof materials, provides a good basic indicator of the level of expenditure a household can afford for **improvement to their quality of life**.

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Selected Quotes: Key self-supply technologies in low-income countries

SIMPLE ISN'T EASY

“The more basic the technology, the more limited are the conditions in which it may be applied, but the more affordable and sustainable it may be. However, ‘simple does not mean easy’ and introducing new technologies, however simple, is a complex and long-term process.”



Laban Kaduma demonstrating the principles of the rope pump to trainees in Tanzania Source: Photo H. Holtslag

- Hand-dug wells, protected springs, and rainwater harvesting are options which can most easily be developed **incrementally with lowest cost initial steps** onto the ladder.
- Rural on- and off-grid **electrification offers parallels** to water supply and opportunities for investment in higher technologies and safer water.
- Most affordable technologies are aimed at providing options for the **household** market, but spring capture, stream diversion, and ram pumps plus surface water intakes in particular have potential for **community** self-supply
- The growing availability of PVC/ABS pipes and fittings has facilitated the establishment of **low-cost pump production and affordable household plumbing**.
- Affordable household technologies require **official recognition** as household service levels to become eligible for subsidies, government training programmes, and social marketing. To achieve recognition robust local evidence on their performance needs to be made available.

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Selected quotes: Endorsements

WHAT THE EXPERTS SAY

<p>“Self-supply is a crucial first step towards safe drinking water services but is too often overlooked. This book calls on policy makers to recognise and support the extraordinary efforts of millions of rural households to develop their own solutions”</p>	<p>Tom Slaymaker (co-lead WHO/UNICEF Joint Monitoring Programme for Water Supply, Sanitation and Hygiene)</p>
<p>“...self-supply initiatives have been known about for many decades, especially as a result of the work of Dr Sally Sutton, the main author of this book. Now Sally and Dr John Butterworth have put pen to paper in this comprehensive account of the extent and nature of self-supply...”</p>	<p>Prof. Richard Carter, WASH specialist</p>
<p>“...It is a pleasure to endorse this skilfully written and well researched book on self-supply for our most precious of resources – water. The authors provide evidence, from several parts of the world, where self-supply of water has proven to be totally invaluable and often vital for people’s survival.”</p>	<p>Dr Peter Morgan - researcher and consultant; Stockholm Water Prize winner</p>
<p>“...These expert-authors have produced a well-researched and thoughtful guide to help communities, practitioners, service providers, researchers, governments and donors learn about, and contribute to, community capacity for drinking water self-supply...”</p>	<p>Dr Evan Thomas, University of Colorado Boulder</p>
<p>“In Ethiopia, like many other sub-Saharan countries, self-supply is a simple investment by families against poverty and millions of people depend on it in rural areas. This is the first book that discusses how to support and improve their efforts. It is a valuable resource for building capacities of sector professionals and we must now use it!”</p>	<p>Dr Tamene Hailu, Director General of Ethiopian Water Technology Institute</p>
<p>“...This book is destined to become a classic reference that all rural water supply professionals should become familiar with...”</p>	<p>Sean Furey, RWSN Director, Skat Foundation</p>
<p>“...This timely and useful book, at once rallying cry, history and how-to manual provides a wealth of useful detail for anyone interested in promoting self-supply as part of delivering safe water for all, forever.”</p>	<p>Dr Patrick Moriarty, IRC Chief Executive Officer</p>
<p>“A comprehensive overview of a neglected topic; this is a must-read for anyone serious about ensuring access to water especially in the most remote rural areas of the world. ..”</p>	<p>Dr Pete Harvey, UNICEF</p>
<p>“This book provides thoughtful insights into a much overlooked water supply service delivery model that holds many answers to the problem of poor water access...”</p>	<p>Vincent Casey, Senior WASH Manager, WaterAid</p>

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