

# 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
- Village Councils Act, Chapter 88 of the Laws of Belize, Revised Edition 2003.
- 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

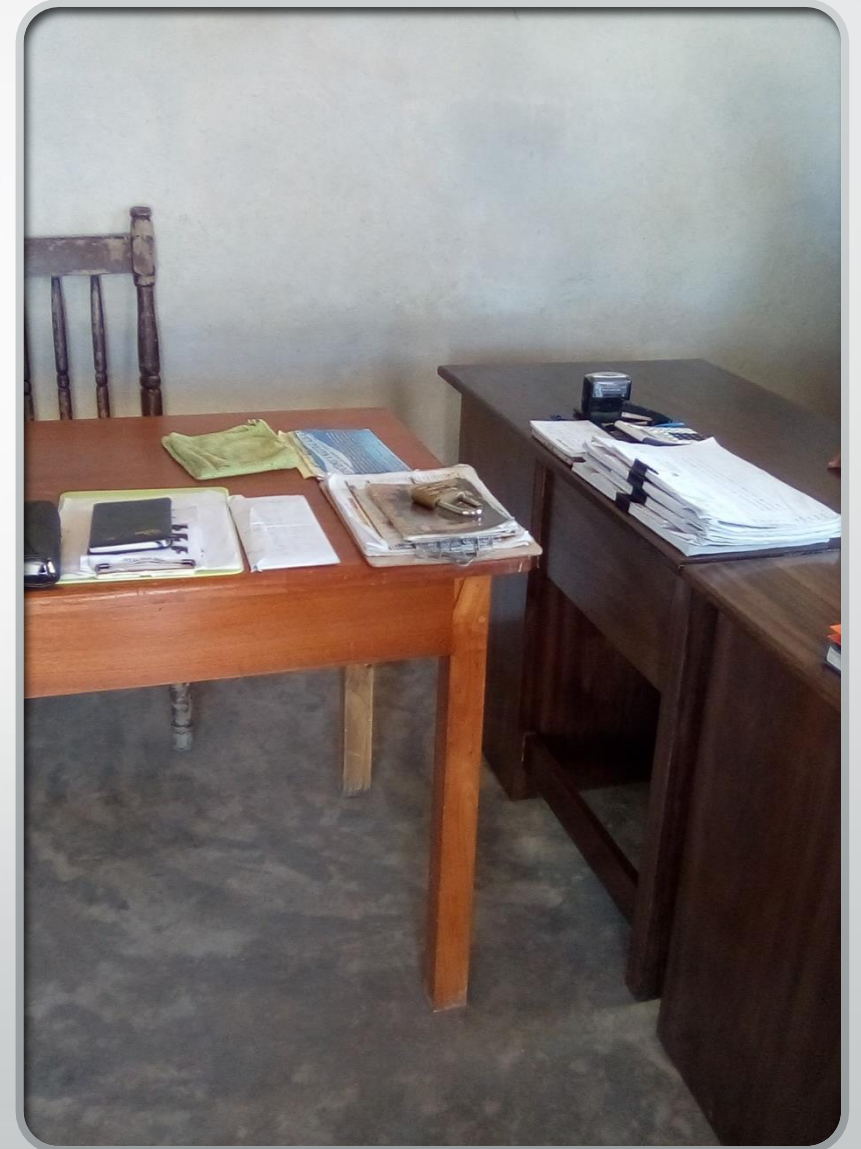
- All operations and maintenance activities of the water system
- Regulating pumping hours to ensure uninterrupted and continuous water services.
- Keeping proper records and accounts.
- Undertaking expansions of water supply as occasion demands. (through, across, over or under any land, private or public)





## Cont'd

- 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 😊