

Survey of Water Services Vulnerabilities

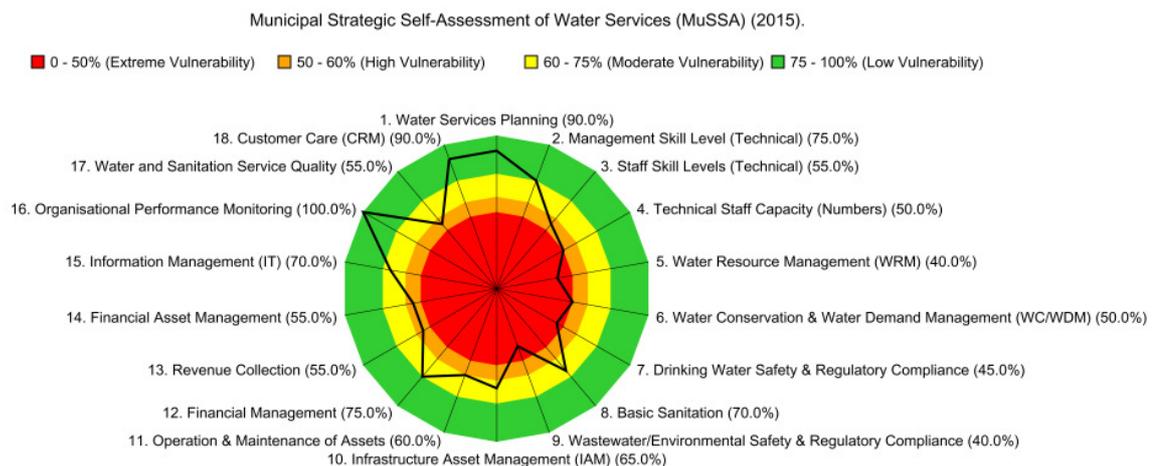
Municipal Strategic Self-Assessment (MuSSA): Harry Gwala District Municipality

Prioritising What Has to be done to Enable Effective Water Services Delivery

Dear Mayor, Municipal Manager, Chief Financial Officer and Technical Manager

Thank you for participating in the 2015 Municipal Strategic Self-Assessment (MuSSA) survey!

The Department of Water and Sanitation has overseen the annual use of the MuSSA to survey and assess the overall “business health” of a Municipality when fulfilling its water services function. The MuSSA asks senior municipal financial and technical managers 5 clear and relatively simple “essence” questions that cover 18 key business health attributes, and thereby generates key strategic flags (as opposed to deep technical detail, which is captured elsewhere). Responses to the questions are reflected in your MuSSA Spider Diagram below which illustrates the vulnerability levels across key service areas/business attributes. (Your responses to the questions are provided in Appendix A):



Your top areas of vulnerability of concern to the Department are:

- Water Resource Management (WRM) (40.0%)
- Drinking Water Safety & Regulatory Compliance (45%)
- Wastewater/Environmental Safety & Regulatory Compliance (40%)

The Department of Water and Sanitation trusts that you will find the information useful for identifying and prioritizing the key remedial actions that you need to undertake to ensure effective water services delivery in your municipality. This information will also be forwarded to National

Treasury, the Presidency, and the Department of Cooperative Governance for their consideration and possible follow up with you.

To address MuSSA vulnerability findings, both the Department of Water and Sanitation (DWS) and the South African Local Government Association (SALGA) recommends the adoption of “a start-to-finish management approach” (i.e. a “Plan-Do-Check-Act” framework), and has developed a structured Municipal Priority Action Planning (MPAP) process to support such. The MPAP comprises the following four parts:

- Step I – Analyse the current situation via the MuSSA, whereby both the WSA and Regional DWS jointly prioritise where the WSA needs to improve and set associated targets.
- Step II – Determine the approaches on how to achieve the desired improvements.
- Step III – Set Actions to achieve these improvements and targets.
- Step IV – Monitor, Evaluate and Communicate progress (including updating the MuSSA), by both the WSA and DWS regional office.

The MuSSA and MPAP are planning tools and form integral components of support for the Water Services Development Plan (WSDP) process at a strategic level. In so doing the MuSSA and MPAP will also guide the DWS Master Planning process and subsequent Feasibility Studies to be undertaken.

Inclusion of the MuSSA and MPAP within the WSDP processes ensures that the WSDP (which informs the IDP) will include an appropriate and supported allocation of resources to systematically address the prioritized vulnerabilities. This will in turn lead to an improvement to the overall water services business health of your WSA.

Should you have any queries regarding your MuSSA output, or would like assistance to implement the MPAP approach, please do not hesitate to contact any of the following DWS/SALGA MuSSA / MPAP representatives:

- Shawn Moorgas (Email: shawnm@emanti.co.za; Tel: 021 880 2932)
- Viv Naidoo (Email: naidoo@dws.gov.za; Tel: 031 336 2824)
- Bright Nkontwana (Email: bnkontwana@salga.org.za; Tel: 031 817 0000)
- Lucky Zuma (Email: lucky.zuma@misa.gov.za; Tel: 033 395 2831)

Best regards

DWS Water Services Planning and Information Team

Appendix A: MuSSA 2015 Responses

Harry Gwala District Municipality

SECTION: Context Information

a) Municipality name

Harry Gwala

b) Date of completion

11 March 2016

c) Municipality type

C2 - DM

d) Water service provider type

Combination of internal and external

e) Wastewater service provider type

Combination of internal and external

f) Water system maintenance

Combination of internal and external

g) Wastewater system maintenance

Combination of internal and external

h) The key staff (i.e. managerial) turnover in your WSA

Low: < 10% (i.e. not an issue, good staff retention)

i) Your WSA has developed and implemented a scarce skills policy

In development

j) Your WSA is preparing for the impacts of pending and or new regulations (e.g. Regulation 17 (WTW and WWTW process controllers), municipal Standard Chart of Accounts (mSCOA))

In process

k) Your WSA actively provides required drinking water related data to the Regulator (e.g. Blue Drop participation)

Yes, strongly agree

- l) Regular drinking-water quality monitoring and management (including boreholes) is performed for ALL communities/towns in the WSA

Yes, all (i.e. 100% of WSA population)

- m) WTWs operational capacity as a function of total design capacity (NOTE: Combine for ALL WTWs within your WSA)

>95% - 100%

- n) Your WSA actively provides required wastewater related data to the Regulator (e.g. Green Drop participation)

Yes, strongly agree

- o) Regular wastewater quality monitoring and management is performed for ALL wastewater systems in the WSA

Yes, all (i.e. 100%)

- p) WWTWs operational flow capacity as a function of total design capacity (NOTE: Combine for ALL WWTWs within your WSA)

>95% - 100%

- q) WWTWs operational COD load as a function of total design load (NOTE: Combine for ALL WWTWs within your WSA)

>95% - 100%

- r) Your WSA actively provides required water conservation and water demand management related data to the Regulator (e.g. No Drop participation)

In process

- s) Billing & accounts - With regards to water and sanitation bills, please indicate the frequency of billing and posting of accounts.

Actual billing and posting of accounts on a monthly basis

- t) Development contributions - With regard to new developments, by-laws in your municipality require developers to adequately contribute towards construction of new bulk infrastructure (i.e. developers charges).

In process

- u) Council is stable with functional committees.

Yes, strongly agree (i.e. Council meetings are held at least quarterly)

- v) Your MuSSA was completed with appropriate inputs from senior officials within Technical Services, Finance and Human Resources (as a minimum these 3 departments should participate).

Agree (i.e. Technical Services HOD and either Finance OR HR participated)

- w) Names, designation and contact details (phone, email) of all MuSSA participants (e.g. Mr Thabo Smit; Technical Director; 0215436789; thabos@muni.gov.za)

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SECTION: 1. Water Services Planning

1. Your Water Services Development Plan (WSDP) and associated master planning processes includes appropriate Water and Sewage Master Plans, Water Safety Plans and a Wastewater Risk Abatement Plans (W2RAPs), and is aligned to the IDP and associated SDBIP targets.

Yes, WSDP developed and contains most of the required plans and alignment (i.e. >75%)

2. You are implementing an up-to-date and adopted WSDP.

WSDP adopted and implemented, but out-of-date (i.e. requires revision)

3. Your current project list addresses existing needs/shortcomings identified through the WSDP and associated master planning process.

Yes, all projects (i.e. 100%)

4. Project progress is monitored, tracked and reported to municipal top management/council and the Regulator (through the annual water and sanitation services report)

Yes, strongly agree (both to municipal top management/council and Regulator)

5. Projects identified through your various planning processes have been implemented in the last 3 years.

Yes, all implemented (i.e. 100%)

SECTION: 2. Management Skill Level (Technical)

1. Your council approved technical management organisational organogram meets your business requirements, and key posts are filled (e.g. Technical Director, Water Services Manager, Sanitation Services Manager).

Yes, and most posts filled (i.e. >75%)

2. You have sufficient technical management staff (appropriate number of staff - e.g. at least 5 posts per 100,000 persons served).

Yes, 100% as per organogram

3. Technical management staff have the correct skills/qualifications and experience as per Job Description requirements (e.g. if Job Description requires PrEng, PrTech or CPM, the staff have these qualifications).

Yes, All (i.e. 100%)

4. Managers regularly attend appropriate water and sanitation services skills development/training.

Annual skills development/training

5. Key technical managers (e.g. Section 56 and other Senior Management) have signed and monitored Performance Agreements.

Some (i.e. >50%)

SECTION: 3. Staff Skill Levels (Technical)

1. WTWs are operated by staff with the correct skills/qualifications and experience (as per Regulation 2834).

<50%

2. WWTWs are operated by staff with the correct skills/qualifications and experience (as per Regulation 2834).

<50%

3. Water system plumbers, millwrights, mechanics and electricians have the correct skills/qualifications and experience.

Yes, All (i.e. 100%)

4. Sewage system plumbers, millwrights, mechanics and electricians have the correct skills/qualifications and experience.

Yes, All (i.e. 100%)

5. Staff regularly attend appropriate water and sanitation services skills development/training (including safety) (e.g. ESETA courses).

Less frequent skills development/training (i.e. >1 year)

SECTION: 4. Technical Staff Capacity (Numbers)

1. Your council approved technical staff organisational organogram meets your business requirements, and posts are filled (i.e. Superintendent of WTWs/WWTWs and below).

Yes, but only some posts filled (i.e. >50%)

2. WTWs are operated by the appropriate number of staff (as per Regulation 2834).

<50% as per requirements

3. WWTWs are operated by the appropriate number of staff (as per Regulation 2834).

<50% as per requirements

4. You have sufficient water and sewerage/sanitation network operations and repair staff/plumbers (i.e. you have the appropriate number of staff).

Agree somewhat (i.e. >50% as per organogram)

5. An active mentoring / shadowing programme is in place where experienced staff train younger, inexperienced staff.

Yes, strongly agree

SECTION: 5. Water Resource Management (WRM)

1. The results from the Reconciliation Strategies (Large Systems / All Towns) have been incorporated into your WSDP, master planning and IDP processes.

In process

2. The quantity of water available from the resources is sufficient for your current WSA needs (at the stipulated level of assurance of supply).

41-50% shortage

3. The quantity of water available from the resources is sufficient for your future WSA needs (at the stipulated level of assurance of supply) (i.e. no shortage in 10 years).

21-30% shortage

4. The source water quality is currently acceptable for its purpose.

Mostly agree (i.e. >75% of sources acceptable)

5. The trend indicates a deteriorating source water quality.

< 25% of sources deteriorating

SECTION: 6. Water Conservation & Water Demand Management (WC/WDM)

1. Your WSA has developed a council approved Water Conservation and Water Demand Strategy which includes a standard water balance (e.g. modified IWA).

Only WC/WDM Strategy developed

2. Please indicate your percentage Non-Revenue Water (NRW) as per the modified IWA water balance.

Less than 50%

3. System input volumes (bulk) to the WSA are accurately monitored using bulk meters (e.g. check metering).

Some (i.e. >50%)

4. Please indicate what percentage of all connections are metered and billed (residential and non-residential (commercial, industrial, etc.)).

75% - 98%

5. Your WSA is implementing appropriate intervention programmes to reduce NRW (e.g. minimisation of night flows through pressure management, removal of unlawful connections, leak detection and repairs, consumer education / awareness).

Agree somewhat (i.e. >50% implementation)

SECTION: 7. Drinking Water Safety & Regulatory Compliance

1. Please indicate your microbiological drinking-water quality compliance for E.coli (or faecal coliforms) for the communities you are monitoring for the last 12 months.

95% - <97%

2. ALL your supply schemes, WTWs, process controllers, monitoring programmes, sample points, laboratories, results, procedures, protocols, etc. are registered/frequently updated with the Regulator (e.g. via the BDS).

Mostly agree (i.e. >75% registered/updated)

- Council have been made aware of all water safety plan related issues (including those identified via the Blue Drop Certification programme) and issues have been actioned (where applicable).

Yes, strongly agree (i.e. all (100%) tabled)

- Sufficient funds have been made available to address all these identified water safety related issues.

Issues noted but no funds (i.e. 0%)

- Required corrective actions/remedial measures to address all these identified water safety related issues have been successfully implemented.

Issues noted but no implementation (i.e. 0%)

SECTION: 8. Basic Sanitation

- You have formal housing areas that are not fully serviced with sanitation infrastructure

No, all formal areas are fully serviced (i.e. no bucket sanitation service)

- You have informal housing or rural areas that are not fully serviced with sanitation infrastructure

Yes, still trying to meet informal or rural backlog with 60 - 90% serviced

- You have a detailed plan and programme to provide safe sanitation to all households (including health and hygiene education and user awareness including Water, Sanitation and Health (WASH) aspects)

Yes, strongly agree (i.e. 100% implementation)

- Your sanitation budget is appropriate for required sanitation programmes (implementation and O&M)

Serious underfunding (<50% of required funds)

- You are servicing your pit latrines and maintaining your sewers and wastewater treatment facilities as per safe sanitation requirements (healthy, environmentally safe, structurally sound, regularly maintained).

Mostly agree (i.e. >75% as per requirements)

SECTION: 9. Wastewater/Environmental Safety & Regulatory Compliance

1. Please indicate your treated wastewater effluent compliance for COD for your (or your service provider's) WWTWs for the last 12 months.

80% - <90%

2. ALL your WWTWs, process controllers, monitoring programmes, sample points, laboratories, results, procedures, protocols, etc. are registered/frequently updated with the Regulator (e.g. via the GDS).

Agree somewhat (i.e. >50% registered/updated)

3. Council have been aware of all W2RAP related issues (e.g. pollution incidents, Green Drop deficiencies) and issues have been actioned (where applicable).

Yes, strongly agree (i.e. all (100%) tabled)

4. Sufficient funds have been made available to address all identified wastewater and environmental safety related issues.

Issues noted but no funds (i.e. 0%)

5. Required corrective actions/remedial measures to address all identified wastewater and environmental safety related issues have been successfully implemented.

Issues noted but no implementation (i.e. 0%)

SECTION: 10. Infrastructure Asset Management (IAM)

1. You have an appropriate and up-to-date water and sanitation services Asset Register (includes asset name, location, condition, extent, remaining useful life, performance and risk). NOTE: This does only not refer to GRAP17 asset register requirements.

Yes, strongly agree (e.g. advanced asset register)

2. You have developed an appropriate Infrastructure Asset Management (IAM) Plan for your WSA.

Yes, strongly agree

3. You are implementing the IAM outcomes

Agree somewhat (i.e. >50% implementation)

4. Budget allocated to implement IAM outcomes is sufficient and is being effectively spent.

Agree somewhat (i.e. >50%)

5. You conduct annual technical assessments of your water and wastewater related systems (including sources, WTWs, WWTWs, pump stations, network, etc.) and implement required follow-up actions.

< 50% systems

SECTION: 11. Operation & Maintenance of Assets

1. A maintenance workshop/store that is secure and stocked with essential equipment (e.g. spare parts) and tools is available.

In place, but not ideal

2. Appropriate water and sanitation services infrastructure/equipment planned/preventative maintenance schedules are developed.

Yes, strongly agree

3. Appropriate planned/preventative maintenance is performed at all WTWs and associated reservoirs, pump stations, distribution network.

Some (i.e. > 50%)

4. Appropriate planned/preventative maintenance is performed at all WWTWs and associated collection system, pump stations.

Some (i.e. > 50%)

5. Please indicate your infrastructure repairs and maintenance costs as a function of total operating expenditure (%).

5% - <8%

SECTION: 12. Financial Management

1. Financial controls - With regard to your last audit report on the financial statements, please state the audit opinion.

Financially unqualified audit opinion (with findings)

2. Cash flow status - Please state your Cash/Cost Coverage Ratio (excluding Unspent Conditional Grants)

60 - 90 days

3. Your actual operating expenditure closely reflects your budgeted operating expenditure (i.e. Operating Expenditure Budget Implementation Indicator)

95% - 100%

4. Your actual revenue closely reflects your budgeted operating revenue (i.e. Operating Revenue Budget Implementation Indicator)

90% - <95%

5. Liabilities (Creditors) - Money is owed by your municipality to major/critical service providers (e.g. ESKOM, Water Board, largest contractors, etc.) for more than 30 days from receipt of invoice (NOTE: Ignore disputed invoices)

Twice per year

SECTION: 13. Revenue Collection

1. Please indicate the frequency of actual meter readings.

Actual meter reading on a monthly basis

2. Net Surplus/Deficit - Please state your net surplus/deficit from water services activities for the last 12 months (NOTE: This question tests whether your WSA currently has fully cost reflective Water and Sanitation tariffs (which take into account cost of maintenance and renewal of purification plants and networks, and the cost of new infrastructure).

Net deficit (i.e. <0%)

3. Revenue collection - Please state the revenue collection rate in respect to Water & Sanitation Services (%)

95% or more

4. Revenue Growth - Please state your Water and Sanitation Services revenue growth for the last 12 months (%).

<CPI, but >0%

5. Grant dependency - Actual operating revenue less operational grants/subsidies (e.g. equitable share) sufficiently covers actual operating expenditure.

Some (i.e. > 50%)

SECTION: 14. Financial Asset Management

1. Capital Expenditure (Municipal) - Please state your municipal Capital Expenditure as a percentage of Total Expenditure (i.e. Total Operating Expenditure + Capital Expenditure)

20% or more

2. Capital Expenditure (Water Services) - Please state your Capital Expenditure on Water and Sanitation Services as a percentage of Total Capital Expenditure (Capital Expenditure (Municipal))

75% or more

3. Asset Renewal - Please state your Asset Renewal investment as percentage of Depreciation costs

<50%

4. Repairs and Maintenance - Please state your Repairs and Maintenance expenditure as a percentage of Property, Plant and Equipment, Investment Property (Carrying Value)

5% - <8%

5. Grant funding of capital expenditure - Please state your reliance on grant funding

>75%

SECTION: 15. Information Management (IT)

1. You have a developed, approved and implemented IT Master Systems Plan (e.g. covering 3 - 5 years) that addresses your IT business requirements.

Yes, developed, approved and being implemented

2. You have a developed, approved and implemented ICT Technology Master Plan that addresses your current and future IT infrastructure requirements.

Yes, developed, approved and being implemented

3. You have IT systems that support your full range of water and sanitation services business requirements (e.g. billing, GIS, customer care, O&M, asset management).

Agree somewhat (i.e. >50% of required systems)

4. ICT service continuity - Adequate IT security exists with off-site back-ups/archiving of operation critical applications, databases, data, etc. routinely performed in terms of an IT Disaster Recovery Plan.

Agree somewhat (i.e. >50% in place)

5. You have sufficient budget and staff to keep key IT systems stable and up-to-date as per IT policies and procedures.

Agree somewhat (i.e. >50%)

SECTION: 16. Organisational Performance Monitoring

1. Appropriate plans, policies and procedures to address Disaster Management/emergencies and other issues (safety, public participation, communication, etc.) are developed and implemented. NOTE: Although Disaster Management is a district function, LMs need to ensure they are aware of their associated roles and responsibilities.

Yes, developed and implemented

2. An organisational performance management system is developed and implemented (i.e. effectively measure, monitor and track water and sanitation services performance indicators).

Yes, developed and implemented

3. A municipal risk management framework is developed and implemented and includes monitoring and tracking of water and sanitation related risks.

Yes, developed and implemented and includes water and sanitation related risks

4. Effective administration support is available to technical staff to assist with processing work orders, providing order numbers, handling correspondence, etc.

Yes, strongly agree (i.e. 100% effective)

5. "Access to Basic Water and Sanitation Services" progress reports are frequently produced and presented to council for discussion, action and follow-up.

At least quarterly

SECTION: 17. Water and Sanitation Service Quality

1. Critical business databases and documents (e.g. as-built drawings, records, manuals, agreements, billing/revenue collection, project and scheme management data, etc.) are current, maintained and stored in secure locations (on-site and off-site, both paper and electronic).

< 50% in place

2. Customers have adequate access to water (at least basic services and no backlogs, sufficient quantity and flow, good quality, minimal interruptions).

Most have a functional service (i.e. >75%)

3. Customers have adequate access to sanitation (at least basic services and no backlogs, no blockages, minimal impact on environment).

Some have a functional service (i.e. > 50%)

4. All consumers served experience interruptions of less than 48 hours (at any given time) and a cumulative interruption time during the year of less than 15 days.

>75% of households

5. Households in your WSA experience water pressure problems (no flow/partial flow less than 10 litres/minute) (not to be confused with interruption to supply).

< 25% of households

SECTION: 18. Customer Care (CRM)

1. A functional customer service system manned by appropriate customer services representatives and using a complaints register, is in place to address complaints and appropriately inform customers of service interruptions, contamination of water, boil water alert, etc.

In place, but not ideal

2. Regular customer satisfaction surveys are conducted to determine customer satisfaction levels and inform the Customer Care Management Plan

Bi-annual (i.e. twice per year) customer satisfaction surveys

3. Please indicate what percentage of the reported water related complaints/callouts are responded to within 24 hours.

All (i.e. 100%)

4. Please indicate what percentage of the reported wastewater/sanitation related complaints/callouts are responded to within 24 hours.

All (i.e. 100%)

5. A comprehensive customer awareness programme (informing customers of water and wastewater system O&M activities, water quality, resource protection/pollution, reporting incidents/security concerns, etc.) is in place and implemented.

Yes, strongly agree