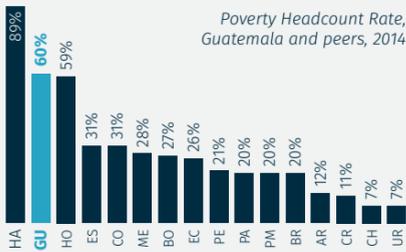


# Key findings of the Water Supply, Sanitation, and Hygiene (WASH) Poverty Diagnostic Guatemala

## Poverty

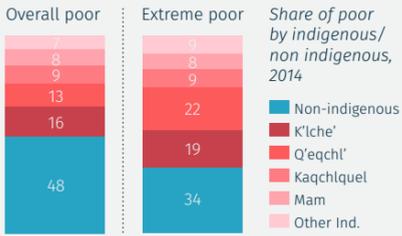
60% of the population was living in poverty in 2014 and more than half of these in extreme poverty

Recent increase in poverty makes Guatemala the 2nd poorest country in LAC; only post-earthquake Haiti is poorer.



Almost 80% of the indigenous population lived in poverty in 2014, and half of these were extremely poor

In terms of the share of the country's poor, poverty remains concentrated among indigenous groups. Two-thirds of all extremely poor households have an indigenous head of household.



## Access to Water and Sanitation

### Drinking water coverage



91% of the population has access to improved drinking water

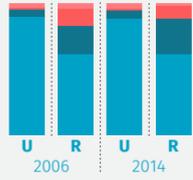
### Sanitation coverage



53% of the population has access to improved sanitation facility

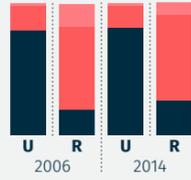
Access to water has changed very little in Guatemala since 2000

Urban vs rural drinking water coverage

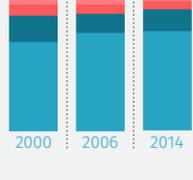


Sanitation coverage is particularly low in rural areas

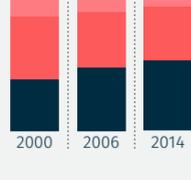
Urban vs rural sanitation coverage



National drinking water coverage



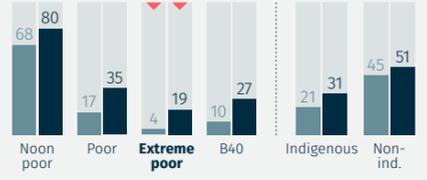
National sanitation coverage



## Poverty – WASH nexus

Less than one in five people among the poor has access to improved sanitation

Sanitation coverage (%)



Drinking water coverage (%)



People living in extreme poverty are the most underserved group in terms of access to adequate water and sanitation

Guatemala faces significant challenges with the quality of its institutions

The index for municipal public services for 2013 shows the performance of 76 percent of municipalities (223 of 340) was either medium-low or low in terms of the provision of public services

World Governance Indicators, 2014



MAPAS Scorecard Guatemala, 2016



The current model of governance, regulation and management of WASH services is dysfunctional and replete with gaps duplication in the roles and responsibilities assigned to different levels of government

The provision WASH services is decentralized and their provision is the responsibility of each of the 340 municipalities.

The decentralization strategy failed to assign the responsibility for the construction of WASH systems, and today the central, departmental, and municipal governments share this responsibility.

Guatemala does not have a national institution responsible for ensuring quality in the design, construction, and supervision of WASH systems.

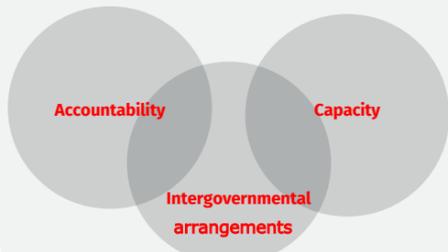


**Accountability**  
there is no political culture of accountability of government results (for either the central or municipal governments) including their responsibilities in the WASH sector

**Intergovernmental agreements**  
Politically. The inexistence of a national-level regulator leads to fragmentation of the services with 340 municipal regulators  
Administratively. There is lack of connection of levels and actors. Municipal, private, and social operators do not have the minimum direction and technical assistance, which puts users in an even more vulnerable position

## Challenges in delivering services

The difficulties or bottlenecks for provision of WASH services fall into three categories



- Capacity:**
  - \* insufficient capacity of the departmental governments limits coordination between the central government and the municipalities
  - \* financing bottlenecks: the criteria established for validation of WASH investment projects are difficult to comply; the criteria used to allocate investment resources do not favor the poorest localities.
  - \* constraints to obtain relevant information sector's on performance and the evaluation according to formal standards

## Recomendations

### Special attention to WASH service quality

Monitoring systems do exist but sometimes do not include rural areas. The country needs to control the quality of water being provided to the consumer. Due to lack of knowledge and information; water quality in rural areas has been neglected.

### Closing social gaps and empowering local communities

The Guatemalan Municipal Code specifies two types of consultations at the municipal level.

The first establishes that consultations may be carried out through open municipal assemblies organized by the Municipal council where citizens may have a voice but not vote on the matter at hand.

The second provides for conducting a municipal consultation process if two thirds of the Municipal Council considers that the matter is of concern to all neighbors.

### Responding to spatial and geographic WASH challenges

The government can design regional development strategies to better identify WASH infrastructure investments: a water project with ICT solutions to reduce water leakages; infrastructure works involving drainage pipes, terracing and retrofitting of bridges, which are combined with land-use planning and disaster risk preparedness.

### Advancing governance in the WASH sector

Due to the low political representation in the government and the absence of policies for securing safe water for all with an emphasis on rural.

In Guatemala, rural water and sanitation is a relatively low priority for the government that prefers to invest in large-scale projects for urban populations that can pay for higher levels of service