

Water For People's new Strategic Plan guarantees we'll perform post-project monitoring for at least 10 years.

Truly transforming lives means taking transparency, accountability and sustainability seriously.

The result: People will be better served.

FLOW, Field Level Operations Watch, is a dynamic new Water For People baseline and monitoring tool that allows us to get a clear view of what's working, what's on the verge of disrepair, and what's broken. The information must be easy to gather, share and understand so that we can build better solutions for a lasting impact.

And the response to problems must be immediate and trackable.

flow

field level operations watch

SPECIFICATIONS

Point-of-use operating system: **Android**
Point-of-use connectivity: **On-line through Cellular or Wi-Fi.**
Offline with cached data.
Reporting tool accessibility: **Global access via Internet**
Mapping tools/formats: **Google Earth, Google Maps, KML**
Programming language: **Java hosted on Google App Engine**
Data storage: **Amazon S3 and Google Data Store**
Import compatibility: **Google Docs or Microsoft Excel**
License model: **Open source**

This screenshot shows the FLOW field level operations watch interface. The header includes the 'flow' logo and 'field level operations watch' text. Below the header, it displays 'Community | Kachere/Makhetha/Nkolokoti - MB15AH02' and 'data collection date: 12/1/09'. A list of metrics is shown on the left, including 'Type of Technology: Kloak', 'Construction Date: Unknown', 'Estimated Number of Users: 60', and several status indicators with green checkmarks. A photo of a blue and green water kiosk is shown on the right, with a caption: 'A kiosk connected to a piped supply that works well'.

With FLOW, Water For People's work will be more effective, more transformative, and more impactful.

We cannot just say work is sustainable, we must prove it.

This visual open-source data monitoring database was developed by Gallatin Systems. Utilizing cutting edge technology, including Android cell phone technology and Google Earth software, FLOW provides anyone on the Internet access to crucial data for projects supported by Water For People. Community members, entrepreneurs, industry professionals, partners, staff and volunteers gather data with an Android phone. At the touch of a button, data flows to the Internet and updates the status of a water point or sanitation solution on Google Maps and Google Earth.

"The words transparency and sustainability are sector buzzwords that carry no water. We are working to change that! To determine success, Water For People will publicly display all project data – good and bad – as we monitor our work for at least 10 years after project completion using a new visual open-source data monitoring database. We believe we can only say our work is sustainable if we demonstrate that water is flowing and people are using toilets and washing hands in all programs across the organization, all the time. It is not truly transparent if we cherry-pick stories and only portray small samples of data."

—Ned Breslin, CEO, Water For People

FLOW will focus on these key indicators:

- Is the water point or sanitation solution being used and functioning?
- How many people have access to water and sanitation in the area?
Are the services able to expand with the community?
- Is the quantity and quality of water meeting the needs of the community?
- Are sufficient tariffs being collected to ensure ongoing operation, maintenance, repair and eventual replacement?



Not only will Water For People use the data to make better programming decisions, but governments, partners, donors and the public can easily monitor projects as well.

FLOW enables Water For People to demonstrate real data and real results. It allows Water For People to build on its programmatic strengths and identify areas of weakness that need to improve.

Using Google Earth or Google Maps, any person can virtually visit Water For People-supported projects, and additional projects that are mapped, throughout the world. At the district-level, the user knows instantly if a majority of water and sanitation projects are working, need repair, or are not working. Click on a community and the users will see in-depth data, including changes over time, about the community's water and sanitation solution.

A deep-dive into data, called the Dashboard, is available to organizations, businesses, and other stakeholders utilizing FLOW's open-source technology. The Dashboard will provide access to community-to-community comparisons, analysis of data over time, and historical data.

Because the software is open-source, features will grow over time as organizations select areas to expand its capabilities into their areas of work. The result is data-driven decision making. It's a wide spectrum view into our work that will allow Water For People to be flexible and quickly responsive when problems arise.

FLOW's open source technology is freely available to the nonprofit sector. Please join us in bringing transformative change through greater transparency and accountability.

