STANDARD SECTOR INDICATOR CODE: HE-048	**Showed an Increase of 7 points on the Water System Management Matrix -** Number of communities that show an increase of at least 7 points on a 66 point water system management matrix	
HEALTH SECTOR	**Sector Schematic Alignment** • **Project Area:** Environmental Health • **Project Activity Area/Training Package:** WASH: Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene	
Type: Intermediate-term Outcome	**Unit of Measure**: Communities	**Disaggregation:** None

To be counted for this indicator the following criteria must be met:
- The operation and management of the community water and sanitation system must be rated at least 7 points higher than it was rated in the prior year using the 66 point water system operations and management rating matrix
- The community members must be working with the Volunteer or their partners to plan, manage, mobilize, build, improve or rehabilitate the system.
- The community members must be able to justify and document changes in rating

Definitions:
Community: a group of people living in a particular area who are linked with a Peace Corps Volunteer

Water system management matrix: A survey tool that assesses 10 attributes of the water and sanitation system's operations and maintenance, and 12 attributes of the water and sanitation systems management. The Matrix can be found in the WASH Training Package, as Handout 2 in Operation, Maintenance, and Administration of Community or School Water Systems or Programs Session.

Rationale: Water system management is needed to ensure the provision of a **s**afe and reliable water supply to a community. Unsafe drinking water along with poor sanitation and hygiene are the main contributors to an estimated 4 billion cases of diarrheal disease each year and causing more than 1.5 million deaths annually, mostly among children under 5 years of age. Good management and maintenance will help make sure that people have water available to them that meets the minimum standards established for drinking water.

Measurement Notes:

1. **Sample Tools and/or Possible Methods (for Peace Corps staff use):** Volunteers should use data collection tools to measure progress against project indicators. Please check PCLive for data collection tools. Once a tool has been developed, post staff should have a few Volunteers and their partners pilot it, and then distribute and train Volunteers on its use.

2. **General Data Collection for Volunteer Activities:** All Volunteer activities should be conducted with the intention of achieving outcomes – knowledge change (short-term), skills demonstration (intermediate-term), and behavioral changes (intermediate to long term) as defined by the progression of indicators within the objectives of a project framework. The progression of measurement for all Volunteer activities should begin with baseline data being conducted prior to the implementation of an activity (or set of activities), followed by documenting any outputs of the activities and then later at the appropriate time, measurements of specific outcomes (see the bullet on "frequency of measurement").

3. **Activity-Level Baseline Data Collection:** Activity-level baseline data should be collected by Volunteers/partners before or at the start of their activities with an individual or group of individuals. In this instance, Volunteers/partners would conduct a survey using the water system management matrix in each community they are working in to determine a baseline. Collection of activity-level baseline data provides a basis for planning and/or assessing subsequent progress or impact with these same people. Volunteers should take a baseline measurement regarding the outcome(s) defined in this data sheet. Volunteers should collect baseline information early in their work with community members, and may use their judgment to determine timing because the information will be more accurate if the Volunteer has built some trust with the community first. The information for the baseline measurement will be the same or very similar to the information that will be collected in the follow-on measurement (see the bullet on "frequency of measurement") after the Volunteer has conducted his/her activities and it is usually collected using the same data collection tool to allow for easy management of the data over time.

   Because Volunteers are expected to implement relevant and focused activities that will promote specific changes within a target population (see the "unit of measure" above), taking a baseline measurement helps Volunteers to develop a more realistic snapshot of where individuals within the target population are in their process of change instead of assuming that they are starting at "0." It also sets up Volunteers to be able to see in concrete terms what influence their work is having on the individuals they work with during their service. Please note that data collection is a sensitive process and so Volunteers will not want to take a baseline measurement until they have been able to do some relationship and trust-building with the person/people the Volunteer is working with, and developed an understanding of cultural norms and gender dynamics.

4. **Frequency of Measurement:** After taking the baseline survey, Volunteers must take a minimum of one measurement with the same communities to assess whether they have shown an increase of at least 7 points on a 66 point water system management matrix**.** This measurement is typically taken after completing one or more activities focused on achieving the outcome in this indicator and once they have determined that the timing is appropriate to expect that the outcome has been achieved. Once Volunteers have measured that at least one community has achieved the indicator, they should report on it in their next VRF.

   Volunteers may determine to take more than one baseline and one follow-on measurement with the same community for the following valid reasons:

   - Volunteers may want to measure whether or not any additional individuals initially reached with activities have now achieved the outcome in the indicator, particularly for any activities that are on-going in nature (no clear end date);
   - Volunteers may want to enhance their own learning and the implementation of their activities by using the data collected as an effective monitoring tool and feedback mechanism for the need to improve or increase their activities;
   - A Peace Corps project in a particular country may choose to increase the frequency of measurement of the indicator and Volunteers assigned to that project will be required to follow in-country guidance.

   In all cases, any additional data collection above the minimum expectation should be based on the time, resources, accessibility to the target population, and the value to be gained versus the burden of collecting the data. Following any additional measurements taken, Volunteers should report on any new individuals achieving the outcome in their next VRF.

5. **Definition of Change:** The minimum change to report against this indicator is that a community demonstrated an

increase of at least 7 points on a 66 point water system management matrix when compared to what was measured initially at baseline.   In the case of this indicator, if, upon taking a baseline measurement, the community the Volunteer/partner works with scored high enough on the 66 point water system management matrix that a 7 point increase would not be possible, then the Volunteer would not be able to count him/her for this activity because the Volunteer's work would not be able to contribute to a higher score.   However, if as a result of working with the Volunteer/partner, the community did show at least a 7 point improvement on the water system management matrix from their original baseline measurement, that would count because the Volunteer's work influenced adding value to an existing product.

6. **General Reporting in the VRF**: The "number achieved" (or numerator) that Volunteers will report against for this indicator in their VRFs is the number of communities that showed an increase of at least 7 points on a 66 point water system management matrix, after working with the Volunteer/partner. The "total number" (or denominator) that Volunteers will report on for this indicator in their VRFs is the total number of communities who participated in the activities designed to meet this indicator.

7. **Reporting on Disaggregated Data in the VRF:** n/a

Data Quality Assessments (DQA): DQA are needed for each indicator selected to align with the project objectives. DQAs review the validity, integrity, precision, reliability, and timeliness of each indicator. For more information, consult the Peace Corps MRE Toolkit.

Alignment with Summary Indicator: no link