

**Improvement of operation of small urban water supply system**  
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Water supply is important to the community because it provides convenient and sufficient access to safe and portable water in a given design area for a given design period of time. Also, supplying of water is supposed to fulfil the requirement of having minimum cost of construction, operation and maintenance of the project. Water is important in the life of living things like human, animals and plants, if no water, no life of those living things; therefore, water seems to be important for fulfilling the basic necessities of life. In Bariadi Town, people often face the problem of water shortage because of lack of reliable sources of water. The best immediate solution required for solving the problem of Bariadi is to take water from drilled boreholes where there is a reliable source and sufficient quantity of water. As well, Bariadi Town Council drilled shallow wells and deep wells which planned to improve the availability of water to that area. This dissertation is based on establishment of whether the asset management practice is the cause of the shortage of water. The case study approach was used to collect data through interviews with Water Agencies responsible for management of water projects in Simiyu region and community owned water supply organization. It is concluded that asset management performance in Community Owned Water Supply organization and Water Agencies studied fall short of even the basic practices of assets management. The main reason being lack of knowledge to the Community Owned Water Supply Organization (COWSOs) and shortage number of skilled personnel in the Authority dealing with management of water supply projects. Also, it was found that lack of adequate water sources and properly designed and maintained infrastructure which can feed water to the community exacerbate the problem. Therefore, the study recommended that the Local Authority should be responsible for managing those projects constructed at the rural areas while in town, water Authority should take responsibility. Both the water Local Authority and water agency should acquire necessary knowledge and skills for the purpose of implementing appropriate asset management starting with basic assets management and continuously upgrading towards the advanced asset management practices.