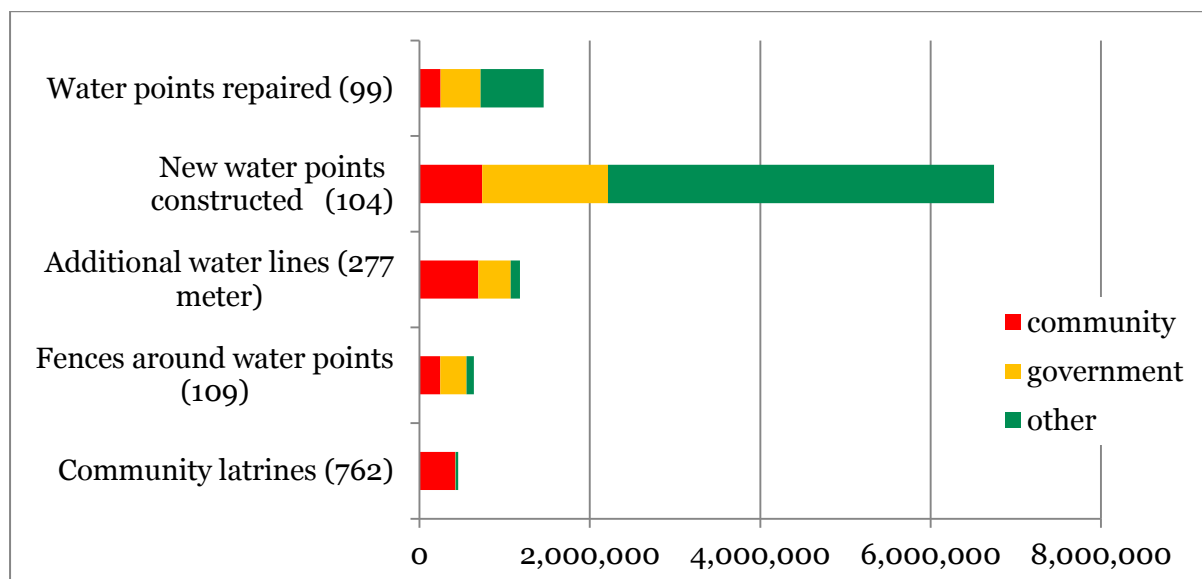


ESAP2 – RESULTS, FINDINGS AND JOINT ACTIONS IN THE WATER SECTOR

The Ethiopia Social Accountability Program2 has seen 29 social accountability implementing partners implementing water sector interventions in 61 woredas across all regions of Ethiopia. This summary presents the most interesting results and investments, the main findings about sector performance, and the key joint actions that were undertaken by communities, service providers and local governments.

Service Improvement Results and Investment

Social Accountability projects facilitated joint actions among community, government and others (e.g. NGOs and private sector) that led to investments that achieved the following service improvement results by March 2015:



Key findings about sector performance

There are differences in challenges between rural and urban water related problems:

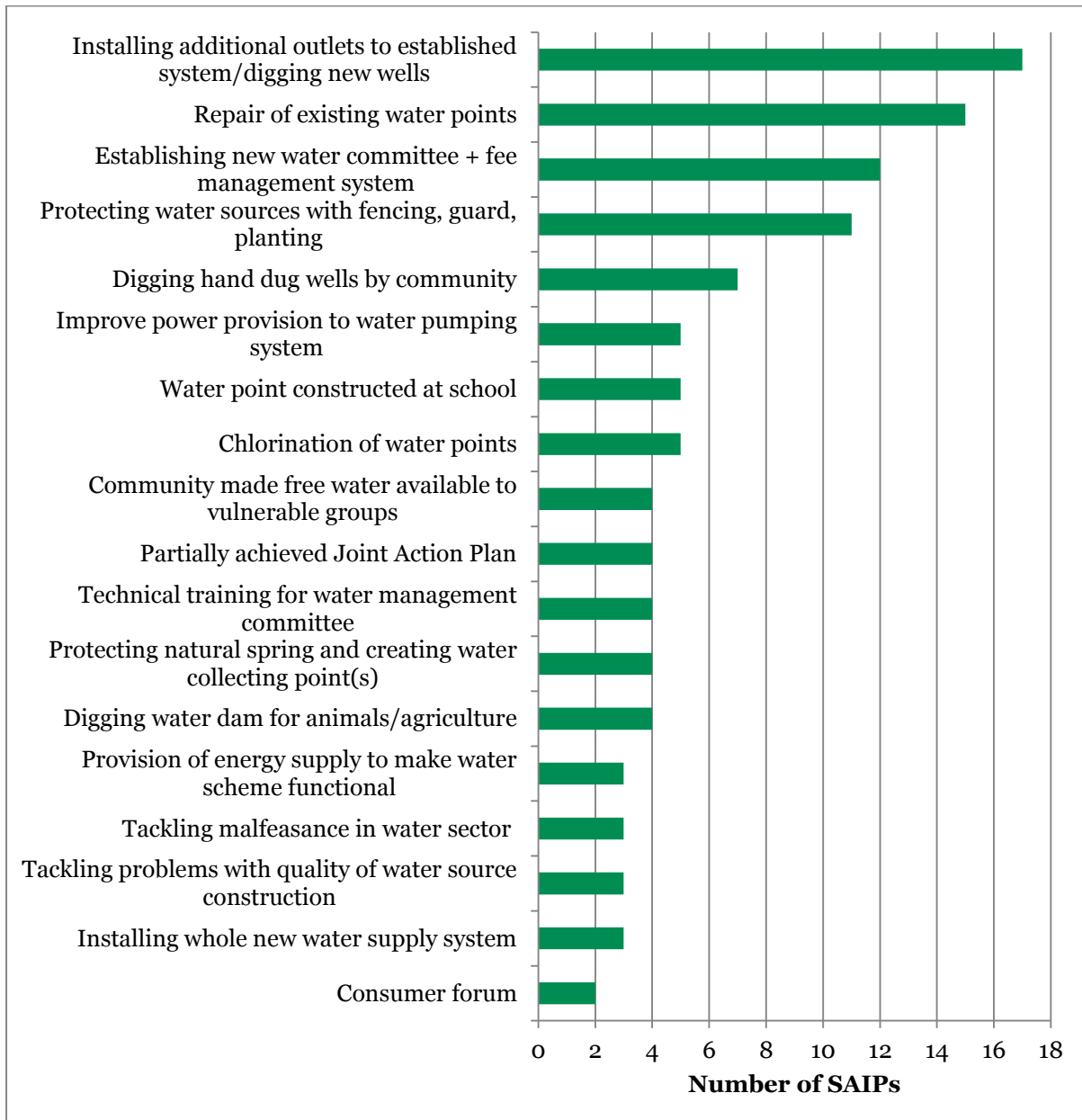
- Rural –local government is not always aware of remote breakdowns or lack of access; there are many dysfunctional water management committees and no fee collection; the costs of new systems are high for remote poor communities;
- Urban – large populations require costly solutions; it may be impossible to route pipes through densely populated areas.

Generic challenges are – prolonged breakdowns; low access to water professionals due to frequent staff turnover; private sector suppliers can benefit from water problems and may influence local government to maintain the status quo.

Compared to other sectors, water solutions require larger sums, and woredas thus need to engage zonal and regional authorities in order to achieve water improvements. Higher authorities have invested their own resources, or have facilitated links with UN agencies and international NGOs, who were willing to invest resources where they were most needed. It was an empowering experience for community groups and Social Accountability Committees to interact with government at this level.

Joint actions to solve water problems

Communities, service providers and local governments agreed on and implemented the following joint actions to overcome problems in the water sector:



Now we understand the government standard. We have a right to one water point for 300 users within 1.5 kilometers, which provides 100 liters of water for daily consumption per household, at a price of 20 cents for 25 liters.