

# Resum de Tesi Doctoral



UNIVERSITAT POLITÈCNICA DE CATALUNYA  
BARCELONATECH

Escola de Doctorat

DNI/NIE/Passaport	<input type="text"/>
Nom i cognoms	<input type="text" value="Óscar Flores Baquero"/>
Títol de la tesi	<input type="text" value="Development of methods for monitoring the water and sanitation sector at different scales through human rights lenses"/>
Unitat estructural	<input type="text" value="480: Institut Universitari de Recerca en Ciència i Tecnologies de la Sostenibilitat (IS:UPC)"/>
Programa	<input type="text" value="Ingeniería Ambiental"/>
Codis UNESCO	<input type="text" value="330538"/> <input type="text" value="241004"/> <input type="text" value="590601"/> <input type="text"/>

(Mínim 1 i màxim 4, podeu veure els codis a <http://doctorat.upc.edu/gestio-academica/impresos/tesi-matricula-i-diposit/codis-unesco>)

Resum de la tesi de 4000 caràcters màxim (si supera els 4000 es tallarà automàticament)

The recognition of the Human Right to Water and Sanitation (HRWS) through UN General Assembly and Human Rights Council Resolutions in 2010 represents great progress in the Water Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH) sector as it entitles everyone to the provision of minimum standards of these essential services.

Much effort has gone into the recognition of these emerging human rights so it is essential now to shift discussion from legal and conceptual framework to practice. In this sense, three facts give the motivation to this thesis: First, international institutions have the authority to monitor States compliance with the Human Right to Water and Sanitation (HRWS) but the necessary tools for this task are not ready yet. Secondly, this milestone influences governance and decision making processes at different scales. And finally, measuring access to water in the Sustainable Development Goals era involves taking into account the human rights framework. Therefore, its content should be considered to conceptualize the level of service through adequate indicators and to follow-up inequities reduction at global, national and local level. Accordingly, this work contributes significantly to each of one the three challenges presented.

First, human development sector has a wider experience on using information about progress which provides a perfect opportunity to develop this further. WHO/UNICEF Joint Monitoring Programme (JMP) and UN Water GLAAS datasets could be used for those with a mandate to monitoring the right, contributing to this challenge. Consequently, the information they offer has been analysed through a human rights lens. A matrix has been constructed to specifically identify in which extend their datasets could be combined to monitoring HRWS in a broad sense. JMP-led post-2015 proposal considerably contributes with outcome indicators to measure right holders' enjoyment of the right and GLAAS adds structural and process ones to measure duty bearers' conduct. However, there are still some critical gaps if both UN Water platforms will be used to report progress on HRWS. The thesis forwards some ideas concerning the way these shortcomings could be addressed.

Second, this work proposes a methodology for monitoring access to water in rural areas using the framework of this human right. The practicality of the approach is demonstrated by a case study carried out in Nicaragua. Different criteria of the right to water were included in surveys and structured interviews that were conducted in rural households and water committees, respectively. Discussion analyses advantages and challenges of using this framework. Finally, the approach provides elements for policy making that can be used by different stakeholders from development and human rights sectors.

Finally, this research develops and tests a methodology to measure intra-community disparities based on human right to water normative criteria through a stratified sampling, splitting households served by community based organizations and those self-provided. This approach implies considering much reduced populations, thus special care needs to be taken with sample sizes and uncertainty of estimators. The proposed methodology is practical to locate and accurately characterize minority sectors within rural communities and allows moving beyond central-tendency estimators. It implies higher costs for field data collection than traditional approaches, but this can be assumed given the relevance of the approach from a human rights perspective, which calls for adequate tools for equity-oriented policy making at local level. The research point out how results might be used to shape decision-making processes.

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