
Lagos, Nigeria is a megacity of more than 17 million people. Today, fewer than half of these residents have formal access to water through household or community connections serviced by the state government water utility (the Lagos Water Corporation). In an aggressive attempt to address this crisis, the Water Corporation has identified public-private partnerships (PPPs) with formal private water operators as an appropriate avenue to introduce private participation and inject necessary funds and into the water sector. However, is the Lagos Water Corporation’s PPP framework a feasible means for addressing the city’s water issues? Using informational interviews and data from a household-level survey for five local government areas, I found that the public and other key stakeholders, including informal and small-scale water vendors, civil society organizations and key research and educational institutions, have been neither sufficiently informed nor sufficiently integrated into the PPP framework. These findings indicate the need develop a more authentic participatory framework for the water sector that includes and works with this wide range of stakeholders. Doing so can help to ensure wider participation, institutional sustainability and accountability, in order to promote a fully functioning water sector and increased water access.