

Supplementary Information for

Is volumetric pricing for drinking water an effective revenue strategy in rural Mali?

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Data availability and summary statistics for dependent variables

A total of 4,447 monthly records across 177 unique waterpoints, situated in 23 municipalities, is available from November 2019 to April 2023. Data cleaning on volumetric use records was conducted to remove potentially faulty meter readings. The average hourly flow rate of the handpumps is estimated at 1 m³. Supposing that waterpoints are only used during the day (14 hours), daily volumetric water usage higher than 11m³ per waterpoint was deemed unlikely given an estimated time of 90 seconds to fill a 20 litres jerry can. Applying the cap threshold of 11 m³, a total of 34 observations was removed. The final dataset consists of 4,413 monthly observations, separated in 1,885 monthly records under the volumetric modality, 2,528 observations for monthly flat fees.

Supplementary Table 1 (A to D) presents summary statistics across the four outcomes of interest, separating between payment modalities. The dependent variables are daily volumetric use (m³), monthly revenue (\$), monthly working ratio (%), and monthly collection efficiency (%) per waterpoint.

Supplementary Tables

Supplementary Table 1 Summary statistics for outcomes of interest across payment modalities

- **A) Daily volumetric use, m³**

Metrics	PAYF	Flat fee
Mean (SD)	0.84 (1.48)	1.74 (2.26)
Median	0.18	0.81
Min	0	0
Max	10.98	10.96
Monthly observations (n)	1885	2528

- **B) Monthly revenue, US\$**

Metrics	PAYF	Flat fee
Mean (SD)	3.42 (9.78)	12.85 (11.97)
Median	0.06	24
Min	0	0
Max	163.43	24
Monthly observations (n)	1885	2528

- **C) Working ratio, %**

Metrics	PAYF	Flat fee
Mean (SD)	14% (41%)	53.5% (49.8%)
Median	0%	100%
Min	0	0%
Max	100%	100%
Monthly observations (n)	1885	2528

- **D) Collection efficiency, %**

Metrics	PAYF	Flat fee
Mean (SD)	29% (37%)	54% (50%)
Median	11%	100%
Min	0	0%
Max	100%	100%
Monthly observations (n)	1885	2528