



Commune Action Plan: A Method for Collaborative Strategic Planning on the District Level

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Introduction

Goal 6 of the Sustainable Development Goals states that by 2030, we should “achieve universal and equitable access to safe and affordable drinking water for all”. The Commune Action Plan (CAP) tool, created by Haiti Outreach alongside Haitian government partners, was designed to help attain this goal. Specifically, the CAP tool (Figure 1) produces a roadmap for water agency staff, local authorities, and other partners to drive towards universal access to clean water. Through comprehensive water point mapping, the CAP tool first determines the current water access in each commune. Using the maps and a data driven methodology, the local authorities, government water officials and other key stakeholders work together to create a CAP. This plan then guides all water interventions within that commune. The CAP is updated as interventions are completed, and will indicate when that commune finally achieves 100% access.

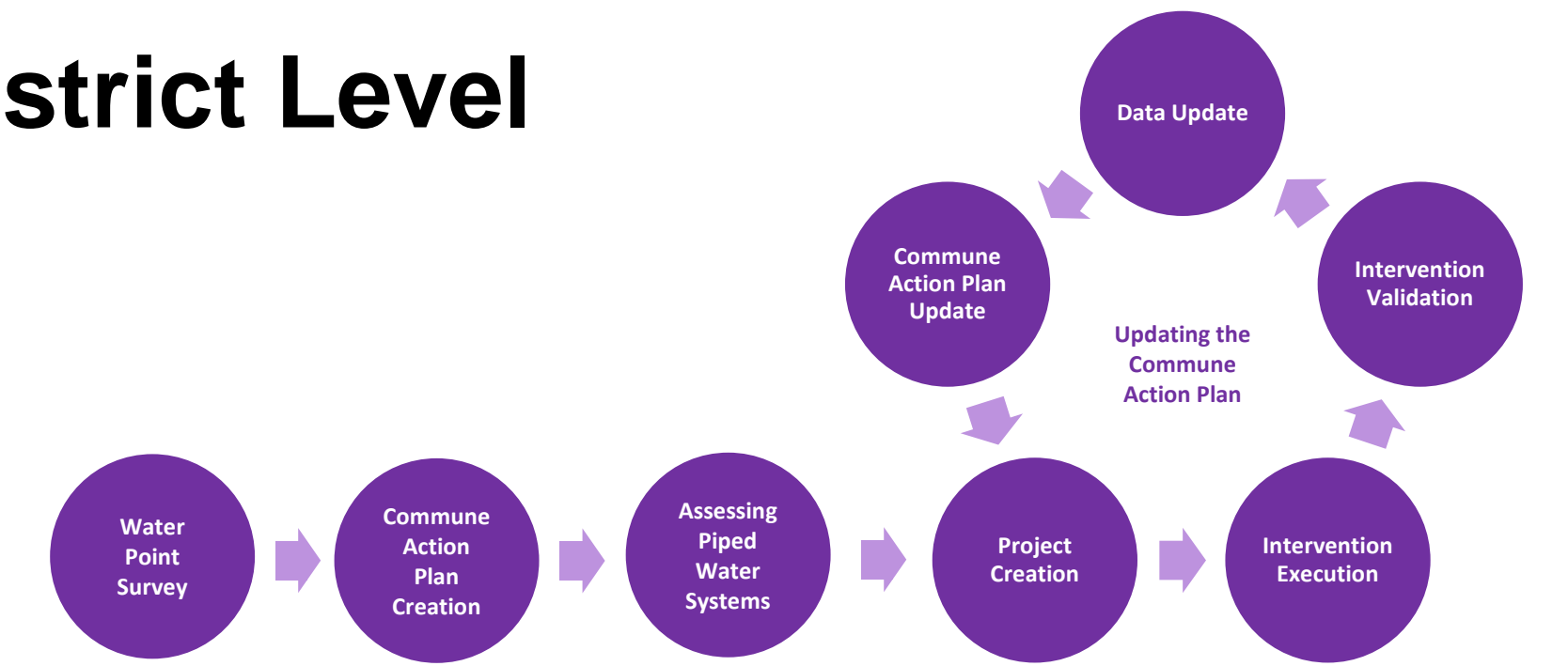


Figure 1: Process of Commune Action Plan tool.



Figure 3: Commune Action Plan meeting in the commune of Pointe-a-Raquette in Haiti.

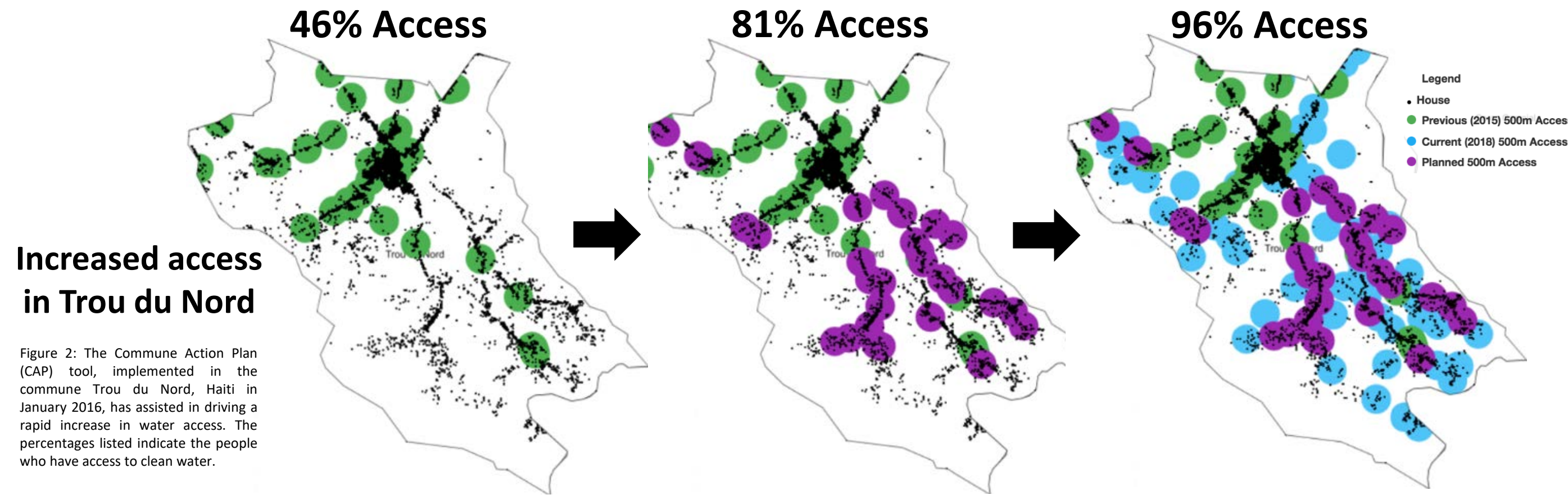


Figure 2: The Commune Action Plan (CAP) tool, implemented in the commune Trou du Nord, Haiti in January 2016, has assisted in driving a rapid increase in water access. The percentages listed indicate the people who have access to clean water.

Results

- Facilitated a rapid increase in access to clean water in several communes (Figure 2)
- Aligned local authorities, the national water agency and implementing partners on the interventions needed to achieve universal access to clean water
- Local stakeholders leading water development in their communes (Figure 3)
- Used by local partners to trigger investment from external donors
- Local stakeholders hold regular Commune Action Plan (CAP) follow-up meetings
- The CAP tool has not been institutionalized in the Haitian government’s water agency at a high enough level to guide national planning

Implementation

Step 1: Water point survey

Alongside local partners, data is collected on the existing water infrastructure (Figures 4 and 5) and the corresponding water access level within the commune is calculated. Data is collected for: •springs •boreholes •fountains •kiosks •piped water systems.

Step 2: Commune Action Plan creation

All data collected, along with other information, is used to create maps (Figures 5 and 6), which allow local partners to create a Commune Action Plan (Figure 7). These agreed-upon actions are then digitized and presented to all stakeholders.

Step 3: Updating the Commune Action Plan

After the Commune Action Plan (CAP) is created, local authorities and other stakeholders have regular meetings to update on what actions have taken place since the last meeting, and realign on next steps (Figure 1).

Step 4: Assessing piped water systems

Data is collected on piped water systems, which is transformed and imported into EPANET in order to simulate and assess the scheme in preparation for a feasibility report (Figure 8).

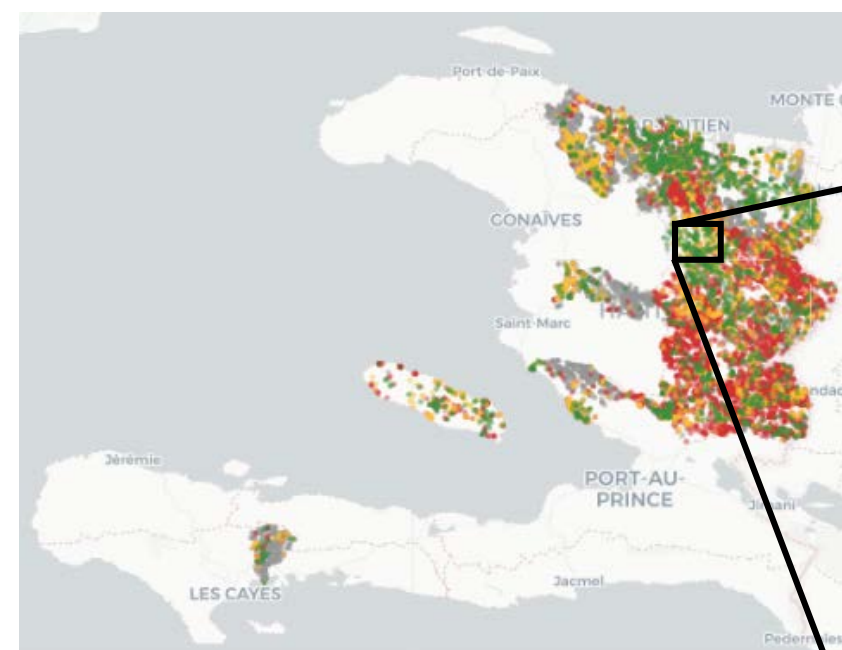


Figure 4: All surveyed water points across 48 of the 145 communes of Haiti.

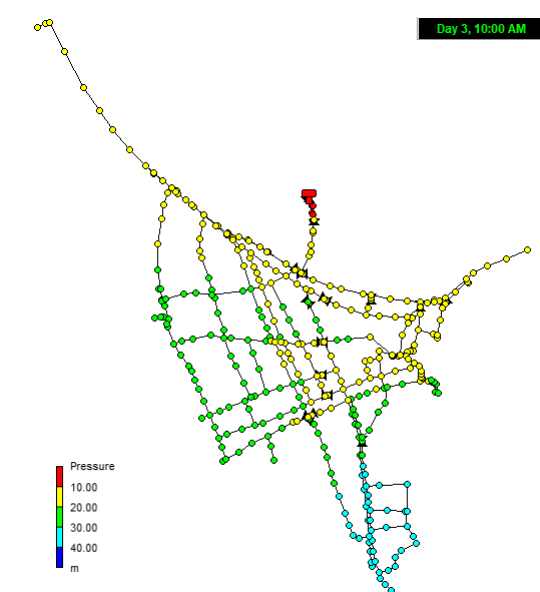


Figure 8: EPANET model for the piped water system in Pignon Centre Ville, Haiti.

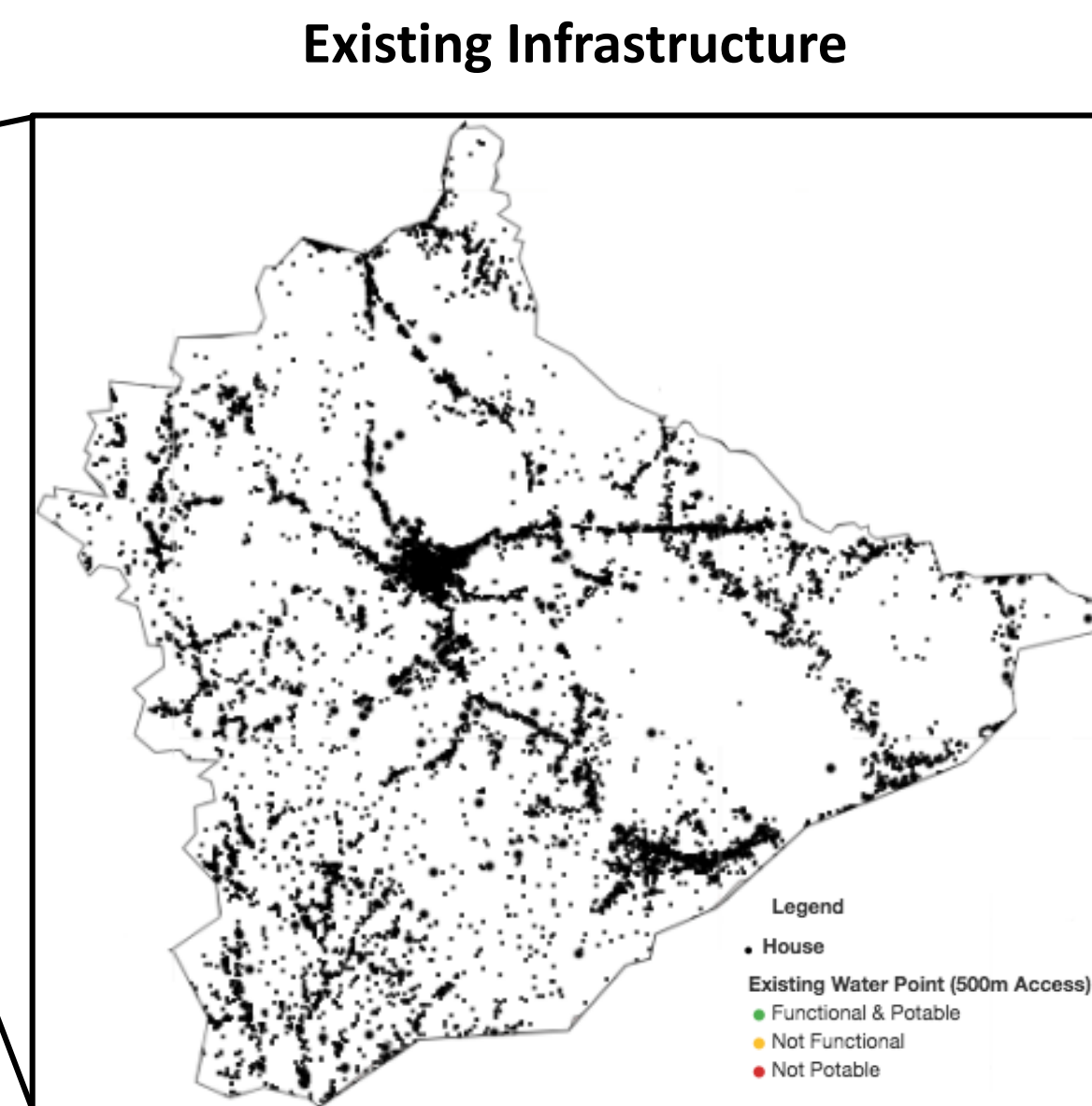


Figure 5: Map of households in the commune of Pignon in Haiti, with overlays of the status of all existing water point infrastructure.

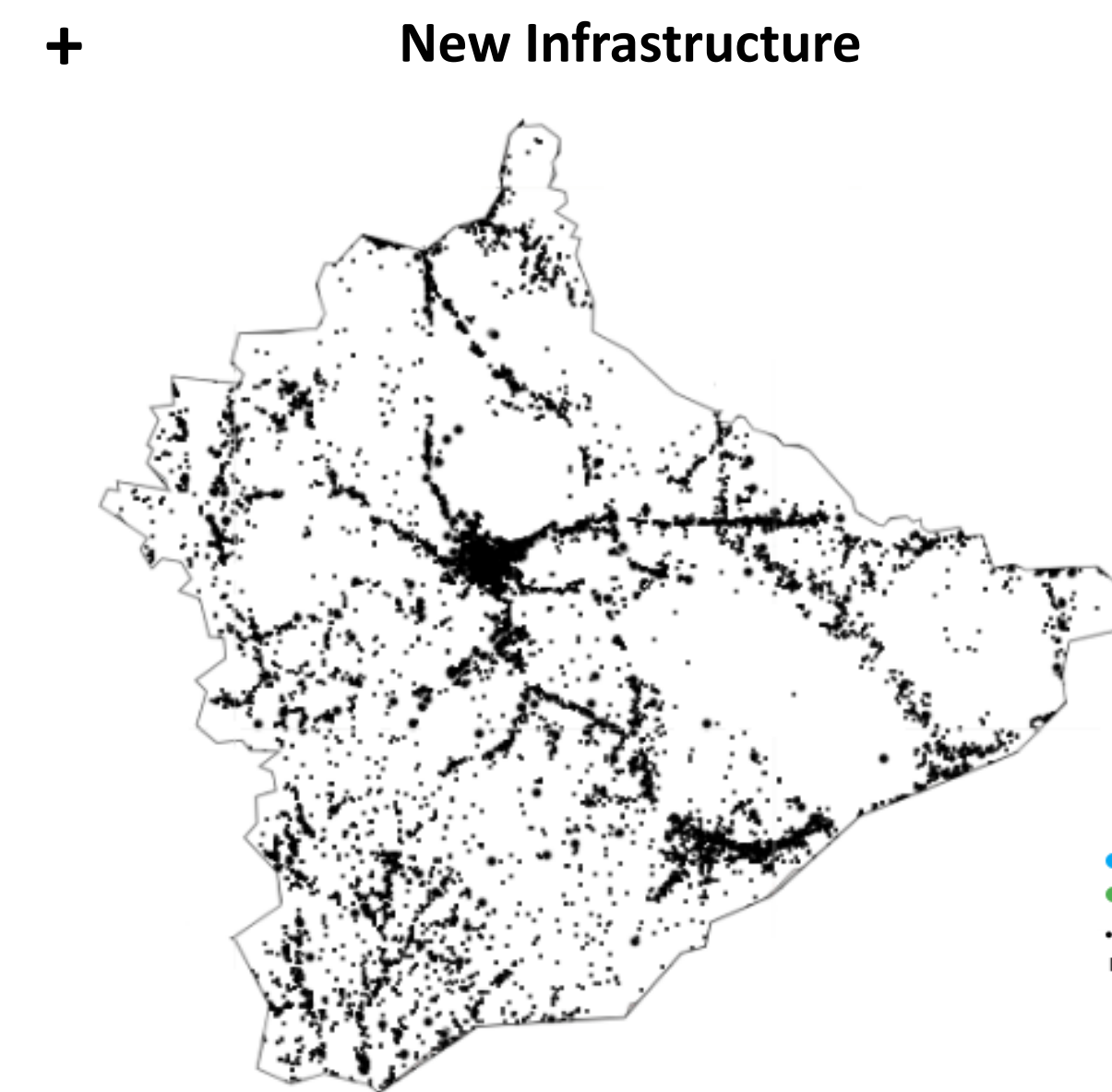


Figure 6: Map of households in the commune of Pignon in Haiti, with overlays of current access, household density and groundwater potential.

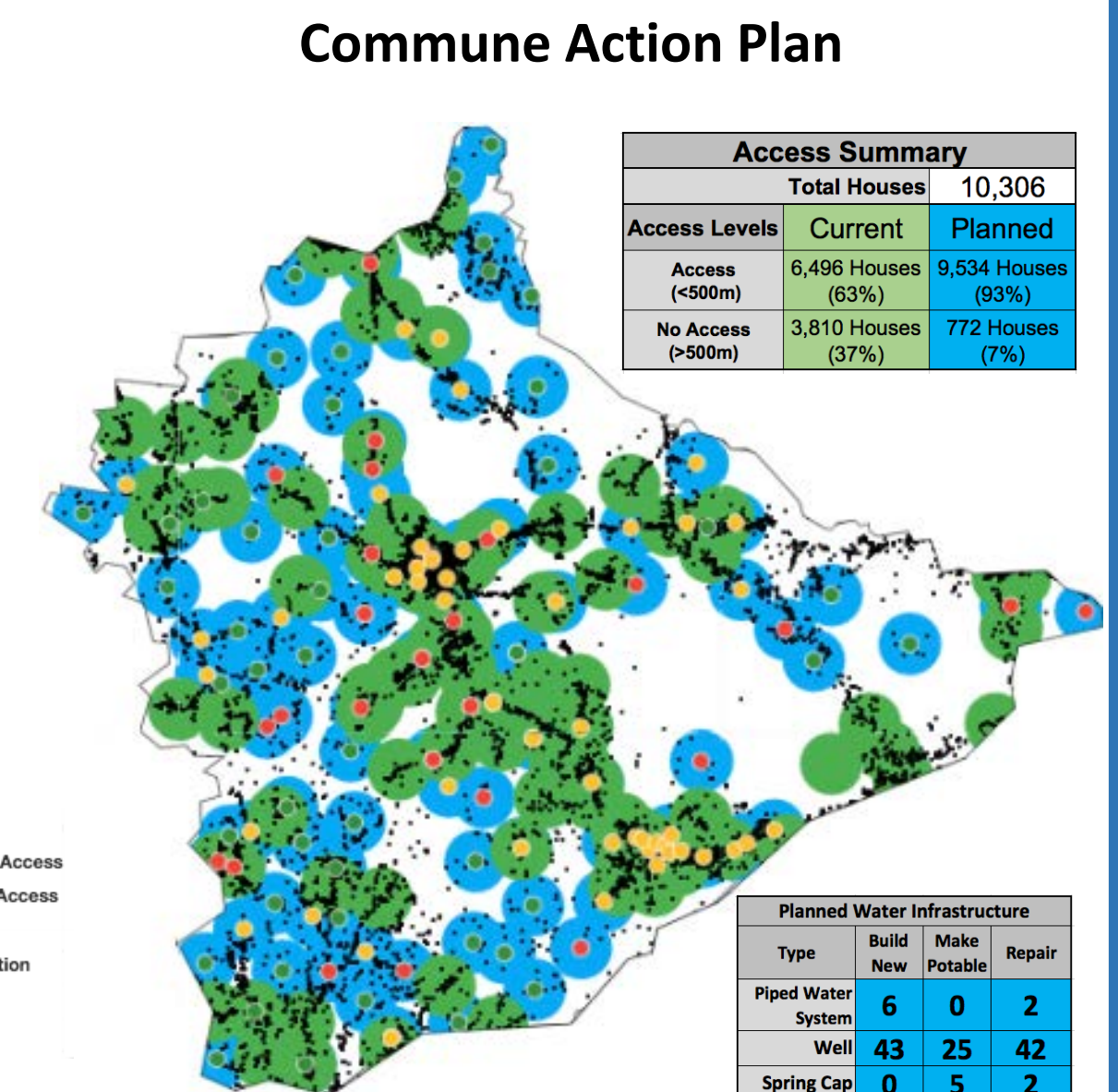


Figure 7: The completed Commune Action Plan for the commune of Pignon in Haiti.