

# IBM Research | Africa

The world is our lab.

MACHINE LEARNING APPROACHES TO SAFEGUARDING  
CONTINUOUS WATER SUPPLY IN ARID & SEMI-ARID  
(ASAL) LANDS OF NORTHERN KENYA

Fred Otieno  
Software Engineer  
Impact Science – Future of Climate

# MACHINE LEARNING APPROACHES TO SAFEGUARDING CONTINUOUS WATER SUPPLY IN ARID & SEMI- ARID (ASAL) LANDS OF NORTHERN KENYA

---



# Climate Shocks

UK weather

Heatwave: Paris suffers 42.6C hottest day ever as UK temperatures set record - as it happened

Updated 25 Jul 2019

Belgium, Netherlands  
day ever,

Likelihood of Cape Town water crisis tripled by climate change

...studied the effect of climate change on the ... and found that it made

## A climate in crisis

*How climate change is making drought and humanitarian disaster worse in East Africa*



📷 People cool off and sunbathe by the Trocadero Fountain as a new heatwave hits the French capital.  
Bertrand Guay/AFP/Getty Images



1.2–2.2°C increase  
in temperatures by  
2050



Increase in severity of  
dry spells and duration  
of heat waves

## Climate Change and California's Water

- Managing water is at the forefront of climate change adaptation in California.

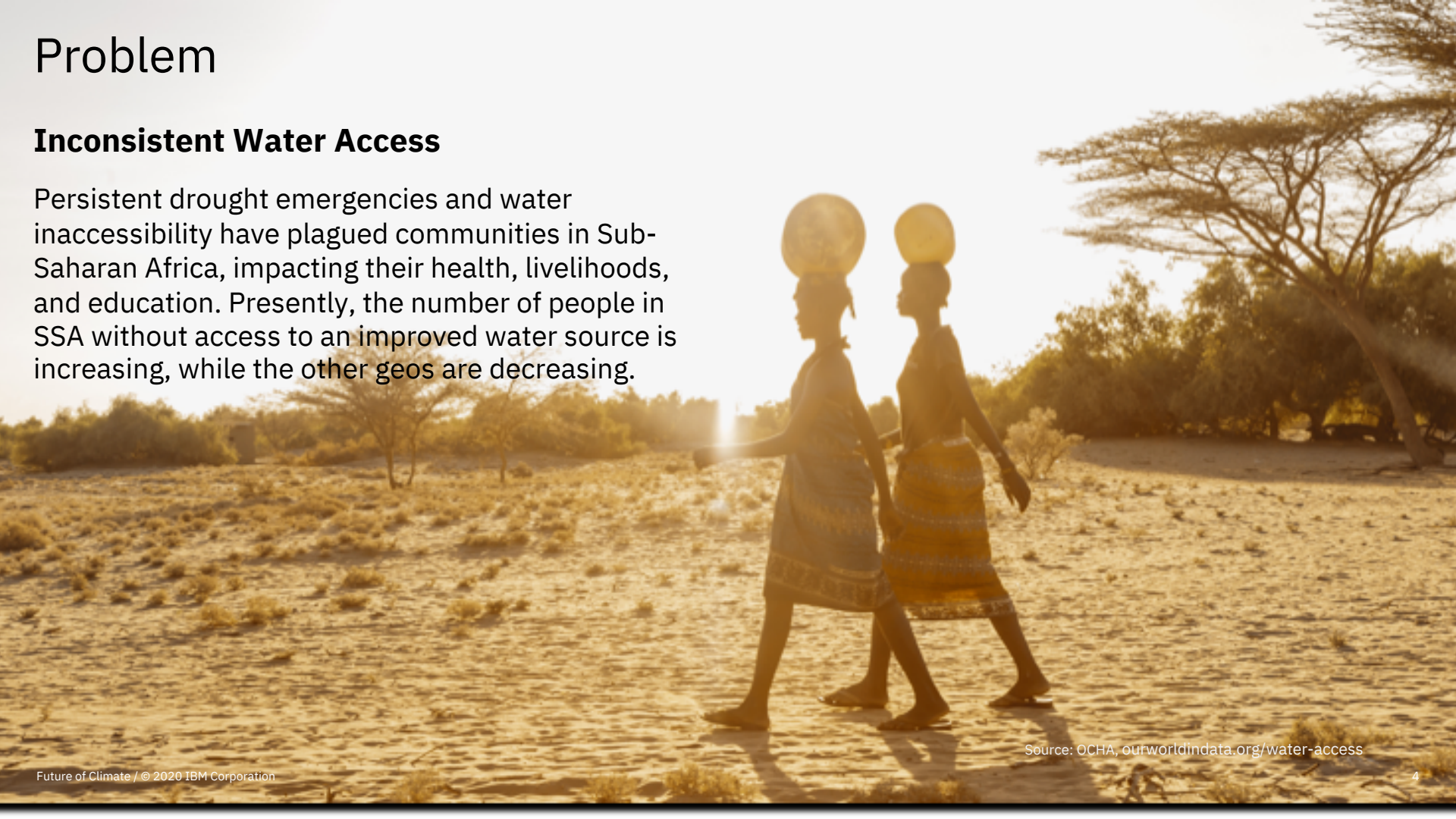
Source: Oxfam – Briefing Ref: 01/2017, USAID – Climate Risk Profile Kenya 2018, Guardian, ABC News, World Weather Attribution – Likelihood of Cape Town water crisis tripled by climate change, PPIC – Climate change and California's water



# Problem

## Inconsistent Water Access

Persistent drought emergencies and water inaccessibility have plagued communities in Sub-Saharan Africa, impacting their health, livelihoods, and education. Presently, the number of people in SSA without access to an improved water source is increasing, while the other geos are decreasing.



Source: OCHA, [ourworldindata.org/water-access](https://ourworldindata.org/water-access)



# Case Study: Northern Kenya

Kenya RAPID (Kenya Resilient Arid Lands Partnership for Integrated Development)

## ASAL Counties

1. **84%** of total land mass of Kenya
2. Home to:
  - **36%** of the human population,
  - **70%** of the livestock herd
  - **65%** of the wildlife
3. **Natural disasters** have become **more frequent**; with droughts or floods every 3-4 yrs.
4. 2 to 4 million people require food relief each year

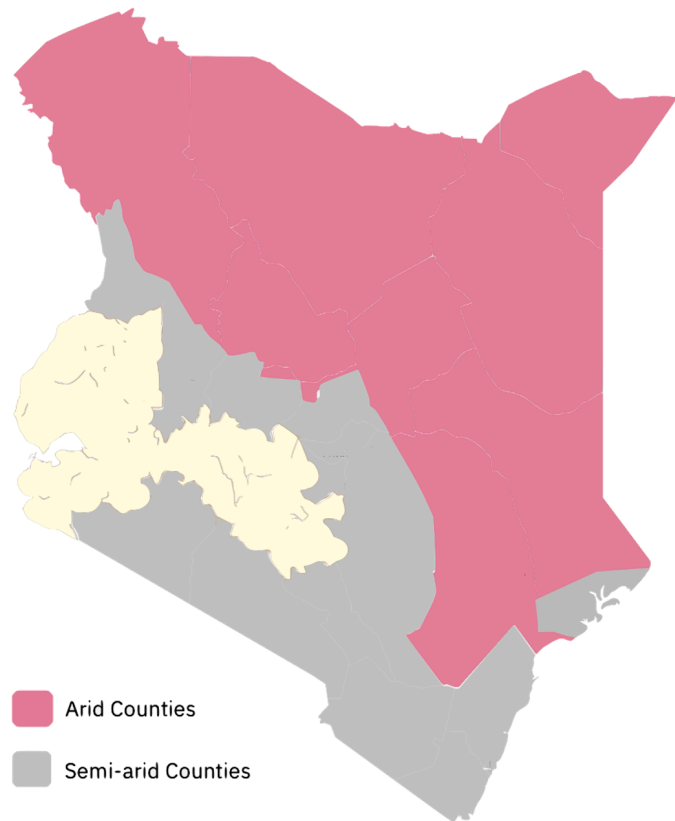
## Kenya RAPID

Consortium of private and public partners including county governments, SweetSense among others and led by Millennium Water Alliance (MWA), our role is technology partner

## Goal

Increase the average water access coverage in the five counties from 37% to more than 50%.

Focus counties: Turkana, Marsabit, Isiolo, Wajir & Garissa



Source: IUCN-Kenya's Drylands, IDMP- Drought Conditions and Management Strategies in Kenya, MWA - Kenya RAPID Program Background, UNDP – Kenya National Disaster Profile

# Key Intervention Points



Utilizing  
groundwater



Monitoring and  
management of water  
supply system



Decision support for  
water supply systems  
management



Predict waterpoint  
failure, detect recurrent  
behaviours or unknown  
trends; feed early  
warning

# Types of Waterpoints



Water Pan



Shallow Well



Sand Dam



Well



Spring



Motorized Borehole



Water Tank



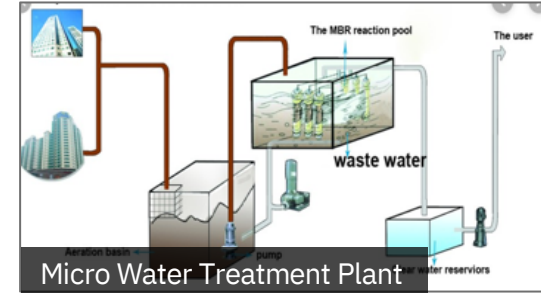
River



Water Truck



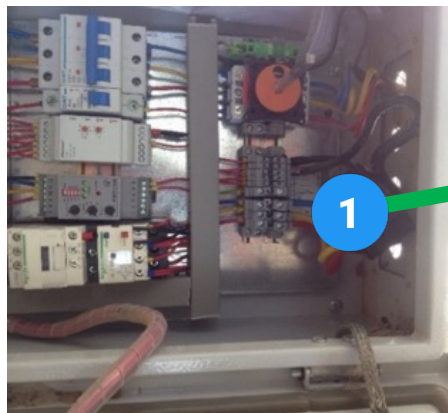
Handpump Borehole



Micro Water Treatment Plant

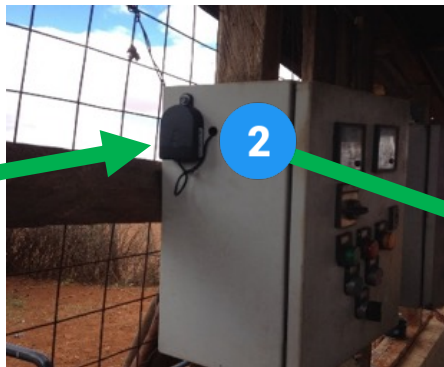


# Instrumented Waterpoints



Sends data  
to the  
transmitter

Current transformer clamp  
installed on the pump



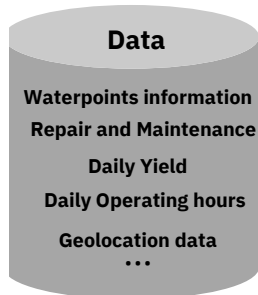
Transmitter



Solar powered sensor



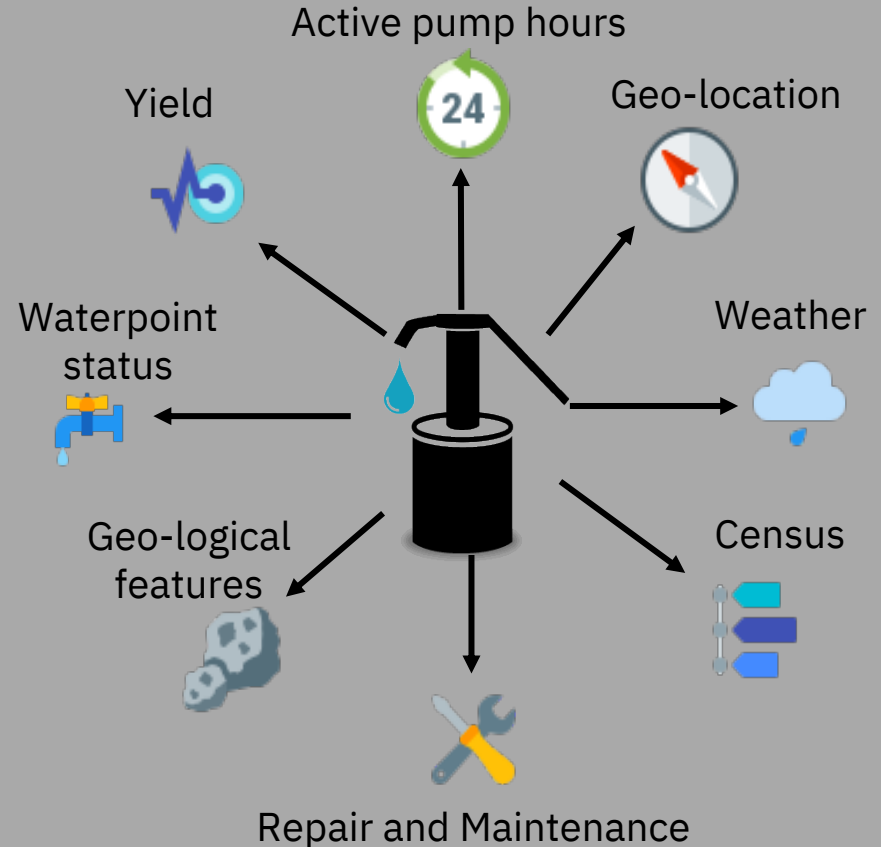
Satellite and/or cell  
tower



# Data Collection

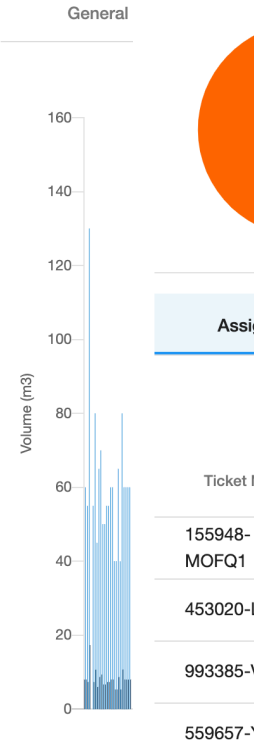
- 5 Counties in Northern Kenya
- 122 instrumented waterpoints
  - Up from 59 on Jan 2018
- 400 inventoried waterpoints

## Water Point Data



# eMaji Manager

## Marsa Ticke Sub-county Water Officer



**Number of Open Tickets**  
**9**

**Non-functional Waterpoints**  
**0** Strategic : **12** Non-strategic

**Livestock Affected**  
**7,845**

**People Affected**  
**1,365**

**Non-Functional Waterpoints**

Name	Classification	Reported Issue	Distance away	Livestock served	People served	View
Marsabit - Kamboe	Non-strategic					<a href="#">View</a>
Marsabit- Kubi Qallo	Non-strategic		21 kms	45	65	<a href="#">View</a>
sakaldala borehole	Non-strategic			0		<a href="#">View</a>
kamatonyi	Non-strategic					<a href="#">View</a>
merille borehole 1	Non-strategic			0		<a href="#">View</a>

Items per page: 5 1 - 5 of 12



# Pattern Mining and Failure Prediction For Waterpoints

## Goal

To predict events such as waterpoint failure and high yield using waterpoint data and repair logs to trigger targeted interventions that facilitate continuous access to water

## Related Works

- i. Early failure detection for predictive maintenance of sensor parts(Kuzin 2016)
- ii. Predictive model of failure based on event sequences observed at wire bonding process(Lim 2017)
- iii. LSTM to find sessions that are prone to code failure in apps that rely on telemetry data for system health monitoring (Hajiaghayi 2019)

## Our Proposed Methodology

- i. Subsequence discriminatory models to mine for recurrent behaviors or unknown trends
- ii. Waterpoint failure prediction using LSTM

Tomás Kuzin and Tomás Borovicka. Early failure detection for predictive maintenance of sensor parts. In ITAT, pp. 123–130, 2016.  
Hwa Kyung Lim, Yongdai Kim, and Min-Kyoon Kim. Failure prediction using sequential pattern mining in the wire bonding process. IEEE Transactions on Semiconductor Manufacturing, 30(3): 285–292, 2017  
Hajiaghayi, M. and Vahedi, E., 2019, April. Code Failure Prediction and Pattern Extraction using LSTM Networks. In 2019 IEEE Fifth International Conference on Big Data Computing Service and Applications (BigDataService) (pp. 55-62). IEEE.

# Discriminatory Subsequence Mining(Waterpoint Pattern Discovery)

1

Extended PrefixSpan to mine for patterns that are different between the two classes of interest.

There are two parameters that need to be set,  $\sigma_{min}$  and  $max\_len$ .

2

We report each pattern found is tagged with various metrics.

- Coverage left and right, the coverage  $\sigma_T = \frac{1}{n}|K_T(I)|$  of a pattern T, for left and right datasets.
- Lift(T, left, right), this is the ratio of  $\frac{\sigma_T^{left}}{\sigma_T^{right}}$  defining how much more often does a pattern occur in the left dataset compared to the right.

---

**Algorithm 1:** A pseudo-code for the proposed discriminatory sequence mining.

---

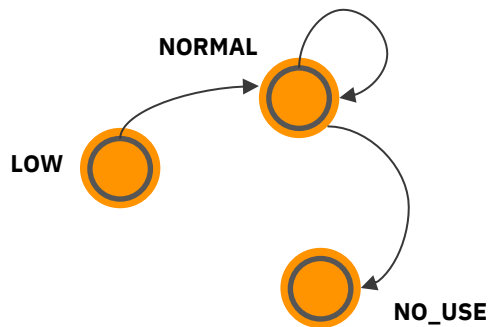
**input** : Collections  $S_n = [S_1, S_2]$ ,  $\sigma_{min}$ ,  $max\_len$ ,  $I$   
**output** :  $S_{out}$ , where  $(|S_{out}| \ll |S_1|, |S_2|)$  such that  $\forall s \in S, d_s > threshold$

```
1 for  $c \rightarrow 1$  to  $|S_n|$  do
2    $freq_{S_c} = \Phi_{S_c}(\sigma_{min})$ ;
3    $\sigma_c = \frac{1}{n}|K_{freq_{S_c}}(I)|$ ;
4 end
5 for  $c \rightarrow 1$  to  $|freq_n|$  do
6   if  $S_1.isPrefix(S_2)$  and  $Lift(freq_{S_c}, S_1, S_2) >$ 
        $Lift(freq_{S_c}, S_2, S_1)$  then
7      $S_{out} = \text{pruneByDominance}(freq_{S_c}, S_1)$ ;
8   end
9   if  $\frac{match(S_1, S_2)}{match(S_1)} > threshold$  then
10     $S_{out} = \text{pruneByShadows}(S_1)$ ;
11  end
12 end
```

# Discriminatory Subsequence Mining (Cont.)

## What the domain expert can do with this information?

Given the following sequence:



One month of low use followed by three months of normal use and a final month of no use

This insight would be valuable for developing an automated repair regime

### With

$\text{coverage}_{\text{left}} = 0.4321$ ; 43% of sensors with this sequence end in failure

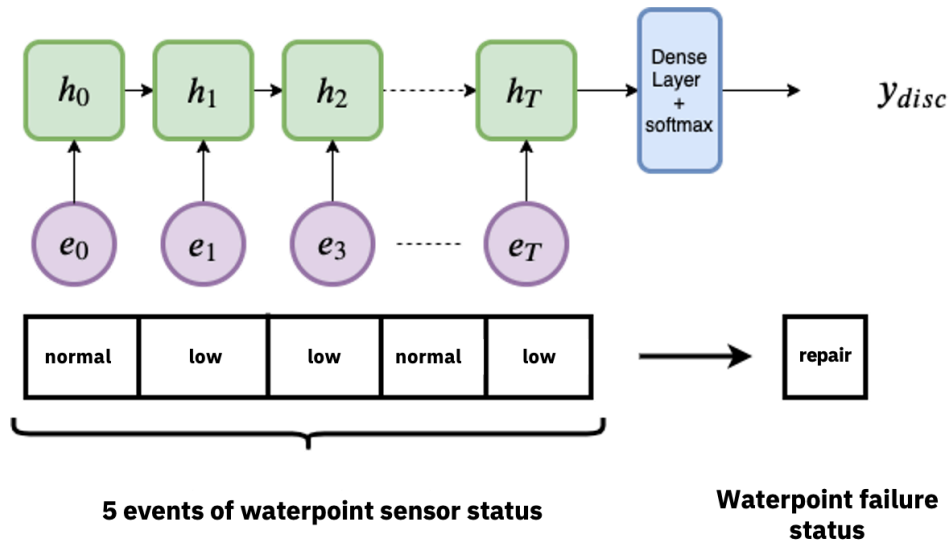
$\text{coverage}_{\text{right}} = 0.0532$ ; low frequency on the rest of the population; hence the pattern is discriminatory regarding failure class in sensors

$\text{lift} = 4.095$ ; pattern is 4 times more likely to appear on sensors with failure events *vis-à-vis* functional ones

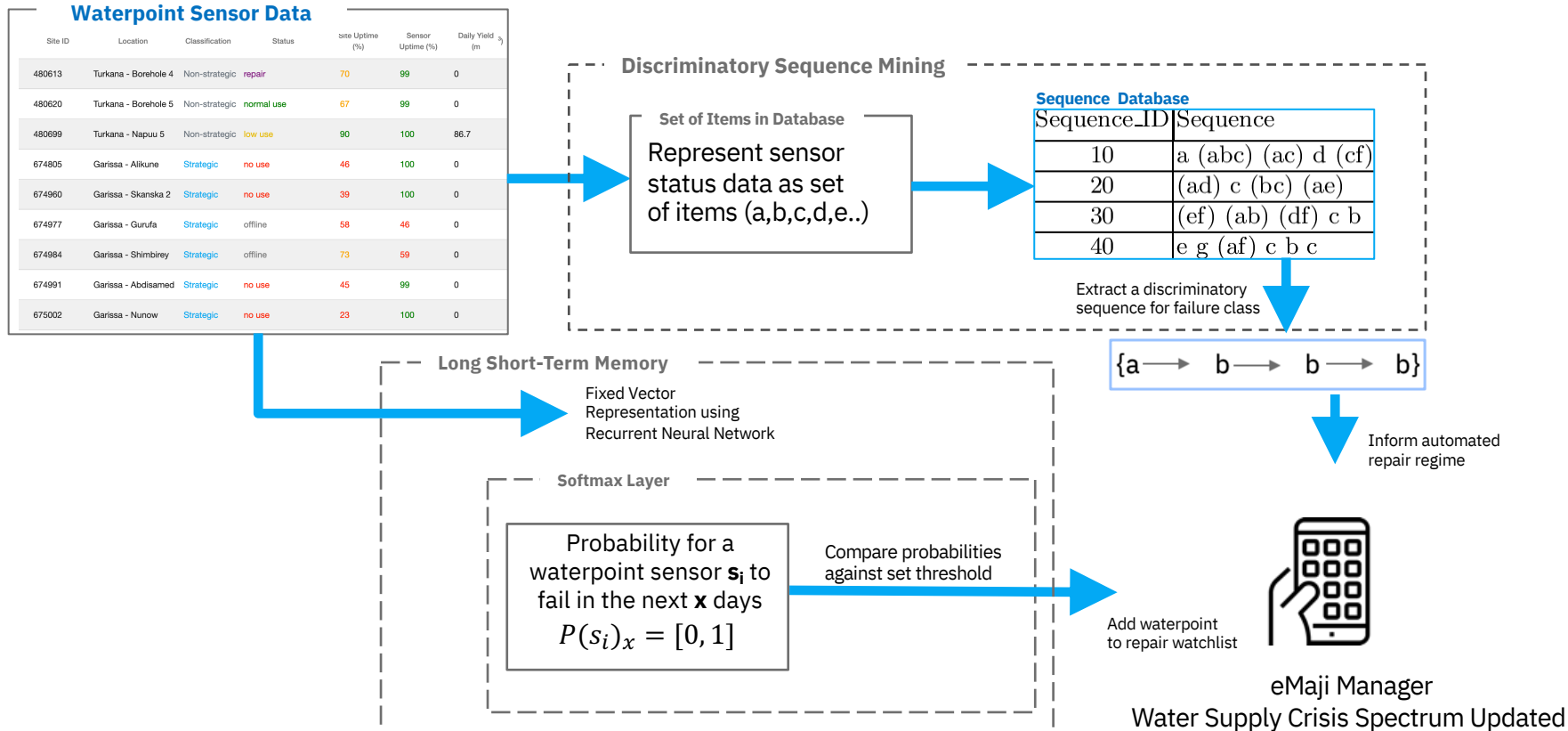


# Failure Prediction with LSTM Networks

- 1 Map the input sequence of events to a fixed-sized vector representation using an RNN.
- 2 Feed  $h_T$  vector to a softmax layer for classification on the type of failure status.
- 3 The softmax non-linear layer predicts the probability of a particular type of failure for that time window of events.



# Proposed Water Supply Crisis Spectrum



# Recap

- Climate change impacting livelihoods in Northern Kenya due to increased uncertainty of drought seasons.
- Necessary adaptation to meet acute water shortages
- eMaji Manager an integrated waterpoint inventory, issues tracking, and decision support system for county officials.
- Propose to enhance the quality of data in eMaji Manager by exploiting the waterpoint and sensor data to extract temporal patterns and predict non-functionality to shorten repair response time and provide an emergency alert system.

## Next Steps

- Evaluate proposed methodology
- Use alternative data to handle issue of differentiating waterpoint failure between sensor failure and borehole failure





# Thank you

Fred Otieno  
Software Engineer

—

fred.otieno@ibm.com  
ibm.com

© Copyright IBM Corporation 2020. All rights reserved. The information contained in these materials is provided for informational purposes only, and is provided AS IS without warranty of any kind, express or implied. Any statement of direction represents IBM's current intent, is subject to change or withdrawal, and represent only goals and objectives. IBM, the IBM logo, and ibm.com are trademarks of IBM Corp., registered in many jurisdictions worldwide. Other product and service names might be trademarks of IBM or other companies. A current list of IBM trademarks is available at [Copyright and trademark information](#).

