



# **The data puzzle in Ghana's WASH sector:**

## **causes and recommendations**

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# Outline

1. The data puzzle in the WASH sector – overview
2. Causes of data puzzle
3. Various types of data in circulation
4. Ghana Statistical Service and WASH data
5. Data on sanitation
6. MDGs, Global monitoring and the JMP
7. Recommendations
8. Discussion questions



## About WSMP

- The Water and Sanitation Monitoring Platform assembles, analyses, re-packages and disseminates available WASH data to relevant stakeholders
- WSMP is also engaged in WASH sector monitoring



# 1. The data puzzle in the WASH sector - overview

- Is Ghana on-track for MDGs?
- Is Ghana off-track?
- Is sanitation coverage really about 13%?
- Why is there such a wide gap between GSS/JMP/UN data and CWSA/GWCL data?
- Is somebody doing something wrong?



## 2. Causes of data puzzle

- Different definitions and indicators
- Different types of data
- Different agencies generating data
- Different data collection objectives
- Different data collection/analyses methodologies
- Wrong selection of available data for various uses



### 3. Types of data: User-based

- Data generated through periodic representative surveys and censuses
- Uniform definitions and indicators globally
- Usually based on actual use of facilities and user perceptions
- Access is measured by the **type of facility people say they use** at a given period



## 4. Types of data: Provider-based

- Data generated by service providers
- Data usually covers only operational areas of provider
- Data sometimes for administrative purposes
- Access is usually measured by the type of facility provided and the estimated number of people it can adequately serve
- Definitions and methodologies may differ between providers and countries



## 5. Ghana Statistical Service and WASH data

- GSS conducts several surveys and census
  - Population and Housing Census, DHS, MICS, CWIQ, GLSS etc
- Questionnaire for these surveys usually include the type of water and sanitation facilities that people use
- WASH-related questions in GSS surveys are usually based on international (MDG-related) definitions/indicators





# Ghana Statistical Service and WASH data

- Currently, only GSS provides nationally representative user-based data on drinking water and basic sanitation
- GSS does not currently provide any report specifically on WASH
- GSS data may not provide all WASH sector information/data needs



## 5. Data on sanitation

- Sanitation here refers to toilet facilities
- There is currently no provider-based national coverage data on sanitation
- Only GSS provides user-based national coverage data on use of toilet facilities



# Definitions

- Improved / unimproved water facilities
- Definition of Access



## 6. MDGs, Global Monitoring and JMP

- MDG target for water and sanitation is to reduce by halve the proportion of people without sustainable access to safe drinking water and basic sanitation by 2015
- The base year for MDG monitoring is 1990



## MDGs, Global Monitoring and JMP

- Progress indicators for this target are:
  - The proportion of population **USING** an improved drinking water source
  - The proportion of population **USING** an improved sanitation facility
- The JMP is simply WHO and UNICEF, mandated by the UN to monitor global MDG progress on WASH



## MDGs, Global Monitoring and JMP

- The proportion of the population with access to safe drinking water is an indicator expressed as the percentage of people **USING** improved drinking water sources
- The proportion of the population with access to basic sanitation is an indicator expressed as the percentage of the population **USING** an improved sanitation facility



## 7. Recommendations

- Understand the **types** of data, their **sources** and their **objectives**
- Sustain efforts at **harmonizing** sector definitions
- Do not confuse **UN MDGs** with **Local or national targets**
- Only **user-based** data can be used to report on UN MDGs and compare countries





## For general discussion

- What gaps have you discovered with user-based data?
- When should user-based data be used?
- What gaps have you discovered with provider-based data?
- When should provider-based data be used?
- How do you think the gap between user/provider-based data can be reduced?
- Can the proposed multi-agency harmonized definition of access be adopted by all data collection agencies?
- Do you have any other recommendations?