

First WASH Sector Performance Report Reveals Major Data Gaps

The First WASH Sector Performance Report (SPR) has revealed a couple of major WASH sector documentation and data gaps that need urgent attention. The gaps include the absence of sector wide indicators to guide progress reporting, inadequate data on sanitation and hygiene, and the lack of a clear definition of the terms 'urban' and 'rural.' Another major gap was the absence of a common population base for the two major water supply agencies in the country. These gaps were revealed during the 15th NLLAP Session in Accra on 17th March 2011. The WSMP coordinated the production of the 2009 SPR on behalf of the Water Directorate of the Ministry of Water Resources, Works and Housing (MWRWH).

The 15th NLLAP took place on Thursday March 17, 2011 under the chairmanship of the Water Director, MWRWH, represented by the Team Leader of the Water and Sanitation Monitoring Platform (WSMP), Mr. Yaw Sarkodie, and facilitated by Mr. Patrick Apoya. The Topic for the day was, "A Review of the 1st WASH Sector Performance Report in Ghana". Mr. Emmanuel Addai of WSMP presented the main findings of the 2009 Sector Performance Report (SPR). The objective of the session was to disseminate the findings of the 2009 WASH SPR, discuss the gaps associated with the report and collate ideas for improving subsequent reports. The platform was also used to discuss draft outlines for the 2010 edition of the SPR. After discussion of these findings by participants, Mr. Benedict Tuffour of TREND and Ms. Lois Ohene Ayisi of Relief International made brief presentations on their respective new initiatives in the sector, the WASHTech and Ghana (G)-WASH projects.

Main findings of the 2009 Sector Performance Report

The Team Leader of WSMP, Mr. Yaw Sarkodie, who chaired the function on behalf of the Director of Water, highlighted the importance of a Sector Performance Report for planning and decision-making and hence the Ministry's decision to carry forward the 2009 Ghana Water Forum recommendation of the production of an SPR. Emmanuel Addai then proceeded to present the main findings of the SPR.

raise the profile of water and sanitation in Ghana through their respective media activities;

The Resource Centre Network (RCN) Learning Alliances Platform, which promotes and improves vibrant WASH sector learning and dialogue; and GWCL/AVRL Customer Services Call Centre, which offers line opportunity for customers to call 0800 40000 or 0302 211260 to report leakages and make enquiries and other complaints

Statistical Data

Access to improved rural water supply sources:	58.97%
Access to improved urban water supply sources:	59%
Percentage of non-revenue water (GWCL):	51.5%
Percentage GoG budget release to WRC:	3.3%
Percentage GoG budget release to CWSA:	10.3%
Percentage GoG budget release to GWCL:	22.9%
Total investment capital requirement (Rural and Urban) from 2008 to 2015:	US\$1,878billion

Major Sector Innovations

According to Mr. Addai, the report also noted major innovations in the WASH Sector during the year. These included the establishment of following:

Ghana Water Forum (GWF), which brings greater visibility to Ghana's water and sanitation agenda and is also consistent with the Africa Regional commitment to an Annual African Water Week;
Watsan Journalists Network, which is a network of journalists working with WASH stakeholders to

Major Sector Challenges

Mr. Addai indicated that the report highlighted the following among the main challenges facing WASH sector in Ghana, especially the Agencies:

Low GoG investment manifested in the low budget release rates;

The fact that all GoG allocations must be spent within the financial year; which does not coincide with the implementation cycle of rural/small towns sub-sector.

Procurement bottlenecks mainly due to non-flexibility of the procurement Act, and Frequent dissolution and re-constitution of Water and Sanitation Development (and other) Boards (WSDB).

Major Sector Reporting Gaps

Mr. Addai noted that the compilation of the 2009 report started late, resulting in limited consultations

and a delay in publishing the report. In addition to this gap, he highlighted the major gaps and recommended urgent action on them in order to improve on the quality and effectiveness of subsequent reports:

There is no sector wide agreed monitoring framework, coupled with the absence of an agreed set of sector wide indicators;

There is inadequate data on sanitation and hygiene and it is unclear where to find data on them;

There is also a lack of data on the NGO contribution to overall WASH sector growth;

There is inadequate data on the exact GoG financial contribution to the sector (partly due to non-differentiation between donor grants and loans);

CWSA and GWCL use different population estimates to generate data on their respective sub-sectors;

There is a lack of clear distinction between 'urban' and 'rural' in terms of water and sanitation coverage. There is no clear geographical description/definition of scope of services for the two main public institutions (CWSA & GWCL) responsible for facilitation and delivery of drinking water supply in the country.

Discussions and Recommendation

The presentation of the report generated interesting discussion and participants made a couple of suggestions that will help the Water Directorate to improve on subsequent SPRs. They include the following:

Subsequent SPRs should reflect the broad objectives of the Ghana Shared Growth and Development Agenda and the National Water Policy and also get NDPC on board.

Baseline information, which will be necessary to

measure progress, should be available from the planned targets of the Agencies;

All Agencies are encouraged to make efforts at generating data on functionality of water supply facilities without which it is difficult to discuss sustainability matters;

In addition to other indicators, it is important to monitor the performance of the Agencies based on the Performance Contract they have signed with the State Enterprises Commission;

The Ministry of Water Resources, Works and Housing should facilitate an inter agency discussion between the CWSA and GWCL to reconcile their population projections to minimize disparities;

The MWRWH should facilitate the definition/description of geographical scope of services for CWSA & GWCL.

Conclusions

WASH Sector Stakeholders were encouraged to support the on-going process of developing a sectorwide M&E framework and the selection of key sector indicators. This would facilitate the compilation and report production of the SPR in the future. NGOs were also encouraged to make their outputs available to the CWSA so that they may be captured in the SPR and CONIWAS should take the opportunity presented by the SPR to showcase their contribution to the WASH Sector.

After initial inputs into the draft outlines for the 2010 SPR, the WSMP promised to share the updated version with stakeholders for further inputs. Participants were generally impressed with the 2009 SPR and commended the WSMP and the MWRWH for the effort. They expressed readiness to support in improving on future editions of the report.

The NLLAP is a WASH sector multi stakeholder platform with the overall goal of improving sector learning and dialogue. It is hosted by the Ghana WASH Resource Centre Network (RCN). The platform offers learning and sharing opportunity for sector players as one of the practical approaches to improving sector engagements/sharing with the long term aim of achieving a knowledge driven WASH sector that delivers quality and sustainable services in Ghana.

NLLAP meetings are organized and facilitated by the Ghana WASH Resource Centre Network (RCN), and take place on the last Thursday of every month. They are open to all interested parties. The discussions of each NLLAP meeting are summarized and shared with the wider WASH community in the form of a communiqué after the meeting and any presentations made during the meeting are also shared. The topics of upcoming meetings are decided on by the RCN secretariat and a list of upcoming meetings can be found on the RCN website www.washghana.net.

If you are interested in proposing a topic for a meeting please contact us on,
Tel. (233-302) 769552; Fax: (233-302) 769583;
Email: rcn@washghana.net