

First CLTS stocktaking reveals erratic uptake

The first community led total sanitation (CLTS) stocktaking forum in Ghana revealed that although the government of Ghana has adopted the CLTS strategy as the approach to sanitation delivery, uptake has, at best been erratic, with 20 per cent of Ghanaians (almost 5 million) still practicing open defecation on a daily basis; a practice CLTS is expected to address.

The three-day workshop took place from November 20 to 22, 2012 in the Northern regional capital, Tamale, against the backdrop of Ghana's deplorable low national sanitation coverage, which currently stands at 14%.

The forum, under the theme "Achieving Open Defecation Free Ghana through effective learning and sharing", was held a day after the World Toilet Day, which was commemorated with a national durbar at the Jubilee Park in Tamale.

One of the revealing statements made at the forum by operators in the CLTS programme, was that their efforts at ensuring Ghana becomes an open defecation free country are being hampered by the lack of logistics, especially means of transport.

On their part, regional, metropolitan, municipal and district environmental

health officers, as well as CLTS focal persons, said they could not achieve the operation 1,500 Dodowa declaration targets, due to the late release of funds, lack of motor bikes for monitoring and the fact that it coincided with the farming season.

The use of improved toilets has not fared any better, with more than half the country's population (16 million Ghanaians) still depending on unsanitary or shared latrines to perform the basic natural function of emptying their bowels daily.

This, in many circles, has been considered a national shame on a country that prides itself as a middle income country and a leader on the African continent.

In Ghana, CLTS is currently being implemented in five regions - the Volta, Central, Northern, Upper East and Upper West regions, with the last three presently experiencing an average open defecation rate of more than 70 per cent.

On the national open defecation chart, according to a 2008 assessment by the Water and Sanitation Monitoring Platform (WSMP), the Upper East Region tops with 81.9 per cent, followed by Upper West with 78.7 per cent.



cross section of participants.

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CWSA Holds Annual Review at the Ashanti Region

EDITORIAL TEAM:

Abu Wumbei (RCN Ghana),
Ben Arthur (CONIWAS),
Abrefa Sarpong (CWSA),
Ida Coleman (RCN Ghana),
Victor Otum (IRC, Ghana).

EDITORIAL: Creating a learning focused water sector in Ghana

This edition of WASH News presents the article, by Dr. Patrick Moriarty on the above subject carried in previous RCN publications. The article offered basic explanation on the how to create a learning focused WASH sector. Since the first publication there has been public enquiries and interest expressed on the subject and hence our decision to highlight this once again here.

As we all know, knowledge is power. Yet what is knowledge, where does it come from, and how is it related to learning and information? And how can we create a knowledgeable and self confident WASH sector in Ghana?

At its simplest, knowledge is the attribute of knowing how to do something. People, as individuals or groups, possess knowledge: the knowledge to maintain a hand-pump or to wash our hands thoroughly before eating. Knowledge is created by the act of learning; it is transferred through teaching. Therefore, if we want a knowledgeable water sector in a

Ghana, a sector that knows how to solve the pressing problems facing it, or make informed choices about different options offered by outside well wishers; then we also need a sector that knows how to learn!

Information sharing has a crucial role in learning. Information is the raw material for creating knowledge, but it takes people and institutions to turn raw information into useful knowledge. So, we can read an article about communities managing bulk water supply in slums in India, but only when we have tried the approach in Accra and modified it appropriately can we say we have the knowledge to implement the approach. Yet having created this information at the level of a pilot project, how do we scale it up to other areas? This is where information comes in again. We need to systematise and document our new knowledge so that we can share it with others. Yet even this is not enough. Because it is very likely that in implementing our Ghanaian version of the Indian experience, we

have found that some aspects of current policy or practice needed to be modified. Maybe a new type of contract between Ghana Water and communities has to be developed. Or a bye-law modified. If the first loop of learning is our ability, as individuals, to take information and apply it in a new context; the second is the ability to use it to change the wider systems in which we live and operate.

Many of us practice the first learning loop in our lives and work. Far fewer of us contribute to the second: to extracting the broader lessons of what we have done, systematising them, documenting and sharing them, and using them as the basis for wider debate and change in the sector. Yet it is precisely this second loop that is essential to creating a genuinely knowledgeable and learning focused sector in Ghana.

RCN is working hard to help to create the basis for a genuinely learning focused sector in Ghana, so too are others through activities like the recently concluded Ghana Water Forum, or the long running Mole conferences; through new initiatives like WASH News or the monthly meetings of the National Learning Alliance; through learning focused projects like the WASHCost or TPP; or through the postgraduate research programmes of our Universities. All of these initiatives need your support as practitioners and we hope that you too will contribute to the creation of a knowledgeable water sector in Ghana, by documenting and sharing your own experiences or by taking part in learning and sharing forums. We look forward to hearing from you!



Reflecting on Triple-S and WASHCost achievements in Ghana

“With the hosting of the Triple-S project and the presence of the WASHCost project we have been able to have an insight into what we need to do to ensure that service is delivered at a high level and sustained.” That was the judgment of Clement Bugase, Chief Executive the Community Water and Sanitation Agency (CWSA), the body responsible for rural water in Ghana.

Mr Bugase believes that the two projects have helped the agency and District Assemblies to better understand the issues that affect functionality, sustainability and life-cycle costing of water and sanitation services.

Mr Bugase was speaking as part of a twin track process to document the impact of Triple-S at its mid-point, and WASHCost which is in its final year as a project. In Ghana both these projects have been incorporated into the work of the IRC country team.

Triple-S and WASHCost projects in Ghana have begun a documentation process to solicit the views of key stakeholders of the Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH) sector to assess what more needs to be done and what legacy the projects are likely to

leave behind for the development of the sector in the country.

Mr. Bugase acknowledged the contribution of the WASHCost Project in refocusing the sectors thinking on costing of WASH services. He said “the WASHCost project has provided a lot of information and insight (into life-cycle costing) so from now on when we design physical facilities we are going to be mindful of the total cost of putting in place the facility and keeping it going. Therefore our budgets will change, our approach to costing of the facility will change, and our approach to monitoring the functionality of the facilities will change. Information will be available for all stakeholders; the district assemblies, the national level and we ourselves at CWSA and we think that with time that will further enhance our ability to work as a regulator.”

The interview with Mr. Bugase was part of a coordinated documentation process for the two projects. Interviews were carried out by Lamisi Dabire for Triple-S and Victor Otum for WASHCost, supported by Peter McIntyre and Sarah Carriger. Sector players whose views are being

documented include governmental and non-governmental organisations/institutions. They include influential people from the CWSA, the World Bank, UNICEF and District Assembly officials from Akatsi and Denu Districts in the Volta Region.

Those interviewed include, Benedict Kubabom, CWSA Director for Planning and Investment, Mr. Asante Sarkodie - Team Leader Water and Sanitation Monitoring Platform (WSMP), Mr. Emmanuel Gaze - Director for Technical Services, CWSA, Mrs. Charlotte Engmann - Coordinator for WASH CWSA, Mrs. Esinu Abbey, IT Coordinator for CWSA, Mr. Robert Van Ess, WASH expert (immediate past Director Technical services for CWSA, Mr. Ben Arthur, Chairman of Coalition of NGOs in Water and Sanitation CONIWAS: Mr. Emmanuel Nkrumah-Water and Sanitation Specialist, World Bank-Ghana, Mr. Othniel Habila Chief of WASH UNICEF, Mr. Reuben Kornu District Engineer Ketu South D/A and Mr. Akiti, District Planning Officer.

Visit the Triple-S and WASHCost web sites for more information.

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The Northern Region is third with a rate of 72.9 per cent, followed by the Central Region as the fourth highest on the table with 18.1 per cent, while the Volta Region places fifth with 13.8 per cent. It is thus no wonder that the five regions have been selected for the CLTS programme – they are the top five open defecation areas in the country.

Participants at the forum, who were drawn from both regional and district offices of the Environmental Health and Sanitation Directorate (EHSD) of the Ministry of Local Government and Rural Development, as well as CLTS focal persons, NGOs and development

partners, listened to the success stories of the regions doing relatively well in implementing CLTS, while finding ways of tackling the critical challenges militating against the successful implementation of the strategy.

Meanwhile, as a result of the poor sanitation coverage in Ghana, sanitation related diseases such as cholera, diarrhoea and dysentery among others, have become a regular feature in the country, leading to thousands of needless deaths, especially of children under five years of age.

Available statistics say about 2,000

children die daily from sanitation related diseases globally, and it is believed that the stepping up of community led total sanitation (CLTS), would do the country a lot of good by encouraging communities to take their sanitation destiny into their own hands. The forum was organised by the Ministry of Local Government and Rural Development/ Environmental Health and Sanitation Directorate (MLGRD/EHSD), in collaboration with WASH stakeholders and sponsored by WaterAid in Ghana, UNICEF, USAID and CIDA among others. – Edmund Smith-Asante & Peter Serinye

Water in the post-2015 development agenda - consultations to start in Ghana

The country is set to start national consultations soon on the country's sustainable development goals after 2015 when the UN Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) expires. Views and recommendations collected in the consultations will be compiled into a report, as part of UN Secretary General Ban Ki-moon's report to the UN General Assembly at a special session on post-2015 development in New York next year.

Ghana is among the over 50 countries selected to conduct inclusive national consultations to seek views and recommendations for the UN debate on post-2015 development agenda. This took place at the at the Rio+20 conference in Rio de Janeiro in June where the meeting heads of state reached an agreement to support preparations for the post-2015 UN development agenda.

In 2013 the United Nations General Assembly will decide on what development goals the international community should seek beyond 2015. The decision will be made based on a proposal that will be submitted to the General Assembly. This proposal will include goals, targets and indicators pertaining to water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH).

Aside from dialogues, an online platform has also been launched by the UN to allow people in all parts of the world to share their view. This will enable people to influence the development framework from the earliest stages of the process.

Have your voice heard - Water in the post-2015 development agenda

According to the UN announcement, "the thematic consultation on Water (the water consultation) in the post-2015 development agenda is now open, waiting for your inputs on the www.worldwewant2015.org/waterwebsite. The water consultation is part of the UN-system led "global dialogue" comprising of 50 - 100 Country Consultations and eleven global Thematic Consultations, among them the one on water. The water consultation is waiting for your voice as we want to ensure that everyone can have their say. We need your ideas to foster a shared vision on key future challenges in water and a new global water goal in the post-2015 development agenda. We shall also discuss lessons learnt, challenges and opportunities related to the implementation of the present Millennium Development Goals on water and sanitation and what remains to be done.

The manner for you to participate in the water consultation (similarly to other thematic consultations) is through engaging in the on-line web-based discussion (www.worldwewant2015.org/water). You can also engage through social media at Twitter @WaterPost2015 using the hashtag #waterpost2015 or visit

our Facebook page WaterPost2015, see further attached short guideline for how to engage.

The water consultation is divided into two interactive phases: Phase I is the global water consultation, which focuses on broad challenges to trigger engagement and discussion. The global consultation will remain online and active for the whole duration of the consultation. Phase II focuses on thematic sub-consultations broadly in the areas of water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH), water resources, waste water management and water quality. Phase II starts in mid-January and runs up to March 3rd 2013. In March the outcome from the different discussions will be summarised into policy recommendations in a final report that will be transmitted to the High-level Panel on Post-2015 appointed by the UN Secretary General at the end of March.

Around the on-line web-based consultation you might find various other events organised. In different ways they can feed into the water consultation to stimulate the on-line discussions and engagement".

The Ghana WASH News will like to urge all of you to be part of the discussion on the post-2015 development framework, and to share your ideas, creativity, and foresight to help shape the "future we want".

Fecal Sludge-fed Biodiesel Pilot Plant Opens In Ghana

Multi-national Team Launches Groundbreaking Research Facility that Transforms Human Waste into Renewable Biodiesel Fuel

Kumasi, Ghana — November 19, 2012 — To celebrate World Toilet Day on November 19, researchers at Columbia University's Engineering School, working in Ghana with Waste Enterprisers Ltd., the Kwame Nkrumah University of Science and Technology (KNUST), and the Kumasi Metropolitan Assembly, are launching a pilot facility to convert fecal sludge into biodiesel fuel, thereby addressing a ubiquitous societal problem and concurrently producing renewable, cost-effective sustainable energy. The team is scaling up its research efforts initiated in a Columbia University Engineering lab, and expects this working facility to become a revolutionary new model in sanitation.

"The FS to biodiesel pilot project could potentially address sustainable sanitation and introduce a new dimension into the sanitation value chain not only in Kumasi but globally," states Anthony Mensah, Waste Management Director for the city of Kumasi. "The Kumasi Metropolitan Assembly is therefore delighted to be part of this novel partnership."

The launching of this pilot phase is a major milestone in the pioneering project now entering its second year. Funded through grant from the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, the project is led by Kartik Chandran, an associate professor of Earth and Environmental Engineering at Columbia University's school of engineering and applied science and Ashley Murray, Founder and

CEO of Waste Enterprisers Ltd, a Ghanaian company that is working to reinvent the economics of sanitation in the developing world. As part of this project, Chandran is developing an innovative technology to transform fecal sludge into biodiesel fuel and is working on converting a waste-processing facility into a

sludge to biodiesel and methane, two potent sources of renewable energy.

"Our goal is to develop a revenue-generating fecal-sludge-to-biodiesel facility that can transform sanitation from an expensive burden into a profitable venture. If we figure out a way to make waste management profitable,



Plastic Prep

biorefinery.

"This is a very exciting project for us," says Chandran. "We are aiming to create a next-generation urban sanitation facility that will set new standards and serve as a model around the world. With the capacity to receive and treat 10,000 liters, or 2500 gallons—a full sanitation truck carrying concentrated fecal matter from at least 5,000 people—of fecal sludge per day, this facility reaches way beyond the lab scale."

In the pilot phase, expected to last 12 months, the researchers will be testing Chandran's bioprocess technology for converting the organic compounds present in fecal

governments and citizens that currently bear the financial, environmental, and public health costs will all be better off," notes Murray.

Chandran and Murray are working closely with several of his students at KNUST along with a team of process engineers to improve the biodiesel yield from fecal sludge and explore the commercial viability of a business model based on creating biodiesel from human waste.

"This project is about more than a technology breakthrough, it's about creating economically sustainable approaches to waste

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management that can eliminate the sanitation crisis in developing cities,” says Murray.

“We are very grateful to the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation for their recognition of the critical importance of sustainable sanitation across the globe, especially in developing countries,” adds Chandran. “We hope our model can be replicated and adapted around the world.”

Columbia Engineering

Columbia University's Fu Foundation School of Engineering and Applied Science, founded in 1864, offers programs in nine

departments to both undergraduate and graduate students. With facilities specifically designed and equipped to meet the laboratory and research needs of faculty and students, Columbia Engineering is home to NSF-NIH funded centers in genomic science, molecular nanostructures, materials science, and energy, as well as one of the world's leading programs in financial engineering. These interdisciplinary centers are leading the way in their respective fields while individual groups of engineers and scientists collaborate to solve some of modern society's more difficult challenges.

<http://www.engineering.columbia.edu/>. For more information on Prof. Chandran's research, visit www.columbia.edu/~kc2288.

Waste Enterprisers Ltd

Waste Enterprisers (WE) is improving urban wastewater and fecal sludge management in the developing world by reinventing the way that waste collection, treatment, and reuse is financed. By harnessing the resource value in waste, we are creating a sanitation revolution across Africa and beyond. <http://www.waste-enterprisers.com>

Kwame Nkrumah University of Science and Technology

Established in 1952, KNUST has a rich history in its evolution into a first class University. KNUST believes in achievement through diligence and commitment. We continue to develop plans to not only maintain our status as Ghana's premier university of science and technology but also to improve our international standing. <http://www.knust.edu.gh/pages/>

Contacts: Holly Evarts, Director of Strategic Communications and Media Relations

The Fu Foundation School for Engineering and Applied Science, Columbia University
+ 2 1 2 . 8 5 4 . 3 2 0 6 ,
holly.evarts@columbia.edu

Tim Wade, Chief Operating Officer, Waste Enterprisers Ltd
+233.266.30.7547, tim@waste-enterprisers.com

Deputy chief executive of WaterAid Global visits Ghana



Girish Menon together with the country representative and some team members visits Hon E.T Mensah

Girish Menon, the Deputy Chief Executive of WaterAid, in May 2012 visited Ghana to acquaint himself with the activities and strategies of the country program. After a warm welcome from the Country Representative and staff of WaterAid in Ghana, visited and held discussions with Ghana's Minister for Water Resources Works and Housing, Hon. Enoch Teye Mensah on the 23rd. He appealed to the minister to work closely with Ministers of finance and Local Government to make good the commitments made at the recently concluded high level meeting on 20th April, 2012. "We are grateful for the leadership shown by Ghana's delegation during the HLM in Washington DC in April, 2012, and WaterAid in Ghana is committed to continue to partner with your office to help deliver your commitments", Girish Menon told the Minister of Water, who was flanked by his Chief Directors, Alhaji Ziblim and Fred Addae, Director of Water. WaterAid in Ghana team

members who were part of the visit included Dr. Afia Zakiya, Country Representative, Ibrahim Musah, Head of Policy and Partnership, and Jesse Danku, Head of Programmes

In the company of WaterAid



Ghana Country Representative, Dr. Afia Zakiya, Girish Menon on the 24th paid a courtesy call on the Chairman of Sanitation and Water For All (SWA) Partnership, His Excellency John Agyekum Kuffour, who was also the president of Ghana from 2000-2008. The discussions centered on the immediate SWA/High level Meeting (HLM) held in

Washington D.C, on 19-20th April, as well as future advocacy on SWA globally.

Girish commended Kuffour for his immense contribution to the success of the 2nd high level meeting (HLM), and his support to influence political leaders in Africa and global to push to support the WASH agenda with increased political recognition and financing. He also commended Kuffour on his recent appointment as global champion for neglected tropical diseases, which Girish stressed, has links with poor WASH, and other child killer diseases.

"My view is that the case for

WASH is so crucial and powerful for mankind, and governments must necessarily partner global NGOs like WaterAid to provide WASH to people". Humanity often tends to overlook the importance of air and water, but rather talk more about shelter/housing', Mr. Kuffour indicated.

The SWA Chair also said that SWA

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has an important role to play in forging the relevant partnerships with Presidents and cabinets to solve the sanitation problem. "Your targets should be presidents and cabinets and not only Finance Ministers". Presidents and cabinet must set clear agenda and do more to decentralize policies on WASH, Mr Kuffour emphasized. The other challenges which compound the sanitation problem is urbanization and poor city planning. Mr. Kuffour re-iterated the need for city-planners to proactively plan the city with due consideration for essential services such as sanitation and water. He also emphasized the need for utility reforms backed by political direction which can make any

utility reforms meaningful and successful.

The SWA Chair also emphasized the need for SWA partnership to dialogue more with the G-8, Africa Union, ECOWAS and other regional bodies/groupings to make sanitation and water for all real at national levels.

Mr. Menon still as part of his working visit paid a



familiarization trip to Water and Sanitation for the Urban Poor (WSUP) Uniloo project in Kumasi, the second largest city of Ghana. Uniloo is a household sanitation model where a household receives a branded self contained portable toilet when they signed up to a regular paid for emptying and cleaning

service provided by a local franchised operator. Accompanied by the Head of Programmes, Mr. Jesse Coffie Danku, the Fundraising and resource Mobilization Advisor, Anatu Ben Lawal and the Programme Manager for the South, Kassim Yakubu Al-Hassan visited the WSUP secretariat, Alaba community and interacted with key officials of Kumasi Metropolitan Assembly and Ghana Urban Water Company in Kumasi.

The team visited Alaba community, a project



intervention community for the Uniloo project to interact with some beneficiaries of the project. Girish in commending the WSUP applauded the Uniloo project but was quick to note whether the Joint Monitoring Programme (JMP) would recognize the Uniloo as improved latrine. A community beneficiary expressed her joy and satisfaction in signing up to the Uniloo latrine as she noted that she doesn't need to walk longer distance anymore.

In a meeting with Ghana Urban Water Company in Kumasi and Kumasi Metropolitan Assembly,



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Girish called for close collaboration and coordination of the project with the activities

of Government agencies and department for a sustained project intervention.

Source: WaterAid in Ghana

CWSA Holds Annual Review at the Ashanti Region



The Community Water and Sanitation Agency (CWSA) held its 2011 Annual Review Conference from 23rd to 27th April, 2012, at the Anita Hotel, Ejisu, Ashanti Region. The conference focused on a core function of the Agency which is ensuring that services are

provided in a sustainable manner and there is a continuous mechanism to monitor services provided in the Rural Water and Sanitation Sub-sector.

To this end, the Agency has adopted the Service Delivery Approach. The theme for the

conference was **“TRACKING FUNCTIONALITY OF WASH FACILITIES: A KEY TO SUSTAINABLE SERVICES”**

Triple-S charts the winding road to change



Triple-S project staff and partners at the annual review and planning meeting in Tamale, northern Ghana, reviewed progress and set a clear course for the final two and half years of the project. The meeting from 13 – 19 May 2012 was a chance to look at the evolution of Triple-S thinking and the application of the project's theory of change, particularly as it is playing out in Ghana and Uganda and in Burkina Faso under another project.

Ton Schouten one of the authors of Triple-S and its former director, in a keynote presentation, reviewed how an “anti-project” became a six year US\$ 22 million project. He described how the ambition to map a course for sustainable services at scale took shape and the sleepless nights wrestling with how to turn the vision into reality.

The project is built on three strategic pillars,

- ♣ Applying a service delivery approach
- ♣ Supporting a strong learning and adaptive capacity for the water sector
- ♣ Harmonisation and alignment for water service delivery

This led to a principles framework for interventions at all levels, building on

30 years of experience, and four key values so that the project is relevant and responsive, creates leverage by engaging with the sector and leave a legacy of a moment for change that continues to grow after the project is over.

Country work streams used the framework to develop their own outcomes and plans and there was vigorous debate at the meeting about the relationship between the framework and the practical work. While most felt it was important to understand the pillars, values and framework, country teams, including governmental partners, made it clear that outcomes they were aiming for at national level should be the most important guide to actions.

Jane Nabunnya, Country Coordinator of Triple-S in Uganda, said that they had had to introduce the project into a very mature sector in Uganda which had already taken large strides towards decentralisation. “The issue is not just sustainability but the way you have to change certain things to achieve the sustainability and being able to explain that you are not going to do it for them, but they are going to do it. They need to recognise there is a problem and to see where and how

they can do things differently in order to solve it.

“We spent a period dissecting the monster called Triple-S and contextualising it. We grappled with that quite a bit. You need to have it speak to the country. What does this mean to the sector? How do I explain it to the commission? If I do not understand it, I will not be able to explain it.”

Most felt that the initial advocacy had by now been successful – the idea of sustainability has become part of the mainstream and people do not resist the ideas. The challenge now is to bring about the change required.

Patrick Moriarty, Director of Triple-S, likened the process to an “exothermic reaction” where previously inert chemicals become highly active. “When you apply heat, the chemicals begin to react and then they release more energy than you put in. The whole system changes and that is the point we are trying to get to.”

Now we have reached the stage where people are beginning to ask Triple-S for help in creating change in their organisations – how do we support these changes? What tools can we share with them?

Triple-S charts the winding road to change

Emmanuel Gaze, Director of Technical Services of the Ghana Community Water and Sanitation Agency (CWSA), said that looking back he felt that there had been a state of confusion at the beginning of the project in Ghana. "Today, I can see ourselves between the pillars self-propelling the process and taking control of it and running with it. Gradually we are finding solutions to a problem we have been grappling with since the beginning."

As for the legacy, Harold Lockwood, another of the Triple-S founders, said that it boiled down to transformational change. "You have to change the way that people think as individuals and that begins to influence the way that an organisation behaves. That is a very long process The best legacy after we have gone would be that organisations take it up, evolve it and keep it moving."

A visit to East Gonja in the Northern Region of Ghana helped to keep the realities of rural water supply firmly in view.

In theory almost half (47%) of the population has access to safe water. However, the baseline study carried out by CWSA and Triple-S told a different story. Bashiru Shahadu, water and sanitation team leader for East Gonja, reported that the survey team had visited all 60 standpipes, 122 wells with pumps and eight small town piped systems in the district. Only 42% were fully working and 36% were non-functional or completely broken. That means that less than 25% of the population has access to a functional service.

District planning officer Alidu Abukari told a meeting of Triple-S participants and townspeople gathered in the Assembly hall that he had found the figures very alarming. They had already repaired three pumps and

were making plans to rehabilitate two more by the end of the year. The district assembly would prepare an action plan to strengthen the ability of



water and sanitation committees and town teams to manage their services. "We have a very big challenge," he admitted.

The Triple-S party split into two: to visit the Salaga town water system and speak with members of the management team; and to visit Adamupke village. Here five boreholes provide water round the clock for 900 residents. The service is overseen by a seven person water and sanitation committee three of whom are women, including the vice chair and the treasurer, who collects one cedi a month from every adult in the village to cover running costs. Major repairs have to be funded through a special collection.

At the end of the Triple-S week in Tamale, a group reviewed the building blocks that are considered essential in each country to achieve sustainable water services. There are now ten building blocks that can be summarised as:

- ♣ Professional community management embedded in policy, legal, and regulatory frameworks
- ♣ Recognition and promotion of

options beyond community management for service provision

- ♣ Monitoring service delivery and sustainability
- ♣ Harmonisation and coordination by donors, NGOs and others with national policies and systems
- ♣ Support to service providers
- ♣ Capacity support to service authorities
- ♣ Learning and adaptive management that can adapt based on experience
- ♣ Asset management
- ♣ Regulation of rural services and service providers at local level
- ♣ Financing to cover all life-cycle costs – especially for support, monitoring and major capital maintenance.

This is a brief look at a significant meeting and visit that engaged participants and gave space for creative thinking and debate that seems to suggest that the project was doing well and fast building on its strengths.

The meeting was also to prepare for the then impending mid-term review that begins in June when Mid Term Assessment (MTA) Team Leader, Ben Ramalingam and his team will assess how far the project has achieved its aims.

The event was, by general agreement, well organized at the Gariba Lodge, Tamale, by the organising team, notably by Audrey van Soest in the Netherlands, Teddy Laryea in Accra, and Jeremiah Atengen, the regional learning facilitator for the Northern Region of Ghana Triple-S, led by Vida Duti, the IRC Country Director for Ghana. Facilitator, Deirdre Casella, ensured that Triple-S put its learning principles into action – through a combination of plenary sessions, group work and world café events.



REPUBLIC OF GHANA

Ministry of Water Resources, Works and Housing**WASH Sector Events Calendar – August–Dec., 2012**

WASHTech Scoring Workshop for 2 nd Round of TAF Testing	Sept 5-7, 2012	Erata Hotel
IRC Ghana Programme reflection and planning meeting	September 11 -12, 2012	TBD
Cost-Effective Borehole Drilling International (Organised by: Rural Water Supply Network. Contact: Sean Furey, sean.furey@skat.ch)	September 10-26, 2012	E-Discussion
SID NL Annual Conference 'The State in a Globalizing World: Providing Water in Africa' (Organised by: Society for International Development (SID) - Netherlands Chapter in collaboration with African Studies Centre (ASC) and Vitens Evides International (VEI), supported by NCDO and the Worldconnectors)	September 14, 2012	The Hague, The Netherlands
IWA World Water Congress & Exhibition 2012	September 16-21, 2012	Busan, South Korea
WEFTEC 2012: Water Environment Federation Annual Technical Exhibition and Conference (Organised by Water Environment Federation)	September 29 –Oct. 3, 2012	New Orleans, LA, USA
Global Hand Washing Day (organised by CWSA)	October 15, 2012	Accra
Ghana Water Forum	October 18, 2012	Accra, Ghana
Water and Health Conference: Science, Policy and Innovation (Organised by Institute for the Environment and the Water Institute at University of North Carolina)	October 29 – Nov. 2 2012	Chapel Hill, NC, USA
Faecal Sludge Management- 2 (Organised by Water Research Commission)	October 29-31, 2012	Durban, South Africa
13th WaterNet/WARFSA/GWP-SA Symposium (Organised by WaterNet and Global Water Partnership- Southern Africa (GWP-SA), University of Johannesburg and International Commission on Water Resource Systems)	Oct. 31 –Nov. 3, 2012	Johannesburg, South Africa
II ECOSANLAC: Resource Oriented Sanitation in Latin America (Organised by: Universidade Federal do Espírito Santo in collaboration with the Stockholm Environment Institute (SEI) and others)	November 4-7, 2012	Vitória, Brazil
International Conference on Fresh Water Governance for Sustainable Development (organised by Water Research Commission and Department of Water Affairs – South Africa together with Australian National University)	November 5-7, 2012	Drakensberg, South Africa
American Society for Hygiene & Tropical Medicine - Annual Meeting	November 11-15, 2012	Atlanta, USA
Training on service delivery approach in the rural water sector (organised by IRC)	November 12-16, 2012	The Hague, The Netherlands
Water Safety Conference: improving service delivery and protecting public health (Organised by: World Health Organization (WHO), International Water Association (IWA) and National Water & Sewerage Corporation)	November 13-15, 2012	Kampala, Uganda,
Tapping the Turn, A Conference on Water's Social Dimensions (Organised by: Institute for Sustainable Futures, University of Technology Sydney)	November 15-16, 2012	Canberra, Australia
World Toilet Day	November 19, 2012	TBD
Vith World Aqua Congress 2012 - Water: Vision 2050 (Organised by Aqua Foundation)	November 28-30, 2012	New Delhi, India
Conference on Decentralised Wastewater Management in Asia – Meeting Urban Sanitation Challenges at Scale (Organised by: International Water Association (IWA), Bremen Overseas Research and Development Association (BORDA) and Consortium For DEWATS Dissemination Society)	November 20-23, 2012	Nagpur, India,
IRC Symposium 2013: monitoring sustainable WASH service delivery,	April 9-11, 2013	Addis Ababa, Ethiopia

Compiled by the WASH Resource Centre Network (RCN) Ghana, www.washghana.net Email: rcn@washghana.net