

REPORT ON THE KINTAMPO SOUTH DISTRICT LEARNING ALLIANCE PLATFORM

Activity: District Learning Alliance Meeting

Venue: District Assembly Hall/Court

Date: December 17, 2015

Meeting agenda

- Opening statement from the DCE
- Presentation of findings of a baseline survey on the status of water facilities in the district
- Discussion of matters arising from the survey
- Any other business
- Closing

The meeting started at 2:30pm with an opening prayer from Mr. Benjamin Agbemor, a Regional Learning Facilitator with the Community Water and Sanitation Agency (CWSA), Brong Ahafo Region. The Kintampo South District Planning Officer, Mr. Daniel Nnebini, welcomed participants on behalf of the District Chief Executive (DCE). Mr. Nnebini, who doubled as the acting chairman (until the arrival of the District Coordinating Director) emphasized the seriousness that the District Assembly attached to the learning alliance platform, and was grateful to members for the continuous interest they have shown. He apologized for the late start of the learning meeting. He attributed this to a district-community engagement session which was held earlier at Jema town centre, and was attended by majority of the learning alliance members.

Mr. Benjamin Agbemor shared data on the status of water facilities and the levels of service they provided in the Kintampo South District. He gave a background of how the baseline survey was carried out using electronic-based tools such as android mobile phones and a DASHBOARD, as well as the key roles played by enumerators who were selected from departments within the District Assembly. He mentioned that, the data was collected using a new sub-sector framework and monitoring indicators which were developed by CWSA for assessing Community Ownership and Management rural and small towns water services in Ghana. Mr. Agbemor indicated that, the survey looked at four broad areas: **a)** Status of water facilities (both handpumps and piped schemes); **b)** Levels of services provided by the water facilities; **c)** performance of community-based service providers, also known as Water and Sanitation Management Teams (WSMTs); and **d)** Performance of Service Authorities, or the District Assembly who are mandated to provide continuous support to the WSMTs in the management of water supply assets.

The findings of the survey were summarized as follows:

A total of 181 boreholes fitted with handpump were mapped as sources of potable water in the Kintampo South district. This was made up of the following pumps: 54 Afridev, 96 Ghana Modified Indian Mark II, 19 vergent, 4 Nira AF-85 and 8 Nira AF-85D. It was observed that, 56% of the district's handpumps were functional at the time of the survey (water comes out within the first five strokes), 20% were partially functional (water comes out after more than five strokes) and 24% were broken

down. It was observed that Amoma-Pamdu Area Council had the highest total number of boreholes fitted with handpump (72). At the same time it also had the highest number of broken down facilities (21), compared with other Area Councils. Only 2% of the districts handpumps provided basic service. 68% of the handpumps were identified as crowded (each of them served more than 300 people). When the data was disaggregated by Area Council, it was realised that none of the handpumps at Anyima provided a basic service. About 67% of the WSMTs in the district were not composed in line with sector guidelines. 59% of the WSMTs mentioned that they did not receive quarterly monitoring support from the Kintampo South District staff. None of the WSMTs did the mandatory bi-annual water quality testing of the facilities they managed. The Kintampo South District Assembly (KSDA) had a unit for coordinating WASH activities. It also had a Water and Sanitation Plan, and coordinates NGOs to align their activities with the District's WASH plans. Unfortunately, the district did not perform well on other indicators such as budget allocation and utilization on WASH activities, provision of regular monitoring support to WSMTs, promulgation of by-laws and transferring data from the district level to CWSA Regional Office for planning and support services.

After a presentation of findings from the survey, the following discussions were held in an open forum:

1. Mr. Nnebini mentioned that, findings from the survey, and an earlier training provided by CWSA for the district staff on the use of sub-sector tools for water services delivery under the Conrad N. Hilton Foundation support, have both been insightful. He added the district would undertake data-led planning to begin addressing most of the challenges identified, and issues that need attention.
2. According to Evelyn Kyeremaa, an Assistant Director of the KSDA, some of the trends observed from the baseline data presented, especially regarding handpump functionality, performance of the WSMTs and inadequate support from the district to WSMTs were as a result of the low attention and priority that the District Assembly has accorded water issues over the years. She furthered that, at management level, the only time issues relating to water were discussed was when external persons from CWSA or World Vision Ghana were present, or brought them up for attention. She challenged the District Planning Officer, who is also the focal person for WASH to engage more frequently with the wider district staff/departments, especially management, for them to appreciate the need for providing more support to the water sector.
3. Participants agreed that, aside management meetings, the newly established Learning Alliance Platform could be another opportunity for people to get to know happenings in the WASH sector of the district, and should therefore be sustained.
4. It was observed that statements that some politicians and NGOs make when they provide water facilities, sometimes affect willingness of beneficiary communities to pay for the water. These also create some form of apathy between community members and officials of the district assembly on several occasions. Some communities felt that water facilities, especially those provided by NGOs were gifts to them, and therefore did not want pay for operations and maintenance. It was suggested that, technocrats at the district assembly should continuously guide NGOs and politicians to mention publicly the responsibilities that are expected of communities when potable water supply assets are provided.

5. It was suggested that, at community meetings, project partners such as World Vision Ghana, CWSA, Partner Organisations and other NGOs ought to give recognition to district staff, and the roles they would play during post-construction era. This was identified as capable of addressing some of the current challenges where community members fail to recognise and give the needed attention to district staff especially, when it comes to enforcing provisions for ensuring sustainability of service provided.
6. The KSDA was also admonished be proactive and show a lot more interest in activities of POs and NGOs providing WASH services, by actively participating in their activities when invited, and creating opportunities for frequent engagements.

After the presentations and discussions, Mr. Daniel Nnebini assured the meeting that, all issues discussed would be given serious attention at management level. He was thankful to participants for their active involvement during the discussion sessions, and encouraged them be available for future learning meetings. It was agreed that the Core Group of the DLAP would reconvene in 2016 to plan the next learning meeting. The meeting came to end at 4:55pm.

Attendance

1. George Amoah, GES SHEP Coordinator, Kintampo South District
2. Zoyaar Turkson, Head, District Environmental Health Unit, KSDA
3. Eric Azah, Human Resource Manager, KSDA
4. Donkor Busi, Head, Department of Social Welfare and Community Development, KSDA
5. Sampson Atakora, Chief Water and Sanitation Engineer, CWSA
6. Manfred Appiah, District Budget Analyst, KSDA
7. Daniel Laryea Adjei, District Auditor, KSDA
8. Daniel Nnebini, District Planning Officer, KSDA
9. Joyce Boatemaa, Registry, KSDA
10. Babalangna Francisca, WASH Unit, KSDA
11. Kwakye Patrick, Technician Engineer, KSDA
12. Felicia Wari, Environmental Health Officer, KSDA
13. Wireko Kwabena Technician Engineer, KSDA
14. Samuel Abizgo, Planning Officer, KSDA
15. Thomas Korsah, Head of Works Department, KSDA
16. Baba Iddi, District Coordinating Director, KSDA
17. Edson Amu, District Works Department, KSDA
18. Mohammed Sensao, Assistant Director IIB, KSDA
19. Evelyn Ataa Kyeremaa, Assistant Director IIB, KSDA
20. Kennedy Adjei Gyan ADP manager, World Vision Ghana
21. Asare Nelson, World Vision Ghana
22. Gertrude Nkrumah, Director of Finance, World Vision Ghana
23. Joyce Kyeremeh Mensah, CWSA
24. Abdul Mumin Sulemana, CWSA
25. Benjamin Agbemor, CWSA