

REPORT ON THE KINTAMPO SOUTH DISTRICT LEARNING ALLIANCE PLATFORM

Activity: District Learning Alliance Meeting (5th in series)

Venue: Office of the District Chief Executive, Jema

Date: 29th July, 2016

Meeting agenda

- Discussion of the District Operational Manual (Volume 1)
- Any other business
- Closing

Introduction

The meeting was called to order at 12:03 pm with an opening prayer from Mr. Daniel Nnebini, District Planning Officer. The meeting was chaired by Mr. Samuel Gyamena, Deputy District Coordinating Director. Mr. Gyamena remarked that the DLAP has been institutionalized by the District Assembly with the aim of providing a means for constant dialogue on WASH issues, and this was one of such. He asked the house to do self-introduction for the sake of those who were participating for the first time. He then opened the floor for the day's proceedings to begin.

Mr. Benjamin Agbemor, a Regional Learning Facilitator of CWSA, Brong Ahafo Region was to lead the presentation and discussions of the District Operational Manual (DOM). He begun by checking on the level of implementation of major action point(s) from the last DLAP meeting. He wanted to know if the Planning Officer has been able to furnish World Vision Ghana with the Districts' Annual Action Plan (AAP) for WASH, as was requested by the latter to enable them complete their project Log Frame for the next financial year. The Planning officer indicated that he was at the office of World Vision Ghana on different occasions to share this information but he could not meet the WASH Focal Person. The Planning Officer was informed that the WASH focal person has been on leave. He also indicated that the Area Development Manager has gone on leave as well, and had not returned as at the time of the DLAP meeting. The house suggested that the Planning Officer should call the WASH Focal person and send her a copy of the district's AAP via e-mail. Mr. Gyamena reminded members that, the DLAPs are not 'talk shops'. He added that, 'we must walk the talk' so that members would feel motivated to continue participating and raising issues for redress, and ultimately for the growth of the WASH sector.

Business of the day

Mr. Agbemor led the house to discuss the DOM, Volume one. He mentioned that, DOM is one of the documents developed by CWSA to guide WASH service delivery in the rural and small towns' sub-sector of Ghana, and stressed that, it is to be used as a reference material especially by the Metropolitan, Municipal and District Assemblies (MMDAs). He indicated that the document (DOM) has seven main chapters which address different aspects of WASH project/programme implementation.

Mr. Agbemor shared photocopies of the document to the participants and referred them to relevant sections as he commenced his presentations. On the first chapter, Mr. Agbemor explained that the DOM contained information on the National Community Water and Sanitation Programme (NCWSP) which was launched in 1994. He gave a background of what led to the introduction of this policy reform in the water sector of Ghana. He clarified the three major objectives, and the eight principles of the NCWSP, as contained in the DOM. Mr. Agbemor asked the participants to refer to the section of the DOM which talks about what is required of MMDAs in order to participate in the NCWSP (listed below):

1. Availability of a District Works Department
2. Current District Water and Sanitation Plan (DWSP)
3. Current District Environmental Sanitation Strategic Action Plan (DESSAP)
4. Approved budget lines for WASH activities

The district staff indicated that, they had Works Department and budget lines for WASH activities as required by the DOM. They added that, they were in the process of developing a current version of their DWSP, and would also commence a revision of their DESSAP which has also expired.

The facilitator concluded discussions on the First Chapter of the DOM by identifying the roles of different stakeholders in WASH services delivery. The participants extensively discussed the roles of CWSA Regional Office and the MMDAs (as service authorities). The house conceded that, both CWSA Regional Office and the Kintampo South District Assembly have not delivered satisfactorily on some of their assigned roles (as specified in the document). The house also identified political interference as a major challenge in the effective delivery of the functions of the different stakeholders identified in the DOM. They observed that these interferences are making it almost impossible, especially for stakeholders at the level of 'Community/town' and the Water and Sanitation Management Teams to give meaning to the Community Ownership and Management (COM) concept as envisaged under the NCWSP.

The Second Chapter of the DOM talks about Coordination of WASH Service Delivery at the District Level. The discussions centered on the following key departments: Works; Health; Education, Youth and Sports; Planning and Coordinating Unit; Finance; Budget and Rating; Gender, Children and Social Protection; and the Internal Audit. The internal auditor shared a personal experience in auditing WSMTs managing piped systems in the district. He noted that, such audit visits have allowed him to identify critical management issues which are affecting the work of the operating staff of the piped systems, and would bring his recent findings to the attention of the top management of the district soon. The house observed that the low prioritization of WASH activities in the past, and poor budgetary support were some of the reasons why some of the departmental roles were not being performed, especially those which require field trips.

Chapter Three of the DOM deals with the Service Delivery Cycle. It was explained that, this cycle comprises two stages; the infrastructure delivery phase which starts from Promotion – awareness creation about a project/programme to get the needed buy-in at the national, regional, district and community levels – and ends with Handing Over. The service delivery phase begins from Handing Over, and involves post-construction and monitoring and evaluation supports. The significance, and the roles of MMDAs in ensuring the success of service delivery phase was explained. For each stage of the service delivery cycle, Mr. Agbemor touched on key objectives, expected outcomes, key activities to be implemented and the responsible institutions/actors.

The house agreed that, in other not to rush through the subsequent chapters, and given the effectiveness of the detailed discussions, the next DLAP should be used to complete the discussion of the DOM. This was agreed by the chairman. In his closing remarks, Mr. Gyamena was happy about the education and awareness that is being created through the DLAP meetings. He challenged his colleagues to read the materials which have been shared with them during learning meetings, and become more familiar with their content as it has information which could be used to demand compliance from different service providers in ensuring that quality work is done for WASH service delivery. The meeting ended around 2:20pm with a closing prayer from Mr. Kumi Yeboah, manager of the Jema Piped Water System.

Attendance

1. Zoyaar Turkson, Head, District Environmental Health Unit, KSDA
2. Daniel Laryea Adjei, District Auditor, KSDA
3. Daniel Nnebini, Planning Officer, KSDA
4. Yaw Ansu Adomah, District Finance Officer, KSDA
5. Cecilia Addai, NCCE, Jema
6. Adubofour Isaac, Department of Social Welfare, KSDA
7. Kabore Inussah Seidu, Accountant, KSDA
8. Daniel Nnebini, District Planning Officer, KSDA
9. Joyce Boatemaa, Registry, KSDA
10. Kwakye Patrick, Technician Engineer, KSDA
11. Samuel Abizgo, Planning Officer, KSDA
12. Thomas Korsah, Head of Works Department, KSDA
13. Edson Amu, District Works Department, KSDA
14. Mohammed Sensao, Assistant Director IIB, KSDA
15. Abdul Mumin Sulemana, CWSA
16. Martina A. Kusi, CWSA
17. Benjamin Agbemor, CWSA