

A REPORT ON THE KINTAMPO SOUTH DISTRICT LEARNING ALLIANCE PLATFORM

Activity: District Learning Alliance Meeting (8th in series)

Venue: District Assembly Hall/Court Room, Jema

Date: November 11, 2016

Meeting agenda

- Sharing and validation of draft report on innovative financing of capital maintenance expenditure of piped schemes
- Any other business
- Closing

The meeting started at 10:30am with an opening prayer from Mr. Daniel Nnebini. Participants then introduced themselves. Mr. Baba Iddi, the District Coordinating Director welcomed the participants and invited CWSA to share the findings of their study.

Mrs. Mabel Taylor, a Senior Extension Services Specialist with CWSA, Brong Ahafo Region presented the findings from the study. Given the diversity of the audience, she facilitated the session in the local language (Twi) to enable the WSMTs to participate effectively in discussions.

Mrs. Taylor gave a background to the research/study and the objectives it sought to achieve. She outlined the methodology which was employed by the research team. She indicated that, five piped systems serving more than 2,000 people in the Kintampo South District were surveyed. She noted that data for the study was also collected from three institutions (namely 5 WSMTs; 4 financial institutions/banks and the Kintampo South District Assembly) through a combination of Focused Group Discussion and Key Informant interview.

She summarised the main points from the Focused Group Discussion with the Kintampo South District Assembly as follows:

- There was low awareness about tariff guidelines at the District Level;
- Financial support to WSMTs are provided upon request, and assessment of WSMTs' needs;
- Two percent of the District Assembly's total budget (an equivalent of GHC 58,576.70) was earmarked for WASH activities in the 2016 Composite Budget;
- Previous budgets did not make provision for WASH: this was solely financed by Development Partners, or on ad hoc basis

Mrs. Taylor went on to share findings from the piped schemes surveyed under 5 thematic areas. Under theme 1 (overview and functionality of systems), the following findings were made:

- All the small town piped schemes in the district were functional; all the sources feeding the five piped schemes were functioning.
- Out of a total of 52 public standpipes, only 4 were found to be non-functional in two piped schemes;
- Only the Jema system had experienced a complete breakdown in the past 12 months prior to the survey;

Under theme 2 (management models for piped systems), it was realised that:

- All the piped schemes surveyed had management structures;
- Aside the WSMT at Nante, the others received some level of training/orientations;
- Operational staff were engaged for only the Anyima and the Jema piped schemes;
- All the WSMTs felt they were doing their work well to the best of their abilities; and
- The District Assembly was of the view that the performance of the WSMTs could be enhanced

Under theme 3 (funds mobilisation and management for capital maintenance), the following finds were made:

- All WSMTs had tariff systems in place (Pay-as-you-fetch, and monthly payment for private connections in some cases);
- Only the WSMT at Anyima was aware of the tariff guideline, and used same in arriving at their tariff. The other WSMTs used prevailing tariffs of nearby communities, and considered people's willingness and ability to pay in setting their tariffs; and
- Three WSMTs (Jema, Anyima and Nante) were considering increasing their tariffs because of high costs of operations;
- The frequency of revenue mobilisation at the public stand pipes varied with the various systems;
- Even though all the WSMTs had Bank Accounts, none of them operated the three mandatory accounts simultaneously.

Mrs. Taylor presented findings under theme 4 (mechanisms for financing major repairs) as follows:

- None of the WSMT had financed a 'Major Maintenance' (as defined in the District Operational Manual)
- The commonly cited maintenance activities undertaken by the WSMTs include: replacement of taps, mending of burst and leaking pipes, replacement of meters and repair of gauge valves.
- With exception of Jema WSMT (which had support from the DA) all the other WSMTs depended solely on revenue from sale of water to finance their repairs.

Under the theme 5 (sustainable, innovative and promising strategies for addressing major repairs), the following findings were made:

- All WSMTs and the DA identified revenue from water sales as the major means for financing repairs;

- All WSMTs indicated their willingness to be part of the 'pool funding scheme' if it becomes operational and the modalities are clearly defined.
- Some WSMTs were willing to insure components of their water systems

Mrs. Taylor mentioned that, all the financial institutions interviewed were willing to give loans to the WSMTs. The WSMTs however need to meet certain conditions (operating an active account with the banks, and providing guarantee letters from the District Assembly, among others).

Mrs. Taylor indicated that, a major conclusion from the study was the conviction of the WSMTs and the District Assembly that all piped systems could be self-financing if sales revenue are properly managed. She added that, both the District Assembly and CWSA need to provide the needed support to ensure the effective management of the systems by the WSMTs.

At plenary, all the five WSMTs interviewed confirmed that the findings which were presented truly reflected what pertained with their piped schemes at the time of the survey.

Some WSMTs lamented the resistance they faced in trying to increase their water tariffs. Officers from CWSA explained that such forms of resistance from the community was not surprising. The inability of the WSMTs to account to the people was cited as a reason. It was suggested that the District Assembly should take steps to ensure that WSMTs begin to effectively perform all their assigned mandates. One of the participants on the platform noted that, when people are made to understand what their monies were being used for, and the reasons for adjusting existing tariff, they would support an upward tariff review.

It was noted that, the implicit finding of the study was the need for the District Assembly to show more interest and get deeply involved in the operations and management of the piped schemes. On their part, the District Assembly indicated that, it has initiated plans to intensify audit of water facilities and their management structures. The DA hopes to revive existing WSMTs and form new ones in all communities which have potable water facilities.

The meeting ended at 12:45pm with a prayer from Mr. Daniel Nnebini.

Attendance

1. Baba Iddi, District Coordinating Director, KSDA
2. Bernard Sarkodie, Anyima WSMT
3. Mensah Sarkodie, Anyima WSMT
4. George Amoah, GES, Jema
5. Osei Simon, Jema WSMT
6. Kumi Yeboah, Jema Systems Manager
7. Owusu Emmanuel, Jema WSMT
8. S.B. Amponsah, Krabonso WSMT
9. Samuel Abizgo, Planning Officer, KSDA
10. Ishmael Arafat, Nante WSMT

11. Appiah Hockson, Amoma WSMT
12. Kwasi Anane, Krabonso WSMT
13. Wireko Kwabena, Technician Engineer, KSDA
14. Mercy Assaw, Nante WSMT
15. Eric Azah, Human Resource Manager, KSDA
16. Jeremiah Kwaku, Amoma WSMT
17. Adu Anthony, Amoma WSMT
18. Paitoo Michael, Assistant Internal Auditor, KSDA
19. Sanwouk Ezekiel, Anyima WSMT
20. Konadu Owusu, CWSA Head Office
21. Tyhra Kumasi, CWSA Head Office
22. Benedict Kubabom, CWSA Head Office
23. Donkor Busi, Community Development Officer, KSDA
24. Zoyaar Turkson, District Environmental Health Officer, KSDA
25. Manfred Appiah, District Budget Analyst, KSDA
26. Thomas Korsah, Head, Works Department, KSDA
27. Yaw Asusu Adomah, District Finance Officer, KSDA
28. Kwakye Patrick, Engineer, Water Section, KSDA
29. Evelyn Ataa Kyeremaa, Assistant Director IIB, KSDA
30. Paul Kofi Twene, ADP Manager, World Vision Ghana, Jema
31. Daniel Nnebini, Assistant Development Planning Officer, KSDA
32. Mohammed A.C, Assistant Director IIB, KSDA
33. Mabel Ama Taylor, Senior Extension Services Specialist, CWSA BAR
34. Benjamin Agbemor, Regional Learning Facilitator, CWSA BAR