

REPORT ON THE SUNYANI WEST DISTRICT LEARNING ALLIANCE PLATFORM

Activity: District Learning Alliance Meeting (2nd in series)

Venue: District Assembly Hall, Odumase

Date: 26th September, 2016

Meeting agenda

- Discussion of District Operational Manual (Volume1)
- Any other business
- Closing

The meeting was called to order at 1:08pm by Mr. Douglas Annorful, the District Coordinating Director. Mr. Samuel Inkoom offered a prayer for the commencement of proceedings. Mr. Annorful indicated that, a learning platform has been instituted at the Sunyani West District where stakeholders meet from time to time to share vital knowledge and experience with the aim of improving WASH service delivery. He added that, the platform has started disseminating water sector guidelines from the 2nd quarter of the year (May 2016), and the day's session would be used to share yet another document. He indicated that the session would be facilitated by officers from the CWSA Regional Office in Sunyani.

Mr. Benjamin Agbemor, a Regional Learning Facilitator of the CWSA, Brong Ahafo Region stated that, he would lead the discussion of the District Operational Manual (Volume 1) as indicated in the invitation letter issued by the DLAP secretariat. Mr. Agbemor engaged the audience in a participatory discussion of the document. He asked participants to read relevant sessions of each chapter of the document, and explanations were provided after each round of reading.

On Chapter One of the document (DOM), the discussions centered on the National Community Water and Sanitation Programme (NCWSP) which was launched in 1994, and has been the guiding framework for rural water delivery in Ghana. It was explained that, the implementation of the NCWSP has been anchored on the Demand Responsive Approach, where communities express interest and readiness to support project implementation and eventual operations and maintenance of water facilities. There are also stipulations in the DOM for decentralised planning and support from Metropolitan, Municipal and District

Assemblies (MMDAs) and active participation of women and children in project communities. It was identified that political interference was a major challenge in the effective delivery of the functions of the different stakeholders identified in the DOM.

The three major objectives and the eight strategies of the NCWSP were read and discussed. Wrapping up on chapter one, the participants discussed what is required of MMDAs in order to effectively participate in the NCWSP. The Sunyani West District indicated that it has a functional Works Department; an Environmental Sanitation Strategic Action Plan; and an approved budget for WASH activities. The District's Water and Sanitation Plan was reported as being under preparation.

On Chapter Two of the DOM, participants discussed the coordination for WASH delivery at the MMDA level. The following departments were identified as playing important functions: Works; Health; Education, Youth and Sports; Planning and Coordinating Unit; Finance; Budget and Rating; Gender, Children and Social Protection; and the Internal Audit. It was explained that the Planning and Coordinating Unit is responsible for the coordination of WASH planning, implementation and monitoring under the supervision of the Coordinating Director. At the same time, Works, Budget, Internal Audit, Health, Community Development and Social Welfare Departments play complementary roles.

Chapter Three of the DOM deals with the Service Delivery Cycle. This cycle is made up of two major components: Infrastructure Delivery and Service Delivery. The Infrastructure delivery starts with Promotion and ends with Handing-over, while the Service delivery component is activated after handing-over, and involves monitoring, evaluations and direct support activities. It was explained that in most MMDAs the service delivery aspect of the project cycle gets under-funded, and this has been affecting sustainability of water supply assets.

It was agreed that the subsequent chapters of the DOM should be discussed at the next DLAP. The Rotary Club of Sunyani Central offered to lead the discussion of Chapter Four of the document; the District Assembly would lead on Chapter Five, and MAP International would lead on Chapter Six. CWSA would lead on Chapter Seven. This arrangement was agreed upon at the meeting as a way of encouraging the various participants to read copies of the DOM which was shared, prior to the next meeting.

The meeting ended at 3:03pm with a closing prayer from Mr. Samuel Inkoom

Attendance

1. Linda Okoe-Martey, SHEP, GES, Odumase
2. F.K. Owusu Debrah, Immediate Past President, Rotary Club of Sunyani Central
3. M.B. Alhassan, President, Rotary Club of Sunyani Central
4. Mathew Quaye, Accountant, Sunyani West District Assembly
5. Nkansah Manu, Assistant Budget Analyst, Sunyani West District Assembly
6. Bertha Adu-Koranteng, Assistant Director, Sunyani West District Assembly
7. Judith Nana Ampomah, Human Resource, Sunyani West District Assembly
8. Anane Richard Kofi, District Finance Officer, Sunyani West District Assembly
9. Douglas Annorful, District Coordinating Director, , Sunyani West District Assembly
10. Beatrice Afia Boatemaa, Assistant Quantity Surveyor, Sunyani West District Assembly
11. Kyei-Asare Bediako, Water Engineer, Sunyani West District Assembly
12. Owusu Mintah Kwesi, Planning Officer, Sunyani West District Assembly
13. Jiam Seth, Environmental Health Officer, Sunyani West District Assembly
14. Appiah Evans, Public Private Partnership staff
15. Belinda Diamoh, Assistant Planning Officer, Sunyani West District Assembly
16. Michael K. Gyamfi, Assistant Director, Sunyani West District Assembly
17. Daniel Antwi, Community Development Officer, Sunyani West District Assembly
18. Inkoom Adom Samuel, Internal Auditor, Sunyani West District Assembly
19. Justice O. Pobee, District Environmental Health Officer, Sunyani West District Assembly
20. Benjamin Agbemor, CWSA, BAR
21. Frank Mintah, CWSA, BAR