

UNDERSTANDING THE CONTEXT, SECTOR ACTORS, STRENGTHS, WEAKNESS, OPPORTUNITIES AND CONSTRAINTS OF THE WASH SECTOR IN GHANA

ABSTRACT

The West Africa Water Sanitation and Hygiene (WA-WASH) project commissioned a study on understanding the WASH sector context, strengths, constraints and opportunities. This study was conducted in Ghana, Côte d'Ivoire and Burkina-Faso. The OCI International a Burkinabe consultancy firm undertook this study for WA-WASH funded by USAID. The purpose of the study was to map out sector stakeholders for WASH services delivery, the key constraints, challenges, threats, opportunities and strength of the sector and propose recommendations for further action.

The general objective of the study was to have up to date knowledge of the context and the actors of the WASH sectors in the various countries to enhance program implementation at all levels.

The methodology for this study included interviews with sector stakeholders and organizations, surveys by face to face interviews and where not reachable instruments were sent by email to solicit responses follow up with phone calls. Interactive discussions used semi-structured interviews as well as individual conversations. The team of researchers also participated in some sector workshops where sector stakeholders gathered to discuss current WASH trends, opportunities, challenges and performance of the sector.

The study found out that Ghana currently enjoys a good relationship with a number of donors both bilateral and multi-national agencies and INGOs in its pathway towards development. Some of these agencies include the World Bank/IMF, UNDP, UNICEF, UNESCO, UKAID, USAID, the Dutch Government, German and France Governments and among others. Ghana has also benefited from decades of the existence of INGOs such as World Vision, Oxfam, Care International, ActionAid, Sight Savers, WaterAid, the Catholic Relief Service (CRS), to name only but a few. This might have culminated into the recent achievement of Ghana in attaining middle income country status and improving water coverage above the requirements of the MDGs.

However, sanitation services delivery is still woefully lagging behind with pockets of worsening inequality between the poor and the rich As such universal coverage for WASH services provision is still a challenge especially for the vulnerable and the poor. With Ghana signing into the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGS) initiative, stakeholders are hopeful that WASH financing and service delivery will get a deep political buy-in from government.