

Government welcomes innovative technologies in sanitation and water supply - Bawumia



The Vice President, Dr. Mahamudu Bawumia, has emphasized the need for innovation in water supply and sanitation as pivotal to job creation for the youth.

“The government welcomes innovative technologies in sanitation and water supply, increased private sector investment in especially sanitation technologies, infrastructure and services, ideas that can turn the current seemingly helpless sanitation situation into viable job creation opportunities for our youth.”

Dr. Bawumia said this at the opening of the 28th edition of the Mole Conference Series in Accra in an

address read on his behalf by a Deputy Minister for Sanitation and Water Resources, Hon. Michael Yaw Gyato.

He said the NPPs policy was to liberate the energies of the people for the growth of a property-owning democracy in Ghana with a right to life, freedom and justice. This, he said, could not be achieved if more than three million people still drink water, which is the number one source of life, from unsafe sources and three out every five Ghanaians drink water from contaminated sources.

He insisted that sanitation is also not just about dignity but is equally about life because without proper

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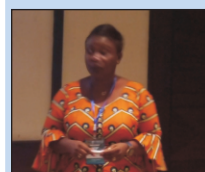
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National total sanitation campaign to be launched before the end of 2017 - Hon. Kofi Adda



The Minister for Sanitation and Water Resources, Hon. Kofi Joseph Adda, has said the government will launch a National Total Sanitation Campaign before the end of 2017. He said this in an address read on his behalf by Mr. Donnan Tay, Chief Director of the Ministry, at the opening ceremony of the Mole XXVIII Conference.

Hon. Adda said even though he had had the opportunity to meet various stakeholders of the Water, Sanitation and Hygiene Sector on isolated platforms since his assumption of office, the Mole Conference provided a bigger platform to meet more stakeholders. He said it was also an opportunity to virtually report back to stakeholders the very things that may have been discussed earlier on other platforms.

“There is no longer any need to discuss available data on water and sanitation in Ghana. It is all over the place, that Ghana met her MDGs for water and missed those for sanitation; that about 90% of Ghanaians have access to improved

drinking water and that only 15% have access to basic sanitation,” he said.

He continued by saying that while stakeholders seemed to be rejoicing over the MDG achievement for water, there was a quick reminder that over 60% of households drink from contaminated water sources so there is a need for a deeper reflection. With this situation, he said, the road to 2030 now seems so far away from us in achieving safely managed water for all our citizens.

For the same SDGs, he said, Water Resources Management becomes a centre of emphasis as it is for water quality, as well as the convenience in accessing water from the source.

The issue of sanitation, he said, was even a tougher one since it was not only about the provision of infrastructure and facilities but also the changing of human behaviour. He explained that even after managing to provide facilities, sometimes even free of charge, there are people who

will still refuse to use them. When financial support is withdrawn to households for construction of household facilities too, the issue of poverty and vulnerability also show up.

He said the President had come to solve problems rather than complain, hence the establishment of the Ministry of Sanitation and Water Resources to help direct and coordinate the affairs of water and sanitation under one roof. He added that the Ministry had spent a lot of time consulting with experts in the sector to help develop a clear workable strategy for water and sanitation which would soon be launched. He also added that a policy document had been drafted for cabinet consideration out of which the National Sanitation Authority would be established.

Concluding his address, Hon Adda said the government believes in the private sector as the engine of growth and as such, the Ministry was making frantic efforts at facilitating a massive private sector interest in exploring business opportunities in WASH.

In his reaction to the theme for the conference, the Minister said it was indeed a fact, that Ghana's lower Middle-Income status seemed to be a threat to donor inflows. He however insisted that, with government's resolve to building a self-reliant economy, there was an on-going effort to link every aspect of economic and social life, including water and sanitation, to the processes and programmes that will ensure that this dream is realized.

Participants at mole xxviii resolve to find innovative solutions to wash service delivery

Stakeholders in the Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH) Sector participating in the Mole XXVIII Conference which ended on 6th October, 2017 have resolved to explore innovative solutions to the challenges in the sector in order to ensure effective WASH service delivery.

Participants were drawn from Ministries, Departments and Agencies in the WASH Sector; Civil Society Organizations, NGOs, Development Partners, Academia, the mass Media and the Private Sector. In a communiqué released at the end of the conference, participants recognized that as a result of Ghana attaining a Lower Middle-Income status, donor

support for WASH had dwindled. The situation, however, provides an opportunity for Ghana to explore more innovative solutions to WASH services delivery.

Sector representatives at the conference recognized that the solutions demand a more collaborative effort between government, private sector and civil society with stronger leadership from government. They therefore agreed to implement some major actions to help achieve the needed solutions to problems confronting the sector. Key among the commitments at the conference was to intensively search for alternative financing mechanisms, advocate for equity and inclusion,

advance various innovative strategies for private sector participation, advance options for institutional and structural reforms and explore more policy and advocacy options.

Participants at the conference in agreeing to these commitments promised to contribute their quota to help in the achievement of the various action points. The executives of the Coalition of NGOs in Water and Sanitation (CONIWAS) were tasked to provide the needed leadership role in effectively following through with the various commitments and report positively on them in the next Mole Conference series.

The district resource persons concept boost CLTS implementation in Ghana

An innovative partnership approach adopted by the GoG-UNICEF WASH programme has provided great hope in the national CLTS scale-up efforts in Ghana. The approach, which adopts the District Resource Person (DRP) Concept, has resulted in making more communities open defaecation-free (ODF) in several districts in Ghana.

At a presentation by the GoG-UNICEF WASH Programme during the 28th edition of the Annual Mole Conference Series in October 2017, where lessons and experiences of the DRP concept were shared, it was learnt that the GoG-UNICEF WASH Programme implemented projects through MMDAs but there was a requirement identified for more intensive support. UNICEF therefore established a partnership arrangement with a number of CSOs

operating within the selected supported districts. Their role was to work directly with the districts and focus on planning, monitoring and reporting through the aid of a District Resource Person (DRP).

A DRP, according to the presentation, is an employee of a UNICEF CSO partner dedicated and designated to a particular UNICEF supported district to provide technical support in the implementation of all CLTS activities and the management of the Natural Leaders Scheme towards the achievement of district-wide ODF status.

After a year of applying the DRP concept, according to the presentation, there was remarkable improvement in the ODF conversion rate in all the five

regions implementing the concept.

“The experiences with this model is phenomenal, exciting and fulfilling despite some challenges,” says Kanton Salifu Issifu of Community Development Alliance (CDA Ghana), one of the partner CSOs implementing the DRP concept. According to CDA, the DRP concept had facilitated the development of Comprehensive District ODF Plans which had also been integrated into various Medium-Term Development Plans of the six participating districts in the Upper West Region. This was in addition to a massive increase in the number of ODF communities in the districts.

Among the remarkable achievements, according to Patricia Porekuu of Hope for Future Generations (HFFG), another

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Ghana is middle-income by name but not in wash practice- Prof. Chris Gordon.



The Director of the Institute for Environmental and Sanitation Studies, Professor Chris Gordon, has said that Ghana is only a lower Middle-Income country by name and not by how the Water, Sanitation and Hygiene sector has progressed.

While delivering a theme address at the 28th edition of the Mole Conference Series at the Accra International Conference Centre in Accra, Professor Gordon said Ghana's Lower Middle-Income status should not only be measured in economic terms. He said there was the need for a paradigm shift in values, attitudes and behaviours in dealing with the country's WASH

challenges to reflect the current Lower Middle-Income status.

Prof. Gordon in his presentation said even though the President, His Excellency Nana Addo Dankwa Akufo-Addo, had said the Sustainable Development Goals can be met, there was the need for players especially in the WASH sector to adopt more aggressive and innovative strategies and plans in order to make it a reality. He said the WASH sector needs not limit its efforts in achieving SDG 6 but to focus on all the other SDGs for them to be met since they are all interlinked.

He said for Ghana to move towards the achievement of the SDGs by 2030 and to reflect her status as a Lower Middle-Income country, issues of water quality, vulnerability, poverty and investments in sewerage sanitation need to be tackled. He said Ghana cannot be said to be a Lower Middle-Income country when there was about 89% open defaecation rate in the Upper East Region alone

and only 3% percent of the population there used unshared improved sanitation facilities. When nationally, an average of 22.9% of the population does not have access to any sanitation facility (open defaecation) and only 15% have improved unshared facilities.

For Ghana to have a sustainable WASH sector, Prof Gordon said, there was the need for a multi-faceted approach in private sector participation; finding alternative financing mechanisms; increased advocacy; continuous institutional and policy reforms to deal with issues of equity and vulnerability. He also said for WASH challenges to be dealt with, the government, academia and industry need to work hand in hand.

He concluded by insisting that open defaecation is a disgrace and every child that dies of an avoidable WASH-related disease is an indictment on the country. He also advocated for an enhancement of the role of the Mole Series as a Knowledge Broker.

THE DISTRICT RESOURCE PERSONS CONCEPT BOOST CLTS IMPLEMENTATION IN GHANA

CSO partner, are improvements in planning, monitoring, documentation and timely reporting. There was also evidence of massive improvements in ODF rates including some districts recording their first ever ODF communities since the National CLTS Scale-up programme began in 2012. According to HFFG, whose role in the partnership covers the East Gonja,

West Mamprusi, Mion, Yendi and Kumbungu Districts, coordination at the district level for CLTS implementation had also improved as the District Inter-Agency Coordinating Committee (DICCS) now meets regularly.

The DRP initiative however, according to the presentations by the two CSO

partners, was not devoid of challenges. These include high levels of bureaucracy within the Local Government system, weak supervision within some of the District Assemblies, and over-dependence of some districts on donor support, resulting in inadequacies in logistical provision for programme implementation.

Government welcomes innovative technologies in sanitation and water supply - Bawumia

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sanitation, most people fall sick and some even die as a result. He justified this with a report from the World Bank which indicates that about 19,000 Ghanaians die every year because of diarrhoea and other sanitation and hygiene related diseases. He said it was therefore too sad that only one fifth of the Ghanaian population had access to improved sanitation facilities.

Dr. Bawumia said government had learnt that Ghana losses \$79 million each year to open defaecation alone and promised that government would make sure such preventable losses were avoided. He said the only way to achieve this was to tackle the problem from all possible angles especially by giving recognition to the economic value of water, sanitation and good hygiene practices.

On the theme for the conference, the Vice President said the government wanted to build a Ghana Beyond Aid as repeatedly

emphasized by the President. He said there was no doubt that the support of the international community had been a strong pillar for sustained investments in water and sanitation in the past and even now. But as the theme for the conference suggested, by virtue of Ghana's lower Middle-Income status, government and sector stakeholders were left with no other options than to begin from now and in a hurry to find a sustainable solution to financing the sector.

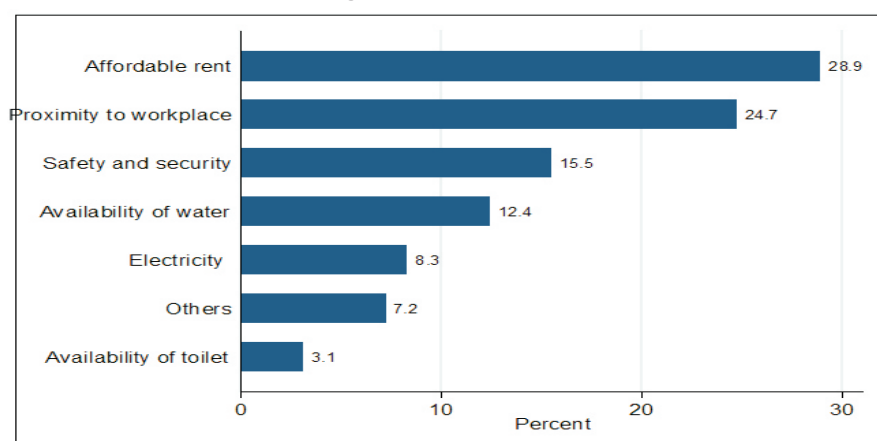
The Vice President launched a fervent appeal to all participants at the conference to support the government to achieve her dream of making Ghana a clean and healthy one for all and help the Ministry of Sanitation and Water Resources with innovative ideas on the best interventions possible. He said the President was aware of some of the contributions that the Mole Series had made to policy formulation in the Water and

Sanitation sector and that Mole XXVIII was another opportunity to come out with the best ideas possible to help the government to surmount the problems in the sector.

Bringing his address to a close, the Vice President threw a challenge to both existing and potential private investors, young university graduates, civil engineers, all business-minded people and the academia to explore business opportunities in the water and sanitation sector to help in dealing with the challenges whiles creating jobs. He promised that government on her part would work hard to explore more domestic sources of funding for water and sanitation and was very committed to establishing the Sanitation Fund as captured in their party's manifesto and also provide the necessary favourable conditions especially to private investors with brilliant and workable ideas which would help tackle problems in the sector.

Why is it difficult to enforce sanitation bye-laws? WSUP finds out

Factors influencing tenants' decision to rent a house



Source: WSUP (Ghana) – October, 2017

Water and Sanitation for Urban Poor (WSUP) has found out through a study, why some Local Government Authorities seem shy about enforcing sanitation bye-laws concerning installation of household latrines.

During a presentation at the 28th edition of the Mole Conference Series in Accra in October 2017 to share the findings of the study, Azzika Tanko Yussif of WSUP Ghana

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Updates On Snv P2p Project: More Than Ghs6.2 Million Wash Loans Disbursed In 18 Months



The SNV flagship WASH project, Possible to Profitable (P2P) Project has disbursed more than GHS 6.2 million in WASH loans as at October 2017. This amount was disbursed within a period of 18 months at a recovery rate of 97%. The project, among others, aim at finding commercial solutions to WASH challenges by making financial products available to small businesses, educational and health institutions and households.

In a presentation by Agatha Quayson of SNV Ghana during the 28th edition of the Mole Conference Series in Accra, she said about half of the loans disbursed went to micro, small and medium enterprises, while 41% went to households and 8% to educational/health institutions.

Funded by the Embassy of the Kingdom of the Netherlands and implemented in partnership with the Fidelity Bank, she said the approach was being implemented

through strengthening the capacity of WASH businesses, tailoring financial products to meet the needs of households and partnering with a network of about 18 non-banking financial institutions.

The objectives of the €4 million project, she said, were to establish and manage a revolving fund to sustain loan options, develop innovative lending products for households and micro, small and medium enterprises (MSMEs) in the WASH Sector, and improve viability and sustainability of WASH MSMEs.

Through the P2P Business Academy established as a component of the project, 52 business had been trained in Business Management, Financial Management, WASH services and value chain, and Business Practices.

The success of the project, according to the presentation, were attributed to effective collaboration with other sector players especially

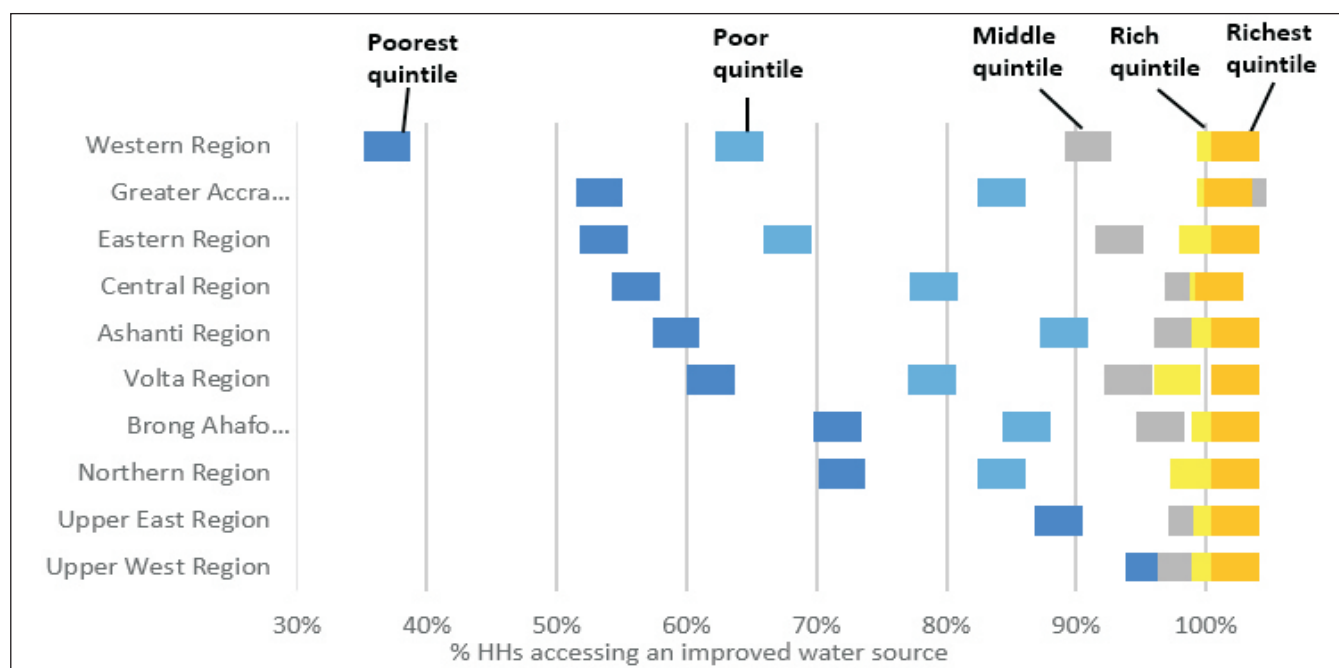
in linking demand to supply of finance and services. She also mentioned effective partnership with the Fidelity Bank and the lower interest rate offered to clients as some of the success factors. Other success factors, according to her, include effective monitoring to ensure appropriate utilisation of loans and compliance, and the diversity of targeted beneficiaries which enhanced financial inclusion in the sector.

Agatha identified some of the challenges in implementing the project as inadequate knowledge about the WASH sector by financial institutions which contributed to delays in loan disbursements, scepticisms of Non-Bank financing institutions about the viability of WASH business affected their drive to access the fund. She said there was a poor response from SMEs in participating in follow-up mentoring and coaching. Many WASH-MSMEs and households, she said, also just found it difficult to meet the basic requirement for receiving loans.

Among the key objectives of Mole XXVIII was to explore alternative financing options for WASH in the face of dwindling donor inflows for WASH as a result of Ghana's Lower Middle-Income status.

UNICEF/GoG conduct studies on how to bring equity in wash service delivery

Findings - Water



Source: UNICEF-Ghana October, 2017

Even though various policy/strategy frameworks in Ghana take into account equity concerns, there exist implementation challenges which hinder their effectiveness, while several inequities do exist in WASH services delivery. This was revealed in a presentation delivered by UNICEF at the 28th edition of the Mole Conference Series in Accra last October.

The presentation by Niall Boot aimed at sharing findings from a WASH equity study that the GoG-UNICEF WASH Programme had conducted in 2017.

The objectives of the study, according to the presentation, were to do a more detailed analysis on existing data to explore inequities not yet covered and create space for sector discussions. It also

intended to identify prioritized recommendations to help the sector to attain the SDGs, and develop indicators to measure critical equity concerns.

The study found that the gains made during the MDG era in terms of water supply benefited more greatly the wealthier quintiles with the poorer quintiles left behind. It was also revealed that hydrologically challenged areas were being left behind by various projects. The Ghana Water Company Limited, the country's urban water supply monopoly, has a unit dedicated to Low-income urban communities but had limited resources to implement programmes leaving peri-urban fringes often unserved. As at 2014, according to the presentation, while almost 100% of the richest had access to

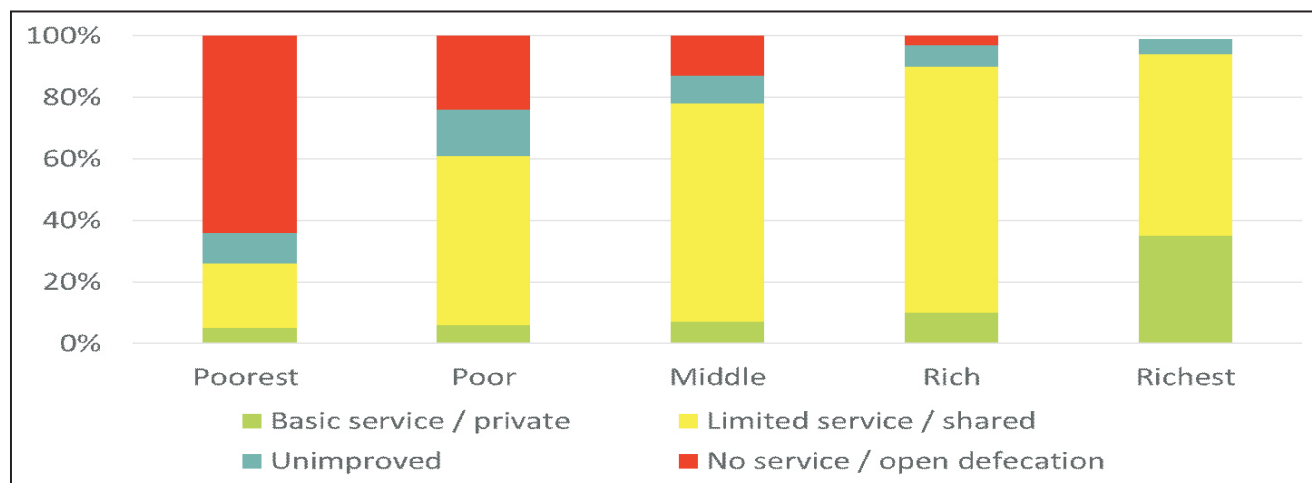
improved drinking water sources, only 69% of the poorest had access.

There were also massive regional disparities in access to drinking water. While about 38% of the poorest in the Western Region had access to improved drinking water, about 95% of the poorest in the Upper West Region were enjoying improved drinking water as at 2015. Similarly, whereas 82% of the estimated demand for urban water services was being met in the Greater Accra Region, only 24% were being met in the Brong Ahafo Region. Again, the study found that people in the Northern Region were 16 times more likely to spend more than 30 minutes to access an improved water source than those in the Greater Accra Region.

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UNICEF/GoG conduct studies on how to bring equity in wash service delivery

Findings – sanitation



Source: UNICEF Ghana, October 2017

According to the study, as at 2014, about 88% of open defaecation in Ghana was being practised by the poorest. It was also revealed that since 1990, the proportion of the rural population practising open defaecation had increased from 19% to 34% and rural areas were five times more likely to practise open defaecation. One of the factors contributing to this was affordability of basic sanitation services by the poor.

Another finding from the study was that there is high reliance on public toilets in urban areas, with difficulties faced by women, disabled, and children in accessing them.

Underlying problems that the study found as challenges to achieving equity include poor targeting of donor funds, which are not sometimes invested in the areas most in need and low government investment in the WASH sector. They also include

weak and uncoordinated national monitoring systems.

The study recommended, among others, the adoption of the proposed equity monitoring indications in the performance monitoring frameworks and revitalize an equity-focused sector performance report, as well as revive the defunct Ghana Water Forum / Annual Sector Reviews. The study also recommended the creation of a budget line on the hard-to-reach areas.

Why is it difficult to enforce sanitation bye-laws? WSUP finds out

identified one of the major factors as lack of funds and logistics for enforcement activities. He also cited political interferences in the efforts by Environmental Health Officers (EHOs) to prosecute offenders. Delays in prosecution, he said, was also a major source of discouragement on the part of the EHOs mainly as a result of inadequate number of prosecutors and non-prioritization of sanitation offences. Non-enforcement of sanitation (bye) laws in Ghana has been cited by

several stakeholders, the mass media and other social commentators in Ghana as the principal cause of the country's poor sanitation situation. It has been suggested on several sanitation-related platforms that enforcement of the laws can result in an increase demand for sanitation services, which will also attract private sector investment to take advantage to respond with supply options in a competitive market environment. When enforced, it is also believed that intervention

approaches such as Community Led Total Sanitation (CLTS) can make a greater impact with the behaviour change component.

The WSUP study that took place within the Ga West Municipality in 2017, however, found that it will be very difficult to apply enforcement alone as the main solution to the challenge with installation of household toilets. Several bottlenecks, according to the study, affected household toilet uptake.

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Asutifi North district plans for the SDGs, calls for support to implement plan



With support from a number of organizations including the Conrad N. Hilton Foundation, IRC, World Vision and Safe Water Network, the Asutifi North District appears to be the first to have developed a comprehensive master plan for achieving the SDGs for WASH in Ghana.

The goal of the initiative, according to district officials, was for every person in the Asutifi North District to have access to sustainable safe water, sanitation and hygiene services in a conducive environment where water resources are sustainably managed by 2030. This was disclosed in a presentation during the 28th edition of the Annual Mole Conference Series in Accra in October, 2017.

Some of the specific targets, according to the officials, are that by 2030, every person in the district will have access to basic water services, 50% of urban and 15% of rural households will have access to water on premises, and that all educational and health institutions

will have access to basic water, sanitation, and hygiene services on site. In addition, every person will have access to safe sanitation coverage (access to safe household toilets).

With regards to the WASH situation in the district, the District Coordinating Director, Mr. George Padmore Mensah, said 3%, 52%, 14%, 31% of the population used safely managed, basic, limited and unimproved drinking water sources respectively. On Sanitation, 0%, 16%, 18%, 60%, 4% had access to safely managed, basic, shared, unimproved and no service respectively. Only 24% percent of schools had access to basic drinking water facilities with 76% using unimproved sources while 80% of them used basic sanitation facilities with 20% unimproved.

As a medium-term target (2017-2021), the DCD said the district required \$6.45 million and \$1.96 million annually to achieve its targets for water and sanitation respectively. In the long term,

(2017-2030) the district will require, \$7 million and \$25.35 million for water and sanitation respectively.

The district, according to the DCD, had identified a few sources of funding to implement the master plan. These, he said, include the District Assembly itself using part of its share of the District Assemblies Common Fund and the District Development Fund, as well as accumulated royalties. Other sources include partnering with International Development Agencies and private entities in addition to funds to be raised from individual philanthropists. Household levies, pay-per-use and other internally generated funds will also be used to fund the plan.

Mr. Mensah said WASH services were a basic necessity of life and every effort would be made to ensure that safe WASH services were provided to the people. He stressed that the achievement of the targets and the SDG 6 is not an easy task. The district would need resources to implement the programmes and projects outlined in the master plan. He said the Assembly, IRC Ghana, Safe Water Network, World Vision International, NADeF, Newmont Gold Ghana Limited and the Conrad N. Hilton Foundation, who are already supporting the initiative, would need support from all towards the successful implementation of the master plan.

Participants at Mole XXVIII resolve to find innovative solutions to WASH service delivery



Stakeholders in the Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH) Sector participating in the Mole XXVIII Conference which ended on 6th October, 2017 have resolved to explore innovative solutions to the challenges in the sector in order to ensure effective WASH service delivery.

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advance various innovative strategies for private sector participation, advance options for institutional and structural reforms and explore more policy and advocacy options.

Participants at the conference in agreeing to these commitments promised to contribute their quota to help in the achievement of the various action points. The executives of the Coalition of NGOs in Water and Sanitation (CONIWAS) were tasked to provide the needed leadership role in effectively following through with the various commitments and report positively on them in the next Mole Conference series.

Why is it difficult to enforce sanitation bye-laws? WSUP finds out

They include financial difficulty and affordability, availability of public toilets, lack of space due to poor planning of settlements, lack of awareness of sanitation bye laws, absentee/multiple landlords for a house among others. Given the number of households/landlords that would have to be prosecuted, the report indicated, the Assembly cannot generate the needed resources – human and logistical – to tow the massive enforcement path.

The study therefore recommended a combination of interventions for a better solution. Mr Azzika said though the Municipal Assembly (the Regulator) has the power to enforce the byelaws and prosecute people, landlords also had several constraints and barriers preventing them from constructing toilets. Given the number of landlords that would otherwise face prosecution, the Regulator cannot bear the cost of enforcement. Negotiations between the parties were therefore

recommended for a win-win situation. Processes in the Negotiation Game, he said, include agreement on the flexible enforcement and voluntary compliance approach rather than the deterrence approach to bye-law enforcement. It also involves supporting landlords with innovative financing options, intensification of public education, reaching an agreement on a time period for compliance among others.

Small water enterprises pivotal in attracting financing for SDGs

Safe Water Network (SWN) has underscored the pivotal role that Small Water Enterprises can play in attracting the needed financing to achieve the SDGs for water.

In a presentation at the 28th edition of the Mole Conference in October, 2017 in Accra, Mr. Joseph Ampadu-Boakyie who led the presentation said the indicators that helped Ghana to achieve the MDG targets for water are completely different under the SDGs. By the SDG indicators, only about 8.5 million people in Ghana have access to safely managed drinking water on premises, a situation which has left about 23million people without access. In terms of funding for water, he said achieving the SDGs for water required an annual funding of \$946 million. The current annual funding of \$114 million therefore meant there was a funding gap of \$833 million. He stressed that more innovate measures would therefore need to be put in place by government and all other stakeholders in order to bridge the funding gap. He identified lack of cash flow and servicing capacity as some of the major reasons for water system failures.

Drawing from experiences and lessons from SWN's Small Water Enterprise promotion programme, he said the SWEs could address the funding gap and solve the high failure rate of water systems. "The SWE is a one-time investment that is self-sustaining and ever improving, he said." Within the programme, he said, the water being sold pays for the water station's operations, technical services, maintenance and capital recovery; and the consumer moving up the service ladder through prompt delivery, household connections and provision of substations.

He also revealed that the water stations' performances are measured using the SDG standards that are affordability, reliability, water quality and financial sustainability. With \$112 million investment, the SWEs can reach about 1,000 communities and 3.2million people in peri-urban and small towns without any subsidy, Mr. Ampadu-Boakyie revealed.

On the challenges with the SWEs, he said the current policy framework granted exclusivity of water supply to

the Ghana Water Company and the District Assemblies. There was also the absence of service level benchmarks for SWEs. He said the current tariff for the public sector was insufficient to cover cost, making it unattractive for investors. He also noted limited consumer demand for and acceptance of SWEs as a major barrier. There was limited managerial, technical and financial management capacity of the operators and limited availability of technicians for large scale repairs. There was also no clear funding mechanism for supporting SWEs in the country. These among other challenges he said were preventing the SWEs from making the needed impact.

Mr. Ampadu-Boakyie identified some of the potential sources of funding for the SWEs as government both at national and district levels, grants from donors, corporate institutions, and through philanthropy. Other sources, he said, include social and commercial investment and capital reinvestment from capital recovered from SWEs.

Full Mole XXVIII Conference Communiqué

Theme: Ghana's Lower-Middle Income Status: Implications for sustainable WASH services delivery

Commitment #1: Intensive search for alternative financing sources for WASH

We admit that the sector is currently over-reliant on external support, CONIWAS therefore undertakes to:

1. Push for Government to set up the National Sanitation Fund now;
2. Advocate for and track expenditure on WASH with focus on comprehensiveness on spending on SDG 6 by MMDAs;
3. Support government institutions to explore innovative and modern WASH revenue collection strategies that enhance collection and minimize leakage.

Commitment #2: Advocating for equity and inclusion

We are aware that the shift of focus towards private sector participation may have implications on equity and vulnerability. CONIWAS will therefore:

1. Monitor the implementation of pro-poor related commitments in various WASH sector policies and produce an annual report on it;
2. Advocate for the development of a clear pro-poor targeting strategy and learning from other sectors.

Commitment #3: Advancing strategies for Private Sector Participation

We acknowledge that private sector participation in WASH is inevitable. CONIWAS will therefore:

1. Continue to promote private sector participation in WASH through increasing visibility for investment opportunities in the sector;
2. Continue to engage government to expand the reward system for private innovations in WASH;
3. Support government with ideas to promote enterprise solutions to WASH;
4. Push for the involvement of the academia in supporting the sector with innovation and the evidence base.

Commitment #4: Advancing options for institutional and structural reforms in WASH

CONIWAS acknowledges that on-going institutional and structural reforms are necessary. We will therefore:

1. Continue to provide technical support to the Ministry of Sanitation and Water Resources to develop its own necessary structures and strategies to enable it to play its leadership role effectively;
2. Support the establishment of the proposed National Sanitation Authority and advocate for a clear definition of roles for each agency/department under the ministry;
3. Advocate for the enactment of a Water and Sanitation Act that addresses regulation and implementation issues comprehensively;
4. Monitor and ensure that any planned reforms will lead to universal and sustainable access to safe, reliable, and affordable WASH facilities and services.

Commitment #5: Exploring more policy and advocacy options

CONIWAS cherishes the role of policy and advocacy in WASH sector development. We will:

1. Call for immediate revitalization of the Sector Working Group, Ghana Water Forum, National Environmental Sanitation Conference and the Sector Performance Report;
2. Explore and apply advocacy strategies that can effectively link WASH to the government's current development priorities – education, health, infrastructure and job creation;
3. Support the advocacy efforts and leverage on community strengths to ensure sustainable WASH services in communities;
4. Develop a database and report on civil society activities and contributions to support advocacy and also feed it into the national database on WASH;
5. Continue to develop civil society capacity, especially those of women, in more advanced advocacy and lobby skills.

Adopted by participants at Mole XXVIII at the Accra International Conference Centre on Friday, 6th October, 2017