

Sector working group to be reactivated - Hon. Patrick Boamah



A Deputy Minister of Sanitation and Water Resources, Hon. Patrick Yaw Boamah, has said plans are far advanced for the Ministry to reactivate the WASH Sector Working Group (SWG). He said this when delivering the keynote address at the opening ceremony of the 29th Mole Conference on Water and Sanitation 6th November, 2018 at Sogakope in the Volta Region.

Hon Boamah said the plans to reactivate the WASH Sector Working Group, which brings the senior staff of the Ministry to sit with Development Partners and INGOs/CSOs on regular basis for joint sector reviews, are at an advanced stage.

The SWG was very active in the early 2000s but has been dormant over the past couple of years and stakeholders in the WASH sector have been expressing worry about the gap that this has created in policy and strategic discourse.

Speaking about the Mole Conference, Hon Boamah commended the executives and members of CONIWAS, both past and present, for their determination and consistency in organizing the Mole Conference series for twenty nine good years and also thanked the partners who had supported CONIWAS both technically and financially over the years.

Continue on page 5 >>

IN THIS EDITION

**THIS EDITION FEATURES
SELECTED STORIES
FROM THE 2018 MOLE
29 CONFERENCE.**



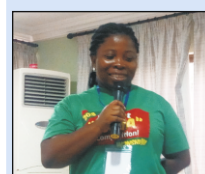
**Government
welcomes innovative
technologies in
sanitation and water
supply - Bawumia**



**Sanitation tops
priorities list of
Local Gov't
Ministry**



**MSWR develops
urban sanitation
strategy**



**GAMA project
introduces grievance
redress mechanism
into urban sanitation
delivery**

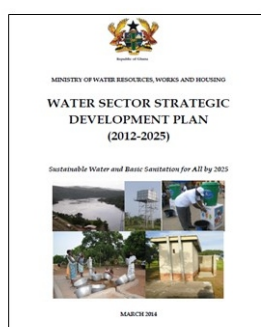
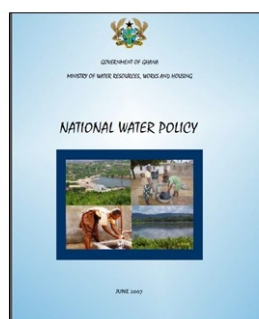
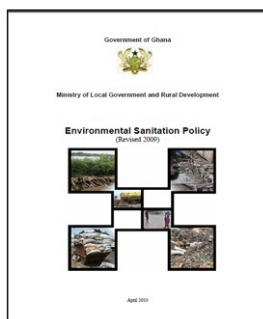


**SaniPath project
develops a faecal
exposure assessment
tool**

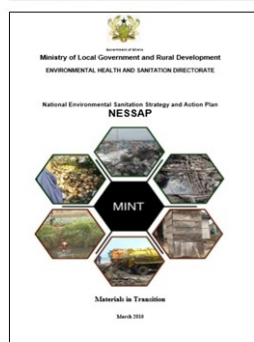


**CONIWAS honours
deserving wash
entities and
individuals at Mole
XXIX**

Align Policies, Strategies and Plans with SDG6 - Alliance for WASH Advocacy



Assessment of WASH Policies and strategies



The Alliance for WASH Advocacy (A4WA) has called for the review of the various WASH Sector policies and strategies to conform to the demands of the Sustainable Development Goal 6. The call was made during a presentation by Jemilatu Mashood of A4WA at the 29th edition of the Mole WASH Conference series held at Sogakope from 6th to 9th November, 2018.

Jemilatu indicated in her presentation on a research that A4WA had conducted that the targets in the national policies, plans and strategies were premised on the MDG targets and hence required urgent revisions if the SDG 6 targets are to be achieved. The objective of the research, she said, was to assess the existing national policies and strategies as a basis for policy advocacy towards the realignment of the policies,

strategies and approaches to reflect current WASH sector demand and supply dynamics and also to work towards achieving SDG 6.

The focus areas of the assessment were the National Water Policy, Environmental Sanitation Policy and the WASH Strategic Documents, mainly, the National Environmental Sanitation Strategy and Action Plan (NESSAP), Water Sector Strategic Development Plan (WSSDP) and the Rural Sanitation Development Model and Strategy (RSMS).

She said the National Water Policy still reflected the MDG commitments and would not respond to the ambitions and higher targets of the SDGs. Changes in the international and national development agenda over the years, she said, had rendered the policy inadequate to

address the new developments in the water sector. She said regulation for rural water was not clear in the policy and the statement on water provision as a fundamental human right was not backed by any legislation.

On the Environmental Sanitation Policy (ESP), Jemilatu said the assessment revealed that because the SDG target 6.3 specifically centres on safely managed sanitation services and water quality, there had to be clear policy objectives towards improving basic sanitation services and phasing out limited/shared toilet facilities. Also, the development of sustainable sanitation services, she said, required investments beyond basic sanitation. The legislation and regulation focus area of the ESP, she insisted, needed to be revised to incorporate sanitation enforcement issues and ensure the allocation of appropriate percentages of penalties (exact by the Judicial Service from sanitation offenders) back to MMDAs.

She disclosed that whereas the WSSDP focuses on providing basic sanitation for all, the focus of SDGs is on safely managed sanitation services for all. She suggested that WSSDP should therefore be complemented by key strategies and plans that would contribute to the attainment of the SDG 6. She said in all the seven districts visited for the assessment, there was little knowledge of the WSSDP itself,

Continue on next page

Align Policies, Strategies and Plans with SDG6 - Alliance for WASH Advocacy

indicating that the document had not been adequately disseminated.

The A4WA assessment also revealed that the NESSAP had elapsed in 2015 and required revision. The revision of the ESP, she suggested, should precede that of the NESSAP to ensure alignment. She suggested that the government needs to lead and show a clear direction in developing a NESSAP as well as addressing key issues relating to funding and development of comprehensive monitoring and evaluation systems to monitor progress with the SDGs.

Jemilatu indicated that one of the recommendations from the assessment of the Rural Sanitation Model and Strategy (RSMS) was the need for CLTS monitoring indicators to be reviewed to go beyond simply ascertaining improved sanitation coverage and ODF status to determine the specific service levels of sanitation. She said it should also be reviewed to include aspects of ownership and sustainability of the latrines constructed by the households.

The research, she said, found among others that the actual

implementation of the WASH policies and strategic documents was not backed by the required political will and fiscal decentralization. She said policies, strategies and plans had not been consistent with investments in institutional capacity and infrastructure, due to the top-down decision-making model and over dependency on external funding for the sector. Also, private sector participation (PSP) in the delivery of sanitation services was limited, especially in low-income areas as a result of a weak legal and regulatory framework.

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 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.

Include needs of persons with disability in disaster planning - study



Getrude Amissah Asokwa of Maple Consults has called for the greater inclusion of persons with disability (PWD) in disaster planning and management. She said this at the four day, 29th Mole Water and Sanitation Conference held in Sogakope in the Volta Region on the theme: Reforming Ghana's WASH sector towards Universal Access.

Delivering a presentation on a research she had conducted on how the needs of PWDs were factored into disaster planning and management using the Weija Dam spillage as a case study, Ms Asokwa said according to the 2010 population and housing census, 3% of Ghana's population had one form of disability or the other.

She revealed that the annual flooding of communities because of the spillage of the Weija Dam was a recurrent phenomenon in the Greater Accra Region. From 2014 to 2017, she said 2,880 people were affected through the dam spillage with five fatalities.

She said the study showed that National Disaster Management Organization (NADMO) undertakes disaster planning and response programmes which mostly involves

early warning communication and distribution of relief items to affected persons. However, she pointed that NADMO's disaster planning procedures paid minimal attention to (PWD). "This is especially surprising considering the post-2015 development agenda which draws significant attention to leaving-no-one-behind," she stated.

Ms Asokwa explained that from the study, some constraints that had made it difficult for disability-inclusive disaster planning and management included lack of accurate data on affected persons disaggregated by age, sex and disability type; low awareness on available technologies to communicate with the hearing and visually impaired, mentally challenged as well as modifications to make safe havens and their washrooms disability-friendly. She also mentioned ineffective stakeholder consultations between NADMO, the Land Use and Spatial Planning Authority, Ghana Federation of Disability Organisations, Ga South Municipal Assembly and communities' politicisation of disaster planning and management. She said NADMO also seemed to lean more towards the medical and welfare models rather than the social model of disability management, which, she said, had led to the inadvertent neglect of PWDs.

She recommended among others the creation of a disability desk at the Office of the President to give the needed push and attention to disability issues. She said a vulnerability unit should be created at the national, regional and district levels of NADMO. Also, NADMO (through its vulnerability unit), Ghana Federation of Disability, Ghana Statistical Service and the Departments of Social Welfare and Community Development should collaborate in data collection and management on PWDs disaggregated by sex, age, nature of disability and place of residence.

She again suggested that there should be a stronger collaboration between NADMO, the Land-Use and Spatial Planning Authority and the Ghana Federation of the Disabled and emphasized the need for education and knowledge sharing at NADMO. She said this would ensure that staff are abreast with current developments on how to effectively respond to the needs of PWDs during disasters. Finally, she recommended capacity building of communities to become first-hand responders to emergency situations by preparing disaster management plans and implementing them.

"It is only when a holistic approach of this nature is taken to make disaster planning and management in Ghana inclusive of PWDs and their organisations, that the country will be able to meet the needs and general welfare of PWDs in the advent of disasters" she stated.

Sector working group to be reactivated - Hon. Patrick Boamah

Continue from page 1

“The theme for the conference: Reforming Ghana's Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH) Sector towards Universal Access, is significant in view of the ongoing institutional reforms and changes in the sector,” he stated. He indicated that the WASH sector in Ghana had witnessed some changes following the onset of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in January, 2016. He added that the creation of the Ministry of Sanitation and Water Resources in February 2017 had brought renewed hope of revival and impetus for improved WASH sector performance, with the confidence that Sanitation and Hygiene were going to receive the needed political priority and institutional focus.

The Deputy Minister revealed that the Ministry was working on modalities to review key sector policies such as the Water and Environmental Sanitation Policies to get them aligned to SDG 6. He

also said the Environmental Health and Sanitation Directorate of the Ministry had doubled its technical staff base to be able to adequately provide the needed technical direction for the sector in respect of Environmental Sanitation service delivery in Ghana. The Community Water and Sanitation Agency (CWSA), he added, had commissioned some reforms within the rural and small-town water sub-sector, with the ultimate aim of employing professionalism to consolidate the gains made over the years.

“Water pollution, which has affected the operational cost of Ghana Water Company Limited and become a threat to water security, must be tackled head-on,” the Minister said. He asked for the support of CONIWAS in order to get the much-needed results. To stem the tide and protect water resources, he said that Ghana Water Company Limited (GWCL), in collaboration with the Water

Resources Commission (WRC), had been implementing the operation VANGUARD. He indicated the Ministry was happy with the work done so far by the Operation Vanguard Team and also stressed the need to focus some attention on the bad practice of farming close to the banks of water bodies, which had become rampant in recent times.

The Deputy Minister assured that the Ministry would continue to dialogue with CONIWAS and its members to reflect the coalition's contributions to the ongoing reforms to work towards universal access to sustainable WASH services by 2030 or earlier. He then challenged CONIWAS to embark on membership drive in order to bring all the other Civil Society Organizations who were not yet members of the Coalition to ensure a formidable force to engage other stakeholders effectively in pursuit of the Nation's WASH sector agenda.



SaniPath project develops a faecal exposure assessment tool

PATHWAYS OF EXPOSURE TO FECAL CONTAMINATION



Floodwater



Public Latrines



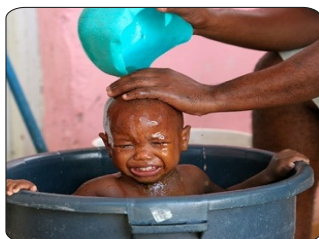
Open drains



Surface water



Drinking water



Bathing water



Wastewater-irrigated produce



Soil

The SaniPath Project has developed an exposure assessment tool to address the public risk of faecal contamination, according to TREND. This came to light at the 29th Mole Water and Sanitation conference series that took place from 6th to 9th November, 2018 in Sogakope. In a presentation delivered by Ato Kwamena Seneyah of TREND, it was revealed that studies in low-income urban areas in Ghana had shown levels of faecal contamination through multiple exposure pathways. Also, he said rapid urbanization had not been matched by commensurate increase in sanitation infrastructure. He said Metropolitan/Municipal Assemblies (MMAs) lack the data and tools to track the faecal contamination exposure pathways and assess the associated public health risks.

The goal of the SaniPath project, which had been implemented since 2010, according to Ato, was to address the issue with scarcity of data available to WASH policy makers and implementers in low-income urban communities. He said the development of the assessment tool became necessary because given complex exposure routes

with different levels of contamination and type of exposure contact; it was difficult to determine what kind of interventions might have the biggest impact on reduction in exposure to faecal contamination.

He revealed that some of the pathways of exposure to faecal contamination were floodways, surface water, wastewater-irrigated produce, public latrines and open drains.

Mr. Seneyah explained that the SaniPath Exposure Assessment Tool was designed to assess public health risks related to poor sanitation and to help prioritize sanitation investments based on the exposures that have the greatest public health impact.

Giving further explanation on how the assessment tool works, Mr. Seneyah said it used data collection methods such as behavioural exposure data which include key informant interviews, and community surveys. He said it also assesses environmental microbiology data by collecting environmental samples from relevant exposure pathways such as ocean, drains,

produce, water, soil, public latrines, floodwater, and analyzes for *E. coli* as an indicator of faecal contamination.

The assessment tool, he concluded, would guide users through the collection of relevant data to estimate the relative public health risk; provide users with easy-to-use software interface for data collection that can be customized to fit the country context; synthesize the data to guide community, government, and service providers in their decision-making process.

He also said the risk profiles in the assessment tool show how exposure to faecal contamination varies across pathways in a single neighborhood and how exposure to faecal contamination varies across neighbourhoods in a single city and across pathways for different cities. Sanitation planners, he indicated, can use information on geographic differences and pathway differences to target investments to areas/pathways of greatest risk he indicated.

Demand integrity and accountability in the WASH Sector - Vitus Azeem

Former Executive Secretary of the Ghana Integrity Initiative (GII), Mr. Vitus Adaboo Azeem, has admonished WASH Sector stakeholders and the citizenry in general to demand and ensure there is integrity and accountability in WASH Service delivery in the country.

Delivering one of the sub-theme presentations at the 29th Mole Conference series on the topic: Integrity, Social Accountability and Performance Monitoring in the WASH sector, Mr. Azeem said 'Water and sanitation delivery must not only be affordable and increasingly accessible but also of high quality, which should not be prevented by corrupt officials and employees.' Thus, he said, affordable WASH service delivery requires integrity.

He said increasing integrity and reducing corruption are essential components of the required change in the water and sanitation sector. Failure to recognize this, he said, will mean that the sector will continue to face the breakdowns and inefficiencies that corruption causes. He explained that integrity simply means doing the right thing even when no one is watching.

Integrity, Mr Azeem explained, is based on three pillars: Transparency, Accountability and Participation, and its aim is to ensure equity and sustainability. He indicated that the challenge of building integrity in the WASH sector lies not only in policies and laws but with the practice. This, he said, is because formal policies and laws must be enforced and implemented. He also said the risks of

corruption are reduced when policies, laws, guidelines, rights and duties are clearly defined, implemented, and enforced.

He explained that Accountability is the acknowledgment and assumption of responsibility for actions, encompassing the obligation to report, explain and be answerable for resultant consequences. Regarding Social Accountability, he explained that it is a process of constructive engagement between citizens and government to check the conduct and performance of public officials, politicians, and service providers as they use public resources to deliver services, improve community welfare, and protect people's rights. With regards to Transparency, he said it refers to openness and public access to information which enables citizens to understand the policy-making processes that affect them and be knowledgeable about the standards to expect from public officials. Participation, he said refers to the possibility for anyone affected by a decision to understand, intervene and influence it.

"Though not a panacea in itself, transparency or openness is an effective tool for checking corruption and coupled with integrity, especially of leadership, can drastically curb corruption in all sectors of society," he stated.

Mr. Azeem explained that for the full results of accountability, transparency and participation to be achieved, there is the need for Performance Monitoring. This he said is a formal process for the

government or an organization to set broad strategic priorities, underpinned by a framework in which they prepare multi-year strategic business plans on an annual basis, with performance indicators and targets to support effective monitoring, evaluation and reporting on results. This means that there is a need for monitoring to cover all aspects of the WASH service delivery chain and any targets set for the sector.

Concluding his presentation, Mr. Azeem said several research reports on the WASH sector, such as those of the World Bank, DFID and Transparency International, both globally and in Ghana, had pointed to the problem of corruption and its effects in reducing access to water and sanitation services. He said providing water and sanitation investment in political 'world banks' due to political reasons, nepotism and/or corruption is another serious breach of integrity in the sector. Integrity he said necessarily requires transparency, accountability and participation.

Mr. Azeem pointed out that lack of integrity in any sector promotes corruption, which poses a threat and has devastating consequences on poverty reduction and development. He therefore entreated all stakeholders to work to ensure improved transparency, accountability and integrity in the WASH Sector.

MSWR develops urban sanitation strategy



The Ministry of Sanitation and Water Resources has begun the development of an urban sanitation strategy to focus on liquid waste management, according to the Environmental Health and Sanitation Directorate.

This came to the fore when the Ministry, led by Mr. Kwaku Quansah and Mr. Kofi Biscoff of TREND, delivered a presentation at the 29th edition of the Mole Conference Series at Sogakope on 7th November, 2018.

Mr. Quansah explained that the urban sanitation strategy and model was important because of rapid urbanization, the need to harmonize several strategies and models in the delivery of different aspects of urban sanitation, and the requirements of SDG 6.2 for safely managed liquid waste.

He said the process was being led by the Ministry, while Hydroconseil and TREND had been commissioned to support the process, he added. He also said the process was a participatory one involving all sector stakeholders, the Metropolitan, Municipal and Districts Assemblies

(MMDAs) and the private sector.

Mr. Biscoff on his part said the inception activities of developing the strategy had begun with consultations with sector stakeholders, a desk review of existing documents and a national inception workshop. It then continued with a diagnostic/situational analyses of the present urban sanitation situation, data validation and emerging key issues. He said they were left with the drafting and validation of the strategy in order for the process to be complete. He said field visits had been conducted in eleven MMDAs across the country.

Mr. Biscoff disclosed that the strategy would have six thematic areas: Service Delivery/finance models; Technology Options; Social Communication; Enabling Environment; Social Inclusion; and Monitoring and Evaluation.

Some of the emerging issues identified in the diagnosis and data validation exercise, Mr. Biscoff explained, were that Ghana achieved its MDG on reducing by half the

proportion of the population without access to basic drinking water by 2015 but not the target for sanitation. Also the country, he said, had experienced economic growth over the previous decade resulting in socio-economic improvement but these had come with rapid urbanization with 51% of the country's population living in urban areas, which, he said, was expected to increase to 60% in the next few years.

Unfortunately, he said, urban sanitation improvement had not kept pace with population growth and that low-income urban communities were those most affected by poor sanitation. Only 20% of the urban population, he said, used improved sanitation, while about 72% used shared toilets.

Ending the presentation, Mr. Kofi Biscoff disclosed that from the literature review and interviews it came to light that the WASH sector in Ghana had relevant, well developed policies, plans and programs and strategy frameworks but they had not been fully implemented due to funding, human resource and coordinating challenges. In order for the urban sanitation strategy and model to succeed when fully developed, he said there was the need for more to be done in the areas of behavioural change communication, increase financing for service delivery, and social inclusion.

CWSA engages Civil Society on Rural Water Reforms

The Community Water and Sanitation Agency (CWSA) has initiated reforms to take over the management of small town water systems in order to inject professionalism to achieve sustainable service delivery.

This was disclosed at the 2018 edition of the Mole WASH Conference Series, which took place at Sogakope from 6th to 9th November, 2018 on the theme: Reforming the WASH sector towards Universal Access.

In a presentation delivered on behalf of the agency by Mohammed Ibrahim Adokor, he said the CWSA, which would celebrate its 20th anniversary in December, 2018 was set up to facilitate the provision of safe water to rural communities and small towns and promote water related sanitation and hygiene practices.

He said CWSA was established to implement the National Community Water Sanitation Programme (NCWSP) which was launched in 1994. He indicated that after years of implementation of the NCWSP, a total of 32,261 boreholes and hand-dug wells, 487 piped water systems and 427 limited mechanized systems, 82,309 household improved latrines and 5,221 institutional latrines had been provided. This, he said, had contributed to increased access to water from 24% in 1990 to 62.13% in 2017. The CWSA, according to him, contributed to the countrywide sanitation coverage estimated at about 21% he also added.

Mr. Adokor explained that various researches had shown that in spite of the achievements in water services delivery, there was growing



consensus that the approach where community volunteers were left to manage the facilities needed to be overhauled. This he said was because when the communities are left on their own, the water systems often begin to fail once large scale investments for major repair or rehabilitation works are required.

He revealed that a baseline study conducted by CWSA in 2014 in 119 districts in six regions found that 39% of boreholes and 25% of piped schemes were non-functional and a similar proportion was also partially functioning. "This continuous cycle of construction and breakdown meant new funding was used to rehabilitate broken down water systems instead of providing first time access," he added.

He said the Agency, after extensive stakeholder engagements in 2017, was therefore compelled to initiate reforms to manage small town piped systems to sustain water services delivery. The CWSA Board, he said, had approved the reforms and tasked the Agency to manage 200 systems by the end of 2019. CWSA had therefore reviewed the sub-sector

strategy and intended to expand its mandate to directly manage piped water systems, Mr Adokor added.

Some of the objectives of the reforms, he indicated, were to increase rural drinking water supply coverage towards meeting the target of SDG 6; mobilize internal resources to sustain and modernize existing water systems and create new ones; create a support mechanism to sustain operation and maintenance of point sources; apply new technologies to improve water safety and reduce non-revenue water; and engage professional staff to manage small towns piped water systems and create new jobs.

He informed participants that CWSA was, as at the time of the conference, already managing 75 piped water systems countrywide. He said 790 Water System Management Staff, including engineers, technicians, accountants, water safety specialists, had already been employed in relation to the reforms.

GAMA project introduces grievance redress mechanism into urban sanitation delivery



The Greater Accra Metropolitan Area Sanitation and Water Project (GAMA SWP) has introduced a grievance redress mechanism into its project to promote smooth project implementation, says a project staff.

At a presentation delivered at Mole XXIX Water and Sanitation Conference organized by the Coalition of NGOs in Water and Sanitation in November, 2018 at Sogakope, it was explained that however well project interventions are designed/planned and implemented, there is a potential for disputes or complaints from Project Affected Persons (PAPs) or interested parties/stakeholders.

The grievance redress mechanism, according to Sarah Antwi Boasiako who led the presentation, had therefore been incorporated into the project design to take care of such issues. This, according to Sarah, is because there are always potential environmental and social adverse impacts of projects on the people and the environment. Issues such as destruction of vegetation, air and noise pollution; inhabitants losing their land to the

project, loss of income/livelihood to some of the citizens, water resource contamination among others come to the fore during project implementation.

The key objective of the GAMA project, according to Sarah, was to ensure that project interventions were planned and implemented in an environmentally and socially friendly manner. This, she said, was necessary before and during construction and operational phases through the preparation and implementation of the necessary instruments to guide implementation and to mitigate adverse impacts.

Sarah said GAMA SWP had a three-tier grievance redress procedure. Tier one was at the Community level using the community structures like Assembly members, Unit Committee members, and opinion leaders. Tier two was the Metropolitan and Municipal Assemblies redress system managed by the Assemblies and tier three was the Ministry of Sanitation and Water of Resources (MSWR) Redress System managed by the Project Coordinating

Unit.

The grievance redress mechanism, she revealed had supported the GAMA project to receive its project related complaints or queries promptly. It had helped to sort and resolve complaints amicably that could have delayed service delivery and even led to court actions, she said. The GRM, she said, had also helped the project to clarify issues during Assembly Town Hall Meetings and be more accountable to communities.

As a lesson and warning to participants and project teams, Sarah said that unresolved complaints could cause delays in sanitation service delivery and result in cost overruns. She said a feedback system of the grievance redress process helps to improve project strategies and to plan future interventions better. "No sanitation intervention can claim successes without deliberately putting in a system to receive and address complaints promptly." She emphasized.

CONIWAS honours deserving wash entities and individuals at Mole XXIX



The Coalition of NGOs in Water and Sanitation (CONIWAS) has organized its first WASH Stewardship Awards with funding and technical support from World Vision International, Ghana. The aim, according to the Coalitions Chairman, Martin Dery, was to recognize the contribution of various stakeholders over the years to the growth of the water, sanitation and hygiene sector.

The award ceremony took place on the night of Thursday, 8th November, 2018 at Villa Cisneros, Sogakope as part of activities of the Mole XXIX WASH Conference.

A public announcement was made a couple of weeks preceding Mole XXIX Conference for individuals and entities to be nominated. An awards committee was constituted to go through the nominations and select the most deserving winners for the various categories. The awards had three categories: the Competitive Category, the Lifetime Achievement Category, and the Development Partners Category.

Under the Competitive Category,

Global Communities won the best institution in Basic Sanitation and Hygiene and the GAMA Sanitation and Water Project won the best Sanitation Project. World Vision received the award for provision of Safe Drinking Water, while WaterAid got the award for Advocacy. Prof. Kwabena Nyarko of the Kwame Nkrumah University of Science and Technology won the award for contribution to research and development, while Zoomlion Ghana Limited and Citi FM won the best Private sector entity and Media contribution respectively.

In the Lifetime Achievements category, individual retired WASH sector professionals who made remarkable contributions to sector development during their active working days were awarded. Prof. Esi Awuah, former Vice Chancellor, University of Health and Allied Sciences, Mr. R. K. D. Van-Ess, former Director of Technical Services, CWSA; Mr. Minta Aboagye, former Director, Water Directorate – Ministry of Water Resources, Works and Housing; Mr. Demedeme Naa Lenason, former Director, Environmental Health and Sanitation Directorate – Ministry of Local

Government and Rural Development; and Mr. Thomas Sayibu Imoro, former Executive Director, NewEnergy and former Chairman of CONIWAS were all honoured by the Coalition.

In the Development Partners category, the World Bank, UNICEF, Royal Netherlands Embassy, USAID, European Union and Global Affairs Canada were all honoured for consistently supporting the WASH sector to grow over the past decade and for their remarkable contributions through technical and funding support. The various awardees or their representatives expressed gratitude to CONIWAS for recognizing their contribution to the growth of the sector.

According to the Chairman of CONIWAS, Martin Dery, the WASH Stewardship Award was intended to recognize remarkable contribution to sector development and also to motivate more professionals and entities to focus on giving their best to the sector. He said it was expected to be held annually and made a permanent component of the Mole Conference Series.

Communiqué of the Annual Mole XXIX Conference Held from 5th - 9th November, 2018 at Villa Cisneros, Sogakope in the Volta Region of Ghana

Theme: Reforming Ghana's Water, Sanitation and Hygiene Sector towards Universal Access

Preamble

At the annual Mole XXIX Conference held from 5th to 9th November, 2018 at Villa Cisneros, Sogakope in the Volta Region of Ghana, under the theme “Reforming Ghana's Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH) Sector towards Universal Access”, the Communiqué below was issued. This follows 4 days of deliberations by representatives of CSOs, Government, Development Partners, Academic and Research Institutions, the Media and Private Sector, among others.

Organized by the Coalition of NGOs in Water and Sanitation (CONIWAS), the thematic areas discussed by conference included institutional realignment for accelerated service delivery, effective sector policies and strategies, localizing the SDGs towards sustainable financing at all levels and integrity, social accountability and performance monitoring in the WASH sector.

Institutional re-alignment for accelerated service delivery

1. We call on the Minister for Sanitation and Water Resources to, as a matter of urgency, reactivate the Sector Working Group and other coordination structures, especially the National Technical Working Group on Sanitation (NTWGS), Regional Inter-agency Coordinating Committee on Sanitation (RICCS) and the District Inter-agency Coordinating Committee on Sanitation (DICCS) across the country;
2. We will support and work with Community Water and Sanitation Agency (CWSA) to implement the reform agenda towards sustainable and pro-poor rural and small towns WASH services delivery.
3. We call on the President to support the Ministry of Sanitation and Water Resources (MSWR) accelerate the pace of institutional reforms particularly the establishment of the National Sanitation Authority and the National Sanitation Fund and the strengthening of inter-sectorial linkages.

Effective sector policies and strategies

1. We will continue to expand the space for citizens' engagement for sector policy development, dissemination, implementation and reviews.
2. We call on the Minister for Sanitation and Water Resources to take necessary steps to review all relevant sector policies and strategies by the end of 2019 towards the attainment of the WASH related SDGs.

Localizing the SDGs towards sustainable financing at all levels

1. CONIWAS will actively lead the process of localizing the SDGs at the sub-national levels to ensure sanitation and water for all by 2030.
2. We call on the Minister for Sanitation and Water Resources to lead in the coordination of relevant sectors and emerging institutions such as the Ministry of Special Development Initiatives, Ministry of Environment, Science, Technology and Innovation, Ministry of Monitoring and Evaluation, and Ministry of Inner Cities and Zongo Development to avoid duplication, achieve value for money, improve accountability and maximize the capacity utilization of existing WASH institutions.
3. We call on government to prioritize and increase investments and release of funds to support the implementation of Integrated Water Resources Management (IWRM) and WASH.
4. We call on government to expand implementation of the Rural Sanitation Model and Strategy (RSMS) and the Community-Led Total Sanitation (CLTS) approach to all regions and districts in Ghana and resource the Metropolitan, Municipal and District Assemblies (MMDAs) for effective implementation.

Integrity, social accountability and performance monitoring

1. We will mobilize a critical mass of CSOs to intensify advocacy for functional local level leadership to deliver WASH sector priorities, public financing for WASH, and implementation of international commitments;
2. We will continue to develop capacities to generate evidence to support informed advocacy and effective policy decision-making;
3. We will monitor implementation of WASH programmes and projects and produce shadow reports to expose gaps in the judicious use of resources, quality and timely service delivery, rights and entitlements, public participation and citizen satisfaction.

This communiqué has been finalized and adopted this Friday, 9th November, 2018 by participants at the annual Mole XXIX Conference held at the Villa Cisneros, Sogakope.

