

Understanding the dynamics of the WASH sector in Ghana

Ghana's political, institutional and economic environment is conducive for an efficient WASH sector compared with many other countries in the sub-region. However there are still remarkable weaknesses in WASH services delivery even though a couple of models are being applied in the field. This may be due to issues with institutional capacity to manage the country's WASH affairs. These and a couple of others were part of the conclusions at the 57th edition of NLLAP held on 1st September, 2016.

OCI International, a Burkinaabe Consultancy Firm undertook a study on “Understanding the context, sector actors, strengths, weakness, opportunities and constraints of the wash sector in Ghana” for the West Africa Water Sanitation and Hygiene (WA-WASH) project funded by USAID. The study was conducted in Burkina Faso, Côte d'Ivoire and Ghana. WA-WASH in collaboration with OCI International (the consultant) and the Resource Centre Network (RCN) organized the 57th edition of NLLAP on Thursday 1st September 2016 in Accra. The purpose of this learning and sharing session was to i) present the preliminary findings of the study with a focus on Ghana to sector stakeholders; ii) jointly discuss the preliminary findings; iii) solicit further input from sector stakeholders in Ghana on the findings; iv) have sector stakeholders validate the findings and make appropriate recommendations.

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, and the Catholic Relief Service (CRS), among others.

In spite of this, according to the study, sanitation service delivery is still woefully lagging behind with pockets of worsening inequality between the poor and the rich. As such, universal coverage for WASH service provision is still a challenge especially for the vulnerable and the poor.

He said stakeholders, in the next five years want to see an option of rights based approach for 'inclusive services' backed with legislation and financial investment; strengthening the capacity of WASH actors especially the MMDAs with capacity in monitoring and service delivery backed with proper remuneration; capacity building/improvement in CSOs

engagement with Government on WASH commitments especially around the SDGs; mainstreaming WASH into vocational training institutes; creation of a National Sanitation Authority and reintroduction of subsidies into the CLTS model.



Stakeholder suggestions

The preliminary report and its recommendations were generally accepted by participants as a good product. Participants

however made very important additional suggestions that will help to enrich the final report. These include the following:

Methodology

- There is need to include the regulatory institutions in the audiences;
- The media was also left out but needs to be included in the second phase of the research
- There was a suggestion to reconsider if Accra was representative enough for the whole of the southern zone
- It was also recommended to include the sample size, questionnaires and percentages in the final report

Findings

Statistics

- Statistics on piped water into households from the JMP was challenged by participants from the PURC. There was therefore a suggestion that the researcher should crosscheck the figures with the relevant institutions
- Include data on WASH in Schools in the study – GES will be able to provide this data
- Strengths/Weaknesses, etc.
- Include illegal mining, sand winning and uncoordinated use of agro chemicals in the threats
- Add lack of coordination between the

MMDAs and the Public Utilities

- Private sector driven by profit is not a sector weakness because that is why they are private

Implementation models

- Include WaterAid's endogenous approach to the list of prevailing models
- The GWCL has a Pro-poor Unit. The researcher may also consult them to learn more about what models or interventions they apply

Recommendations

- Highlight the need for effective partnership arrangements between the WASH Sector and the Mass media
- Bring in the Movie industry since their movies can also educate the masses and shape behaviours
- Partnerships for waste management will be more effective at the MMDA level than at the national level
- There is need to emphasize waste segregation as a strong recommendation
- There is need to introduce and emphasize public education on the effects of waste generation
- In the final report, share perspectives and findings from the other countries where the study is taking place

The NLLAP is a WASH sector multi stakeholder platform with the overall goal of improving sector learning and dialogue. It is hosted by the Ghana WASH Resource Centre Network (RCN). The platform offers learning and sharing opportunity for sector players as one of the practical approaches to improving sector engagements/sharing with the long term aim of achieving a knowledge driven WASH sector that delivers quality and sustainable services in Ghana. NLLAP meetings take place on the last Thursday of every month and opened to all interested parties. The discussions of each NLLAP meeting are summarized and shared with the wider WASH community. The topics of upcoming meetings are decided on by the RCN secretariat and a list of upcoming meetings can be found on the RCN website www.washghana.net.

If you are interested to propose a topic for a meeting please contact us on,

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