

Provide DCDs and DCEs Orientation on Rural Sanitation-NLLAP Stakeholders Advocates

Stakeholders in the Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH) sector at the 64th National Level Learning Alliance Platform (NLLAP) meeting have advocated that all District Coordinating Directors (DCDs) and Metropolitan, Municipal and District Chief Executives (MMDCEs) should be provided the needed orientation on rural sanitation with specific focus and priority given to Community Led Total Sanitation (CLTS) early in their tenure to shore up their interest and commitment towards improving rural sanitation in the country. Stakeholders indicated that such an orientation should be led and undertaken by the Community Water and Sanitation (CWSA) and Regional Environmental Health Officers to capacitate the DCDs and DCEs lead and moderate discussions on rural sanitation at the local level.

The 64th NLLAP took place on Thursday 22nd June, 2017 on the theme: Enhancing and Accelerating Rural Sanitation Programme in Ghana: The Role of Evidence Based Approaches. Mr. Niall Boot of UNICEF Ghana shared the interim findings from the studies on Rural Sanitation Operational Research undertaken in six Districts in the Northern and Volta Regions. Nii Odai Laryea of Maple Consults took participants through the Methodology and Study Design of the research and Mr. Kwame Asubonteng of IRC Ghana shared "Findings from Other Stakeholders on Current Approaches to Rural Sanitation." This was supported by the Ministry of Sanitation and Water Resources and UNICEF. NLLAP 64 was chaired by the Acting Director, Environmental Health and Sanitation Directorate of the Ministry of Sanitation and Water Resources, Mr. Cosmas Cambozie.



To provide impetus to rural sanitation, it was suggested that DCDs and DCEs should periodically join the Monitoring and Evaluation Teams on CLTS monitoring visits especially to post-triggered communities to ensure that these communities do not relapse.

The OMI partners with support from the Ministry of Sanitation and Water Resources and UNICEF in March, 2017 conducted a series of six (6) District level workshops in districts that are implementing the GoG/UNICEF rural sanitation programme. The project which is part of a broader operational research is aimed at strengthening evidence-based rural sanitation implementation programme approaches to accelerate increased access to rural sanitation with emphasis on identifying the enabling environmental factors associated with good and poor progress in rural sanitation.

Key Findings on Current Approaches to Rural Sanitation

Crosscutting findings made by the research team included:

Demand Side Approaches

- Almost all stakeholders adopted the CLTS approach to improved rural sanitation using MMDAs as field facilitators;
- Most stakeholders used door-to-door sales promotion of sanitation through sanitation Sales Agents;

- The use of mass media for sanitation promotion and for advocacy through religious platforms was a recognized as a key enabling factor.

Supply Side Approaches

- Implementing partners trained latrine artisans to provide cost effective and durable latrines in their communities;
- Encouraging the use of Village Savings and Loans Association to raise funds and provide indirect subsidy to promote the construction of household latrines is prudent;
- Stakeholders also used Sanitation Sales Agents to shore up the construction of household toilets;
- Stakeholders have also established Sanimarts to make available the various toilet options for households to select from.

Strategies adopted by stakeholders to achieve adopted approaches to improved rural sanitation

- Implementing partners are focusing on strengthening MMDAs staff involvement in the CLTS process, empowering and networking with natural leaders as well as enhancing post-triggering and post-ODF monitoring/follow up.
- Employment of BCC strategies and messages to impact behaviour change and promote the adoption of improved hygiene and sanitation practices.
- Adoption of mobile money payment system, Village Savings and Loans Associations and other credit payment systems to shore up fund mobilization and advancement to households to construct and own toilet facilities.
- Provision of direct financial support to RICCS and DICCS for, among others, effective monitoring, verification and certification of ODF communities.
- Training of latrine artisans and the development and marketing of specific latrine options.

Findings on enabling environment for improved sanitation

The study made the following findings as supporting actions that influenced and created the enabling environment for improved rural sanitation at the local level:

- Leadership and recognition is a big motivating factor for front line staff
- Follow-up by more senior staff and rotating of field staff coupled with facilitation qualities
- The visibility of results (ODF league tables)- is an important factor motivating district staff at all levels (including the senior level staff) in the Northern Region and Kpando in Volta Region
- Follow-up visits from regional level (mainly RICCS)
- Regional ODF reviews –innovations by districts implementing CLTs
- Publicity
- Engaging support from local leaders outside the DA such as traditional leadership, natural leaders and Religious institutions and leaders
- External funding for Rural Sanitation are likely impact on post programme scaled-up and sustainability as institutional structures (e.g. the DICCS and RICCS) established for monitoring activities can be sustained
- Supply of materials is a major challenge as most latrine options require common construction materials (cement, sand, and iron rod and vent pipes) which in most cases are locally available but the total construction cost increases with the cost of transporting these inputs to the location.

Stakeholder Suggestions

Stakeholders at the end of the session suggested the following actions to be considered in the areas of Leadership and institutional arrangements, financing, policy and practice, monitoring and planning and investment to help improve rural sanitation across the country:

- That, all DCDs and DCEs should be provided an orientation on rural sanitation with focus on CLTS early in their tenure at regional level by Community Water and Sanitation Agency and REHOs
- DCDs and DCEs should lead and moderate sessions on rural sanitation at the district level in order to galvanize support and foster the requisite “buy-in” of key stakeholders.
- That DCDs and DCEs should periodically exhibit leadership by joining the monitoring teams to monitor progress of rural sanitation especially post triggered communities.
- Development partners and NGOs should channel their request for assistance on rural sanitation issues through the Regional Minister and RCC.
- That, EHAs should work closely with officials of the Department of Community Development and other extension service workers on rural sanitation especially on CLTS due to their rich experience and skills.
- MMDAs should find innovative means of raising their internally generated funds (IGF such as; fines, use of tariffs collected from public urinals and toilets) and set some aside

purposely to support rural sanitation.

- That, a mandatory percentage of the District Assembly Common Fund (DACF) should be set aside for CLTS activities for all MMDAs
- That, the District Assembly Sanitation Fund should be operationalized to cater for improved rural sanitation.
- DICCS members should be lobbied to advocate for sanitation financing at the district level.
- That, the Rural Sanitation Model and Strategy (RSMS) document should be widely circulated among stakeholders.
- That, the Ministries of Sanitation and Water Resources, Local Government and Rural Development, Ministry of Finance, National Development Planning Commission and its allied Departments and Agencies should align cross-cutting policies in order to enhance co-ordination in respect of rural sanitation.
- MMDAs should intensify their monitoring, evaluation and supervisory activities especially in post-triggered communities.
- That, sanitation data must be published at District Assembly and Regional levels and widely circulated in order to “name-and-shame” poor performing communities, Assemblies, and traditional areas for action to be taken towards sanitation improvements.
- That, the capacity of staff should be improved at all levels for effective monitoring to be made at regular intervals especially in adult participatory approaches.
- MSWR should create separate budget for EHAs and plan for their capacity development rather than relegating it to MMDAs.
- That, DEHOs should lobby top-level District Assembly staff to include more DESSAP issues into the DMTDPs for improved service delivery.

Mr. Niall Boot of UNICEF Ghana said the operational research was to look at how the approaches to sanitation in the past have yielded the intended results and how CLTS in particular can be made more effective in tackling rural sanitation challenges. According to Niall, how sanitation marketing and its associated household financing mechanisms would be optimized within the Ghanaian context was critical and worth finding out. Also critical and worth researching on was the sustainability of these results.

In his concluding remarks, the Acting Director of the Environmental Health and Sanitation Directorate of the Ministry of Sanitation and Water Resources, Mr. Cosmas Cambozie commended UNICEF Ghana and other donors for their continued support for the WASH sector and called on stakeholders to adopt and adapt the findings of the final research in order to improve rural sanitation in Ghana.

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 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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