

Sustainable Development Goal

Structures and efforts are underway to monitor the Sustainable Development Goal Six (SDG 6) in Ghana. The SDGs are aimed at setting higher goals to address the critical development challenges facing humanity in order to eradicate poverty. All over the world countries are reviewing the 17 goals and 169 targets to translate them into local actions taking into account national circumstances and capacity. To monitor SDG 6, which focuses on water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH), Ghana has put certain structures in place and has put certain institutions in charge. This paper presents the current efforts towards monitoring and reporting on SDG 6 in Ghana.

The RCN, in collaboration with the Water Research Institute (WRI) of the Centre for Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR), the National Development Planning Commission (NDPC) and the national SDG 6 Committee, organized a learning and sharing meeting using the National Level Learning Alliances Platform (NLLAP 74) on Thursday, 12th July, 2018 in Accra. The purpose of the session was to increase WASH stakeholder awareness on efforts and processes underway to monitor the SDG 6, share the Ghana data on SDG 6 gathered so far; and to discuss key actions needed to complete and strengthen WASH SDG Monitoring Systems. The session was chaired by the Executive Secretary of the Water Resources Commission (WRC), Mr Ben Ampomah, while presentations were led by representatives from the WRI, the Ministry of Sanitation and Water Resources (MSWR), and the NDPC.



In his introductory remarks, the chairman for NLLAP 74, Mr Ben Ampomah, emphasized the importance of monitoring the SDG 6 and the need for multi-stakeholder collaboration to in undertaking any effective monitoring assignment aimed at facilitating the achievement of the SDGs. At the global level for instance, he said various institutions are in charge of monitoring different components of the SDGs. He therefore expressed hope that NLLAP 74 would reveal both Ghana's strengths and weaknesses towards monitoring the SDG 6 so that the necessary actions could be taken. On behalf of the Director of the CSIR, Mr Yaw Atweneboakwa from the CSIR indicated that if Ghana is able to effectively structure the monitoring efforts, the country would be inching towards making a significant achievement of the SDGs. He also urged organizations within the WASH sector to release any available information that they have concerning any of the SDG 6 indicators.

Overview of SDG 6 baseline data

Mr Isaac Afenyo of the Ghana Water Company made a presentation on the available baseline information as at 2015 on behalf of the MSWR as follows:

Target 6.1: By 2030, achieve universal and equitable access to safe and affordable drinking water for all

- 27% of Ghanaians have access to Safely Managed water supply services.
- 51% of Ghanaians have access to Basic Drinking water sources. This implies that people can fetch water from a nearby standpipe or point source within 30 minutes round trip. Therefore 78% of Ghanaians have access to at least Basic Drinking Water Services.
- From projections, Ghana can attain at least 60% access to safely managed drinking water services by the year 2030.
- Progressive incremental targets of 2% has been set to enable Ghana attain the SDG 6.1 targets for at least 100% Basic Drinking Water Services by the year 2030.

Target 6.2. By 2030, achieve access to adequate and equitable sanitation and hygiene for all and end open defecation, paying special attention to the needs of women and girls and those in vulnerable situations

- Ghanaians with access to Safely Managed sanitation services is currently not available.
- 14% of Ghanaians have access to Basic sanitation facilities.
- 57% of Ghanaians share toilet facilities.
- The implementation of a number of initiatives such as the Community Led Total Sanitation, the One Million Household Toilet Agenda, other donor assisted sanitation interventions will enable Ghana attain at least 80% of Basic Sanitation Services by 2030.
- From projections, Ghana can attain at least 40% access to safely managed sanitation services by the year 2030.

6.3. By 2030, improve water quality by reducing pollution, eliminating dumping and minimizing release of hazardous chemicals and materials, halving the proportion of untreated waste water and substantially increasing recycling and safe reuse globally.

- Currently data for the proportion of water safely treated is scattered among different institutions. Efforts are being made to reconcile figures for this data.
- SDG baseline for the proportion of bodies of water with good ambient water quality has been established as 53.6%.
- SDG target of at least 60% by 2030 has been set.

6.4. By 2030, substantially increase water-use efficiency across all sectors and ensure sustainable withdrawals and supply of freshwater to address water scarcity and substantially reduce the number of people suffering from water scarcity

Currently data for the two main indicators – change in water use efficiency; and level of water stress – is scattered among several institutions and efforts are underway to reconcile them. No clear target for 2030 has been set yet.

6.5. By 2030, implement integrated water resources management at all levels, including through transboundary cooperation as appropriate

- The Integrated Monitoring Initiative of the Global Environmental Management Initiative (GEMI) for monitoring and reporting on SDG targets 6.5 has been adopted.
- SDG baseline for the proportion of transboundary basin area with an operational arrangement for water cooperation is 91%.
- The SDG target has been set at 100% by 2030

Monitoring SDG 6 – Terms of reference

To monitor SDG 6, which focuses on water and sanitation, the National SDG 6 Monitoring Committee is expected to operate with the following Terms of Reference:

- Update indicators for Ghana, which ultimately will feed to the

Institutional arrangements for SDG 6 Monitoring

Target	Indicator	Global	Ghana
6.1.1	Safely managed drinking water services	WHO/UNICEF	MSWR
6.2.1	Safely managed sanitation and hygiene services	WHO/UNICEF	MSWR/MLGRD
6.3.1	Wastewater safely treated	WHO/UN-Habitat/UNSD	EPA
6.3.2	Good ambient water quality	UNEP	WRC
6.4.1	Water use efficiency	FAO	WRI/WRC
6.4.2	Level of water stress	FAO	?
6.5.1	Integrated water resources management	UNEP	WRC
6.5.2	Transboundary basin area with water cooperation	UNECE/UNESCO	?
6.6.1	Water-related ecosystems	UNEP	WRC/Forestry Commission
6.a.1	Water- and sanitation-related official development assistance that is part of a government coordinated spending plan	WHO/UNEP/OECD	Government Budgetary Commitments
6.b.1	Participation of local communities in water and sanitation management	WHO/UNEP/OECD	PSP

National SDG Reporting

- Collect and analyze relevant indicators; data held by key institutions in all relevant sectors
- Develop protocols for the collection of additional relevant data that are presently not collected by the relevant institutions.
- Collect and report on data annually.
- Source for funds to operate in a self-financing model.

The SDG 6 Policy Support System (PSS)

The NDPC made a presentation on the SDG 6 Policy Support System which helps countries to track progress from the following core indicators: Status, capacity, finance, policy and institutional arrangements, gender, disaster risk reduction/resilience, and transparency. It was developed by the United Nations University Institute for Water, Environment and Health (UNU-INWEH). The SDG PSS will draw on data, knowledge and evidence that already exist, and on data that will be generated for SDGs monitoring and reporting. The SDG PSS will provide visual displays of progress and status, thus providing useful evidence base that can be used by policy makers across all water-relevant agencies in Ghana. Furthermore, the SDG 6 PSS will indicate areas of strength and weaknesses in policy-critical areas thus helping decision makers to design targeted interventions. If used strategically, the SDG Policy Support System can also provide a better view of what will be required to achieve water-related Sustainable Development Goals and targets by 2030. This is a trial version and Ghana is among five countries in the world where the SDG 6 PSS is being piloted.

Summary of national efforts so far

Ghana has nominated the WRI as the focal point for SDG 6, and has subsequently set up a national committee which is currently working on SDG 6. The committee comprises representatives from the Ministry of Sanitation and Water Resources, Ghana Water Company Limited, Community Water and Sanitation Agency, Ghana Statistical Service, Ghana Irrigation Development Authority, Coalition of NGOs in Water and Sanitation, Water Resources Commission/Ghana Country Water Partnership and Water Research Institute of the Council for Scientific and Industrial Research, and the National Development Planning Commission. To this end, several meetings have been organised

towards mobilising individual institutional effort to collate the information required as input for the PSS and to develop criteria for data collection on indicators 6.4.1 and 6.4.2 and to harmonize templates for data collection on indicators 6.3.1 and 6.3.2.

Currently, about 70% of the SDG-PSS questionnaire has been answered. There is therefore the need to hold additional working sessions and stakeholder meetings to complete the assignment. Terms of reference and criteria for data collection for indicators 6.4.1 and 6.4.2, and templates to collect data on indicators 6.3.1, 6.3.2 have been developed presented for validation at NLLAP 74.

Participant suggestions

Participants at NLLAP 74 made a few suggestions to the National SDG 6 Monitoring Committee:

- It is important to calculate per capita share of total water resources even though the SDGs focus on the total available volume and usage.
- Instead of discussing the peculiar issue with the large proportion of Ghanaian households that share toilet facilities, focus rather on advising government to put in place measures to accelerate progress with access to household toilets to meet the global standard.
- Intensify collaboration with local institutions to generate and develop data.
- Target good quality data at all times and be honest in reporting the true picture always.
- Do not view the SDGs as a project or programme; make it a part of the development process.

Chairman's closing remarks

In his closing remarks, the Chairman said the current situation, though with gaps, is just the beginning of a long journey. He therefore said the initial challenges with data availability and access, compounded with scarcity of funds, rather than be a source of worry, should strengthen the country to rise to the occasion. He re-emphasized the need to be realist and for regular similar stakeholder interactive sessions.

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 are open 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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