

NDPC launches report on Good Practice for WASH in Ghana

The National Development Planning Commission (NDPC) in collaboration with IRC launched a report dubbed: "Good Practice for WASH in Ghana."

The NDPC together with IRC collected a series of best practices and innovations in WASH in three districts to inform policy in meeting the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) on Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH). The three districts namely Wassa East in the Western Region, Bongo in the Upper East Region and Asutifi North in the Ahafo Region are part of various pilot district-wide initiatives of reaching the SDGs on WASH. The purpose of the report launch was to share best practices, innovations with various stakeholders in broader efforts of accelerating the pace towards attaining the SDGs on WASH.

Pilot District -Wide Initiatives

In Wassa East, Ghana enterprise, Access Development, stepped up to provide NUMA purified water in communities willing to pay for water that is convenient and safe. The district aims for 90% coverage by the end of 2020 and full coverage by the end of 2023. A Community-Led Total Sanitation (CLTS) programme was launched with the Community Water and Sanitation Agency to address low levels of safe sanitation.

In Bongo, WaterAid Ghana launched a WASH for Public Health (WASH4PH) project in 24 communities focusing on schools and community health care facilities. In 2019 the District Assembly doubled its own budget for WASH: water coverage is now 84% and the Assembly expects to achieve full coverage by 2025. The District Assembly and WaterAid Ghana have also been promoting Community-led Total Sanitation in communities and hygienic toilets for schools, health facilities and markets.

In Asutifi North, the district assembly committed itself to full coverage by 2030 through a coordinated WASH master plan. The ANAM initiative brings together the district assembly, traditional leaders and development partners and has wide community support. Schools and health facilities have especially benefited. In 2019, World Vision drilled 22 new boreholes and rehabilitated a further 34 with the District Assembly. Safe Water Network and the District Assembly have delivered two small town networks with a third in an advanced stage of planning. Aquaya Institute provides kiosks and starter grants for water vendors.

Building strong systems through partnerships

The various initiatives were the highlights of a speech delivered by Dr Kodjo Mensah-Abrampa, Director General of the NDPC, who said, "there is great value in the ability of districts to learn from one other. "Having good examples is fantastic. If we can emulate them and use that to plan in the country, then we can talk about success."

He noted that the provision of safe water was a highly visible and important issue that affected people's daily lives and that the task to achieve good sanitation was still a greater challenge for Ghana. These three disciplines—Water Access, Sanitation, and Hygiene—commonly referred to as "WASH," are grouped together because of their interdependence; one cannot be fully realized without the other. A great deal has been achieved over the years towards the SDGs in WASH. A lot more people have gained access to water and sanitation, and hygiene practices. But much remains to be done and there are new and emerging challenges that require us to change the way we work.

"The purpose of this report launch is to guide our approach towards contribution to achieving SDG 6: Ensure access to water and sanitation for all by 2030. It is designed to inform and support NDPCs core planning and strategy processes, and to guide the implementation of our programmes. It defines the principles to be applied to all our work and a menu of approaches and results areas to be tailored to Ghana's context" said Dr. Mensah-Abrampa.

Country Director of IRC Ghana, Mrs. Vida Duti said IRC partnered with NDPC in collecting the best WASH stories because it is in line with IRC vision of supporting government in developing strong systems to support WASH.

Mrs. Duti noted that IRC will continue to work with the government and support efforts to mobilize the broader community's contribution to SDG 6. IRC will provide programming that is the benchmark of best practice in supporting governments to deliver results in WASH. "We will apply the resources of our organization at all levels; mobilizing and leveraging financing; ensuring the right people are in the right places at the right time; and developing and utilizing evidence, and the knowledge and experience to deliver SDG6" She said.

She explained further that one of the key strengths of IRC is building partnerships with government and other key stakeholders in the identification of needs, contribution of labor and materials for building, and ongoing maintenance of systems. This helps ensure appropriate responses to priority needs and long-term solutions in WASH.

Dr Felix Addo-Yobo, Acting Director, Development Policy Division, NDPC, said the situation in the WASH sector in Ghana was not the best; and that, it was, therefore, essential that stakeholders put their heads together to look for innovative ways of addressing them.

He appealed to Metropolitan, Municipal and District Assemblies (MMDAs) to pick up some of the good lessons from the report and replicate them in their **j u r i s d i c t i o n s** . Dr Addo-Yobo noted that access to water and sanitation was very fundamental for improved health, productivity, basic education, and socio-economic development; and that, civil society organisations through their advocacy role, were playing a critical role in the WASH sector.

Recommended take-away messages going forward

1. Government /Policy makers – Access to water, sanitation and hygiene is fundamental for improved health (esp. in the era of COVID), basic education and social-economic development
2. MMDAs - Government has the responsibility to lead and other actors support / Political leadership and support are necessary for effective WASH systems
3. Implementing NGOS/CBOs - Enhanced wash partnerships through master planning, harmonization & coordination of efforts; CSOs are partners, project implementers, the voice of the voiceless (advocacy role), and resource mobilisers complimenting technical and political roles
4. Private sector actors - Invest in WASH with a clear framework. There are economic and business advantages.
5. Local Media - Media partnership as an amplifier ally and advocate is critical to strengthen local and national level WASH systems for sustainable service delivery
6. Funders - Explore business opportunities in WASH – consider forging partnership with MMDAs with a clear framework for economic and business advantages

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 (with modifications when necessary) 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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