

## Citywide Inclusive Planning and Collective Action for Sustainable WASH Services Delivery: The Case of Greater Tamale.

Stakeholders at the 95<sup>th</sup> edition of the National Level Learning Alliance Platform (NLLAP) discussed and agreed that systematic and inclusive city-wide planning is one of the surest ways to improve the fortunes of sanitation delivery in Ghana; and that this can be achieved by dealing with the hydra-headed funding, weak co-ordination, poor planning and poor behaviors and attitudinal challenges that bedevil the sanitation sub-sector in Ghana. The Catholic Relief Services (CRS), together with Tamale Metropolitan and Sagnerigu Municipal Assemblies, and partners developed citywide sanitation plans to guide planning and implementation by all sector players to achieve safely managed sanitation in the Greater Tamale Area.

*The 95<sup>th</sup> National Level Learning Alliance Platform (NLLAP) took place at the Coconut Grove Regency hotel in Accra on 24<sup>th</sup> November, 2022. The theme for the half-day session was, Citywide Inclusive Planning and Collective Action for Sustainable WASH Services Delivery: The Case of Greater Tamale. The purpose of the learning event was to share information on the use of citywide sanitation planning for addressing sanitation challenges in Greater Tamale with multiple stakeholders; create awareness and engender sector-wide discourse on the approach. The Catholic Relief Service (CRS) led the discussion and also shared on the Water Fund Approach to addressing water security challenges in Tamale as captured in the plan.*



### Background/Context

One of the key principles of the 2030 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) is "leave no one behind". It is anchored on the principle of participation, inclusive planning, and collective action by all stakeholders to ensure a peaceful planet, where resources including water and sanitation are available for all without discrimination. This calls for deliberate efforts to promote/facilitate city-wide inclusive planning and advocate for collective action by relevant stakeholders for sustainable Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH) services delivery.

In the light of this, the Catholic Relief Services (CRS), together with Tamale Metropolitan and Sagnerigu Municipal Assemblies, and supported by partners developed citywide inclusive sanitation (CWIS) plans with the aim of achieving safely managed sanitation in the Greater Tamale Area.

Each city is organized in a unique way and faces unique sanitation challenges that affect its inhabitants. There is therefore the need for local actors (Local Government Authorities, CSOs, NGOs, FBOs, DPs, etc.) to acknowledge the shared responsibilities and work collaboratively to create their own path in providing urban sanitation to all. Acknowledging this, CRS, together with Tamale Metropolitan and Sagnerigu Municipal Assemblies, together with key stakeholders, developed citywide sanitation plans to guide planning and implementation by all sector players to achieve safely managed sanitation in the Greater Tamale Area. These plans seek to ensure the two Assemblies assumes overall leadership in coordinating the operations of sanitation sector players and promote collaboration among key stakeholders such as, sanitation service providers, civil society, and local and international NGOs and other WASH focussed development partners in these two areas.

The plans also provide a situational analysis of the WASH issues in

the Greater Tamale Area as well as proposal carefully thought-out to improve the WASH situation in Greater Tamale. The plans build extensively on field assessments, existing reports and inputs from various WASH sector stakeholders operating within the Greater Tamale Area. The Medium-Term Development Plans of the two assemblies also served as guiding documents in the development of the plans. The plans also take stock of the various interventions being undertaken by sector players within Tamale in order to avoid duplication of efforts. These plans seek to ensure overall leadership by the assemblies in coordinating the operations of sanitation sector players and promoting collaboration among actors in improving sanitation in these areas. The plans provide a situational analysis of the WASH issues as well as propose carefully thought-out interventions to improve WASH in Greater Tamale. Also, they serve as a framework within which all sector actors must work to ensure the accelerated improvement of sanitation in the Greater Tamale Area. Field assessments, existing reports, technical studies, and inputs from WASH sector stakeholders operating within the Greater Tamale Area were critical inputs for the development of these CWIS plans. The CWIS plans also builds on and aligns with the annual action plans from the Medium-term Development Plans (MTDPs), which set out Assemblies target for the period.

The approach for developing these plans and the implementation strategy could serve as key reference for Metropolitan, Municipal and District Assemblies (MMDA's) and institutions that are supporting duty bearers to deliver WASH services in several districts in Ghana. It could further prevent duplication of efforts by WASH actors operating in same districts.

### Purpose of the Plan

The City-wide inclusive sanitation plan would serve as a reference document that identifies all the WASH needs within the Greater Tamale Area (Tamale and Sagnerigu Assemblies) as well as provide carefully thought-out interventions that when implemented would result in improvements in WASH situation in the Greater Tamale Area. This will enable Metropolitan authorities lead and co-ordinate sanitation improvement in the Tamale City, with the support of sector actors, sanitation service providers; business and the private sector, civil society, local and international NGOs, by leveraging each other's resources and strengths.

### Overview/Process of Citywide Sanitation Planning in Greater Tamale

Many African Cities are increasingly facing many sanitation challenges due to urbanization, and this affects almost every facet of life and many urban areas, including Tamale. With a 4% annual

urban growth rate, Tamale is faced with many known urban development challenges including effective sanitation management. In Greater Tamale, stakeholders saw the need to collaborate to work with the Tamale Metropolitan and Sagnerigu Municipal Assemblies to address the urban sanitation challenge. With the recognition that there is no one simple, single solution to urban sanitation challenge since cities are organized in unique ways and face unique WASH challenges, the authorities took leadership to develop a City-wide sanitation plan with CRS support.

Tamale Metropolis has an estimated population of 374,744 people, with 3.7% annual growth rate. About 74% of the population live in urban areas. There are generally low service levels for WASH and the increasing urban population put stress on limited sanitation facilities in a growing city. Available evidence indicates that 33% of men, 34% of women and 46% of children practice open defecation with its attendant public health and personal hygiene consequences.

The plan development process included stakeholder meetings, data gathering, actual plan preparation, plan validation and dissemination. The Citywide sanitation improvement plan (CWIP) is in sync with the District Medium Term Development Plans (DMTDP, 2022-2025).

#### **Thematic Areas of the Plan**

The CWIP covers the period 2022-2025 with a total cost of US\$2,500,000. The various components of the plan include **Institutional WASH, Ending Open Defecation, Solid Waste Management, Co-ordination of Service Players, Addressing Water Security, Resource Mobilization, and others.**

The institutional WASH will cover school WASH, WASH in health care facilities with an estimated total cost of US\$ 1,040,000. Solid waste has an estimated cost of cost US\$ 445,000, while ending OD will cost US\$ 700,000. Coordination of service providers will cost US\$ 8,500, and resource mobilization will cost US\$ 2,300.

Tamale Metropolitan Assembly is hopeful that with the completion of business plan and the intensification of dissemination, fundraising will rake in the needed funds and resources to successfully implement the plan.

#### **Current Efforts to deal with Greater Tamale Sanitation Challenges**

A number of interventions combined with strategic approaches are being implemented to address the sanitation challenges along the sanitation value chain. Ending open defecation is topmost priority. Many development partners including UNICEF and International NGOs have funded behaviour change campaigns and sensitization/education programmes aimed encouraging households to end open defecation and build household toilets for use. In Greater Tamale, sanitation marketing campaigns are in full force to facilitate household toilet construction. This is made possible also with area-based trained latrine artisans and sanitation entrepreneurs. CRS and Tamale Metropolitan Assembly are working closely to promote the UNICEF funded urban sanitation project, the Sinapi Aba Savings and Loans, Vision Fund Ghana, and Sama Sama project to promote ownership and use of household toilets. It is estimated that about 14,000 toilets have been built by end of 2021.

There has also been improvement in the transportation of faecal sludge in Greater Tamale. The Assembly is improving the enabling environment and incentivising private operators to invest in

transport business and bring new vehicles to promote faecal sludge transportation. Relatedly, the Assembly is working hard to also improve faecal sludge treatment.

#### **Lessons Learnt**

The plan development and preparation process generated enormous interest from diverse stakeholders who participated in processes leading up to the final plan. Some useful lessons so far include the following:

- Local leadership in the development process enhance ownership and will ultimately promote sustainability of development intervention. CRS ensured the Assemblies led the processes with technical input, guidance, and CRS funding support. This led to the successful completion of the plan development process.
- Relationship between private sector actors and Government partners should be based on mutual benefit, trust and respect

#### **Participants Contribution**

- Participants at the forum emphasized need for intensive behaviour change component and activities. They commended CRS and the Assemblies for the clear behaviour change component in the Institutional WASH, but quickly suggested that same attention should be given to community level social behaviour change sensitization and campaigns. This is important to deal with poor community attitudes towards improved sanitation and hygiene.
- There was also the suggestion to strengthen the gender dimension of the project. Participants were of the view that it is not just by numbers of women participating in project activities, but to strengthen the active involvement, representation, and decision-making powers of women in the project management processes.
- Climate change implications on the project was raised. Participants suggested that even though the scenario planning was done to factor the exigencies of climate change, there is the need to constantly monitor its implication as project implementation proceeds.
- Another suggestion was to ensure the project follow the rudiments of system thinking and follow some basic procedures of system strengthening to ensure the various components connect each other in a harmonious fashion.

#### **Way forward**

It is now clear that, to achieve the SDG six, Local Government Authorities must take leadership in coordinating efforts of key stakeholders to implement solutions from a city-wide point of view, through an extensive planning, costing and collective action. This is what City-wide inclusive planning and collective action for sustainable WASH is about.

By their establishment, MMDAs are mandated to plan, budget and implement interventions to improve the lives of their people in accordance with local priorities and guidelines provided by the National Development Planning Commission and the Ministry of Finance. As such, they are required to prepare Medium Term Development Plans, annual action plans and composite budgets, highlighting prioritized interventions and budgetary implications. These documents are usually prepared in a way that does not allow for adequate expression of WASH needs, deeper reflection of needed collaborations and interdependence, coordination and alignment of efforts and innovative funding mechanism for sanitation financing. This has largely resulted in low investments in sanitation financing and service delivery.

*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](http://www.washghana.net).*

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