

Second WASH Sector Performance Report reveals major documentation gaps

The second WASH Sector Performance Report (SPR 2010) has revealed a number of major WASH sector documentation and data gaps that need urgent attention. The gaps include the absence of a sector-wide monitoring indicators to guide progress reporting, inadequate data on sanitation and hygiene, and the lack of clear definition of the terms 'urban' and 'rural.' These gaps, which were reported in the first SPR, came up again during the twenty-second edition of the National Level Learning Alliance Platform (22nd NLLAP) Session in Accra, where the report was launched.

The 22nd edition of NLLAP took place on 24th November 2011 in Accra on the theme, *Review of the Second Sector Performance Report*. The Water and Sanitation Monitoring Platform (WSMP) coordinated the production of the 2010 SPR on behalf of the Water Directorate of the Ministry of Water Resources, Works and Housing (WD-MWRWH). The Editorial Team comprised experts from the WSMP, the GWCL, WRC, CWSA, CONIWAS, the Water Directorate and a consultant. The forum was chaired by a former Director of Water at the Ministry of Water Resources Works and Housing (MWRWH), Mr. Minta Aboagye. The WSMP coordinated the production of the 2010 SPR on behalf of the Water Directorate of the Ministry of Water Resources, Works and Housing (WD-MWRWH). The Editorial Team comprised experts from the WSMP, the GWCL, WRC, CWSA, CONIWAS, the Water Directorate and a consultant.

The forum was chaired by a former Director of Water at the MWRWH, Mr. Minta Aboagye.

Objectives of the workshop

The objectives of the 22nd edition of NLLAP, according to the Team Leader of the SPR Editorial Committee, Emmanuel Addai, was to disseminate the findings of the 2010 WASH Sector Performance Report, discuss the gaps associated with the report and collate ideas to improve on subsequent reports. The forum was also used to discuss some pertinent questions arising from the data compilation and analyses process. According to Mr. Addai the absence of agreed sectorwide set of indicators, data compilation and analyses were guided by the core objectives in the draft Sector Strategic Development Plan (SSDP), which were:

- Universal **coverage** for improved drinking **water** and **sanitation** services and **hygiene** practices
- Sustainable **financing** for investments and O&M of water services
- Capacity development** of WASH sector institutions
- Sustainable harnessing, utilization and **management of water resources**

Summary of Statistical Data

Average annual run off	40 billion m ³
Total estimated water demand	3 billion m ³
Water quality monitoring stations	40
Total number of licensed water users	171
Drilling licenses issued	57
Access to improved rural water supply sources:	61.7%
Projected rural water supply coverage by 2015	72%
Access to improved urban water supply sources:	64%
Projected urban water coverage by 2015	73%
Percentage of non-revenue water (GWCL):	49.3%
Total urban water production (M ³)	242.3
Total sales (urban water)	150.7b GH¢
Basic schools with access to safe water facilities (2009)	63.5
Basic schools with access to sanitation facilities (2009)	48%
Percentage GoG budget release to Water Resources Commission:	84.2%
Percentage GoG budget release to CWSA:	35%
Percentage GoG budget release to GWCL:	269%

Main findings of the 2010 SPR

In his presentation, Mr. Addai highlighted some major policy and institutional developments and sector coordination updates during the year (2010). These included the fact that the Ghana Shared growth and Development agenda (GSGDA), which had replaced the GPRSII as the overall government's medium term development framework from 2010 to 2013 has water and sanitation as one of the six key focus areas. He said that another major innovation in the WASH Sector was the development of the SSDP, which was initiated in 2010. Other initiatives included the development of an IWRM strategic plan, a buffer zone policy, revised environmental sanitation policy and the completion of the NESSAP. He said that a rural sanitation model was also developed during the year, while the SWA Compact was also developed and launched. Efforts towards implementing the SWAp roadmap were intensified while the Code of Conduct was also signed by GoG and Dps.

On sanitation, Mr. Addai said there was still no provider-based data available. According to him the only available data was still the 2008 user based data from the Ghana Statistical Service and the JMP, which had already been adequately disseminated. There was also no current statistical data on hygiene except information on a number of hygiene related events that took place during the year. He said a household water treatment strategy was development in 2010.

Major Sector Reporting Gaps

In addition to the fact that the Editorial Team started compilation too late, resulting in limited consultations and a delay in publishing the report, the SPR highlighted the following among the major gaps and recommended urgent action on them in order to improve on the quality and effectiveness of subsequent reports:

There is no sectorwide agreed monitoring framework, coupled with the absence on an agreed set of sectorwide indicators. The Team was not quite clear on what to report and thus decided to be guided by the objectives of the draft SSDP.

There is inadequate data on sanitation and hygiene and it is unclear where to find data on them;

There also the highly inadequate data on NGO contribution to the overall WASH sector growth;

There is inadequate data on the exact GoG financial contribution to the sector (partly due to non-differentiation between donor grants and loans);

There is a lack of clear distinction between 'urban' and 'rural' in terms of water and sanitation coverage. There is no clear geographical description/definition of scope of services for the two main public institutions (CWSA & GWCL) responsible for facilitation and delivery of drinking water supply in the country

Suggestions from participants

Participants made a couple of suggestions that will help the Water Directorate improve on subsequent SPRs. They include the following:

The Chairman of the occasion, Mr. Minta Aboagye, said that information on Water Resource Management was too scanty. The Team should liaise with the Hydrological Services Department to generate information on the various basins, lakes and reservoirs and gather information on their rise and fall. Information on water demand should also be disaggregated into how many went into irrigation, domestic use etc.

The report should emphasize ACCESS instead of COVERAGE.

The DP Leader, Othniel Habila, also suggested the timely completion of subsequent reports such that the reports could be launched during the sector annual water festival, the Ghana Water Forum. He also suggested the inclusion of a DP representation on the SPR Editorial Team.

The report should include information on knowledge management, gender and pro-poor issues.

The Team should also identify and partner with students to research into areas where data is lacking.

There could be a few impact stories in the report, example, the economic contribution of WASH.

Major issues arising from the Launch of the report

A couple of pertinent WASH Sector questions were posed by the Editorial Team Leader for sectorwide discussion. These were:

1. There are several Agencies operating in the Water Sector, what specific capacities does the Water Directorate require to improve sector coordination?

Participants suggested the strengthening of Water Directorate staff in both numbers and capacities and working towards recruiting more permanent staff.

2. What is the place for the suggestion that there should be an Environmental Health and Sanitation Agency to accelerate sanitation services delivery in Ghana?

The EHSD responded that the Head of Civil Service has advised that the Sanitation Directorate need seven more technical staff. However, office space was still a problem. However, the EHSD, according to Mr. Kwaku Quansah was still leading in discussions on the suggestion.

3. Should the GWCL concentrate only bulk water supply to distribution companies or MMDAS?

Participants suggested that there is need for an assessment of pilot bulk supply interventions in the country before deciding on whether bulk supply by GWCL should be an option.

4. Which institution should generate provider-based data on sanitation (access to toilet facilities) in Ghana?

Participants suggested MMDAs with coordination from the EHSD. Mr. Quansah also said the EHSD was in a process of setting up an MIS Unit.

5. Who finances the production of subsequent SPRs?

Participants suggested that WASH Agencies may be approached to finance it. Funds could also be sourced from major water user companies to produce the report.

Conclusions

WASH Sector Stakeholders were encouraged to support the on-going process of developing a sectorwide M&E framework and the selection of key sector indicators. This would facilitate the production of the SPR in the future. NGOs were also commended for initiating a process to document and share their contributions through the SPR. They were however encouraged to gather more information for subsequent SPRs.

Participants were generally impressed with the 2010 SPR and commended the MWRWH and the Editorial Team for the effort. They expressed readiness to support in improving on future editions of the report.

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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