



Ghana

Visiting address
Plot no.61 at no.18
Third Close
Airport Residential Area
Accra, Ghana
Postal address
P.O. BOX CT 9531
Cantonments
Accra
Ghana

T +233 302 797 473
T +233 302 79 7474
ghana@ircwash.org
www.ircwash.org/ghana

MEDIA RELEASE

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IRC launches new website to challenge failing status quo

ACCRA, 28 April 2014 – IRC has launched a new website – ircwash.org – to promote the development of effective and sustainable water and sanitation services. IRC is targeting its new website and expertise at the failings of short-term, charity-based interventions and promoting the development of sustainable services as the only way to tackle the global water and sanitation crisis facing over two billion people.

The new website offers better access to a range of approaches, landmark research and tools to support governments and their partners to develop effective WASH services. The resources include the WASHCost Calculator – a tool that allows users to improve their investment and planning by better understanding the long-term costs of providing services. The site provides greater interaction between professionals on global WASH issues and better focus on IRC programmes in countries where it works.

Speaking on the launch of the website, Dr Patrick Moriarty, CEO of IRC said:

“Too often failure and waste is the common experience for water and sanitation service users. Pumps break. Water stops flowing as services break down on a massive scale. Money is wasted. And what a waste this is - lives and potential are lost as children and their families struggle with daily existence, instead of gaining an education and living their life to its full potential. We, all of us in the WASH sector, need to start thinking about delivering services, not gifts. IRC believes strongly in strengthening the ability of governments to lead the provision of services as the best route to scale and the only viable exit strategy for charitable giving. My hope is the website and its tools will contribute to do this.”

From IRC Ghana, Vida Duti, the Country Director said:

“IRC is supporting Ghana towards the achievement of its national WASH vision; ‘To provide sustained and appropriate water and sanitation services to all citizens by 2025; to improve livelihoods and reduce poverty; and to ensure that these efforts capitalise on water resources, which are developed and used sustainably at the local level.’ Hopefully, this interactive website will further facilitate this process.”

Be part of the solution and join the services not gifts debate at ircwash.org. Welcome to the new IRC.

Editor’s notes

About IRC

IRC is an international think-and-do tank that works with governments, NGOs, businesses and people around the world to find long-term solutions to the global crisis in water, sanitation and hygiene services. At the heart of its mission is the aim to move from short-term interventions to sustainable water, sanitation and hygiene services.

With over 45 years of experience, IRC runs programmes and projects in more than 25 countries and large-scale projects in seven focus countries in Africa, Asia and Latin America. It is supported by a team of over 100 staff across the world.

About IRC Ghana

IRC Ghana, based in Accra, is led by its Country Director, Vida Duti. Inaugurated in 2012, IRC Ghana consists of a multi-disciplinary team of some fifteen professional staff, supported by technical specialists from IRC in The Netherlands.

Contact details IRC Ghana

Vida Affum Duti (Mrs)

Country Director

M +233 (54) 3234276

T +233 (302) 79 7473

T +233 (302) 79 7474

duti@ircwash.org