

Sanitation-Hygiene and the Health of the Nation



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Why is Sanitation unimportant?

EHSD was allocated GHc1,581,281 for all its expenditures (wages and salaries, goods and services and Capex). **49%** is expected to be spent on goods and services and **37.9% on Capex**. It is important to note that the analysis on EHSD exclude support from Donors.

Why is Sanitation unimportant?

The allocation to EHSD represents **0.7% of MLGRD budget, 0.18% of WASH Sector Ministries' budget, 0.002% of MDAs budget and 0.009% of GDP**. In terms of Per Capita Expenditure by EHSD, the figure is **GHc0.064** (CONIWAS, 2014: 4).

Why is Sanitation unimportant?

Almost 90% caused by lack of WASH –
Water, Sanitation and Hygiene.

Of the 19,000 people in Ghana who die from
WASH diarrhoeal related diseases
annually – 5,100 of them are children
under 5 years old

Who Cares about Hygiene?

Is there a national budget for hygiene promotion?

What does poor sanitation-hygiene say about a country's leaders?

- ***At current rates, the MDG on sanitation will not be met until the 23 century. About 200 years from now.***

Why should the Ministry of Health continue to ignore WASH?

Is sanitation-hygiene the health sector's business?

Is an ounce of prevention really worth more than a pound of cure?

- ***The limits of curative approaches to health***

Why should the Ministry of Health continue to ignore WASH?

Is sanitation-hygiene the health sector's business?

Diseases attributable to poor sanitation currently kill more children globally than AIDS, malaria and measles put together, and diarrhoea is the single biggest killer of children in Africa.

Sanitation access lowered the odds of children suffering from diarrhoea by 7-17%, and reduced mortality for children under five by 5-20%.

Why should the Ministry of Health continue to ignore WASH?

Poor WASH = Poor Child Health and Nutrition

- Stunting
- Under-nutrition
- Pneumonia
- Soil-transmitted helminths (worms)

Forget Human Rights, Think Money

Achieving the water and sanitation Millennium Development Goal (MDG)35 could yield substantial economic benefits, ranging from **US\$3-34 per US\$1** invested, depending on the region.

(Study by Evans et.al.)

Forget Human Rights, Think Money

- 50% of our hospital beds at any time are filled by XXXXX?

Forget Human Rights, Think Money

“universal access to even the most basic water and sanitation facilities would reduce the financial burden on health systems in developing countries by about **US\$1.6 billion annually—and US\$610 million in Sub-Saharan Africa, which represents about 7% of the region’s health budget**”. (UNDP).

Nation Building and National Development

Leadership

We need a President of Shit and Bola

- To ensure adequate, timely and predictable financing for WASH
- To ensure rigorous and consistent monitoring of deliverables
- To consistently demand accountability and transparency
- To enforce the realization of a transformational national public health programme

Nation Building and National Development

Leadership

Inter-sectoral collaboration and coordination

Our government decided that every health care facility would have:

- consistent and continuous safe water
- Safe toilets for patients (separate for men and women, secure, child friendly and inclusive)
- No new health care facility or school should be built without WASH fully addressed

Nation Building and National Development

Leadership

- National, regional, and district health and nutrition initiatives would include WASH
- Monitoring and assessment of the realization of universal health coverage would include WASH

Nation Building and National Development

Financing

- Adequate
- Timely
- Predicatable

Hygiene Promotion

- Culturally appropriate
- Community led
- Systematic
- Nation wide

Reflection on the other presentations

- Public Health
- Accra as the epicenter of Cholera
- Public toilets
- Complete Chain –fecal sludge management
- Hygiene education? Or Promotion?
- Social Public Housing

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