

Highlights



President sets universal access to water goal



The Challenge of Scaling up Sustainably



Business community expresses interest in PPP initiative



Applying transparency and accountability in the WASH sector in Ghana



Water forum endorses National Learning Alliance Platform



Ghana needs social inclusion strategies for WASH sector

EDITORIAL TEAM:

Abu Wumbei (RCN Ghana),
Janet Alamisi Dabire (IRC Ghana),
Emmanuel Addai (WSMP Ghana)

Second Ghana Water Forum takes place in Accra

The second Ghana Water Forum took place in Accra from 19th – 21st October 2010, under the theme, “*Water and Sanitation Services Delivery in Ghana:*

concluded with the hope that the outcomes of the forum will lead to the development of appropriate strategies for sustainable WASH services in Ghana.



Ghana Water Forum 2 opening session.

The Sustainability Factor”. The annual event was organised by the Water Directorate (WD) of the Ministry of Water Resources, Works and Housing (MWRWH) in collaboration with the Ministry of Local Government and Rural Development (MLGRD).

His Excellency the President of the Republic of Ghana, Prof. J. E. A. Mills officially opened forum. In his keynote address, presented on his behalf by the Minister for Water Resources, Works and Housing, Hon. A. S. K. Bagbin, the president emphasised government's commitment to sustainable service delivery and to achieving the MDG targets for water and sanitation. He

A number of special side events, including the Ministerial and Development Partners Roundtable; the Business Roundtable; the Youth and Children's Forum; and exhibition, were organised as part of the forum.

The GWF2 was officially brought to a close by the Minister for Water Resources, Works and Housing, Hon. A. S. K. Bagbin on October 21, 2010. The forum brought together government institutions, the private sector, NGOs, development partners, academia, district assemblies and some international organisations, communities and consumers.

EDITORIAL: The challenge to scaling up sustainably

This editorial focuses on the Second Ghana Water Forum (GWF2) theme address, delivered by Dr. Jean de la Harpe of IRC International Water and Sanitation Centre at the opening ceremony. She shared her experience in South Africa, touching on a range of issues that bothers on the challenges to scaling up sustainably in Africa. Below are excerpts from the theme address:

maintenance, deteriorating services, weak institutions, inability to extend services to those without access.

There are ultimately only three sources of revenue that can help to close the financing gap and these are the 3Ts: tariffs, taxes, and transfers. Loans and bonds need to be paid back and mainly serve to “bridge the gap”.



Barriers to scaling up sustainably

“There are many barriers we are all familiar with: poor planning, inappropriate technologies and service levels, poor aid targeting, a focus on infrastructure rather than services, poor decentralization, weak sector capacity and accountability - and the list goes on. These barriers have kept the sector trapped in a vicious cycle of low priority, insufficient investment and service delivery failure.

One of the biggest barriers to sustainability is the large financing gap between the estimated resources needed to achieve the MDGs and current spending. WHO estimates that developing countries need 72 billion USD per year to achieve the water and sanitation MDG targets. Spending is way below these levels. The consequences of this financing gap are insufficient

South Africa's strategy to address sustainability is to fully subsidise basic services for the poor through major grant programmes. These include a Municipal Infrastructure Grant, a Capacity Building Grant and what is known as the Equitable Share which is a grant to support the provision of free basic services.

Despite these subsidies and South Africa's relatively high per capita income compared to other countries in Sub-Saharan Africa, South Africa is experiencing delivery failures in many poor areas, both urban and rural.

The seven (7) point plan proposal for scaling up sustainable water and sanitation services:

“Point 1 – Develop a clear water and sanitation **policy**. This policy should set targets, define levels of service, clarify roles and responsibilities and provide a

framework for planning, financing, supporting, monitoring and regulating services. The policy should be realistic and address vertical integration from national policies and programmes to the point of delivery at community level. To use an analogy – in soccer FIFA sets the rules, but the teams play the game. If the rules don't enable the team to score goals we don't have a game – if policy does not enable sustainability – we don't have services.

Point 2 – **Ensure effective financing strategies.** Sustainability is about increasing investment in the sector, efficient use of resources and financial predictability. This means putting in place multi-year plans based on the targets and ensuring sufficient recurrent income to cover operations and maintenance. Where tariffs are insufficient, other sources of revenue need to be found to close the gap.

Point 3 – **Planning** to address the targets and planning for service provision. Targets at national level need to be disaggregated into targets for the local level and translated into sector plans. Where are the unserved, what are the affordability levels, what is the most appropriate technology, what are the provision costs and who will be responsible for providing the services? Appropriate technologies and appropriate service levels are

The challenge to scaling up sustainably

fundamental to providing services that the community can afford.

Point 4 – Using the **sector wide approach** to build a strong sector based on collaboration. Part of this approach is putting in place one policy, one investment plan and one programme for the sector. It is basically an approach to work together with strong leadership, political commitment, donor alignment and harmonisation and results based management. We also need to ensure horizontal alignment where different sectors work together so that development is integrated, rather than development through silos

Point 5 - Effective **d e c e n t r a l i s a t i o n**. Decentralisation must be supported extensively both in terms of financial resources and access to the right skills. Local government should be in the driving seat of services delivery. But to what extent should both infrastructure development and service provision be decentralized to the local level? Many municipalities lack the skills, expertise, resources and staff to implement a municipal infrastructure programme. In some countries it might be necessary to look at other solutions for implementing capital programmes so that the local level can focus on the actual provision of services. While municipalities are trying

to address the infrastructure backlogs, maintenance backlogs are growing.

Point 6 - the right **institutional arrangements** to ensure sustainable provision. The rush to meet the MDGs has put too much emphasis on infrastructure and not enough emphasis on service provision, such as ongoing operations and maintenance, revenue collection, asset management, customer relations, and so on. One of the most important decisions in the service delivery cycle is the choice of water services provider. Who is going to be responsible for provision, what are the best arrangements to ensure sustainable services? Government cannot always do it all alone. Partnerships can bring in additional competencies and in some cases additional investment. The challenge is to find the best mix of sector capacity, be it public, private, NGOs, CBOs, or a combination. This decision needs to take into account a whole range of factors such as geographical location, the technology and levels of service, the size of the scheme, the tasks to be undertaken, and the costs. Too often communities are left to manage their schemes with little or no support and ultimately the service fails.

Point 7 - The right **support** the right time. We know that the capacity of the water and sanitation sector as a whole

needs to be addressed – but especially at the local level. Technical and capacity support cannot be left to ad hoc interventions. Monitoring, lesson and knowledge sharing, sector governance training, technical skills training, mentoring, institutional support and regulation need to be budgeted for and addressed as part of sustainable services”.

Jean concluded with the most important message that Progress should not be measured by the construction of new facilities but by the ongoing provision of affordable, efficient, effective and sustainable services that people are benefitting from. “If we don't focus on the service we are providing, the quality, the quantity and the reliability of the service, we will soon be facing a much bigger backlog – the maintenance backlog. We are already facing a water and sanitation crisis – let's avoid a much bigger crisis and ensure that we are bold in sustaining the achievements already made while we continue to scale up” she concluded.



For information on GWF 3, call:
Patricia on 0302 673890;
Email: ghanawaterforum@gmail.com;
Website: www.ghanawaterforum.org

President sets universal access to water goal

While Ghana is said to be on course to attain the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) target for water, many Ghanaians will have to wait for a further ten years after the MDG deadline of 2015 to access safe drinking water.

"Indeed we are determined to achieve universal coverage by the year 2025," President Prof John Evans Atta Mills declared at the opening of the Second Ghana Water Forum in a key note address delivered on his behalf by Minister for Water Resources, Works and Housing, Hon. Alban S.K. Bagbin.



Hon. Bagbin delivers on behalf of the President of the Republic of Ghana.

President Mills also affirmed that "As a Government we are committed to achieving our targets of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). The MDGs touch on various aspects of human development; from human rights to corruption, climate change and social services. MDG Target 7c calls on countries to halve, by 2015, the proportion of people without sustainable access to safe drinking-water and basic sanitation and sets the proportion of people in 1990 without access to safe drinking-water and basic sanitation as the baseline to be halved by 2015.

Presently, the WHO/UNICEF Joint

Monitoring Platform (JMP) estimates that 82% of the Ghanaian population has access to improved drinking water supply, meaning that Ghana is on-track to achieve the MDG drinking water target.

Investments

Participants at the forum learnt that government remains committed to bringing fresh investments into the WASH sector. The anticipated investments will be additional to investments that the Government and her development partners are already making.

Government estimates that investments required for meeting the MDGs on sanitation and water are between US\$ 200 and 300 million annually. According to the President, ongoing investments in the WASH sector, particularly water included:

- ✓ Over US \$700 million that the Government and her development partners have committed to provide clean potable water and access to good sanitation over the last couple of years.
- ✓ Up to US\$200m annual budgetary allocations for sanitation and water starting with the 2011 budget as part of commitments made in the Sanitation and Water for All (SWA) Ghana Compact.
- ✓ The 3K project which is being executed to provide water to the people of Kumawu, Konongo, and Kwahu and its environs.
- ✓ A US\$273 million loan facility signed between the Government of Ghana and China to undertake expansion works at the Kpong Treatment plant towards increasing the plant's capacity by an additional 40 million gallons per day.
- ✓ US\$185 million worth of projects

within urban and rural areas are also ongoing; these are expected to be completed by 2011.

"All these projects are being done to ensure that the country achieves the MDG targets," says the President.

Call for support

President Mills expressed Government's appreciation for the role and immense contribution that development partners, civil society organizations and communities are playing in the provision of pottable water to the good people of Ghana.

But like Oliver Twist, he said "We hope such commitments and contributions will be forthcoming to supplement government efforts in ensuring that National and MDG targets are met."

Touching on how to sustain access once it has been provided, he noted that timely investments and finance, governance, attitude and general management of resources constitute some of the pillars that drive sustainability.

Sustainability also calls for, Public Private Partnership (PPP); and collaborative effort to tackle non-revenue water which still accounts for almost half of the water produced in the country. It also calls for the implementation of alternate policies such as the rain water harvesting policy; a paradigm shift from project type to a process based approach when water and sanitation systems are being provided. Furthermore the staff of service providers should be up and doing; hydraulic engineers and planners should factor in the multiple uses of water when designing and planning for water systems; and the need for attitudinal change by all, especially to check illegal connections.

Considering wastewater for agriculture

It is predicted that in just over a decade, rain dependent farming areas of Africa could be producing half their current agricultural yield due to climate change impacts. Already, endemic droughts and floods are believed to contribute between 5%-25% GDP losses in agric-based economies.



Ben Ampomah of WRC on water resources management

But this can be mitigated in areas where crops are under irrigation; they can have dry season crops, off-season high price, higher yields and better harvest timing. This calls for the linking of Water Supply & Sanitation Sector and Agriculture/Aquaculture Sector. This also means the development of effective irrigation systems including those fed by waste water.

Work done by the International Water Management institute (IWMI) indicates that less than one percent of Ghana's irrigation potential has been developed compared to over 75% potential developed in Egypt, Morocco, Somalia and South Africa. In jurisdictions like Botswana, Sudan, Zimbabwe, Madagascar, Mali, Malawi and Uganda between 50-75% of their irrigation potential have been developed.

Experts say food production takes enormous quantities of water; roughly, crops evaporate 1000 liters of water to produce one kilogram of cereal. Thankfully, most of the crop-water needs are met by rain, but too much or

too little at the wrong time leads to yield reduction or even to complete crop failure

In Ghana's case, irrigation plays a very modest role in overall agriculture. Yet, 66% of all water diversions is for agricultural purposes, making agriculture the biggest water user in Ghana.

Against this backdrop, presenters and participants from the Agriculture and Water Innovations sessions of the Second Ghana Water Forum (GWF-2) have identified opportunities for agricultural water management in Ghana and offered some recommendations. They did this after discussing various topics, most of which were based on research work, including: irrigation development, gender mapping of cropping systems, multi-purpose small dams, wastewater irrigation, and climate change.

Key observations

- There are several reservoirs and dugouts in Ghana as well as small dams but about 60% of them are non-functional
- Lack of maintenance; some schemes have been rehabilitated multiple times
- High costs of construction, maintenance and operation in particular pump based schemes,
- High construction costs due to : dependence on international expertise and consultants, over-design, cost overruns, delays, changes during construction
- Irrigation development has been very slow in Ghana
- Consequently, most vegetables from urban centres have been produced with wastewater and thus have waste water contamination
- Women are less involved in irrigation

- Little empowerment of traditional water user associations and low capacity for development of small irrigation schemes
- Complicated land tenure issues bedevil irrigation development
- Source of financing to the agric sector is limited and there is shortfall in managerial skills, governance and regulatory framework
- Low participation of women in decision-making in agricultural water management
- No institutional 'home' for support services
- There are equity issues and water conflicts
- Environmental impacts of waste water use for irrigation (soil and water quality) is a challenge
- There are health implications of waste water for irrigation because of lack of waste water treatment and high cost of treatment

Opportunities

- Small dams and dugouts offer multiple uses to improve livelihoods
- There are simple ways of removing most of the contamination in vegetables produced with wastewater
- Some community coping strategies have been developed and this can be consolidated
- Incorporating wastewater reuse recovery systems into treatment plants are profitable and can cover maintenance of such plants
- Reduced reliance on rainfall, thereby mitigating vulnerability to variability in rainfall

Recommendations

- There is need for more collaboration with traditional authorities in management of

Continue on page 9 >>

Business community expresses interest in PPP initiative

The private sector has accepted to partake in the management of water service delivery through a new government Public-Private Partnership (PPP) initiative designed for the water sub-sector. The initiative is aimed at promoting efficiency and management of investment in the water sector towards boosting sustainability. Under the initiative, accountability for delivery will ultimately remain with the public sector (government).

The development of the initiative is part of efforts at acting on recommendations which were made at the 1st Ghana Water Forum. Subsequent to that forum, there had been engagements between the Ministry of Finance and Economic Planning and private sector as government demonstrated commitment to encourage private sector participation. Through the engagements, the private sector had opportunity to learn about the focus, interests, forms and possible risks of the partnership.

So at the Second Ghana Water Forum, in which about 25 representatives of the business community participated, the private sector welcomed the new initiative but asked that the initiative “should be fast-tracked so it becomes operational by the end of the first quarter of 2011.” This followed major conclusions reached at the Business Round Table session of the GWF2 where the Ghanaian business community engaged in a dialogue with Government and other water sector actors.

In a statement titled *'Promoting Partnerships for Sustainable Water and Sanitation Services Delivery'*, the private sector said it was “very

enthusiastic to be involved in the delivery of sustainable water and sanitation in the country. There is the willingness from the private sector to engage in meaningful dialogue and to contribute effectively in the delivery of services in the sector.”

However, the representatives said the enabling environment must be created to facilitate private sector involvement in water and sanitation.



Business community presents key points on day 3.

Specific recommendations made by the sector include:

- ✓ That ownership and management of water systems must be clearly defined; this is because the private sector would want to see a clear resolution on who owns what and the management structure.
- ✓ That the policy framework on the PPP initiative must be circulated fully to the private sector and the private sector must be engaged in the consultative discussions and contribute to the finalisation of the framework.
- ✓ That the policy must critically consider the appropriate legal and regulatory framework to support the private sector as a partner in the delivery of goods and services.
- ✓ That the timelines in the

execution processes must be considered critically so that it is operationalised by the end of the first quarter of 2011.

- ✓ That the issue of risk must be critically looked at. What government cannot guarantee must be done by the private sector so that projects do not stagnate.
- ✓ Different technologies for water and sanitation services delivery must be explored.
- ✓ Consideration should be given to carving up the distribution of water into zones for efficient management and private sector participation, as well as, incentives for private institutions who undertake water distribution.
- ✓ That a permanent desk should be established by the Water Directorate for private sector involvement in the sector, and to monitor and coordinate activities in the sector.
- ✓ That incentives should be given to people who harvest rain water and lessons on models being used by other countries should be taken on board.
- ✓ A team should be set up by the end of October 2010, to follow up on actions on the first two Ghana Water Forums. The team should be chaired by a representative of the AGI and should meet quarterly on key issues agreed with the Water Directorate and report back at the Ghana Water Forum.

The business community pledged to ensure that there is a code of conduct for all their members to adhere to the highest standards and best practices.

Applying transparency and accountability in the WASH sector in Ghana

Over the years, reports on the major agencies in Ghana's Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH) sector have identified inadequacies in the infrastructure necessary for the delivery of WASH services. There has been particular attention devoted to the need to ensure adequate quality water and sanitation delivery for all. This necessarily means increased investments in infrastructure, requiring increased resource allocation.



Ministerial Round Table discusses WASH services that last (2)

But advocacy seldom focuses on the tracking of resources in terms of transparency and accountability. But now, especially with the coming on stream of the Sanitation and Water for All (SWA) compact, a commitment is needed to ensure that resources are transparently utilised and properly accounted for.

An argument for transparency and accountability in the WASH sector was strongly put forward at the Second Ghana Water Forum (GWF 2) which came off last October under the theme *"Water and Sanitation Services Delivery in Ghana: The Sustainability Factor"*. Certainly, organisers were clear in their minds that issues of sustainability, to borrow the words of President John Evans Atta Mills "should be a prime concern to us, because without sustainability

efforts to increase access and coverage to WASH services will be an illusion."

At a parallel session sub-themed *Governance and Social Accountability*, Vitus A. Azeem, Executive Secretary, Ghana Integrity Initiative (GII), informed participants that several research reports in the water and sanitation sector have pointed to the problem of corruption and its effects in reducing access to water and sanitation services.

Specifically, corruption in the water and sanitation sector makes water unaffordable, inaccessible and leads to inefficiencies in water and sanitation service delivery.

"This calls for the strengthening of anti-corruption tools as well as the building of the capacity of all stakeholders to implement these tools, which is one way of promoting transparency and integrity in the sector," he proposed. He also recommended that to address governance problems in the WASH sector, it is necessary that all stakeholders work to ensure improved transparency, accountability and integrity.

Mr Azeem's presentation, which was on the topic: *Promoting Transparency and Integrity in the Water and*

Sanitation Sector in Ghana, highlighted major conclusions on the existence of corruption in the WASH sector. These include:

The fact that the crisis of water is a crisis of water governance with corruption as one of the root causes (Global Corruption Report 2008).

Corruption in the water sector worldwide is widespread and makes water inaccessible, undrinkable and unaffordable.

Multiple opportunities for corruption exist in the water sector.

Corrupt activities range from diversion of project funding of water systems (grand corruption) by public officials to small cuts related to service delivery such as misreading of meters, illegal connections, etc.

Corruption in the water sector also takes place when investments are provided where they are not most needed based on political reasons, nepotism and/or corruption.

Putting corruption in perspective

There is usually no universal or comprehensive definition as to what constitutes corrupt behaviour, however, common emphasis is placed on the abuse of power or public position for personal advantage. Generally, corruption impacts negatively on the socio-economic development of a country, reducing ordinary citizens' access to quality social services, including water and sanitation services, and deepens poverty. Experts believe that transparency or openness is an effective tool for checking corruption; and this, when coupled with integrity, especially of leadership, can drastically curb corruption in all

Applying transparency and accountability in the WASH sector in Ghana

sectors of our society.

In the Ghanaian jurisdiction, corruption may occur because:

Investments are made in political “world banks” which are more likely to yield more political dividends than in smaller constituents.

Huge investments yield bigger kickbacks than smaller investments that may be necessary.

Systems and procedures for ensuring transparency in the WASH sector are well established but compliance and effective enforcement of these systems are weak (GII's assessment of the water sector).

Appointments to managerial positions are politicised and/or based on considerations other than merit; sometimes influenced by government interference and/or manipulation.

Most service providers are not very open about system performance.

There is inadequate accountability from service providers – delayed action, especially delays in new connections and repair works as well as service interruptions without adequate notice and explanation.

There is inadequate supervision of projects, leading to poor project implementation, such as the shallow laying of pipelines, leading to frequent pipe bursts.

There is lack of involvement of ordinary citizens and beneficiaries in decision making and project implementation.

What must be done?

Participants at the parallel session agreed with the presenter that

promoting transparency, integrity and accountability in the water sector is a pre-requisite for increased access to quality water delivery. This is because transparency equips consumers and other stakeholders to participate in the decision-making process. Besides, it enhances their understanding of the issues and challenges faced by water providers and what goes into their pricing policies so as to cooperate with them to facilitate quality water delivery. “Transparency also enables citizens to hold the actors in the sector accountable for their actions,” according to Mr Azeem.

Going forward, there is the need to give serious consideration to recommendations arising from various studies including the GII's assessment of the water sector, and the Annotated Water Integrity Scan (AWIS) conducted jointly in Ghana in April 2010 by the Water Integrity Network (WIN) and GII.

The import of all these studies is that to promote transparency, integrity and accountability in Ghana's WASH sector:

There is need for anti-corruption laws, rules and regulations, including tough sanctions against perpetrators of corrupt acts.

Rules on, or prevention of, corruption require an honest leadership to successfully contain it.

Any anti-corruption efforts in an organization must include public exposure and sanctions if the organization expects them to be effective.

There is need for participation of the public, the users or their representatives in decision making as well as respect for their rights and the creation of possibilities for them to effectively file complaints and be

heard.

Recognise that transparency alone is not enough. In effect, transparency approaches require complete and regular disclosure/publication of project information, utility accounts, procurement, public expenditure reviews and audit information, as well as public access to data on aid input, debt and rationale for public investment choices.

Recruitment processes must not only be transparent but also fair and based on merit. Politics should have no place in the supply of water and sanitation services.

Award of contracts must be transparent and fair and field workers and contractors must be adequately supervised to ensure quality project execution.

Field supervisors need a free hand to carry out their supervisory work, especially of contractors and suppliers of materials.

Budget and resource flows need tracking at all levels by all stakeholders, including civil society and community beneficiaries of the services.

The quality of service delivery by the service providers must also be monitored on a regular basis by the beneficiaries and the service providers held accountable for any gaps in delivery.

To enhance quality of monitoring, the Freedom of Information legislation must be enacted to enable citizens to access public information from institutions, including those in the water sector.

Water forum endorses National Learning Alliance Platform

Indeed, the Ghana Water Forum has come to stay as an annual event, serving as the country platform for reviewing progress in the water and sanitation sector, exchanging ideas, and showcasing new developments in the sector both from within and outside of the country.

Another platform that has received endorsement as a stage for sharing knowledge and experiences by WASH sector stakeholders is the National Level Learning Alliance Platform (NLLAP). 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) in collaboration with the Ministry of Water Resources Works and Housing (MWRWH).

At the Second Ghana Water Forum, where participants considered how to sustain water facilities and services, the need for aggregation and documentation of sector approaches became apparent. It was considered that the NLLAP was the most appropriate platform for constant and regular engagement of sector stakeholders not only for documentation but also for bridging knowledge gaps, tracking and disseminating research information. Specifically, participants called for the institutionalization of NLLAP to promote vibrant sector discourse. They

also urged organizers of the NLLAP to decentralize the platform to the local level.



Panel discussion on sustainability. From left: Patrick (IRC), Kwabena (KNUST/WASHCost), Jane (Triple-S, Uganda), Jesse (WAG), Worlanyo (CWSA).

Serving as a panel member at one of the sessions of GWF-2, Mr Abu Wumbei of the RCN Secretariat said the NLLAP offers learning and sharing opportunity for sector players as one of the practical approaches to improving sector capacities and discourse with the long term aim of achieving a knowledge driven WASH sector that delivers quality and sustainable services in Ghana.

Giving the history, he recalled that in 2009 the RCN consulted with its partners about the need for wider sector sharing platform. The discussions later culminated in the organization of the first NLLAP in October 2009. Since then, NLLAP meetings have taken place on the last Thursday of every month. Also, since January 2010, the RCN Secretariat has collaborated with the Water

Directorate of the Ministry of Water Resources, Works and Housing to host a number of sector institutions/stakeholders on the NLLAP. Mr Wumbei also told the forum that discussions of each NLLAP meeting are summarized and shared with the wider WASH community in the form of a communiqué, dubbed, *WASH Reflections*. He invited all interested stakeholders to partake in the NLLAP because “NLLAP is a platform for everybody; it is for the sector.”

Addressing calls for the decentralization of NLLAP, Mr Wumbei mentioned that already the TPP project has established the District Level Learning Alliance Platform (DLLAP) in three pilot districts – Huni Valley, Mankessim and Ashaiman. This is a multi-stakeholder round table dialogue at the district level that brings together district assemblies, government agencies, local level NGOs and private sector.

In addition, WASHCost and Triple-S will begin pilot regional level learning alliances in the Northern, Ashanti and Volta regions. He was hopeful that the knowledge sharing agenda will expand to ensure that the dream of sustainability of services is achieved.

On achievements so far, Mr. Wumbei observed that the NLLAP has received sector-wide patronage and has also improved attitudes towards sharing in the sector.

Considering wastewater for agriculture

- dams
- On climate change adaptation, there is need to consolidate community coping strategies and develop capacities in flood prone areas
- Climate change adaptation should

- be approached from both rural and urban perspectives
- There is need to support emerging individualized and group-based irrigation systems
- There is need to create the right environment to attract the private

- sector into irrigation development
- Strengthening irrigation development and research institutions
- Improving capacity utilization of existing schemes
- Ensure scheme sustainability

Ghana needs social inclusion strategies for WASH sector

It is incontestable that water must be put at the centre of development planning because it is fundamental to all poverty reduction efforts. At the UN Millennium Summit, world leaders agreed on the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) with a clear understanding that improving water and sanitation services is fundamental to the achievement of all the other MDGs.

Presently, Ghana is on course to achieving the 76% MDG target on water, as well as, a self-assessed 85% coverage by 2015. In addition, President John Evans Atta Mills has predicted universal coverage for water by the year 2025.

But a number of issues remain a banana peel in the path to achieving these targets. One of them, as identified at the Second Ghana Water Forum (GWF-2), is overcoming social exclusion in the WASH sector. To do this, it was recommended that socially excluded baseline surveys must be conducted and socially included strategies developed.

Defining social inclusion and exclusion

Social inclusion is a state where all (i.e. including excluded individuals or groups of people) have the necessary opportunities and resources to participate fully in economic, social, cultural and political activities which are considered the societal norm.

Social exclusion, by contrast, is the outcome of multiple deprivations that prevent individuals or groups of people from participating fully in the economic, social, and political life of the society in which they live.

Usually, the classes of people who suffer social exclusion include: People With Disabilities (PWDs), marginalized tribal groups, people living with HIV/AIDS, people living below the poverty line (or poor), children, aged or

elderly, people branded as witches and wizards, some women, widows, widowers, orphans, etc.

People may become excluded from WASH services because:

They are stigmatized and discriminated against based on their status – cultural, social, economic i.e. poverty – and age, ethnicity, disability, 'Voicelessness' and vulnerability

They usually have limited access (i.e. physical, social or economic) to water and sanitation facilities and services

They are usually not consulted and their needs are not factored into the planning, design, implementation, management and monitoring and evaluation of WASH facilities and services

survey and develop social inclusion strategy

Consult and include marginalized groups in the planning, design, implementation, management and monitoring and evaluation of WATSAN systems

Employ methodologies to insure inclusion e.g. being mindful of socially excluded groups when deciding on timing and location for meetings

Consider social inclusion issues when selecting sites, pipe routes and location of sanitation services/facilities

Ensure appropriate representation of socially excluded groups in leadership positions of WASH management

Analyse different management options, preferred service levels



Youth session briefed on the Junior Water Prize.

Addressing social exclusion

The lack of access to WASH services for excluded groups can negatively impact on the quest to achieve the MDGs and other WASH related targets because WASH delivery touches on fundamental human rights/ human dignity. Therefore, there is need to:

Factor social inclusion into community awareness raising
Conduct social exclusion baseline

and service points of the socially excluded

Factor social inclusion into Facility Management Plan

Build capacity of WASH stakeholders on social exclusion and inclusion

Adopt both top-down and bottom-up approaches to transform social inclusion structures, systems and institutions for sustainability e.g. Dept. of Social Welfare



SECOND GHANA WATER FORUM

SUMMARY OF KEY DECISIONS AND OUTCOMES

Some of the key decisions and outcomes of the Second Ghana Water Forum include the following:

1. The roles and responsibilities of all stakeholders in water and sanitation should be clearly defined to avoid overlaps and ambiguities.
2. Sector policies, standards and guidelines should be disseminated widely for all stakeholders to act in accordingly and so no party can claim ignorance.
3. The Sanitation and Water for All Compact should be implemented in a manner that will involve all stakeholders. Efforts should be put in place to ensure that the funds earmarked are all utilised.
4. The Government of Ghana, development partners and other stakeholders including MMDAs need to make a strong commitment to sector learning.
5. There should be a national campaign on hygiene and sanitation behaviour change to help create a sustainable clean environment.
6. Government should put in place incentives for those who undertake composting, recycling, reuse and other measures which help reduce waste. Taxes should be imposed on importation of materials that pollute the environment.
7. Mechanisms should be created and funds set aside to undertake post construction monitoring and management of WASH facilities.
8. Government should intensify efforts at supporting the private sector to play an active role in sustaining WASH facilities and to attract the private sector into irrigation development as well as supporting individual and group based irrigation systems.
9. There is need for strengthening of anti-corruption tools and capacity of stakeholders to implement these tools to promote transparency in the WASH sector.
10. Flood insurance for water systems should be adopted in Ghana since floods are natural disasters and a national insurance mechanism will ensure water systems affected by floods will have funding for measures to get them operational again.



2010 National Junior Water Prize Winners at the Ghana Water Forum 2.

The Ghana National Junior Water Prize 2011 competition is open from 20th March to 20th May, 2011.

Winners will represent Ghana at the August 2011 Stockholm Junior Water Prize in Sweden. For more information contact, ghanajwp@gmail.com or call 026 540 1109 / 0302 673701.



REPUBLIC OF GHANA

Ministry of Water Resources, Works and Housing

WASH Sector Events Calendar – June-Dec. 2011

Sector Working Group Meeting	June 2, 2011	MWRWH Conference Room, Accra
State of the Environment Forum	June 10, 2011	Alisa Hotel, Accra
National Level Learning Alliance Platform (NLLAP): Transparency and Accountability in the Ghana WASH sector (Featuring Ghana Integrity Initiative)	June 30, 2011	Accra
Workshop on HWTS Policies and Integrated Environmental Health Interventions at the Household Level for East Africa (montgomerym@who.int)	June 2011	Entebbe, Uganda
Sector Working Group Meeting	July 7, 2011	MWRWH Conf. Rm., Accra
Singapore International Water Week (www.siiw.com.sg)	July 4-8, 2011	Singapore
35 th WEDC International Conference (http://www.wedcconference.co.uk/)	July 6-8, 2011	Loughborough Univ., UK
AfricaSan 3 Conference	July 19-21, 2011	Kigali, Rwanda
National Level Learning Alliance Platform (NLLAP): Urban Water Management in Ghana	July 28, 2011	Accra
Mole XXII Conference on the theme, <i>Towards Decentralised WASH Services Delivery: Challenges and Lessons</i> (organised by CONIWAS).	August 9-13, 2011	Busua Beach Hotel, near Takoradi, W/R
World Water Week 2011 (http://www.worldwaterweek.org/)	August, 21-27, 2011	Stockholm, Sweden
Ghana Water Forum (www.ghanawaterforum.org)	September 5-7, 2011	College of Physicians and Surgeons, Accra
Annual Household Water Treatment and Safe Storage (HWTS) International Network Meeting (http://whconference.unc.edu/)	October 3, 2011	Chapel Hill, USA
Water & Health 2011 (http://whconference.unc.edu/index.cfm)	October 3-7, 2011	University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill, USA
International Conference on Integrated Water Resource Management- Management of Water in a changing world: Lessons Learnt and Innovative perspectives (http://www.bmbf.iwrm2011.de)	October 12-13, 2011	Dresden, Germany
Global Hand Washing Day	October 15, 2011	To-Be-Decided (TBD)
Global Forum on Sanitation and Hygiene (www.wsscc.org)	October 9-14, 2011	Mumbai, India
2nd IWA Development Congress & Exhibition (http://www.aiwa2011KL.org)	November 21-24, 2011	Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia
Annual Sanitation Week(organised by EHSD, MLGRD)	November, 2011	TBD
World Toilet Day (organised by EHSD, MLGRD)	November 19, 2011	TBD
6 th Water Supply Network Forum (Organised by the Ministry of Water and Environment, Uganda/ and Partners)- Click here	Nov. 29-1 st Dec, 2011	Kampala, Uganda
National Environmental Sanitation Conference (NESCON) - (organised by EHSD, MLGRD)	November, 2011	TBD
Sixth World Water Forum (http://www.worldwaterforum6.org/)	12-17 March, 2012	Marseilles, France

Compiled by the WASH Resource Centre Network (RCN) Ghana, www.washghana.net Email: rcn@washghana.net

