

Dawuro

The Newsletter of WaterAid Ghana Programme



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Moves to harmonize National Sanitation Policies

No water no wife!!

WaterAid's Mission

WaterAid is an international non governmental organisation dedicated exclusively to the provision of safe domestic water, sanitation and hygiene education to the world's poorest people. These most basic services are essential to life; without them vulnerable communities are trapped in the stranglehold of disease and poverty.

WaterAid works by helping local organisations set up low cost, sustainable projects using appropriate technology that can be managed by the community itself.

WaterAid also seeks to influence the policies of other key organisations, such as governments, to secure and protect the right of poor people to safe, affordable water and sanitation services.

WaterAid is independent and relies heavily on voluntary support.

WaterAid's Vision

WaterAid's vision is of a world where everyone has access to safe water and effective sanitation.

Tit bits

ProNet North supports women and disabled

By Erasmus Attiah

ProNet North has exempted 12 disadvantaged persons in three communities of the Wa District from paying commitment fees towards the provision of household VIP latrines.

The organisation did this in the spirit of ensuring that all, irrespective of the level of deprivation, have access to effective sanitation within its area of operation.

Households are usually required to pay a commitment fee of ₵70,000 in cash, dig the pit and construct the superstructure. ProNet North usually bears all the other expenditure including the cost of cement and artisan's fees.

Six of such persons, who are visually impaired and old, are from Tendoma and two from Tanvaari. The other four are female house heads also in Tuoli community all of Wa district.



Moves to harmonize National Sanitation Policies



Participants at the workshop get busy

While many countries are undergoing a Water Supply & Sanitation sector reform, it is clear that sanitation coverage still lags far behind water supply coverage thus compelling a more focussed attention on the former. It is in response to this compelling situation that WaterAid Ghana, in partnership with WEDC (Water Engineering and Development Centre at Loughborough University (UK) is implementing a research project titled '*Application of tools to support national sanitation policies.*'

This research effort consists of a programme of work that will potentially contribute to the process of harmonising various national sanitation policies/papers in Ghana. It will further engage with sector stakeholders on transforming policies into strategies and programme. The research is funded by the Department for International Development, (DFID) UK under its Knowledge Action Research Programme (KAR).

The situation is similar in Ghana, where sector reform has been undertaken but more focus is given to water supply. Growing numbers of rural and urban poor families are living in unhealthy environments because of poor sanitation and a failure to promote appropriate hygiene behaviours. The creation of national level policies is key to creating an enabling environment. These policies must be appropriately focused, drawing on the views of key stakeholders and linking with systems and procedures for ensuring widespread implementation.

In Ghana, the national environmental sanitation policy was prepared in 1999 and reprinted in 2001 by the Ministry of Local Government and Rural Development. Apart from this policy, there are also other sanitation-related policies in use by other agencies such as the Community Water Supply and Sanitation policy; Small Towns Water and Sanitation Policy and others; resulting in uncoordinated implementation of sanitation strategies/policies.

In order to achieve the Millennium Development Goal and Vision 2020, there is need to harmonise the sanitation policies in Ghana. Currently the existing National Sanitation Policy is not being used to develop strategies, nor is it implemented effectively at the Regional and district (decentralised) levels.

A workshop was organised by WaterAid Ghana and WEDC for 40 participants. It was based on guidelines and tools for assessing national sanitation policies developed by EHP/USAID. These tools are meant to guide the preparation of country-specific comprehensive National Sanitation Policies that enable small-scale community and household centred approaches to be developed, replicated and scaled up. The guidelines and tools deal with the process of policy development and implementation.

The workshop concerned itself with three key issues: the existence of more than one policy in the country - published and evolving, contributing to the process of harmonising the national sanitation policies in Ghana, and recognising the need to develop processes that ensure that policies are widely supported and implemented for real change on the ground.

The workshop was expected to stimulate interest on sanitation and advocate for increased funding support. It was again expected to initiate the process of engagement with key actors towards achieving sanitation targets: local, national and global, and to elicit commitment from all relevant actors in support of the process.

The workshop established a Core Team comprising the sector ministry, private sector, donors, regional and district institutions. The Team will be expected to do a detailed assessment of the sanitation policies based on key issues identified during the workshop and apply EHP guidelines. There will be another national workshop to discuss the full details of the assessment findings and reach agreement on a road map for action.



Erasmus Attiah

Sanitation credit increases demand for household latrines in Upper West

Demand for household latrines in some districts of the Upper West Region has risen by more than 500% over the last two years. This is as a result of a latrine credit scheme introduced by ProNet North, a WaterAid partner operating in the region.

ProNet North started implementing an integrated Water, Sanitation and Hygiene Promotion Programme in the Upper West Region in 1995. Under the programme communities are supported to construct improved hand dug wells fitted with hand pumps to enhance potable water supply to the rural poor.

Under Sanitation, communities with water points are also supported to construct household VIP latrines and soak ways behind their bathhouses. This is to address the problem of unsafe disposal of human excreta and appropriate management of solid and liquid waste to improve environmental hygiene.

Between the 1995-2001 construction seasons, the demand for household latrines did not exceed 80 per year. The reasons for this low demand by the communities were neither appreciated nor properly monitored until the 2002/03-construction season. Before then, households had to make upfront cash payment of seventy thousand (¢70,000.00) cedis as their commitment fees before they could benefit from the latrine intervention.

In 2002 a systematic approach was adopted

to fully appreciate and understand the situation. Various community durbars, focus group discussions, key informant interviews, formal and informal interactions with Tanvaari, Kakalapari, Tanziiri, Duu East, Nyentie, Yuonuri and Tendoma communities were held to discuss the reasons for the low patronage for and participation in the latrine programme.

Among others, ProNet North noticed that the timing for payment of the fees was not conducive for the communities since construction periods usually coincided with the dry and "lean" season when money availability was at the lowest. Again, the upfront payment in bulk required before the latrine was constructed only served to worsen an already bad situation.

Community members suggested that they should be allowed to benefit from the latrine programme and the commitment fees paid during harvesting season when financial problems reduce. They also proposed that a trusted member of the Water and Sanitation (Watsan) Committee should be selected by the community to collect the latrine commitment fees from households on behalf of ProNet, and that the amount be spread over a period of time for households to pay by monthly installment up to a maximum of twelve months.

These issues were discussed in all the communities that were targeted for the 2002/03 season and in all cases the communities opted for the construction of latrine for use, while payment is deferred till

the harvesting season appropriately termed the "use now-pay later" approach. Communities held the view that this arrangement was the surest way to encourage the poor to also own and have access to sanitation in the rural areas.

As a result of implementing the sanitation for credit scheme, demand for household latrines for 2003 rose from 80 the previous year to about 500. This high demand for latrines, coming from only two ProNet pilot districts for trachoma control programme, was far above the projected 400 household latrines for that year. The demand could thus not be met due to funding limitations.

ProNet constructed four hundred household latrines in 2003 with funding from WaterAid, the International Trachoma Initiative (ITI) and UNICEF under the Trachoma Control Programme in the Upper West Region. Eighty-seven of these latrines are located in three communities in the Sissala district whilst the remaining 313 latrines were constructed in 15 communities of the Wa district.

As at August 2004 ten of 18 communities have made 100% payment of their latrine commitment fees of seventy thousand (¢70,000) cedis per household latrine. The remaining eight communities have made part payment of about 65%. A total amount of ¢12 million cedis have been collected so far.



Some households get busy with latrine construction

Credit recovery rate as at August 2004

No. Community	No. Of Household latrines	Percentage paid	No. Of Persons Exempted
1. Tanziiri	11	100%	
2. Yasoteng	14	100%	
3. Anyuorakura	17	100%	
4. Tuoli	17	100%	4
5. Tendoma	42	100%	6
6. Solimbo	23	100%	
7. Yuonuri	25	100%	
8. Duu East	30	100%	
9. Nyentie	30	100%	
10. Dariyri	6	100%	
11. Nyimate	27	50%	
12. Tawonchelle	28	65%	
13. Dalanyiri	20	60%	
14. KaKalapari	45	40%	
15. Damwaayiri	11	30%	
16. Dariguyiri	7	50%	
17. Tenabelle	23	30%	
18. Tanvaari	24	70%	2
TOTALS	400		12

The latrine awareness has been so high that currently, 650 households have applied for support to construct household latrines in Jirapa Lambussie, Wa and Sissala districts where the Trachoma Control Programme is

ongoing. However, for budgetary reasons, the current project target is 300 household latrines for 2004.

ProNet North is capable of constructing 600

household latrines each year if funds are made available at the appropriate time considering the current demand for household latrines and the availability of trained Community Based Latrine Artisans.



Some completed household latrines

WaterAid & ENDA Launch

Local MDG Initiative

in Ghana

By Mohammed Abdul-Nashiru

A Local Millennium Development Goal Initiative for water and sanitation has been launched in Tamale.

WaterAid and ENDA, an international collaborator, are piloting the initiative, which seeks to, among others, narrow the planning and implementation of interventions needed to achieve MDGs by 2015 to the district and community levels in two districts. The pilot districts are the Tamale Municipal Assembly and the Afram Plains District in the Eastern Region.

More than 70 professionals from sub-district, district, regional, national and international institutions attended the launch.

The Advocacy manager of WaterAid Ghana, Mohammed Abdul-Nashiru, presented an overview of the LMDGI. He said the initiative targets local government institutions such as

District Assemblies and decentralized state departments.

In his welcome address, the Tamale Municipal Chief Executive, Hon Iddrisu Adam, said the initiative was timely and said the Municipal Assembly was piloting a similar initiative with focus on sanitation.

Together with the Regional Minister's representative, the West Africa Regional Manager of WaterAid, Idrissa Doucouré, who launched the initiative, underscored the essence of using realistic data as a basis for planning for water and sanitation service delivery.

The initiative has the objective of deepening understanding of the millennium development goals among local authorities. It also seeks to develop and implement simple planning and monitoring mechanisms and systems that are responsive to the needs of local

governments especially related to safe drinking water, sanitation and hygiene. In addition, the LMDGI seeks to develop and build capacity of leadership in designing, implementing and evaluating projects towards improving access to safe water and sanitation. The LMDGI will also initiate platforms for experience and lesson sharing.

A report by the Millennium Project indicates that from 1990 to 2000, the percentage of Ghana's population with improved access to safe water in rural areas grew by 0.6% per year. In the urban areas the growth was 0.4% per year. Access to improved sanitation grew by 0.3% annually in both rural and urban areas. Should this trend continue, Ghana's MDGs for water and sanitation by 2015 will be missed in all areas except urban water.

West Africa holds

Management training workshop

By Stephen Ntow

WaterAid has organized a four-day Management Training workshop for its management staff in West Africa.

The workshop was held from 9 -12 August 2004 in Accra. There were about 24 participants drawn from the four West Africa Country Programmes in Mali, Burkina Faso, Nigeria and Ghana, as well as the Regional Desk at the organisation's headquarters in the UK.

The workshop, among others, aimed at equipping management staff of the various Country Programmes with the requisite skills required to effect change management in their individual country programmes.

Among areas covered were, Organisational

Challenges and Organisational Audit, which helped participants to identify the various challenges facing the country programmes; Change Management, which was first to identify the two types of changes (strategic and operational) and also to develop strategies for addressing existing challenges by doing things differently and also mechanisms for sustaining the changes. The others were Project Management, which helps in developing appropriate strategies for managing sustainable strategies, and Leadership, for developing the right skills for effective leadership.

After the workshop country programme teams developed individual Action Plans

and were full of motivation to return home to start their management strategies.

In his closing statements the Regional Manager remarked that he had full confidence in the team considering the seriousness that participants attached to the workshop as well as the development of the Action Plans.

WaterAid is a dynamic multinational organisation that believes in recruiting and maintaining highly skilled and motivated staff. In this vein several human resource development packages are developed for staff. It is anticipated that the wind of change blowing will get to all WaterAid stakeholders and be fully embraced.

Tamale small town water systems

Six months after commissioning

Background

NewEnergy commenced water and sanitation activities in the Tamale metropolis in 1998. This was in active collaboration with the Tamale Metropolitan Assembly. This fruitful collaboration culminated in a joint study of the Water and Sanitation situation in the metropolis with funding from WaterAid in 2000. NewEnergy's current Urban Water and Sanitation programme in Tamale including the 'Small Water Systems' are the outcome of the study.

Evolution

Issues of ownership and management of Water and Sanitation facilities must be addressed to ensure their sustainability. In recognition of this fact, the Executive Council of NewEnergy decided in 2003 that the "Build, Operate & Transfer (BOT)" mechanism be used as our urban water delivery strategy.

In line with the above, two 'Small Water Systems' were built and commissioned on March 29, 2004 for two communities in the heart of Tamale, namely Tishigu and Dohinaayili. Thereafter, the process moved to the 'O' component of the BOT strategy.

NewEnergy has been operating the systems and the plan is to do

so for a period of approximately six to twelve months during which relevant data would be gathered to inform further development of the management system. During this phase, the following are being monitored:

- i) Water abstraction from the wells
- ii) Consumption of electric power
- iii) Number of users aggregated by gender
- iv) Revenue generated vis-à-vis expenses incurred
- v) Water quality

A full-time caretaker will be recruited in consultation with all stakeholders. For now, however, staff of NewEnergy is engaged in the collection of data and revenue until substantive personnel are recruited. The caretaker will be paid a monthly commission to be determined. The commission will be a percentage of the revenue generated. Utility charges (electricity) will also be paid from the revenue generated.

Progress / Experience

After six months (April - September) of operation, the data in the table below have been gathered:

Data summary on the two water systems

Month	Water Abstracted (litres)		Power Consumed (Kwh)		Revenue Collected (¢)		Expenditure (¢)	
	Tishigu	Dohinaayili	Tishigu	Dohinaayili	Tishigu	Dohinaayili		
April	-	-	-	-	851,800	175,300	Cleaning	34,000
May	-	-	-	-	1,048,150	77,000	Repairs	609,000
June	471385	122,213	88.3	20.2	1,566,450	185,300	Elect. Bills	334,000
July	687686	132,952	211.6	24.5	2,926,250	269,200	T&T	88,400
August	482006	119,033	79.6	19.9	1,642,950	208,750	Phone	31,000
September	556493	92,903	101.9	11.4	1,899,050	162,500		
Total	2,197,570	467,101	481.4	76	9,934,650	1,078,050		1,096,400
Average (M)	549,392	116,775	120.35	19	1,655,775	179,675		
Average (D)	18,013	3,828	3.95	0.62	81,431.55	8,836.48		



The Dohinayili small town water system

Generally, uses of the water drawn from the systems include cooking, bathing, washing and drinking. It serves both domestic and commercial purposes. Users include householders, chop bar operators, vehicle washing bay operators, mosque attendants, etc. On a daily basis, an average of 820 females and 80 males patronize the Tishigu system, while Dohinayili registers 176 females and 15 males patronage.

On water quality, each of the systems has been disinfected through chlorination twice coupled with laboratory analyses of the water, covering bacteriological and physico-chemical parameters. The plan is to continue testing at intervals of two weeks to inform technical and management decisions.

Next steps

The next step in the process will involve training the Board and Management of the systems. Members of the Board will be selected from the Enterprise Development User Groups (EDUGs) and training offered them on their role and responsibilities. The composition of the Board proposed by NewEnergy to the Tamale Metropolitan Assembly includes:

Community representatives	-	-	-	2
Assembly person	-	-	-	1
Tamale Metropolitan Assembly	-	-	-	1
Community Water & Sanitation Agency (CWSA)	-	-	-	1
Operator	-	-	-	1
NewEnergy	-	-	-	1

Following this training, the Boards would then proceed to register as corporate entities, empowered to own and manage the systems. With the registration completed, NewEnergy would then transfer the management of the systems to them to complete the BOT process.

T. SAYIBU IMORO
Programme Manager
NewEnergy

No repair on a seven-year old Rope pump

By Emmanuel Addai

A rope pump user, Mr Bernard Adongo, says he has never replaced the rope since the pump was installed seven years ago.

In an interview with WaterAid in October, he said the rope had neither ever chaffed nor broken before. Neither had he ever undertaken any repairs apart from occasionally greasing the moving parts and disinfecting the well, which is indeed a requirement whatever type of pump one uses.

Mr Adongo is a private borehole driller in the Upper East Region of Ghana. He has a borehole in his house, which is about 70metres deep. He decided to fix a rope pump on the borehole in 1997 to replace a conventional hand pump, which, according to him, was too expensive to maintain.

He said the only problem he occasionally encounters with the rope was that it sometimes comes off the wheel. But according to him, his wife has the mastery of fixing it back without any difficulty.

To him he does not know why anybody should reject such an affordable and cost effective technology.



Mr Adongo, a proud owner of a rope pump

WaterAid Steering Committee starts work

By Cudjoe Azumah and Steve Ntow

The recently inaugurated National Steering Committee of WaterAid Ghana has begun work in earnest.

The first working session came off on the 17th of August in the Conference Room of the Ministry of Works and Housing. The Deputy Minister for Works and Housing, Dr. Charles Brimpong Yeboah chaired the meeting.

The Deputy Country representative set the tone for the meeting with an in-depth presentation on programme activities in Ghana. This presentation generated a great deal of discussion because it was the first time that committee members had the opportunity to openly discuss WaterAid's activities in Ghana.

The Consultant, Messrs Maple Consult, who facilitated the Mid-Term Review workshop of the Ghana Programme in July this year made a presentation on performance and outputs achieved so far. The presentation focused on the Ghana programme from April 2003 to June 2004.

Among several results presented, the Consultant provided figures to show that WaterAid-Ghana was providing facilities at a lower rate than other similar interventionists in Ghana. For example, whilst completed boreholes installed with pumps were provided by WaterAid and partners at a total cost of £5,517, some other organisations provided the same facility for £12,000. For hand-dug-wells fitted with pump, WaterAid spends £1,500 whilst others spend £3,200. For sanitation facilities, the situation is no different. WaterAid and partners spend £55 on one household latrine whilst other interventionists spend over £112.

Having been provided with these statistics, committee members expressed concern about the big differences in price quotations for the same kind of facilities and expressed the desire to explore the possibility of using WaterAid's price quotations as a standard. "Our rural people should benefit from cheap but efficient facilities," a committee member stressed. They, however, implored WaterAid to work further on the possibilities of reducing the costs further down. The coverage for the country programme for the period was given as follows; Water - 94,428 beneficiaries and Sanitation (Latrines) - 45,000 beneficiaries.

One of the areas where members expressed concern was the non-labelling of WaterAid facilities especially water points provided with WaterAid funding. This practice, it was agreed, could make monitoring, evaluation and accountability very problematic as it becomes confusing to verify which facilities

were provided by WaterAid or other donors. This anomaly needs to be rectified as a matter of urgency to make for effective monitoring and evaluation.

Also, Committee members expressed hope that WaterAid would make periodic programme updates available and also arrange for the members of the Committee to visit some programme sites on a regular basis to acquaint themselves of activities. This will enable them effectively play their role as "watchdog" and adviser.

Another call was made to WaterAid to endeavour to establish strong links with the District Assemblies in districts where partners are implementing programmes. This if done, will further show WaterAid's commitment to work within the country's national and decentralised water and sanitation sector framework

The continuing debate on the 5% upfront contribution to capital cost for the provision of water facilities in rural areas also came up for discussion. Members encouraged WaterAid to continue to lead the campaign for ultimate modification of the requirement since it has been identified as a major obstacle to the attempt to provide water facilities to very poor, deprived communities.

WaterAid was also tasked to undertake a vigorous piloting and evaluation of the "rope pump" in all programme districts if possible, with the view to ascertaining and documenting related issues of pollution, maintenance and spare parts.

Dr. Charles Brempong Yeboah, Chairman of the Committee in a contribution to deliberations implored WaterAid to assist its implementing partners to source for HIPC funds, which are currently available at the District Assemblies. This will make more funds available for the provision of facilities to more deprived communities.

In another contribution to the difficulty of raising in-country funds, a member suggested the institution of an annual World Water Day Challenge Cup to be competed for by two leading football clubs in Ghana. Gate proceeds and any sponsorship derived from this event could be used to implement WaterAid's pro-poor interventions.

The seriousness and commitment exhibited by all Steering Committee members point to one thing only; *'The sleeves are up, more serious work has started.'*

The gender agenda

Female biological and gender roles: a trap, an imposition or an agreed role?
Stories from the field PART I



Joyce Lena Danquah

Gender mainstreaming has since the word came to exist developed to portray development workers' bias to issues concerning women. Our men folk are now reminding us on the correct definition of gender.

Yes, in our first edition of Gender Agenda I did say gender is not only about women or issues surrounding women. Subsequent series have tried to capture roles of men in facilitating their families' access to safe water and effective sanitation. Yet today I have to ask again what is gender? When we say gender is the socially prescribed roles and responsibilities of men and women what does it mean? When we insist gender is not only about women and issues concerning women to what extent is it true? When WaterAid Ghana claims that in defining gender it is not limiting itself to only men and women but the vulnerable and marginalised in society to what extent do we go or what are the broad parameters we set in arriving at our definitions?

WaterAid Ghana recently undertook official visits to about 30 partner communities in about ten districts of the country. We wanted to meet with our partner organisations as well as our partner communities and assess the impact of our activities. The findings are marvellous!

I will talk about the marvellous findings in two communities: Saamang in the Gushegu Karaga District and Asiafo Yoyim, popularly called Mepeyere (I want a wife), in Yilo Krobo District. Both stories tell the extent to which men go to get their life partners whose main role or importance to them is that of making and keeping a home.

Our first instance is about a young and beautiful woman, Sefia, who lives in Saamang. Sefia told me she was fourteen years old. On contact she seemed to be the 'been to' in the community. 'Been to' implies she has travelled abroad and in this particular instance, it is Accra the capital of Ghana.

...And Sefia obeyed

She quickly replied amidst laughter 'No! No! No! The marriage ceremony has not yet been performed. I have to give birth first! There will be no marriage ceremony until I have a baby.'



Sefia

In order to run away from the harsh living conditions in Saamang, coupled with a strong inner desire to go to Accra, Sefia secretly planned to escape. First she sought the services of a soothsayer to advise her if it would be safe to go to Accra. She was informed she would do well in Accra and no harm would befall her. She could go to Accra. Sefia obeyed. So one late morning after completing her household chores she packed a couple of clothes, put them in a plastic carrier bag, placed it in her big bowl (for carrying water) and covered it with her cloth which was to be used to balance the big bowl on her head. She went to the well and that was the last of her. She got the next available truck leaving her community to Tamale, the capital of the Northern Region, and from there it was all the way to Accra.

In Accra she was homeless for a couple of days until she identified a distant relative who took her in. On her first day in the streets of busy Accra a woman spotted her and used her services as a porter. The woman invited her to her home to stay with her and she refused. Why? "I didn't know her and I have heard that there could be lots of bad people in Accra," Sefia said.

Another day this same woman saw her again and repeated the offer. Sefia feigned sickness and the woman immediately sent her to a pharmacist and bought drugs for her. With this an elderly man in whom Sefia confided said: "for buying you medicine because you said you are sick, this woman will be a good woman so go with her." Sefia obeyed. Sefia went to live with the woman in Tabora, a suburb of Accra.

This marked the turning point in her life. She was treated as part of the family though she was there as a house help. Sefia told me she lived so comfortably, taking care of her Madam's children who were trained to respect her, ate what she wished for and rested as and when she needed to especially when the children were off to school.

The greatest blessing for Sefia was the fact

that there was tap water in the house. A miracle she never imagined. She had grown up to think getting water for household chores was a struggle everywhere, just like Saamang. She never imagined that some people only had to turn on a tap to get clean water. This was far easier than trekking 12 km each day to get water just for household chores. It was far easier than enduring back, neck and general body pains every morning and evening due to carrying and transporting about 20kg load of water.

This continued for about a year until one day, disaster struck. An emissary met and told Sefia that her father was terminally ill and was asking for her. Her father needed her at home. And Sefia obeyed.

Sefia informed her 'Madam' who unwillingly gave in and allowed Sefia to leave for home. She was given a suitcase full of clothes and other basic things a woman will need to make a home (in fact they were basically kitchenware.) Her 'Madam' advised her 'if you go and they want to give you away in marriage let me know.'

Sefia came to Saamang and her 'madam' was vindicated. Her supposedly terminally ill father was well and fit as a fiddle. He warmly welcomed her and the following morning the bombshell was announced. Her father had given her hand in marriage to a young man who had been showing a lot of respect to him. And Sefia obeyed.

This piece of enquiry ensued between us: Gender Agenda (GA): why did you believe the man and immediately agreed to go back home?

Sefia: But madam even if I stay and make a lot of money in Accra, for whom will I be making the money? If I make money in life I make it for my father. So what is the point if he is dying?

GA: But why did you agree to this pre-arranged marriage, why didn't you even protest?

Sefia: Aahh how can you ever disobey your father? You are obliged to obey whatever

your father says. If your father says he has given you to a particular man and you decline he might say bad things for you and they will surely come to pass. Among my kinsmen, young girls always pray that their fathers will give them to men who will be able to take good care of them.

I immediately started teasing her, calling her Amelia, meaning a bride. She quickly replied amidst laughter 'No! No! No! The marriage ceremony has not yet been performed. I have to give birth first! There will be no marriage ceremony until I have a baby.'

GA: What if the baby does not come?

Sefia: I have to wait for the baby. It will come.

I was greatly disappointed. I had been brought up to believe that a woman who just lives with a man has no security; she can be kicked out anytime at the least provocation. Family members have limited influence on such unions. I dread what will befall Sefia if God does not show mercy and on time too.

Infertility is still viewed by many as a woman's problem even among many educated people.

Finally I asked: Sefia, where is your mother? And she replied: 'She is there.'

I then asked myself:

1. Why is it that all the people (except her Madam in Accra) who played great roles in the life of Sefia are men?
2. If her mother is alive and well as she told me why did Sefia never mention her?
3. What if the baby doesn't come?
4. Should the baby not come in say five years from now and her husband decide to marry another woman, how will Sefia feel?
5. What will be her status in the family?
6. With such brains and intelligence plus such strong skills in well calculated intentions and plans where would Sefia be today if she had been born into her Madam's family?

Sefia never had the opportunity to have formal education and she recounted with pain and nostalgia how she envied her madam's children in Accra. She yearns for formal education but in this trap hope and wishes are very far away from reality.

In any case life is much easier in Saamang now. WaterAid and another NGO have provided two water points to the community and this has lessened the burden of accessing safe water for household chores. Women don't suffer over water like they did prior to Sefia's journey to Accra. WaterAid would want to believe this would at least provide some consolation to Sefia.

Watch out for Part II Asiafo Yoyim story in the next issue of the Dawuro.



Any substitute for the word 'gender?'

The debate continues.

"Because of the stigma attached to the word, I believe a change may be necessary. Perhaps "equity/equality of the sexes," while not as succinct, it contains the base of a word that calls one's attention (both male and female)."

Elisabeth Churchill - Peace Corps Volunteer

Gender has been attached to women because when the roles of men and women were called into question, it provided the simplest means to express the issues. Women brought issues to the floor. Therefore it is likely the word will continue to be associated with women.

Because of the stigma attached to the word, I believe a change may be necessary. Perhaps "equity/equality of the sexes," while not as succinct, it contains the base of a word that calls one's attention (both male and female).

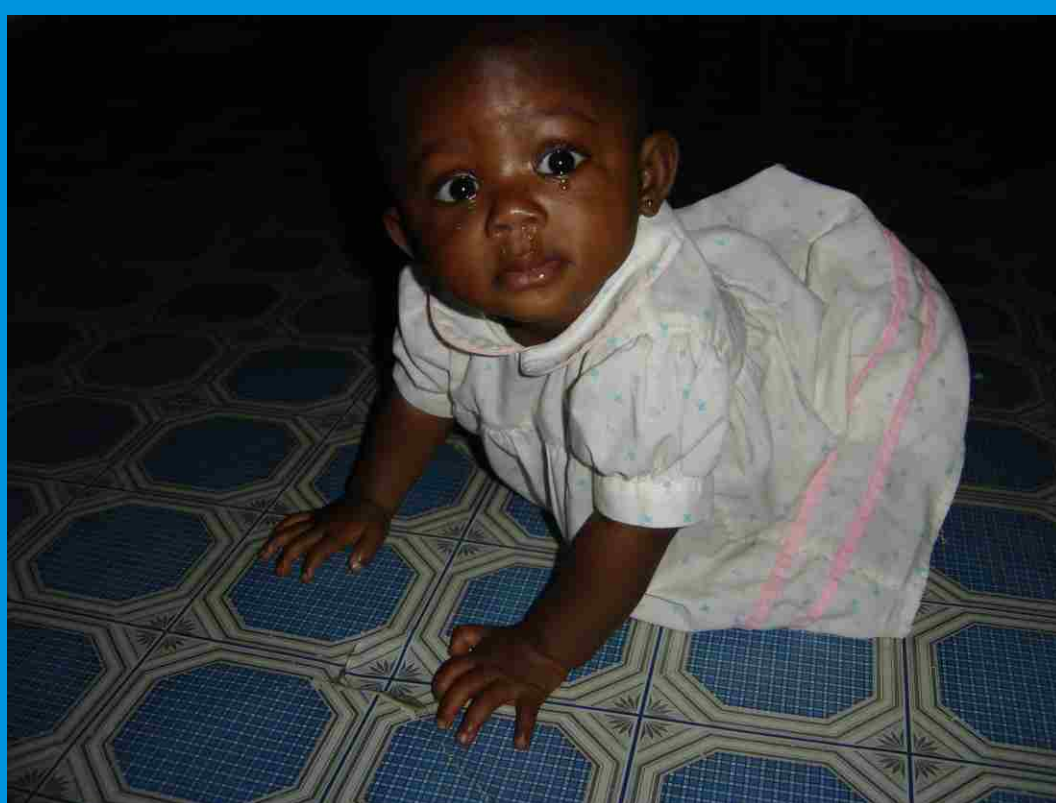
Sex is also a word that needs to be more openly discussed in the Ghanaian society and its usage could aid other movements such as HIV/AIDS awareness and sexual education, which both contribute to the movement for gender equity.

Perhaps with a new name and revised platform that encourages the joining of inputs of men, more men may be willing to join. With this encouragement and consideration of

their views into the movement, the movement itself would be more equal, more men would be likely to join and the power of the movement could increase.

Problems could arise as male involvement caused women to compromise their previous desires for the movement in order to reach agreement with men. Also if men attempted to dominate, many of the goals and voices of women could be cast in the shadows.

However, in order to improve and empower the movement, male participation is necessary. Women and men must work together in order to bring about change. With this consolidated effort, males and females may also learn to respect each other, recognize each other's capabilities and most of all, learn from each other. Hopefully, with this knowledge, defined roles of men and women can begin to fade.



Give birth before I perform your marital rites; and Sefia obeyed

Water, sanitation to cover 80% by 2010 - Kofi Asamoah

The Community Water and Sanitation Programme intends to provide water and improved sanitation services to 80% of communities in the country by the year 2010.

This was disclosed by its Chief Executive, Mr Kofi Asamoah, at a press soiree held in Accra.

He said the Programme would help maximize health benefits by integrating water, sanitation and hygiene education interventions that would ensure sustainability of facilities through community ownership and management.

Mr Asamoah also outlined some of the key strategies of the Programme to include decentralized planning, implementation and management of services by beneficiary communities and their District Assemblies, as well as private sector provision of good works and services. He noted that in the public sector, the District Assemblies facilitated the process and designed intensive and community development, as well as training programmes.

He said that at the decision-making levels, they had attracted the active and full participation of women in programme implementation, adopted basic technology and service level options for the delivery of water and sanitation facilities, and sustained the supply chain of goods and services especially spare parts, at affordable prices.

On its achievements, the Chief Executive said the programme was fully established in all the ten regions.

Stakeholders advocate Water Fund

Participants at a day's forum on water privatisation suggested to the government to consider setting up a Water Fund to support major rehabilitation and expansion of the country's water systems.

This fund, they said, could be established along the same line as that of the Ghana Education Trust Fund (GETfund), contending that it would go a long way to significantly improve the efficiency of the country's water sector.

The forum was organized by the National Coalition Against Privatization of Water in Kumasi. They noted that when adequately

In all, about 895 mechanics, 3,156 latrine artisans and 573 hand-dug well contractors had been trained and were providing services.

He reiterated that 12,307 communities and 850 schools and institutions had so far been empowered to take charge of their water and sanitation facilities.

Mr Asamoah stated that the national programme for potable water supply had covered about 46.4% of both rural communities and small towns in the country by the end of 2003, with NGOs contributing eight percent. This notwithstanding, he said the Programme was bedevilled with some problems, such as difficulty of smaller communities to raise the five percent contribution of the capital cost of the facilities.

Other communities also found it difficult to take charge of the operation and maintenance of their own water and sanitation facilities.

Mr Asamoah said the government, through the HIPC fund, had committed 53 billion cedis, with 40 billion having been released in 2002 and 2003, and 13 billion released this year to facilitate projects in the Upper East, West, and Eastern regions.

He commended donors such as CIDA, EU, DANIDA, KFW, UNICEF and others for supporting the Programme.

Daily Graphic 27/09/04

resourced, the Ghana Water Company could perform and live up to public expectation.

Mr Mohammed Bingle of the Coalition called for depoliticisation of the debate on Private Sector Participation (PSP).

Mr Abubakari Adams-Sandu, Ashanti Regional Secretary of the Trades Union Congress, stated that although there were inefficiencies at the GWCL, the solution was not privatization. He said what should be done was to make sure that the company was well resourced so that "we can demand performance from its staff."

Daily Graphic - 30/10/04

Interesting field news

No water no wife!!

By Emanuel Addai

It was very interesting the first time I saw a signboard at Teshie, near Accra, with the inscription "No water, No vote."

This signboard was once flashed on a TV station in Ghana and whether the advocacy that goes with the inscription is paying off or not, I do not really know. What I know is that a lot of efforts are underway to ensure that Teshie is provided with regular access to potable water.

To many young men in some communities in the Sebété District in Southern Mali, water can cost them not only their lives and economic gains but also the women they really love to marry! Parents from other communities and districts have, for a long time, refused or at least resisted allowing their daughters to marry men from this area. Why? Because that area notoriously lacks access to drinking water.

The reason? Your guess may be right! The daughters would spend the rest of their lives always walking in search for water for the family. The parents may be right don't you see? Would you allow your beloved daughter to be always carrying heavy containers and perpetually walking in search of water, virtually undertaking no economic activity? God help the young men if fellow men cannot help them. Poor them! How can water prevent strong men desirous of starting a family from getting their right choices?



Water is life and is indeed at the centre of every economic and social endeavour. Water is power. Water? Don't joke with it!!



*A harmonized sanitation policy
will help to provide a solution*

Contacts

Please send your proposal for development assistance to the nearest partner to your intended project area.

Our partners

Akuapem Community Development Programme (ACDEP)

Location: Dawu, near Akropong Akuapem, Eastern Region
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WaterAid - Water for life

WaterAid is an international NGO dedicated exclusively to the provision of safe water, sanitation and hygiene education to the world's poorest people.

WaterAid Ghana Office

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