

Dawuro

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WaterAid

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WaterAid - Water for Life

WaterAid's mission

WaterAid is an international NGO dedicated exclusively to the provision of safe 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 to 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 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.

Aissa in Wa

By Raphael Sufiyan

The Country Representative of WaterAid Ghana, Aissa Toure Sarr, paid a supervision visit to ProNet North in the Upper West Region last February. The visit accorded the CR the opportunity to interact with the Management and staff of the only WaterAid Implementing Partner in the region. She also paid field visits to a number of communities where WaterAid projects had been or were being implemented. She urged ProNet staff to intensify efforts at exploring opportunities for in-country funding since, according to her, funding partnership potentials abounded in the country.

The CR also called on the Regional Director for CWSA, the Wa Municipal Chief Executive, and the Wa West District Chief Executive and the District Director for Health Services. Discussions with these partners centered on the need for an intensive partnership between WaterAid, ProNet North and District Assemblies for common programmes towards achieving the MDGs for water and sanitation.

WAG Outdoors New Country Strategy



The Country Representative of WaterAid Ghana being supported by the British High Commissioner and the sector Minister to unveil the CSP and logo

It was spectacular the attendance; highly unexpected! Hardly did we know that WaterAid Ghana had such a grand public audience. We planned for just a hundred people and even some members of the planning committee felt it was exaggeration. The rest of us simply accepted hundred because we had to play it safe. What happened? Close to two hundred people were seated 25 minutes after the start time. We were compelled to stop showing the WaterAid documentary that was to run for the first 30 minutes while we wait for invited guests to arrive. The Minister was only 25 minutes late and the British High Commissioner was exactly five minutes late.

Media people stormed the British Council auditorium and most of them were there at exactly one 'o'-clock. I do not know if that is the new trend or it was the WaterAid event that marked the start of such great respect to time in the history of our culture.

The event had already proven to be promising when earlier in the day and as part of the programme, the Country Representative and a Manager from the Partner Round Table had responded brilliantly to questions on two media talk shows; one on GTV and the other on Joy Fm. They spoke on both Programme and national issues. They also spoke on sector and field challenges including low sector funding and the much-talked-about upfront cash community contribution of 5% to capital cost of installing water facilities. Then came the turn of the Minister for Water Resources, Works and Housing, Hon Hackman Owusu-Agyemang who presented the keynote address. He decided not to read directly from the written address he held on the lectern. He decided to sound as natural as possible. He gave a couple of compliments to sector collaborators and WaterAid in particular. He then talked about attitudes and commitment on the part of Ghanaians on the use of water resources. Then to the relief of the many field-based NGOs present, he personally and openly denounced the upfront cash contribution and described the conditionality as a monster; a great advocacy breakthrough whose glory WaterAid Ghana has every right to share with other partners.

Before the Minister spoke, the CEO of Community Water and Sanitation Agency had briefed the gathering on a sector overview and, after talking about obstacles and challenges and areas where WaterAid can be of great help, he concluded that WaterAid had been a strategic NGO in the water sector within the framework of the National Community Water and Sanitation Programme.

HE the British High Commissioner to Ghana, Gordon Wetherell, had also spoken about how WaterAid's powerful advocacy efforts were impacting on the UK and EU governments' policies. He cited WaterAid's document "Getting to Boiling Point" as one of the factors influencing DFID's decision in 2005 to double spending on water in Africa over three years.

The Country representative of WaterAid Ghana, Aissa Touré Sarr, spoke and educated the gathering on WaterAid's mission, activities and achievements in Ghana since 1985. She also presented highlights of the new 5-year County Strategy. She seized the opportunity to publicly acknowledge the contribution of WaterAid Ghana's Implementing Partners, National Steering Committee, in-country donors and all other collaborators to the overall achievements of the Country Programme.

WaterAid, others explore more Water technology options

By Emmanuel Addai



The Production and Dissemination Officer of Practica Foundation, Henk Holtslag, has introduced representatives of WaterAid Ghana, Community Water and Sanitation Agency (CWSA), the Coalition of National NGOs in Water and Sanitation (CONIWAS) and ProNet to various rural water technologies.

The 20th January meeting was quite informal with Henk doing a presentation on technologies ranging from manual well drilling, water pumps, water storage, recharge systems, irrigation and water treatment. Among the technologies presented were the Rota-Sludge, rope pumps, treadle pumps, underground tanks, solar disinfection and ceramic filters.

Most of these technologies cost between five and ten times cheaper than the conventional pumps and other technologies currently known. For instance, according to a cost-benefit analysis he made, Henk said the returns on every \$60 invested in rope pumps yield \$220 per year. Every \$15 invested in treadle pumps yields \$100 per year. Drilling with Rota-

Sludge and installing a rope pump will also reduce the cost of a well from about \$2,000 to \$400 in Tanzania.

Emmanuel Addai of WaterAid Ghana, together with Emmanuel Adjei, also presented The Adjei Distant Pump, a Ghanaian invention yet to be tested. This pump is capable of drawing water closer to the home through PVC pipes. Mr. Addai informed the meeting that WaterAid Ghana is considering testing this pump to study its efficiency in the field. He said it would be more effective to adopt a learning alliance approach to testing this innovation. He therefore extended an invitation to the organizations present to join the alliance.

Participants of the meeting expressed interest in and preparedness to be part of testing all these cheaper alternatives.

A key discussion point was on the water treatment technologies. Members observed that the sector was doing too little in promoting water treatment facilities to improve

the water quality levels in communities. According to Charlotte Engmann of the Community Water and Sanitation Agency, children especially cannot wait five to ten more years for potable drinking water. Therefore water providers, she said, should invest in cheap water treatment as an interim measure while the sector continues to provide lasting sources. Members realized that a ceramic water filter, capable of producing two litres of bacteria-free water per hour, costs only about \$10 in Ghana.

Mr. Holtslag, who had made a similar presentation in Tamale a week earlier in collaboration with the CWSA, presented a prototype of a rope pump to WaterAid Ghana. He commended WaterAid for her efforts at promoting affordable technologies such as the rope pump in Ghana.

Participants at the meeting were: Henk Holtslag, Practica Foundation, the Netherlands, Emmanuel Addai, WaterAid Ghana, Oduro Donkor, ProNet Accra, Charlotte Engmann, CWSA, Komla Atsor, CONIWAS, and Emmanuel Adjei, inventor of the Adjei Distant Pump.

The Mole Conference



The Coalition of NGOs in the Water and Sanitation Sector (CONIWAS) in Ghana, which organizes the annual national sector conference known as the Mole conference, is proud to announce that the Mole Conference Series have been nominated for the Kyoto World Water Grand Prize. This article gives background information on this unique platform.

Mole conference: a sector platform

Until the mid 1980s, planning, provisioning and management of water and sanitation services in Ghana were sole responsibility of government. The landscape for non-state actors in the sector was typified by:

Fragmented and ineffective civil society, without a voice, power, credibility and experience to influence policy decisions; Limited dialogue opportunities between policy makers and service providers on one hand, and civil society (including communities) on the other; absence of pro poor advocacy, or inability of it to create any impact on policy decisions; Lack of a common platform for NGOs in the sector to meet and share experiences

In 1989, WaterAid Ghana and its partners organized a national conference in the Mole game reserve bringing together policy makers and practitioners in the water and sanitation sector. The objectives were to create a forum for debate on sector issues and to build the capacity of partner organizations in assembling and articulating their experiences and

ideas. Participants included NGOs, the Community Water and Sanitation Agency and Ministry of Water Resources, Works & Housing, District Chief Executives and donors. Following the success of this forum (dubbed Mole I), a decision was taken to make it a permanent feature in the work of NGOs, to be organized annually. The following years witnessed a consistent growth of interest and importance of this forum (through Mole I to now Mole XVI) among civil society, policy makers, local government and donors alike. The Mole Series as it is known today remains the only multi stakeholder platform that consistently bring civil society, government actors, donors and other stakeholders together on an annual basis to deliberate on critical issues affecting the sector.

Institutionalizing the Mole conference: the birth of CONIWAS

In 2000, participants of Mole XI began discussing the need to institutionalize the platform for increased effectiveness of civil society advocacy, and in Mole XII, a proposal was tabled for the formation of an NGO coalition. A Planning Committee was established, under the leadership of ProNet, to take the idea forward, and to organize Mole XIII. The Planning Committee successfully organized Mole XIII in October 2002, and modalities for establishing the coalition were deliberated. A new Working Group was established with a mandate to finalize modalities for the coalition, and organize Mole XIV conference. Mole XIV was successfully organized in May 2003, where NGOs accepted the constitution and approved the vision and the

proposed mandate formally giving birth to the Coalition of NGOs in Water and Sanitation (CONIWAS).

The impact of Mole conference

The Mole series was expected to provide the basis for NGOs in the Water and Sanitation Sector in Ghana to work together, and to give them the needed voice to articulate and spearhead pro poor advocacy in the sector. Over the years, the Mole Conference has however proven to be much more than this. Mole is a great forum where a great variety of stakeholders meet and serves as a platform for discussing sector issues and developing ideas. There is always something new and interesting. The platform created has resulted in increased consultation of policy makers with civil society on new policy proposals, and increased input of civil society in sector policies.

Over the last sixteen years it has played an important role in increasing collaboration and co-ordination between sector stakeholders. Until the mid-1990s, Mole debates were rather confrontational, with both NGOs and government taking entrenched positions. This changed as understanding and mutual respect increased and as increasing numbers of sector actors became regular participants.

Furthermore, Mole conferences have provided a significant opportunity for advocacy on key issues. They have been instrumental in changing government policy towards hand-dug wells as potable water sources in Ghana. Mole discussions were also responsible for government inviting NGOs to participate in the development

Series



of the National Community Water and Sanitation Programme. Mole played a significant role in the debate that led to the formation of Community Water and Sanitation Department (CWSD), which has now developed into the Community Water and Sanitation Agency (CWSA) and for influencing government regarding the need to separate urban and rural water and sanitation services. The Mole series has also been an important venue for debating the issue of 5% community contributions.

The impact of CONIWAS

With the formation of CONIWAS, NGOs now have a bigger voice in the sector. CONIWAS serves on many important committees, including the Donor Coordination Committee, the Steering Committee of the Water and Sanitation Supply Program phase II facilitated by the Water Directorate of the Ministry of Works and Housing, the EU Country Dialogue process and many others.

The capacities of individual local member NGOs, such as NewEnergy, ProNet, APDO, ADDEP, CPHD, AWSDB, SCD, Rural Aid and many others who have taken turns to organize Mole, to effectively network and advocate have also been strengthened.

Many more development partners including UNICEF, the Commonwealth Foundation, DANIDA, CIDA, EU and the World Bank, have accepted the new character of Mole as a credible nationally owned platform and are joining WaterAid to make substantial contributions towards the conferences.

On future results, NGOs are still working to influence the government's position on the 5% upfront cash contributions to the capital costs of water and sanitation projects required of communities as a condition for benefiting from services. In response to the NGO's advocacy, the Ministry of Works and Housing (MWH) commissioned a nation-wide study in 2001 on the issue of community and District Assembly contributions to the capital costs of water facilities. Among other findings, the study could not establish a link between proper implementation of the policy and increased sustainability or sense of ownership as has been claimed. The study report was presented and discussed at a one day national seminar in June 2002, attended by all major stakeholders, including NGOs, but the meeting failed to reach any agreement about the way forward. Efforts are being intensified to push this through.

Main lesson learnt

Establishing a platform such as this is possible to replicate elsewhere in the world. The ability of this action to survive 16 years successfully, and continue to grow stronger is inspiring. The action can be replicated through exchange and learning visits between CONIWAS and other civil society groups elsewhere who desire to replicate it. It is important however to get one committed partner that will provide basic funding for the initial processes.

Source: www.ghana.watsan.net

Guinea worm trends in Ghana since 1990

By Emmanuel Addai



Despite its considerable total of 7,402 indigenous cases in 2000, which represents about 10% of the world total, Ghana has achieved remarkable success in reducing the transmission of guinea worm disease. In 1990, the country reported 123,793 cases, which was reduced by about half to 66,697 cases in 1991. Throughout the following years, the efforts of the guinea worm eradication campaign have been reflected in the steady decrease in the number of reported cases. In 2000, 80% of the cases reported were contained. The vast majority, 96%, were found in only three regions: the Northern region with 59% of the total, Volta with 19%, and Brong-Afaho with 18%.

In March, 2006, the Minister for Health, Major (Rtd) Courage Quashiga, announced that guinea worm cases nationwide had decreased considerably from about 7,275 in 2004 to 3,981 at end of December 2005 indicating a 45% decrease. He pledged government continued support to rural water supply programme with priority attention to guinea worm endemic communities.

Sources:

<http://www.childinfo.org/eddb/gw/countdata/ghana.htm>

Daily Graphic : 3 March 2006

A new watsan sector website is up ghana.watsan.net

By Emmanuel Addai



WATER RESEARCH
INSTITUTE (WRI)



RCN Ghana has come to stay in spite of its current funding predicaments. In December 2005, the Resource Centre Network created a website meant for making water and sanitation sector information available to all.

Structured under the key themes of water, sanitation, events, partners and various links to other national and international resource centres, all sector institutions are free to submit information on their events, programmes and issues for free publishing. Sector learning documents are also hotly needed to be published on the site and made either downloadable or just advertised for the reading masses to order. The site also has information on who-is-who in the sector. This link provides information on most of the donor agencies, NGOs, Government and private practitioners.

Currently, the IRC is providing the web server space free of charge for one year, ending November 2006. After this period, the RCN would have to pay for the server. Given the importance of and the impact that this website can make on the water and sanitation

sector for all practitioners, the RCN is appealing for sponsors of the website in order to sustain it.

A second appeal is to all sector activists NGOs, Ministries, Agencies, Consultants, Distributors, Advocates etc, to submit stories and documents, as well as calendars of events for free publication. There may be some minimal charges for advertisements for the sake of cost recovery and sustainability of the site. Please visit the site today and everyday for free information.

Other products the RCN will be giving to the sector soon are a sector walk-in library, phone-in inquiry service, seminars and debates, research into key issues, a sector newsletter, capacity building of sector institutions on knowledge management, and training on specific water and sanitation related courses.

The only major handicap holding back all these brilliant initiatives is funding.

From Commerce to development work -

Frank Aggrey



Why are you learning so hard for Examination? This was a question I asked my study mates when we were preparing for our Advanced Level Examination. They unanimously answered, they want to get good grades to enable them pursue Administration in Legon or Bachelor of Commerce in Cape Coast University. I am sure my answer would have been no different if I were asked the same question. This is because that was the only sure way to fulfill my dream of becoming a banker or a financial controller, a title most of us respected and cherished.

Fortunately I gained admission to the University of Cape Coast to pursue the course my heart desired, Bachelor of Commerce. On completion of my course then came the time for me to fulfill my social obligation of doing a year national service as required of every Ghanaian graduate student. In other to fulfill my dream I started to gather profiles on as many corporate bodies as possible to enable me make arrangements to serve with any of them. Little did I know I would serve with an NGO as a social worker.

The Shock

After doing all the necessary "connections" for the national service placement, I was very shocked and disappointed when I visited the service secretariat to check on the

posting list. Why? I found my name listed under those posted to Bolgatanga in the Upper East Region. Shock because in spite of all the arrangements made with the various companies I could not get the chance to serve with any of them. While trying to overcome my shock, a young lady who also came around to check on her posting collapsed on seeing her name listed for Bolgatanga; this rather worsened my feelings.

The Consolation

On my return home, I confided in a few friends to help me change Bolgatanga to any southern part of the country. A few of them who knew Upper East Region advised me to take up the posting instead. They added that cost of living there was very low and the place and people are very peaceful and supportive. They even said I would improve my nutritional balance by getting access to meat at cheaper cost. It became more convincing when we were promised a sponsored bus for our travel from Accra to Bolga.

The New Life

On arrival in Bolga, I met the Service Coordinator who handed to me a letter of appointment to Rural Aid, an NGO. This I quickly questioned thinking that my qualification was not considered. The Coordinator fumed and said "my friend I know what I am doing." Quietly I took the letter and went straight to Rural Aid where I

submitted it, and this was received with a hearty welcome.

Days later after I had reported to duty some other national service personnel requested by Rural Aid reported. An induction and two-week orientation in participatory techniques was carried out to equip us for the task ahead. Just after the orientation was also a hands on field work in the communities. Not only did I learn field work but also learned how to chew raw groundnuts, something I wondered whether it would not disturb the people's stomach on seeing them chew. Today I compete with people in Groundnut chewing. This marked the beginning of my social work carrier.

In spite of the training given me on assumption of office, I realized the challenges ahead having been tasked to manage a District. On my own I began seeking in-depth understanding of community development work. This I did by visiting various libraries to read, consulting colleagues who had understanding in the development issues when the need be. I also depended heavily on the existing Rural Aid field workers. This did not only enable me complete my service successfully, but I was also retained by the organization as a permanent staff. This I have done to date a District manager managing projects in two districts.

The Challenges

Imagine being fresh from school and

being tasked to handle a managerial position outright! This task, I must say, became a real challenge since my assigned duties were foreign to my carrier. For weeks I had sleepless nights because I wondered how I would be able to perform all the functions that came with the position, most especially being new to field work. Proposal writing, I should say, was my biggest problem. It was something I had never done in my life and here I was tasked to do so.

Lesson

Worthy of note here is the achievement of Rural Aid as an organization in having the foresight to mould the workers to its taste irrespective of qualification and background. This foresight I strongly believe is worthy of emulation since this enables an organization to unearth talents and potentials.

Conclusion

Readers might be wondering why this piece has been put in "Dawuro." Readers might be right in asking such questions. However the major reason is to encourage people (those whose present jobs are totally unrelated to their qualification) who find themselves in similar situations to put up their best in their respective organization. After all, academic qualification is only to broaden one's mind but what it takes to be a professional is the value added.

I must also add that my completion of service would have been impossible without the support of all the Rural Aid Staff. The major factor that necessitated my stay in Rural Aid and Bolga as a whole was the support and encouragement of the Programme Coordinator of Rural Aid Mr. Gani. He has always been there for us anytime we seem frustrated and never takes our mistakes as problems. This helps us to learn faster on the job because he does not betray his kindness and leniency. The team spirit instilled in us has become a mark in my motivational considerations.

Having said this I will like to suggest to all organizations that frequent training of their staff will make the organization proactive."

Pregnancy, childbirth, and water

Lardi narrates her ordeal



Lardi is receiving support from other women to fill her pan with more water. She narrated her story to WaterAid staff during a field visit.

"This is my fifth child and he is five days old. He is a boy and we haven't decided on a name yet. Traditionally all babies born on Friday are called Azumah. His father is the headteacher of the school here. And his grandfather is the village chief. My oldest child is 20 years old. In my household there are around 25 people in total.

We collect water from the same source as the rest of the village. I go four to five times each day to fetch water. When I was pregnant, I tried to collect water as usual, but as the baby grew I started to get dizzy and I couldn't walk there and back. Friends tried to help but sometimes I had to pay someone to collect water for me. Fortunately as the source hasn't completely dried up yet and there is still a little there, people have been going for me since the baby was born [five days ago]. Today is the first day that I went myself to collect water.

If my baby had been born later in the dry season and the dug-out had been empty, it would have been extremely difficult for me to get water. Everybody would be struggling then to get water from the river, and I would have been too weak to carry the baby all the way there. I would have had to pay somebody to go for me and I would only have had a very small amount of water. It would have been very bad for me if I had had my baby two months later. At the moment, I bath the baby in the morning and evening. I wish that my new child can be free from all diseases and can grow up to be a healthy, responsible person."

By Libby Clarke & Ana March

Water, sanitation, hygiene vrs Education



School attendance

Sub-Saharan Africa has the lowest primary school completion rates in the world. Ghana has an enrolment rate of 60%. Diarrhoeal diseases, intestinal worm infestations, guinea worm and other water related diseases still account for a high percentage of childhood illnesses, causing children to lose many school days. Domestic chores related to water and sanitation are often responsible for pupils' lateness or non-attendance at school. In Ghana, children spend about two hours a day on domestic chores such as fetching water (Ghana Living Standards Survey, 2000).

Therefore, where reliable water and sanitation facilities are located close to the home, less time is spent fetching water. Further, water does not necessarily have to be fetched early in the morning, freeing children to attend school early.

Again, most rural communities site their water facility close to the school so that children are not fatigued collecting water. This helps to reduce truancy.

Girls education

About 44 million children in Sub-Saharan Africa were not enrolled in school in 2000 and more than half of them were girls. Child labour and domestic chores prevent many girls

from attending school. In rural Ghana, fetching water early in the morning before school is a common chore. In some cases, girls have to walk more than two kilometers to get water. Evidence shows that a child's health is related in many ways to the mother's level of education. In Ghana, the highest levels of child mortality are recorded among children of mothers with little or no education.

Providing water facilities within the community reduces the distance and burden of fetching water for the home. Interviews with pupils in the Eastern Region revealed that the majority appreciated the privacy afforded by a latrine and felt comfortable using it if it was well maintained.

Performance at school

Water-related diseases like guinea worm and bilharzias keep children away from school for long periods. This has a negative impact on their performance in school. Frequent worm infestation in school going children leading to anaemia and stunted mental growth is one of the major causes of poor performance in school. In rural Ghana, many children suffer from worm infestation resulting in malnutrition and anaemia.

It is important after de-worming that children do not get re-infected. The

provision of a school latrine ensures that human excreta are disposed of safely. Active hygiene education also ensures that children maintain a clean school environment thus reducing the risk of re-infection. Hygiene education in the classroom is important to build children's capacity to remain healthy and improve performance in school.

Teachers

The absence of basic water and sanitation facilities in rural areas is a major disincentive for teachers to accept rural postings. In 1999, for example, of 262 teachers posted to the four districts in the Upper West Region, only 115 reported at their post. In areas where there is limited access to safe water and sanitation, teachers are exposed to water-and-sanitation-related diseases. Inadequate washing due to water shortages results in skin diseases and body odour. In focus group discussions, teachers in the Eastern Region of Ghana mentioned that they reduce their interaction in classes where there is a general problem of body odour.

Increases access to safe water will ensure that all people, including teachers, have adequate water for domestic use. This will also make rural postings more attractive and reduce the potential for teachers falling ill.

Source: WELL 2005

More learning programmes at APDO

By Emmanuel Addai



Awudu Modoc
Executive Director - APDO

The Afram Plains Development Organisation is fast establishing itself as a learning centre for Ghana's Water and Sanitation Sector.

APDO is believed to be the first NGO to conduct a water and sanitation mapping exercise in Ghana, drawing most lessons from an educational mapping in the Afram Plains District. Currently, WaterAid Ghana is in the process of scaling up this water and sanitation mapping through the Local Millennium Development Goals Initiative in four District Assemblies in Ghana. It is gratifying to learn that the mother sector agency, Community Water and Sanitation Agency, itself has sent a delegation to APDO to learn about watsan mapping and is ready to draw some lessons into its own programmes. It is strongly believed that the day all district water and sanitation issues are mapped, there will be no more disparities in sector statistics in the country.

The Country Representative of WaterAid Ghana, Aissa Touré Sarr, paid a supervision visit to APDO in December 2005 and there were several other innovations underway! All of them had potential for being developed into great learning lessons for the sector.

These learning programmes included [Sectional Planning](#). This is a hygiene promotion approach that seeks to sub-divide communities into smaller sections for effective local supervision. Hygiene promotion is

therefore further decentralized and local capacities built to continue to educate community members on hygiene and to enforce local hygiene bye-laws.

[Prototype hygiene message development](#) is also one of the learning programmes. By this strategy, APDO facilitates communities to develop their own hygiene campaign messages which they use to promote hygiene within the community. At the initial stages, APDO staff will facilitate sessions to draw attention to various hygiene clusters like food hygiene, water hygiene, personal hygiene, environmental hygiene and so on. Through effective facilitation, community members are able to identify various behaviours that contribute to poor hygiene under each cluster. Then through assignments, focus group discussions etc, community members are supported to develop hygiene campaign messages to be used to promote good hygiene within their own community.

[Sanitation market](#) is a programme introduced to provide households with all available household latrine options ranging from traditional pit latrines to water closets. This prevents the tendency to impose certain types of latrines in communities contrary to considerations for poverty ranking, soil structure etc. Within one community, people may afford VIP latrines whilst others may even find difficulties with traditional pit latrines. Sometimes, the soil structure becomes a determining

factor for certain types of latrines and so on. APDO has therefore created two centres (markets) at Semanhyia and Tease in the Afram Plains District where information on soil requirement, cost implications and feasibility of each latrine option is provided to potential households for effective decision-making on latrine choice. These centres have prototypes of all available latrine options for inquirers to view.

Other learning programmes include [Latrine for Credit](#) through a well established Credit Union at Kete Krachi in the Volta Region. The Latrine for Credit project is a system whereby credit would be made available for interested households and individuals solely for the construction of latrine facilities. For a start, the project gives priority attention for the construction of VIP latrines, but other latrine options will be considered with time. The credit shall be in the form of material and technical assistance and not cash. APDO has facilitated a system whereby the Krachi District Assembly contributes to funding the initiative and awareness creation for the scheme. The Credit Union then manages the fund while APDO facilitates in training artisans, contributes to funding and awareness creation as well. This initiative has already begun to increase household latrine demand in the district at a faster rate.

There is also the [latrine without subsidy](#). Here all households in two communities are being supported to own their latrines without the usual subsidies. The strategy is implemented with initial hygiene and latrine promotion and the campaign that one does not always need foreign materials and cash before owning a latrine. The emphasis is on the use of only local materials. The communities are facilitated to apply the "Nnoboaa" system. By the Nnoboaa system, community members help each other through communal activities to construct their latrines.

With all these initiatives in place, what are needed most are further documentation and dissemination, as well as critical analyses of and experience sharing on each of these for a potential scale up to other regions. There is need for intensified investment in documenting and publishing some of these simple but great initiatives to promote learning in the sector.

Water crises: U. N. Report focuses on governance



"Mismanagement, corruption, lack of appropriate institutions, bureaucratic inertia, a shortage of new investments in building human capacity as well as physical infrastructure" and environmental changes mean that the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) for water and sanitation will not be met if current trends persist. This is one of the conclusions the 2nd edition of the United Nations World Water Development Report (WWDR2) [1], which was officially released on 9 March 2006 in Mexico City on the eve of the Fourth World Water Forum.

The report estimates that political corruption costs the water sector millions of dollars every year, which especially affects the poor. It cites a survey in India on bribes paid by customers to falsify metre readings, and expedite repair work or service connections. Good governance requires "essential freedoms, like the freedom of speech and the right to organise". "If citizens cannot access basic information on water quality and quantity, it seriously curtails their chances of halting environmentally unsound water projects or to hold relevant government agencies accountable."

Barun Mitra, director of Delhi-based Liberty Institute, told the BBC that the report showed a "bottom-up" approach was needed. Governments were failing because they were not learning from informal community-based initiatives, he said.

Source News March 2006

Opinion box

Why the need for alternative water technology



Current statistics in Ghana show that rural communities make up the largest number of people without access to water and sanitation facilities. The poverty level of this group of people is high, which therefore implies that, current cost of acquiring a water facility for example by these communities solely will be amounting to denying them access to a human right provision. To have access therefore will mean to solicit for external funds support, which mostly are foreign and not easy to come by. Even if such funds are secured, they come with conditions, and access to it becomes a problem.

I am therefore of the view that we should focus not only on increasing funding for the sector. More efforts should be devoted to developing and using less costly but efficient technology. This will replace the current existing approved technologies. The current water and sanitation technological options available are not only high in cost; they require high donor support. They are also difficult and expensive to maintain since all their parts need to be imported.

I believe that while Ghana is intensifying its fundraising to enable it meet its MDG targets for water and sanitation, many other developing countries are also competing for these same donor funds. This makes the competition very keen. The questions I have are; what happens if we are unable to increase our funds to enable us meet our targets? What alternatives are we putting in place towards the realization of the sector MDG targets should we not get huge donor inflows?

I am therefore of the view that other cheaper technology options like the Rope pump be taken more seriously. This will be the only way more would be achieved with less money. Not only would we reduce the cost of production when we develop cheaper technologies, but would also increase access and reduce cost of maintenance of the facilities. This would enable us sustain our water and sanitation projects.

In view of the challenges above, I suggest that all Sector players should join WaterAid Ghana and its partners in their search for alternative cost effective but efficient technology options.

Moses Fordjour
APDO - Afram Plains



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
Contact: The Programme Manager, Box 130, Akropong-Akuapem, ER, Ghana.
Tel: (233-81) 24453 OR (233-24) 4714618
E-mail: acdep@wateraidghana.org

Afram Plains Development Organisation (APDO)

Location: Tease Afram Plains, Eastern Region
Contact: The Executive Director, Box 93, Donkorkrom Afram Plains ER, Ghana
Tel: (233-848) 22029 / 22091

Binaba Area Community Health Project (BACH)

Location: Binaba, Upper East Region
Contact: The Project Manager, C/O Rural Aid, Box 13, Bolgatanga UER, Ghana

NewEnergy

Location: Kamonaayili, near Tamale, Northern Region
Contact: The Programme Manager, Box 811, Tamale NR, Ghana
Tel: (233-71) 23086
E-mail: newenergy@africaonline.com.gh
Website: www.newenergy.kabissa.org

Oboomma Rural Action Programme (ORAP)

Location: Obomeng, near Mpraeso-Kwahu, Eastern Region
Contact: The Programme Manager, Box 97, Mpraeso-Kwahu ER, Ghana
Tel: (233-846) 22046

Rural Aid

Location: Bolgatanga, Upper East Region
Contact: The Programme Coordinator, Box 13, Bolgatanga, UER, Ghana
Tel: (233-72) 23899/23900
E-mail: ruralaid@africaonline.com.gh

Professional Network Association (ProNet - ACCRA)

Location: Asylum Down, Accra
Contact: The Executive Director, PMB, KIA Accra, Ghana
Tel: (233-21) 228206
Fax: (233-21) 223218

Professional Network Association (ProNet - North)

Location: Wa, Upper West Region
Contact: The Director, Box 360, Wa UWR, Ghana
Tel: (233-756) 22513
E-mail: pronetwa@africaonline.com.gh



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

Location: Near Abelemkpe Junction, Dzorwulu, Accra, Contact: The Country Representative
Box 16185, KIA, Accra
Tel: (233-21) 760440 / 780581, Fax: (233-21) 783947
E-mail: info:wateraidghana.org

www.wateraid.org/ghana