

The Ghana WASH Alliance (GWA) is a nationwide network of around 12 partners working together to achieve sustainable access to and provision of water and sanitation in communities (and schools) and to create awareness on WASH issues in the country. The Alliance consists of NGOs, businesses, local governments and knowledge institutes. To better understand our contribution to the sustainability of WASH services of the last 5 years, at the end of 2015 an external validation of our Track Record was conducted.

In addition to validating our sustainability framework, we asked the assessment team to review our main activities in Ghana:

- WASH in schools and communities using multi-stakeholder approaches.
- WASH services in schools and communities through rain water harvesting, pipe extension to nearby communities, construction of community water kiosks, provision of handwashing facilities to schools, training and resourcing of School Health Clubs, construction of institutional latrines and intensified Community Led Total Sanitation (CLTS) activities in communities.
- Right to WASH services in a sustainable manner to reduce poverty especially among women and the disadvantaged in society.
- Community Led Total Sanitation (awareness) programmes in rural areas.
- Lobbying and Advocacy – strengthen engagement with government to increase the observance of the Right to Water and Sanitation irrespective of social standing or geographical location of a person.
- Capacity development - train partners in WASH business development and in building multi-stakeholders platforms for WASH.



The clear overarching message from the external assessment is that the Ghana WASH Alliance, by bringing local NGOs together into a country alliance, is making a contribution that is far more impactful than the sum of all the individual NGOs working separately. The Alliance is known in the region and elicited a positive response from government and communities.

To achieve this, GWA makes use of various approaches. For example, a Multi-Stakeholder Approach allows us to incorporate

different actors, involve both government and private sector and create a unique win-win situation for all parties. The Community-led Total Sanitation is employed to improve basic rural sanitation in Ghana. Also, awareness creation and capacity building enables GWA to develop strategies for mitigating WASH challenges. Integration of these, and more, different approaches is an important feature of the overall approach of GWA.

## Conclusions

The GWA programme is well-coordinated, well-known and elicits positive response. Both government and communities react well to the wide and impactful activities of GWA.

The move from shared public toilets to private ones by Community Led Total Sanitation (CLTS), by creating demand for new latrines and the provision of credit, is significant, but the pace should increase to reach 100% of the targeted communities.

GWA succeeded in using loans to increase WASH accessibility through sanitation credits for household latrines and to extend pipelines from the urban water utility for communities in peri-urban areas. The future GWA programme will put more emphasis on increasing the reliability of the operations of the utility.

The Diamond Business model has worked well to deliver WASH services. The Urban Sanitation and Waste Programme is making promising progress, but building greater demand for the compost product would increase long-term financial sustainability.

The advocacy and citizenship engagement by the GWA have increased awareness of the stakeholders on WASH issues. In the future, more attention will be paid to making sure the activities will be translated into real outcomes such as increased demand for WASH services, increased budget allocation and expenditure on WASH.

A major mind-set change was seeing sanitation as a business rather than a public sector handout. This has been the result of extensive GWA support and dialogue with NGO partners on WASH service delivery in the districts in which the Alliance is active. A focus area of future work is national stakeholder engagement.

Sustainability has been a focus area of the GWA approach, yet tackling the different components of FIETS does not fully work out in practice. The reality is much more complex and requires more time and attention especially when working with multiple partners.

The Alliance has created a useful local influencing & learning forum for the Ghanaian WASH sector, which should continue to be supported and replicated in other regions.

## Recommendations

-  **Advocacy & empowerment:** Place greater emphasis on advocacy and empowerment, rather than service delivery, in order to better engage stakeholders.
-  **Linking and learning:** Give greater focus to sharing outcomes, impact and learning with the stakeholders in a systematic way to embed these activities in country systems and bring programme findings and innovations to the attention of national policy makers and other districts.
-  **Continue support & replicate:** The creation of this influencing & learning forum should be used and replicated in other regions as well.
-  **Faecal Sludge Management (FSM):** As more latrines are constructed, increase attention on developing effective approaches to FSM in rural, peri-urban and urban areas.
-  **Scaling up sanitation:** Scale-up improved sanitation service delivery using the diamond model and promotion of sanitation credits, especially in urban areas where it offers a high solution to a key national problem.
-  **Simplify the Theory of Change:** Develop context specific individual pathways for each main Programme change component.
-  **Improve sustainability:** The program should address the shortcomings in water service delivery, which undermine project sustainability.

*This factsheet presents the overall conclusions and recommendations of the study. Read the full report [here](#). The assessment team was headed by Piers Cross, an internationally renowned advisor on water and sanitation.*