

GHANA

Water and Sanitation Profile

POPULATION AND HEALTH STATISTICS	
Population (2006)	23 million
Proportion of population living in urban areas	49%
Urban/Rural population growth rates (1980-2000)	4.2 / 2.6%
Diarrheal deaths/year (2004)	8,600
Under age 5 mortality rate	112/1000 live births
Under age 5 mortality rate due to diarrheal disease (2000)	12.2%

SECTOR OVERVIEW

Recognizing the value of a reliable and safe water supply to its economic growth and status within West Africa, Ghana has set national goals for access to improved drinking water and sanitation facilities that are more aggressive than its Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). In sanitation access, however, meeting even the 2015 MDG will be challenging. The government has developed and largely instituted the correct policies, reforms, institutional arrangements, and decentralization of service delivery; yet to meet the MDGs, Ghana must place serious emphasis on better financing strategies and continued strengthening of the Ghana Water Company Limited (GWCL) which serves the urban areas. GWCL's historic operating and financial problems led to uneven coverage in the urban areas and continuity problems, with a disproportionately negative impact on the poor. Intensive government and donor efforts are focusing on GWCL's reform with positive impact. While GWCL is responsible for sewerage, coverage is minimal and recent efforts have prioritized on-site improvements as an interim improvement measure.

Sanitation access lags behind water due to a lack of local capacity and funding. Past reform efforts have been targeted at water rather than sanitation, and the subsector now needs targeted assistance.

Ghana's strong national WSS policies can be better leveraged by advocating increased resources to the sector and directly linking sector improvements with national budgeting. Given the low efficiencies in the sector, Ghana's WSS sector is highly dependent on external financing from the World Bank, AfDB, and others. Government and WSS service providers need to continue working together toward efficient service and improved cost recovery in the sector, while expanding services to poor areas.

SECTOR FRAMEWORK

The institutional organization of Ghana's WSS sector is well defined with few overlaps in sub-sector responsibilities. Ghana is one of only a few sub-Saharan African nations that have established an independent regulatory agency, the Public Utility Regulatory Commission (PURC). Created in 1997, PURC oversees electricity, water, and telecommunications, and sets quality standards, approves water rates and monitors performance. The Ghana Water Resources Commission is the water resource regulator.

WATER AVAILABILITY IN GHANA	
Renewable water resources per capita, m ³ /person/year (1960-2007)	2,314
Water withdrawals, m ³ /person/year (2000)	49
Projected water resources per capita, m ³ /person/year in 2015	1,869
Note: 2015 projected water resources per capita is a straight-line regression calculation based on population growth rates with no adjustment for consumption or technology changes	

KEY AGENCIES

Agency	Description	Contact Information
Ministry of Water Resources and Works and Housing (MWRWH)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sets & monitors national policy & strategies 	
Public Utilities Regulatory Commission (PURC)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Independent regulatory agency Reviews & sets water rates Monitors water quality & determines service standards 	
Ghana Water Company Limited (GWCL)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Urban water service provider Acts as asset management company Has leased management contract to private sector for 5 years 	Daniel Adjetey Adjei, Dir. Water Ops. daadjetey@yahoo.com 233-21663552
Community Water and Sanitation Agency (CWSA)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provides District Assemblies with support in WSS service in rural areas & small towns 	
Ministry of Local Government, Rural Development, and Environment (MLGRDE)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sets sanitation policy Helps set local development policy Oversees local government performance 	
Water Resources Commission (WRC)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Manages water resources 	

Water sector policies, both rural and urban, are set by the Water Directorate within the Ministry of Water Resources, Works and Housing (MWRWH). Furthermore, the MWRWH oversees sector performance and prioritizes investments. The Water Sector Restructuring Secretariat, created in 1997 in the MWRWH, coordinates reforms, particularly related to private sector participation in the sector.

A National Water Policy (NWP) was launched in 2008 to help further clarify sector roles and priorities. The NWP covers water resources as well as urban and community water.

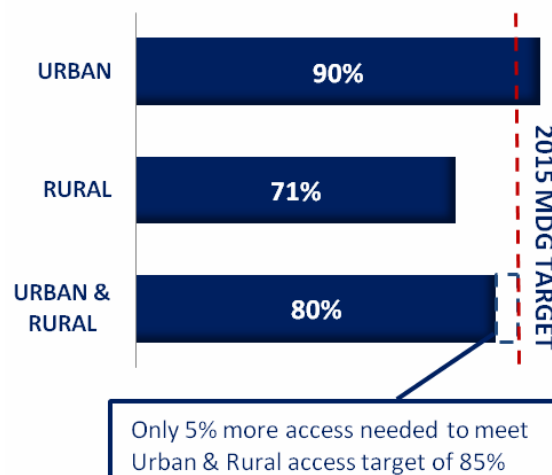
In the sanitation sub sector, the Ministry of Local Government and Rural Development shares responsibility for setting policy and prioritizing funding with MWRWH. The Metropolitan, Municipal, and District Assemblies provide sanitation services through a decentralized service delivery system with oversight and coordination from the Community Water and Sanitation Agency (CWSA).

The framework for drinking water services is more defined, but the evolution of sanitation services has lagged far behind. To meet the MDGs in 2015, the capacity to manage local WSS must be scaled-up, especially in sanitation. This is particularly important in rural areas where financial, managerial, and technical capacity is limited.

THE URBAN SUB-SECTOR

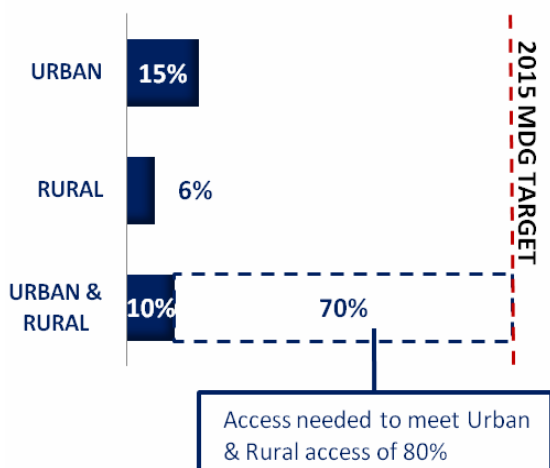
The urban sub-sector is primarily served by the Ghana Water Company Limited (GWCL). The GWCL was created as a government-owned, asset-holding operating company tasked to provide urban water services to 82 urban areas. GWCL has been plagued with financial and operational issues including overstaffing, low efficiencies, and a lack of commercial and managerial skills. In response, the government allowed a debt restructuring of GWCL, and in 2007 awarded a five year management contract to a joint venture between Rand Water (South Africa) and Vitens (Netherlands).

Meeting MDG 7: Access to Water in 2006



Data Source: UN MDG Indicator Database

Meeting MDG 7: Access to Sanitation in 2006



Data Source: UN MDG Indicator Database

In the 1990s responsibility for sewerage was removed from GWCL and given to the municipalities under Local Government Act 462 and the adoption of the National Urban Environmental Sanitation Policy. Piped sewerage infrastructure however is very limited, even in the urban areas. Most houses have on-site sanitation, and septic tank systems are often characterized by failed soak pits. Accra has the sewerage network yet it only covers about 15 percent of the city and mainly areas in the central business district.

With its sector reorganization and reform and intense donor support, Ghana has been able to achieve remarkable levels of access to improved drinking water in its urban area (90 percent). Meeting the needs of unserved and underserved areas as well as growing peri-urban areas will be a considerable challenge to GWCL and its management contractor.

THE RURAL SUB-SECTOR

The national policy to improve WSS services in the rural sub-sector is planned through the National Community Water Supply and Sanitation Program (NCWSSP). District assemblies (DAs) have been given control over all WSS services at the local level and are supported by the Community Water and Sanitation Agency (CWSA). Despite good institutional arrangements and local control, several barriers to improving access to drinking water and sanitation

facilities remain, primarily capacity. The devolution of control to DAs has only occurred in the last decade, and they lack technical, managerial, and financial capacity. In response, the CWSA provides technical support, but more importantly, it is facilitating private sector engagement to provide technical services directly to DAs.

DONOR INVOLVEMENT

Outside donor assistance has been extensive in Ghana. The major donors include: the World Bank, the European Union, the African Development Bank and the governments of Germany, Canada, Japan, France, and Denmark. In general, donor contributions are aligned to the Growth and Poverty Reduction Strategy via the NCWSSP's Strategic Investment Program; however, better harmonization of aid coordination is required. Ghana is revising and standardizing its M&E framework, which should extend the progress made reaching the MDG targets.

DONOR	ACTIVITIES	CONTACT INFORMATION
The World Bank	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Rural water supply and sanitation infrastructure improvements ▪ Support of PSP in WSS service ▪ Revision of the National Water Policy and National Sanitation Policy 	Kennedy Fosu kfosu@worldbank.org Tel: 233-21-21-41-42
The African Development Bank (AfDB)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Rural water supply and sanitation infrastructure improvements and capacity building ▪ Urban sanitation system improvements 	Arthur Swatson Tel: 216-7110-2672
Canada	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Rural water supply infrastructure development 	Tel: 233-21-21-15-21
GTZ/KfW	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Rural WSS utility capacity building to support self-sufficiency ▪ Supports expansion of rural and urban WSS infrastructure through financing 	Marita Brömmelmeier marita.broemmelmeier@gtz.de
France/AFD	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Rehabilitation of sanitation and drainage infrastructure in Accra 	AFDAccra@gh.groupe-afd.org Tel : 233-21-77-87-55
Denmark	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Rural water supply and sanitation infrastructure development ▪ Integrated water resources management 	Lars Møller Larsen lalars@um.dk

Additional information and sources: Statistics were compiled from the WHOSIS database, WRI-Earthtrends Water Resources and Freshwater Ecosystems database, and the UN MDG Indicators database. Other sources include the 2006 African Development Bank's "Getting Africa on Track to Meet the MDGs in Water Supply and Sanitation," 2007 OECD-Ghana Annual Economic Outlook Report, AfDB-Accra Sewerage Improvement Project Appraisal Report (2005).

This Water and Sanitation Profile was prepared under the **Advancing the Blue Revolution Initiative (ABRI)**. ABRI is funded by the U.S. Agency for International Development and addresses some of the most challenging water issues in the Middle East and Africa including the lack of access by the poor to improved water and sanitation services, inefficient and nonproductive water use, and transboundary river basin management. ABRI works closely with host country governments, actively pursues co-investments from the private sector, reaches out to like-minded foundations, and partners with regional institutions.