



39th WEDC International Conference – Side Event

Redefining monitoring of rural water services for sustainable impact

Convening Organisations: IRC Ghana/Community Water and Sanitation Agency, Ghana

Venue: KNUST

Date: Tuesday 12th July

Time: 17.30 – 19.00



IRC

SCENARIO BRIEF FOR THE SIDE EVENT

Ghana is transforming its rural water monitoring system that will enable tracking of progress towards achievement of sub-sector targets and the Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 6 in terms of access, functionality and service levels. This process is being led by the Community Water and Sanitation Agency (CWSA) of Ghana in partnership with IRC, Akvo and Skyfox and collaborative funding from BMGF, the Dutch Government, World Bank, UNICEF, the Conrad Norman Hilton Foundation and SNV.

Objective of the side event

The objective of the event is to share Ghana's experience in enhancing its rural water monitoring framework, methods and procedures from counting systems to tracking functionality and services. It is also to showcase how local governments are positioning themselves to use the data to inform evidence based dialogues and decisions on planning, budgeting and finance.

Programme Highlight

Staff of the Community Water and Sanitation Agency and District Assemblies will present how the service indicator framework was developed, experimented, adapted and institutionalized; and the processes underway to scale it up from 3 to 131 districts. They will also highlight challenges faced and the unresolved issues of moving from data to investment. The session will enable participants to jointly explore emerging water service monitoring issues that need to be collectively addressed.

The outcome of the session will be; facilitated partnerships for co-creating and scaling innovative solutions in water service monitoring to improve tracking and reporting national and SDG targets.

Target Participants

The target audience will include government officials, development practitioners, development partners, private sector, innovators, and academia and water users.

Programme

Time schedule	Topics	Responsibilities
1. Opening/main side event session: This session will involve brief opening, overview on how the service indicator framework was developed, experimented, adapted and institutionalized; and the processes underway to scale it up from 3 to 131 districts; Also, highlight on challenges faced and the unresolved issues of moving from data to investment.		
17:30 -18:00	Opening - Introduction of the Chair person	MC – Pauline Tambro
	Chair’s Response/ Welcome Address	Mr. Clement Bugase, CEO, CWSA (Chairman)
	Presentation of Overview	Benedict Kubabom, Director of Planning and Investments, CWSA
	Quick Clarification/ Q&A	Participants NICEF, World Bank,
18:00 – 18:45	Market Place Presentation of Baseline data from 119 districts in 6 regions: ICT infrastructure and tools for monitoring; regional baseline data and factsheets; SMS for service repair and Discussions	Regional/ Districts Representatives
Closing session: Roundup discussions on unresolved issues/ /main conclusions and next steps/ potential partnerships for additional resources to complete the baseline data collection in the remaining 85 districts		
18:45 – 19:00	Closing remarks	Mr. Clement Bugase, CEO, CWSA
	Wrap-up, unresolved issues/ /main conclusions and next steps	Vida Duti, IRC Ghana Country Director (Moderator)
	Close	

ABOUT THE SIDE EVENT CONVENERS

Community Water and Sanitation Agency (CWSA)

The Community Water and Sanitation Agency (CWSA), was established by an Act of Parliament, Act 564 in 1998 as the lead public sector agency with the object of facilitating the provision of safe water and related sanitation services to rural communities and small towns through a decentralized service delivery approach. The approach recognizes the District Assemblies as the frontline public institutions for the provision of safe water and related sanitation services. CWSA is responsible for developing national norms and standards for rural areas and small towns. The primary purpose of these norms and standards is to guarantee the quality of water services and ensure that the rights of consumers are protected; and to regulate the relationships between consumers and the providers of water and sanitation services.

CWSA is the government host of the Project within the framework of the partnership. Operationally, CWSA is responsible for all regional and district level Project activities. The Agency ensures that all work in this project aligns with the sector guidelines, operational documents, standards and procedures for rural water supply of the Government of Ghana. CWSA leads scaling up of new experiments and for rolling out the monitoring systems as well as fostering collaboration with other Government interlocutors including the Participating District Assemblies, the Regional Coordinating Councils, the Water Resources Commission, the Ministry of Water Resources Works and Housing; and the Ministry of Local Government and Rural Development.

IRC

IRC is a 'think-and-do' tank that works with governments, NGOs, businesses and people around the world to find long-term solutions to the global crisis in water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) provision. At the heart of its mission is the aim to move from short-term interventions to sustainable water, sanitation and hygiene services. With over 45 years of experience, IRC runs large-scale programmes in seven focus countries in Africa, Asia and Latin America and projects in more than 25 countries. IRC has worked with stakeholders in Ghana since the 1990s. Central to IRC work is identifying areas in service delivery that need improvement. IRC works with government, development partners, private sector organisations, NGOs and research institutions to diagnose underlying causes of failure of water systems and together generate alternative solutions and ideas. These are tested in pilot districts to establish their effectiveness. The proven results and support tools inform WASH planning and investment decisions, operational management of water facilities and adaptations to national policies, standards and guidelines.

ABOUT SMARTerWASH PROJECT

The mobile monitoring of rural water and sanitation services that last (SMARTerWASH) project is a joint initiative (Public Private Partnership) between CWSA, IRC, AKVO and SkyFox, with matching funds from the Dutch Government. The national Baseline data collection exercise was undertaken with collaborative funding from the World Bank, UNICEF, the Conrad Norman Hilton Foundation and SNV. The initiative aims at improving the reliability of data with a view to informing sector policy, enhance planning and programming and better targeting and investment decisions to address challenges with water service delivery. The process is meant to establish and capture baseline data on functionality and service levels of all existing rural and small town water facilities nation-wide in order to provide a stronger framework for water service level benchmarking that lead to long-lasting service. To date, the programme has resulted in:

- Upgrade of the rural water subsector monitoring ICT system and adaptations to include service delivery indicators.
- Over 700 district officials have been trained and coached in data collection and cleaning and have applied the knowledge to collect data on over 20,000 water facilities across the country in 131 districts out of 216 administrative districts in Ghana.
- Pilot of SMS alert system for repair services and development of a business model on its viability is at an advanced stage.
- Beyond the above target, additional resources will be required to cover the remaining 85 districts. This will facilitate the generation of a complete national inventory of all water facilities and rural water services with their performance levels and develop performance report to provide stronger framework for service level benchmarking for effective programming and investment decisions.