IRC baseline data  
Asutifi North, Ghana: a district overview

Creating systems change in districts begins with knowing what’s in place.

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Asutifi North District, in the Brong Ahafo Region.

How we collected the baseline data

In Asutifi North district we used three methods: consultations with sector stakeholders; existing sector data; and assessments of the building blocks and Qualitative Information Systems (QIS) ladders. Together, these gave us a clear picture of the WASH systems currently in place.

Collecting this data was a crucial part of the process of developing a district master plan. This plan sets out how we’ll achieve full WASH coverage in the Asutifi North district by 2030.

IRC Ghana also carried out a baseline assessment of the WASH systems at national level. The WASH system building blocks were jointly assessed with key national players. Together we identified areas for collaboration and alignment.

Data, at both district and national level, was collected through the Conrad N. Hilton Foundation Grantee partnership. We used the Joint Monitoring Programme and other national reports as the main data sources for national indicators.

About IRC in Ghana

We are working with government, development partners, private sector organisations, NGOs and research institutions to build strong and resilient national and local WASH systems so that we deliver reliable WASH services to everyone by 2030.

We are working with one partner district: Asutifi North, in the Brong Ahafo Region.

Supporting water sanitation and hygiene services for life

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We have a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to make access to safe water and sanitation available for everyone, for good.

To achieve this goal we need resilient national and local water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) systems that transform lives.

In Ghana, we are working in partnership with the government of Asutifi North district and NGOs to make this a reality.

The first step towards building and strengthening systems is to collect baseline data - and we started to do this in 2017. This helps everyone involved to understand the strengths and weaknesses of the current systems and service levels, and what we need to do to improve them. Using this data, we and our partners can develop, change and scale our systems approach in Ghana.

We'll return to this baseline every year as part of a joint review of progress towards our shared goals of strong WASH systems delivering services to everyone.

WASH systems in Asutifi North district

Reliable and sustainable WASH services must be delivered by strong and resilient local WASH systems. Systems are the networks of people, institutions, hardware and resources necessary to deliver services.

At IRC we group these into nine key sub-systems, or ‘building blocks’. For WASH services to be delivered, all these building blocks must be present and working to at least a minimum level.

WASH service levels in Asutifi North district

What matters is that people have access to water and sanitation services: safe water to drink, and a toilet to use where waste products are safely contained and treated. We have measured access to these services against the WASH service levels which have been defined by the Joint Monitoring Programme (JMP).

“Collecting the baseline data was a joint effort of the Asutifi North Ahonidie Mpontuo (ANAM): a unique partnership between the district, providers, supporting NGOs and the communities to bring services to tens of thousands of people who have unsafe water and often no sanitation.”

Vida Dutu, Country Director, IRC Ghana

The baseline data we've collected clearly shows that there is work to do, and we're fully committed to supporting the district to achieve universal access.