

TRIPLE-S PROJECT



WATER SECTOR SCAN OF THE SUNYANI WEST DISTRICT - BRONG AHAFO REGION

MAY 2012

1.0 Background

In Ghana, efforts are being made by the Government of Ghana, its development partners and donors to increase rural water coverage. This is as a result of the need to increase access to potable water and achieve the Millennium Development Goal (MDG) 7 of halving the proportion of people without access to potable water by the year 2015.

Thus the Community Water and Sanitation Agency (CWSA) was established by an Act of Parliament (Act 564) in December 1998 and mandated to facilitate the sustainable delivery of safe drinking water and related sanitation services to rural communities and small towns in Ghana. The CWSA has since been facilitating the implementation of the National Community Water and Sanitation Programme (NCWSP) using the decentralized structures at the district and community levels.

The CWSA has facilitated the provision of a large number of rural water supply infrastructures in the country. This huge investment in infrastructure has increased the rural water coverage in Ghana over the past years from 40% in 2000 to 63% in 2011 (CWSA, 2011). The rural water coverage in Brong Ahafo region has also seen significant increase over the past years from 18% in 1994 to 56% in 2011 (CWSA, 2011). The 2011 water coverage for rural water supply in Ghana is 7% more than the coverage of Brong Ahafo Region. However, the 2011 rural water coverage for Sunyani West District is lower (41%) compared to the regional coverage of 56%.

Despite the huge investment in infrastructure, increase in rural water coverage is not guaranteed. For instance according to WASHCost Ghana, about 29% of rural water point systems do not function at all (WASHCost, 2011). Also, there is lack of coordination and alignment between water sector players at government level and the private sector. Furthermore some Non-Governmental Organizations provide water facilities to communities without consultation with the District/Municipal Assemblies. Most often these water facilities are provided without due regard for community mobilization, formation and training of Water Management teams/Water and Sanitation (WATSAN) Committees and Water and Sanitation Development Boards (WSDBs) and post construction support.

It is for this reason that the Sustainable Services at Scale (Triple-S) Project was developed. The Sustainable Services at Scale Project, a multi-country learning initiative of the International Water and Sanitation Centre (IRC), with the overall goal of improving sustainability and reach of rural water services is being implemented in Ghana. The aim is

to support government and stakeholders in the water sector to improve rural water service delivery through greater harmonization and increased sector capacity.

The Triple-S Project is hosted by the Community Water and Sanitation Agency.

The Triple-S Project is involved in the application of an action research using Service Delivery Approach (SDA) for effective sustainable water service delivery. The Triple-S Project is being implemented in 3 main phases. The first phase involves creating necessary conditions for piloting the Service Delivery Approach (SDA). Phase two involves piloting and documentation by developing and testing innovative elements within the SDA framework, documenting processes and steps for developing and implementing SDA in practice thereby increasing learning and adaptive capacity of regional and district service authorities and/or providers. The last phase looks at the systematic sector changes in support of up-scaling SDA. Triple-S initiative will enable stakeholders to focus more on delivery of water services rather than provision of facilities which will go a long way to increase accessibility of safe potable water in its three pilot districts: Akatsi, East Gonja and Sunyani West Districts.

In order to effectively implement phase two of the project, it was imperative to carry out a scan of the water sector in Brong Ahafo Region in order to fully understand pertinent issues in the water sector is effectively managed and documented.

1.1 Objectives of Scan

The main purpose of carrying out the regional scan was to fully identify how key issues, in the water sector are effectively managed and documented. The study specifically focused on the following;

1. Assessing the current water situation in the Sunyani West District.
2. Identifying the key sector stakeholders in the Sunyani West District
3. Documenting the role and activities of the various water sector stakeholders
4. Assessing the District Medium Term Strategies of the Sunyani West District
5. Identifying the potential challenges that exist within the water sector

2.0 Methodology

The scan in Sunyani West District focused on primary and secondary sources of information. The primary information was collected through interviews with key personnel's at both the regional and district levels. Key personnel interviewed at the regional level were the Information Technology Specialist (ITS) and Extension Services Specialist (ESS) from Community Water and Sanitation Agency and the District Water and Sanitation Team (DWST) from the Sunyani West District Assembly using an interview guide.

Secondary data were gathered from relevant documents such as monthly, quarterly, annual reports from the District Assembly and CWSA for review. District Water and Sanitation Plan (DWSP) and Medium Term Plan (2010-2013) of the Sunyani West District Assembly and Water and Sanitation investment plans of CWSA were reviewed. In addition ,the District Monitoring and Evaluation System (DiMES) was studied to gather information on water coverage and functionality status of the rural water systems.

In order to obtain additional information and also to corroborate the reviewed documents from various decentralized departments within CWSA including the Engineering, ITS and ESS Departments, personal interviews were carried out.

2.1 Study Area

The Sunyani West District is one of the 22 districts in the Brong Ahafo Region of the Republic of Ghana. It is one of the new districts created in 2008. It has Odumase as its capital. The district has 7 area councils and 223 communities. The District lies between latitude 7° 19'N and 7° 35'N and longitudes 2° 08' W and 2° 31' W. It shares boundaries with Wenchi Municipality to the North East, Tain District to the North, Berekum and Dormaa East to the West, Sunyani Municipal to the South East and to the Eastern boundaries of the District are Tano North and Offinso North District. Sunyani West District has a total land area of 1, 658.7 km² (MLGRD, 2008).

The projected population of the district in 2010 was 114, 081 with a growth rate of 3.8% based on the 2000 population and housing census. The 2000 population and housing census indicates that the average household size for the district was 5.7. With respect to ethnicity, the district is highly homogeneous (GSS, 2000).

The Sunyani West District is underlain by the Precambrian formation of rocks believed to be rich in mineral deposits. The District is endowed with a number of natural resources

such as timber and clay. The topography of the District can be described generally as undulating. The drainage is best described as dendritic with several streams and rivers being seasonal. The climatic zone of Sunyani West District falls within the Wet Semi-Equatorial region and therefore has two rainy seasons in a year. The major rains begin in April and ends in July and the minor rainy season is from September to October. Average annual rainfall is about 170cm. The dry season often lasts for five months (between November and mid-March) each year. The district falls within the moist-semi deciduous forest vegetation zone. The forest zones contain timber, wild life, herbs and other valuable resources (MLGRD, 2008). The map below shows the location of Sunyani West District, in the Brong Ahafo region of Ghana.

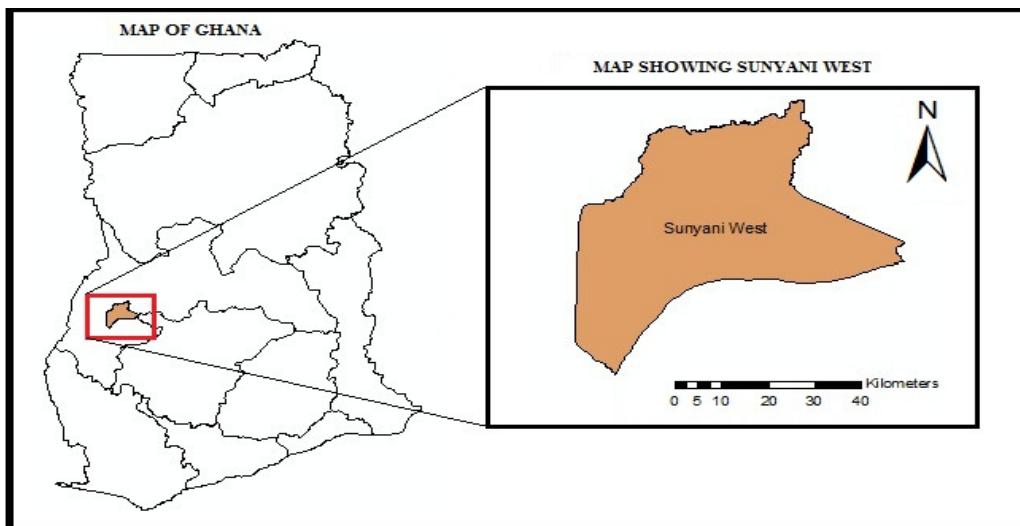


Figure 1. Map of Ghana showing the location of Sunyani West District

Source: Author's construct

3.0 RESULTS

3.1 Current water situation in the Sunyani West District

In the early years, inhabitants of Sunyani West District relied on informal water sources such as rivers, streams and wells for domestic, non domestic and productive activities. Personal interactions with the DWST revealed there were many cases of water related diseases due to the use of these informal sources. This necessitated the provision of formal water sources (boreholes with handpump, piped water systems) in most communities within the district by the District Assembly and CWSA. This contribution has increased the population with access to potable water supply thus reducing the incidence of water related diseases in the district (DWST, 2011).

The District has a number of formal water point systems mainly boreholes with hand pump, hand dug wells and some few communities with pipe borne water. Currently, there are 107 boreholes with hand pump, 6 hand dug wells and 5 communities with 14 pipe systems (figure 2) in the 7 area councils. The percentage of people with access to potable water is 41% (DMTP, 2010). This translates to a total population of 37,190 having access to potable water in the district.

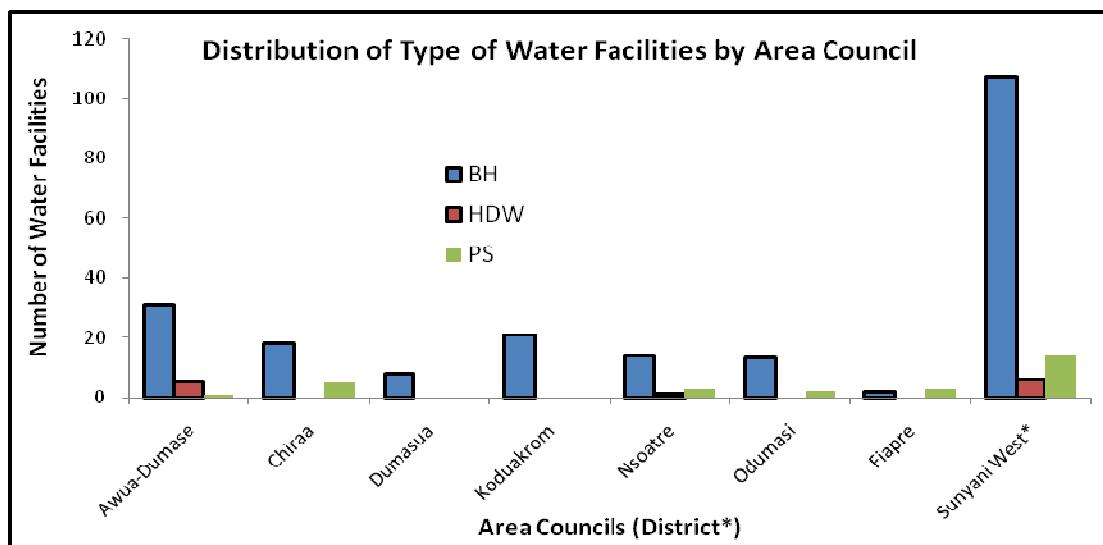


Figure 2. Formal Water facilities by Area Councils in the Brong Ahafo Region

Source: (ITS Office Brong Ahafo CWSA, 2011)

Currently, most of the inhabitants in the communities without formal water sources use other informal water sources which include rivers, streams and rainwater (DWST, 2011). Interview with the Sunyani West DWST revealed that households use these informal water

sources for all their daily activities including drinking. Also, inhabitants in communities with access to formal water sources use the informal water sources to supplement their daily domestic and non domestic activities. The management of water and sanitation is by the WATSAN committee. This committee is formed by the community with assistance from the DWST and the CWSA. Currently the district has 20 active and functional WATSAN committees. However, Agence Française de Développement (AFD) is forming new WATSAN committees in 16 communities which are beneficiaries of its project.

The district has made it a priority to increase access to potable water by providing new and rehabilitation of existing water facilities thus increasing the district's water coverage which is below the national rural water coverage of 63%.

3.2 Water Sector Stakeholders in Sunyani West District Assembly

In order that districts manage their water systems effectively there is the need to ensure that key stakeholders are put in charge of ensuring the sustainability of these systems. Stakeholders identified in the district involved in the water sector were Community Water and Sanitation Agency, District Works Department (DWD)/District Water and Sanitation Team representing the District Assembly (DA), Water Management Teams (WATSAN Committees and WSDBs-) and the private sector (NGOs, Partner Organizations, consultants, contractors and suppliers). CWSA provide support from the regional level to the district assembly. DWD/DWST represents the district assembly on issues relating to water and sanitation by providing technical support to communities within its jurisdiction. There are 15 NGOs, Community Based Organizations (CBOs) and Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) working together with the district in water and sanitation related activities. Detailed list of these stakeholders are tabulated below. The major stakeholders supporting the district in the field of water provision is the World Vision International and the Catholic Secretariat.

Table 1 List of active NGO's/CBOs/CSOs in WASH Sector in Sunyani West District

Organization	Location
1. Map International Ghana	P.O. Box 1494, Sunyani, Ghana
2. Save Your Liver Foundation	P.O. Box Ks 1141, Kumasi, Ghana
3. Global Media Foundation	P.O. Box 2159, Sunyani, Ghana
4. Gender Responsive Skill And Communication Development Project	P.O. Box Ct 1402, Accra
5. USAID	Accra, Ghana
6. Disability Foundation International Ghana.	P.O. Box 1521, Sunyani

7. Brain Builders Foundation	P.O. Box 21, Sunyani, Brong Ahafo
8. Ghana Organic Agriculture Network	P.O. Box 6342, Kumasi, Ghana
9. Africa Assistance Plan	P.O. Box 1178, Sunyani, Brong Ahafo
10. Community Education Partners for Development	P.O. Box PMB, Ct, Cantonment, Accra
11. Africa Media Aid	P.O. Box 2159, Sunyani, Brong Ahafo
12. Mission Of Hope For Society Foundation (MiHOSo)	P.O. Box 1694 Sunyani, Ghana.
13. Catholic Secretariat	Sunyani, Brong Ahafo
14. WaterAid	Accra, Ghana
15. World Vision International	Accra, Ghana

The stakeholders identified in the district have specific roles and responsibilities that they play to improve rural water service delivery according to guidelines and bye-laws. The roles and responsibilities are listed below;

3.2.1 Community Water and Sanitation Agency

- Promoting and disseminating of project information at regional and district levels.
- Assisting the District Assembly to appraise the technical, financial, social and environmental feasibility of community sub-project proposals
- Providing technical assistance to the DA to procure and implement the sub-projects
- Monitoring and quality assurance of services and work executed by DA, Technical Assistants and contractors
- Supporting DAs to supervise works and service delivery
- Provide support to sustain operation and maintenance of water supply and sanitation facilities

3.2.2 District Works Department/District Water and Sanitation Team

- Promotion and dissemination of information on Projects/Programmes to generate the interest of communities/towns
- Follow up on operation and maintenance by communities and reporting to Regional Water and Sanitation Team
- Preparation and review of District Water and Sanitation Plans
- Auditing of WSDB on the management of water and sanitation facilities
- Preparation of annual work-plans, budgets and procurement plans
- Monitoring and functionality assessment for sustainable service delivery.
- Management of the district database on water and sanitation service delivery.

3.2.3 Water Management Teams

- Represent the community/town in the planning, implementation and supervision of the community/town sub-project
- Responsible for the operation and maintenance of the installed facilities. Promoting and disseminating information on project/programme within the community
- Identifying needs, planning, and implementing the small community/small town sub-project proposal
- Participating in the appraisal of draft technical designs of water supply and sanitation facilities.
- Adopting a constitution that guides the operations of the Management Team and seeking approval from the District Assembly
- Ensuring proper financial management of revenue from water sales
- Mobilizing funds for initial Operation and Maintenance (O&M).
- Ensuring sustainable delivery of services through proper management of the water and sanitation facilities.

3.2.4 The Private Sector

- Participate in project monitoring, evaluation and sector capacity building.
- Operation and maintenance of facilities after project completion to ensure long-term sustainability.
- Involved in activities ranging from service delivery to advocacy on issues relating to poverty reduction, equitable service provision, public health and financing of the water and sanitation sub-sector.
- Providing services and technical assistance, or strengthen capacity to make demands on public institutions and/or government at all levels.
- Knowledge sharing through thematic studies and research.
- Participate in policy dialogue at the national level.
- Submit quarterly reports to the DA for inclusion in the reports of the DA to the Regional Coordinating Council (RCC) and RWST.
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3.3 Medium Term Strategies for Water Service Delivery

The Local Government Act of 1993 (Act 462) established Metropolitan, Municipal and District Assemblies which enjoins them to be planning authorities for their respective jurisdictions. The District Planning and Co-ordinating Unit (DPCU) was charged with the preparation of District Medium-Term Development Plan for 2010-2013 (DMTDP, 2010).

The main objective of the district in relation to rural water service delivery is to increase access to safe water from 41% to 52% by 2013 by accelerating the provision of safe potable water and ensure the safe use and conservation of potable water through the proper management of water resources. The district intends to achieve their objective through a number of strategies outlined below;

- Construction of 129 boreholes in selected communities
- Educating people on safe use and conservation of water
- Construction of water tanks on spring water sites
- Embarking on public education to reduce water related diseases
- Provide capacity building workshop annually for DWST
- Provide training for WATSAN committee members
- Enforce bye-laws on the protection of water sources

From the DMTP it was realized that no clear policy or plans have been outlined for the rehabilitation and maintenance of existing rural water systems but rather placed more emphasis on the construction of new facilities.

3.4 Potential challenges in the Water Sector

The district in an attempt to achieving appreciable water coverage is confronted with a number of challenges. The district is rural in nature with few economic activities resulting in inadequate revenue accrued leading to limited internally generated funds. Also, there are frequent delays in the release of district common funds which forms a greater portion of the district's budget. Emergency situations results in reallocation of funds to other sector projects not budgeted for. Thus, the district is faced with the problem of inadequate funds to construct and maintain their existing water systems which reflects in the low water coverage of 41%.

Most often stakeholders do not play their roles as expected due lack of clarity in specifying the roles and also ignorance of roles and responsibilities. Activities of stakeholders are often affected due to lack of funds especially during the process of monitoring and evaluation of projects. Sometimes guidelines and bye-laws which are to streamline the activities of the stakeholders are often flouted due to lack of enforcement.

The district has clearly outlined their medium term plans which it intends to achieve by the year ending 2013. Its implementation faces a lot of challenge due to budget constraints. The district therefore has to rely on its common fund which is not adequate for the district activities.

4.0 Conclusion

Sunyani West boasts of only 41 percent of the district population with access to potable water. The percentage with access to potable water could reduce due to inadequate management teams to operate and maintain the water systems that may breakdown.

There is lack of clarity on roles of CWSA, DWST and water management teams in rural water service delivery at the district level. The interface therefore between the CWSA, DWST and water management teams should be made clear and effective.

Achieving the district medium term plan remains a challenge with the main one being lack of funds. In order to achieve the set objectives in the district medium term plan;

- Efforts should be made to facilitate public-private participation to provide counterpart funding for projects designed in the plan
- The Assembly should develop the culture of writing proposals to NGOs, CBOs and donor agencies to provide counterpart funding for projects in their plans.
- Planning should be strictly linked to budgeting to facilitate the implementation of project activities for full project implementation.
- There should be a strong coordination between the District Assembly and the various departments and agencies for effective implementation and monitoring.

References

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About Triple-S

Triple-S (Sustainable Services at Scale) is an initiative to promote “water services that last” by encouraging a shift in approach to rural water supply—from one that focuses on implementing infrastructure projects to one that aims at delivering a reliable and lasting service.

The initiative is managed by IRC International Water and Sanitation Centre in the Netherlands in collaboration with agencies in different countries.

In Ghana, Triple-S is hosted by the Community Water and Sanitation Agency (CWSA).