

## Government expenditure for sustainable WASH services in Ghana

The provision of support from national, regional and local government to water service providers in Ghana is not adequately budgeted for. The current operational budget of the Community Water and Sanitation Agency (CWSA), the governmental agency responsible for rural water in Ghana, is not enough to fulfill its roles and responsibilities as specified in the national norms and guidelines. The benchmark obtained by a CWSA led committee on the provision of support of US\$ 0.54 (1) per capita per year (IRC and CWSA, 2013) to ensure sustainable water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) services is much higher than current expenditure of CWSA on support of US\$ 0.33 per capita per year observed by the WASHCost project (Nyarko et.al, 2011). Increasing expenditure on support is essential to improve sustainable WASH services and reduce current rates of non-functionality of handpumps in Ghana of around 30%.

## Government support cost benchmark

Expenditure on support provided by governments (national, regional and ) to local level stakeholders, specifically to users, service providers and service authorities consist of spending on post-construction support activities. The support costs included in the benchmark mentioned in this factsheet comprises of both the costs of post-construction support to service providers and capacity support to service authorities (2). It is the cost of ensuring that relevant actors have the capacities and resources to carry out the following:

- Planning and monitoring activities in their areas of jurisdiction
- Provide technical support to communities when systems break down
- Audit community management structures

- Monitor private sector performance

The benchmark presented in this factsheet for the provision of government support in Ghana is based on a study conducted in 2012 by a committee of representatives from CWSA, International Water and Sanitation Centre (IRC) and Kwame Nkrumah University of Science and Technology (KNUST). The study was supported by the IRC led WASHCost Project and Triple S initiative. The committee was tasked to identify the main cost components of providing (government) support. A desk study was then employed to gather data based on some assumptions for each cost component. Based on the estimations of this committee a total of US\$ 9,244,833.42 per year or US\$ 0.54 per capita per year for support activities by the government is required for sustainable WASH services (see table 1).

Table 1 Required government expenditure on support in Ghana Cedi (GHC) and US Dollar (\$) per governance level

Governance level	Activities included in expenditure	Total expenditure per governance level per year (GHC/ \$)	Total expenditure Ghana per year (GHC/ \$) (4)
Municipal and District Assemblies (MMDA)	Field activities (e.g. monitoring visits, participation in community level activities, hygiene campaign and auditing visits)	76,417.55 GHC/	12,685,312.82 GHC/
	Office activities (e.g. District Water and Sanitation Plans preparations & update)	42,553.09 \$	7,063,812.84 \$
	Provision of equipment/logistics		
CWSA Region	Monitoring visits		
	Participation in DA/community level activities		
	Technical/financial audits		
	Diagnostic visits		
	Capacity building (e.g. WSMT, DWD, DWST, RWST)		
	Equipment/logistics supply	385,748.50 GHC/ 241,803.94 \$	3,857,485.02 GHC/ 2,148,039.44 \$
CWSA Head Office	Monitoring visits to regions		
	Capacity building in research and Knowledge Management (orientation of new staff, refresher trainings etc.)	59,228.08 GHC/ 32,981.14 \$	59,228.08 GHC/ 32,981.14 \$
<b>Total</b>			<b>16,602,025.93 GHC</b> <b>9,244,833.42 US\$</b>

Source: Based on IRC and CWSA, 2013 (draft)

(1) All costs mentioned in this factsheet are as of the year 2012. When used for planning and budgeting all costs need to be brought to the year under consideration.

(2) In the life-cycle cost approach these costs are considered part of expenditure on direct support (ExpDs). However the benchmark mentioned in this factsheet is not the full amount required for ExpDs as it does not include salaries of governments staff, costs to maintain local government offices, vehicles, etc. or non-governmental expenditure on support activities by for instance (I)NGO's.

(3) The report of the committee (IRC and CWSA 2013 –draft) shows all detailed calculations and assumptions made.

(4) In 2011 the National Community Water and Sanitation Programme was operational in 166 Municipal and District Assemblies and 4 Metropolitans. In 2012 the MMDAs increased to 216.

## Observed government expenditure for support

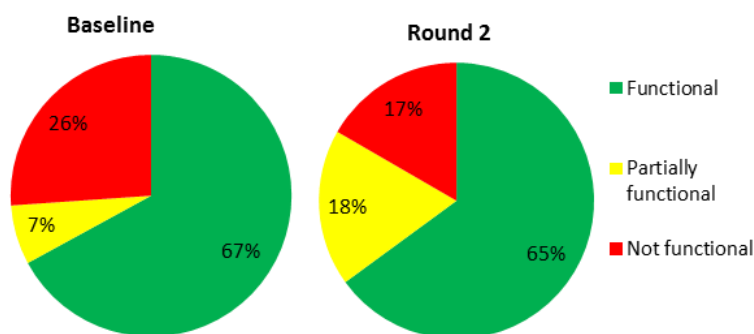
In 2011, the WASHCost project in Ghana observed an actual expenditure by CWSA on support for the rural water sector of US\$ 0.33 per capita per year (Nyarko et.al, 2011). This figure was based on monitoring actual expenditure on support provided by CWSA in 3 districts; Bosomtwe (Ashanti region), East Gonja (Northern Region) and Ketu South (Volta region). WASHCost collected and analysed data from CWSA (head and regional offices), District Assemblies (DA), annual reports and community water management teams. The found support expenditures were then converted to per-capita figures based on current rural population.

Further research by the Triple S initiative in 2013 in one of its pilot districts of Akatsi (now North and South Districts, Volta Region) also shows that expenditure on support is far below the required benchmark. Between 2010 and 2012, expenditure on support provided by the DA of Akatsi ranged between 0.02 US\$ (0.01 GHC) and 0.12 US\$ (0.21 GHC) (see table 2). The activities included in this expenditure are monitoring of WASH service delivery and office work.

Year	Expenditure DA on direct support per capita per year (GHC/ \$)
2010	0.09 GHC/ 0.05 \$
2011	0.21 GHC/ 0.12 \$
2012	0.04 GHC / 0.02 \$

Source: DA budget Akatsi

Figure 1 hand pump functionality in Akatsi district in 2011 and 2013



Source: Triple S 2013 (draft)

## Discussion

Ghana has made a steady increase in rural water coverage but is also threatened with non-functional water systems estimated at 30% for hand pumps. This relatively high rate of non-functional systems is partly due to lack of understanding of the actual cost of providing services, poor planning and budgeting for post-construction support and limited budget for the provision of support to service providers. Consequently, government agencies and MMDAs usually fail to prioritize or have inadequate funds to carry out regular and effective monitoring of the performance of WASH services for sustainability, hence the high non-functionality rate. This has led to reduced monitoring activities and post construction support by government agencies and MMDAs to Water and Sanitation Management Teams in the performance of their duties that will enhance sustainability. Next to lack of funding for support, limited

Low expenditure on support by the DA in Akatsi is reflected in the handpump functionality rate in the district, where 35% of the handpumps were not or only partially functional (see figure 1). The functionality of water facilities in the Akatsi district were monitored by the Triple S initiative in November-December 2011 (baseline) and again in the beginning of 2013 (second round). As shown in figure 1, the proportion of functional handpumps in round 2 is almost the same as in the baseline. There has been a reduction in the proportion of non-functional handpumps due to the recent repair work undertaken by the combined effort of the communities and the two DA's, and to the decommissioning of a number of handpumps.

### References

IRC and CWSA, 2013 (draft). Committee's Report on Direct Support Cost for WASH services in Ghana  
 Nyarko et.al., 2011. Life-cycle costs in Ghana. Briefing Note 2: Post-construction costs of water point-systems.

funds for capital maintenance (e.g. asset renewal, replacement and rehabilitation) is also a contributory factor to poor service levels received in Ghana.

There is a need to use realistic estimates for planning and budgeting of support provided to local level stakeholders, specifically to users, service providers and service authorities. It is hoped that this study (and subsequent benchmark) can trigger national discussions on the realistic cost of supporting the provision of sustainable WASH services and how the shortfall in support expenditure can be covered by all stakeholders involved in the water sector.

### About Triple-S

Triple-S (Sustainable Services at Scale) is an IRC-led learning initiative to improve water supply to the rural poor. Triple-S is hosted in Ghana by the Community Water and Sanitation Agency (CWSA). For more information, see [www.waterservicesthatlast.org](http://www.waterservicesthatlast.org)

### About the Factsheet

This factsheet has been produced by Jeske Verhoeven and Tyhra Kumasi and reviewed by Tom Laari Chimbar, Christelle Pezon and Kwabena Nyarko. It is based on the report of the committee's on Direct Support Cost for WASH services in Ghana IRC and CWSA (2013)