SWITCH PROJECT: ACCRA, GHANA

ACCRA

www.switchaccra.wordpress.com

ACCRA LEARNING ALLIANCE

To date, the Accra Learning Alliance (LA) has undertaken the following activities:

1. Initial scoping exercise
2. Setting up LA team
3. Facilitator training
4. First Water and Sanitation Stakeholders' Forum in Accra
5. Formal launching of Accra LA
6. Detailed Stakeholder Analysis
7. Visioning and Scenario Building workshop
8. Process documentation (city webpage, workshop reports, city brochure, LA poster, briefing note)
9. Involvement of marginalized groups
10. Training programmes

LA Members

Water Directorate, Ministry of Water Resources, Works and Housing
Water Resources Commission
Ministry of Local Government Sanitation Directorate
Accra Metropolitan Assembly (WMD, SU, PU)
Ghana Water Company Limited/AVRL
Local NGOs (TREND, WaterAid, CONIWAS)
Hydrological Services Department
Media (Ghana Broadcasting Company, Ghanaian Times)
Environmental Protection Agency
IWMI
KNUST
STEPRI
University of Ghana
IDA
WRI
MOFA
Farmers' group
Teshie Assemblyman and community members

VISION & GOALS FOR URBAN WATER MANAGEMENT

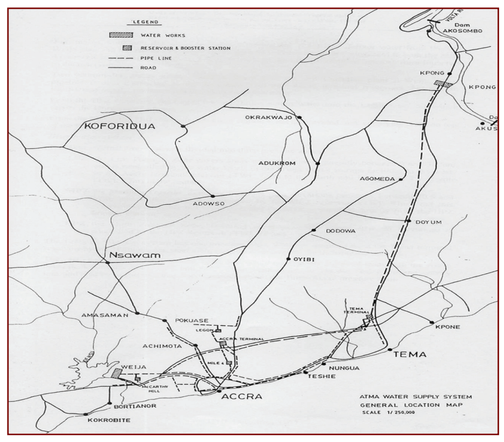
- 100% access to uninterrupted water supply
- 10-15% physical losses and 10% commercial losses in Ghana Water Co. Ltd operations
- Quality of the water at point of use to meet approved standards (Ghana Standards Board)
- Efficient use of water by consumers
- Quality of surface water to meet Ghanaian standards
- Improved productive uses of water for livelihood
- 50-80% of waste recycled
- Accra to be a clean city with drainage canals and streets free of garbage
- 80% of citizens to follow good sanitation practices (including paying for collection)
- Integrated and sustainable waste management system
- 70 % reduction in the incidence of diseases associated with water and sanitation
- 100% of sanitation facilities at an acceptable level (healthy, clean, dignified and safe)

MEASURING SUSTAINABILITY

The indicators for measuring sustainability are:

- Level of health
- Access to water & sanitation
- Water quality
- Cost recovery
- Recycling
- Waste management
- Awareness levels

ACCRA'S WATER SYSTEMS & PRESSURES



Currently, the municipal water supply system for Accra obtains water from two main sources: the Weija and Kpong dams of the Ghana Water Company Limited (GWCL). Accra, like many parts of the world, faces challenges in accessing clean and safe water. The existing water distribution network is limited and more than 50% of the population do not have house or yard connections. They get their water supply from secondary sources such as water tank operators at exorbitant prices. This means the urban poor who are not connected to the GWCL network pay more for the same quantity of water supplied. GWCL is losing a lot of water and revenue due to the poor conditions of the pipes and illegal connections. It is not uncommon to see a burst pipe; water shortages are becoming frequent in parts of Accra. It has become a norm to see people carrying buckets, pans, jerry cans, etc looking for water every day. This issue of inadequate water supply affects productivity as people spend long hours to get a bucket of water. There have been a number of efforts to improve the situation and since 2006 the operation and maintenance of the system is being managed by Aqua Vitens Rand Limited (AVRL) through a management contract with GWCL.

Wastewater management is the sole responsibility of the Accra Metropolitan Assembly. It is estimated that less than 5% of the households in Accra are connected to pipe sewerage systems, while 21 % use flood drains (gutters) as open sewerage that ends up in nearby urban water bodies. The 2000 population Census showed that one third of all households in Ghana use public toilet due to the absence of toilet facilities in their homes. Most of drains in the city are not covered and investigation shows that some households without adequate sanitation facilities engage in direct defecation into these drains. Presently, only about 10% of Accra's greywater is collected for some form of treatment and the rest is discharged, untreated, into open drains, wetlands and natural channels that finally discharge into the Odaw river, Korle lagoon or the sea.

Issues and challenges

- Rapid growth, especially on the fringes of the city
- Development of slum areas
- Poor access to proper water supply and sanitation by the urban poor
- High losses in the distribution network
- Polluted water resources
- Low cost recovery for water supply services
- Storm water management

FACTS & FIGURES

Capital city: Accra: administrative, political and commercial capital of Ghana
Population: 2.1 million
Growth rate: 3.4 (Source: GSS 2000 pop. Census)
Mayor: Hon. Stanley Adjiri-Blankson
Inadequate sanitation contributes to 70% of diseases in Accra
Contribution of malaria to hospital admissions: 33.4% in 2006 (GHS annual report, 2006)

DEMONSTRATIONS

Urban agriculture and natural systems

Social inclusion

POTENTIAL FUTURE SCENARIOS

Most likely scenario is for high demand in a good operating environment

Accra is a city facing serious water and sanitation related challenges, but with quiet confidence in its ability to meet them. Very rapid population growth, fuelled in part by strong economic performance based on oil wealth, has led to sharply increased demand for water (10 times what it was in 2007). This demand has been contributed to by the rapid growth in the tourism and manufacturing sectors. However, while rapid, growth has not been chaotic, due in large part to the marked improvement in political culture, and related enforcement of planning laws and other regulations. Climate change (and competition from outside the city) has led to a modest reduction in overall water resource availability, which together with the strong growth in demand, presents major challenges. These are compounded by a lack of access to finances and land for new infrastructure. However, improved management and capacities within both GWCL and AMA, new technological options, and engaged and empowered citizens inspire confidence that solutions will be found.

RESEARCH FOCUS AREAS

Use of urban water (fresh and waste) for urban agriculture and other livelihood opportunities

Maximizing the use of natural systems in all aspects of the municipal water cycle

Governance for integrated urban water management

Storm water management

SWITCH

SIXTH FRAMEWORK PROGRAMME

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