



PURC/ SWITCH Pro-Poor Water Supply Demonstration in Accra

SWITCH Scientific Meeting
Belo Horizonte, Brazil

Description of Project

- According to the Public Utilities Regulatory Commission (PURC) of Ghana, majority (more than 50%) of urban households depend on secondary water providers like tankers, cart operators and domestic vendors, at a cost that is 14 times more than normal
- Addressing water supply in a more harmonised and sustainable way so as to derive maximum benefits to all the stakeholders.
- greater accessibility to the poor by addressing existing limitations



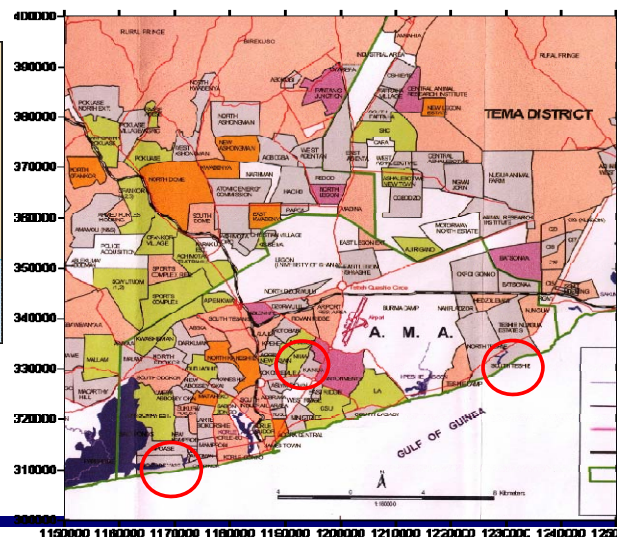
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Problem to be Addressed



Sanitation Process

Location



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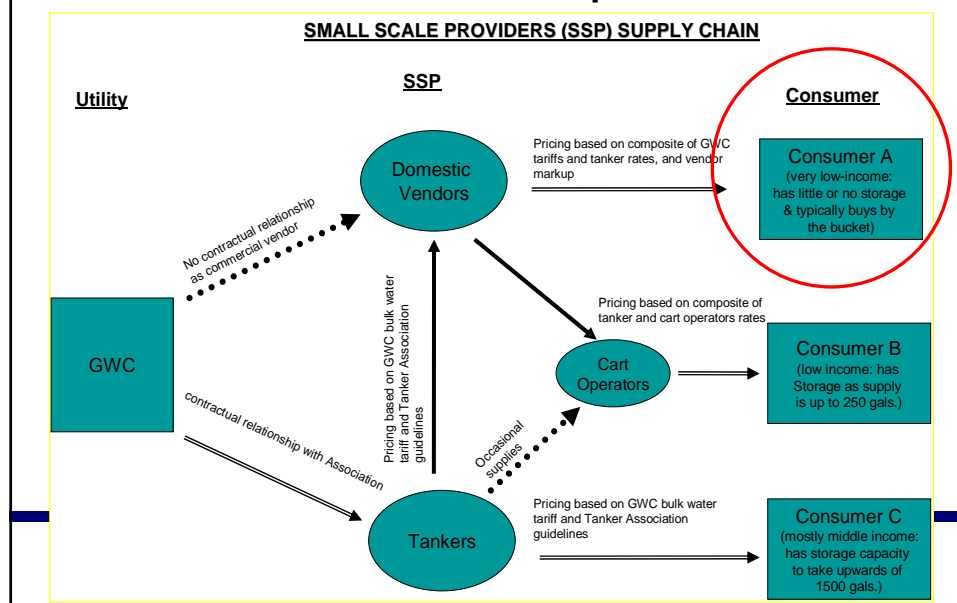
Innovation

- Community based sustainable water delivery in urban areas
- Combine Improved service delivery with income generation for secondary providers



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Potential Impact



Evidence of Demand

- Water supply is one of the challenges in IUWM in Accra. The first point for the vision of Accra is to ensure water supply for all.
- PURC approached SWITCH Accra LA/ SI Platform for support with the establishment of a community-based monitoring system.
- The main purpose of this monitoring system is to support a continuous learning process to develop approaches that are needed to ensure a sustainable and affordable water supply for the poor,



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Partners and LA members involved

- The SWITCH Partners WorkPackage (6.3):
- IRC International Water and Sanitation Centre and
- KNUST – Kwame Nkrumah University of Science and Technology.
- **Members of the Accra LA involved are the**
- Public Utilities Regulatory commission (PURC)
- Consumer Association of Ghana/ Community Members
- Catchment – WRC and EPA
- Treatment Works – GWCL/AVRL
- Distribution System – GWCL/AVRL
 - Tanker Service providers
 - Tertiary suppliers



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Plans for Scaling up

- The main user of the research is the PURC which is the national body in charge of regulating water and ensuring access to water supply by all.
- The results of this demonstration will inform the Social Policy of the PURC and is expected to be replicated in other major cities nationwide. Research results will also be published in journals and newspapers among others.
- It is expected that the Water Directorate of the Ministry of Water Resources, Works and Housing will also provide policy support at the National level.



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Support from other SWITCH Groups

- Institutional and governance issues
- Financing and cost recovery
- WP 3.1??
- City Water (planning purposes)
 - ❖ Water availability for all users
 - ❖ Cost
 - ❖ Environmental, health impacts



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Proposed Training Programmes

- Training of PURC and Utility providers on community based water delivery and financing for urban areas
- Training for Community members on management



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Demonstration on Urine Reuse

- Demonstrate the potential use of urine as fertiliser in urban agriculture
- Adaptation of existing urinals in the central business district of Accra to allow for harvesting of urine and storage
- Combine improved service delivery with income generation for operators
- Training of urinal operators in maintaining the facility



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Potential Impact

- Reduction of nutrient load e.g on the Korle lagoon (which receives most of the untreated municipal wastewater) will be reduced drastically. Up to 80% of the total N load in municipal wastewater originates from urine.
- Urine application can increase crop yield between 2 to 6 times more than crops not fertilized at all. This will improve the crop yield of the farmers and increase their income.
- Furthermore, the project will also provide employment for those who will be engaged in transporting the urine.



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Evidence of Demand/ Plans for Scaling up

- Ecosan was one of the issues coming up out of the visioning workshop in August 2007.
- stakeholders with interest in urban agriculture have been targeted for the demo.
- Creation of a market for urine, a possible change of attitude towards the use of urine, the formulation of policies regarding collection of urine and education of the citizens in relation to the safety of crops fertilized with urine.
- Encourage places where large volumes of urine are generated such as drinking bars, schools and other institutions to harvest urine for possible sale.



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Partners and LA members involved

- **SWITCH Partners**
- Urban Agriculture; IWMI, Ghana , ETC (5.2)
- Decentralised wastewater management(4.1) Wageningen University
- Social Inclusion : KNUST (6.3)
- IRC
- **LA Members**
- Urban Agriculture farmers
- Teshie Community
- Ministry of Agriculture
- Environmental Protection Agency



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Alliance