

**PRESENTATION OF POSITION PAPER
ON THE REVIEW OF KEY NATIONAL WASH POLICIES**

BY



**TO THE
MINISTRY OF SANITATION AND WATER RESOURCES**

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**Recipients: Ministry of Sanitation and Water Resources
Ministry of Local Government and Rural Development (MLGRD)
Ministry of Finance
Community Water and Sanitation Agency (CWSA)
Ghana Water Company Limited (GWCL)**

**Subject: Position on key National Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH)
Policies**

Submitted by: Alliance for WASH Advocacy (A4WA) Group

Introduction

This position paper highlights the urgent need for review of the National Water Policy and the National Sanitation Policy and its related strategic plans to align with the Sustainable Development Goal six (SDG 6), which entails ensuring the availability and sustainable management of water, sanitation and hygiene for all.

Background and Context

The Alliance for WASH Advocacy (A4WA), an advocacy group of CSOs/NGOs for water and sanitation policy observed that there have not been enough efforts at the national level in terms of WASH policy reviews to align with the SDG 6. The group notes in particular the National Water Policy (NWP 2007) and the Environmental Sanitation Policy (ESP 2010) documents need to be reviewed to reflect the language, standards and aspiration of the SDG 6. Drawing on inputs from a recent research findings on the various policies and strategy documents in the WASH sector sponsored by the group, this paper provides an analysis on Ghana's WASH policy landscape and offering a potential way forward to ensure that an open, workable and updated policies on WASH remains the surest way of ensuring the attainment of SDG 6 and thereby leaving no one behind. For instance, the SDG 6, and especially SDG 6.1 and 6.2 has different layers of service standards for water and sanitation. **It starts from no service to safely managed services. The Millennium Development Goal (MDG) layers ended with basic services.**

Current situation

A cursory survey of The National Water Policy (NWP 2007) provides a framework for sustainable development of Ghana's water resources with an overall goal of "achieving sustainable development, management and use of Ghana's water resources to improve health and livelihoods, reduce vulnerability while assuring good governance for present and future generations. An assessment of the NWP by A4WA reveals the following as necessary issues of concern. That the;

1. NWP (2007) was only aligned to the MDG WASH target which has since been replaced by the current SDG 6.
2. NWP was weakly coordinated in implementation

3. NWP is also faced with unclear role and engagement of private sector players in the WASH sector.
4. NWP lack clear guidance on implementation structures at Local Government Level, necessitating the ongoing Community Water and Sanitation Agency (CSWA) reforms.

The Environmental Sanitation Policy (ESP 2010):

The ESP presents environmental sanitation as one of the powerful drivers of human development. It categorizes environmental sanitation as part of essential services with the overall aim of ensuring sustainable and uniform implementation across the country. Following an assessment of the ESP by the Alliance for WASH Advocacy group, some findings were made to ascertain the relevance of the policy currently. The research found that:

1. The development policy framework of the ESP was informed by the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) and so should be reviewed to align with the SDGs.
2. The ESP suggests that households should bear the cost of investing in individual facilities.
3. As per the SDG target 6.2, the development of sustainable sanitation services requires investments beyond basic sanitation (or the containment of human excreta). The legislation and regulation policy focus area of the ESP must be revised to incorporate emerging sanitation enforcement issues and ensure the allocation of appropriate percentages of penalties (exacted by the Judicial Service from sanitation offenders) back to MMDAs;
4. There is no clear tariff setting mechanisms for sanitation in the policy document
5. There is also no legal binding force for sanitation financing at the MMDA level
6. Liquid waste management was not prominent with clear mechanisms of private sector involvement.

In addition, the Water Sector Strategic Development Plan (WSSDP 2012-2025), sets out Ghana's commitment to WASH and provides the framework for achieving the vision of "sustainable water and basic sanitation for all by 2025." Its goal is "to contribute to improvement in the living standards of Ghanaians through increased access to and use of safe water, sanitation and hygiene and sustainable management of water resources." The A4WA research findings on this strategic document highlighted issues for attention though the WSSDP document is yet to expire. The research findings revealed that;

1. The targets in the WSSDP will require some revisions to align with the SDG 6 targets. This should be complemented by key strategies and plans that will contribute to the attainment of the SDG 6.
2. The budget/ costing and financing requirement should be reviewed to align with the SDG costing framework.

National Environmental Sanitation Strategy and Action Plan (NESSAP) & the District Environmental Sanitation Strategy and Action Plan (DESSAP).

The NESSAP is about raising awareness for changing the behavior of people. It guides all MMDAs to commence and achieve incremental improvements between 2008 and 2025 for all aspects of environmental sanitation. It delineates the roles of the various stakeholders and aggregates all District Environmental Sanitation Strategies and Action Plans (DESSAPs).

It presents Community Led Total Sanitation (CLTS) as an effective means of mobilizing communities that have the potential of triggering individual and collective communal action to improve environmental sanitation (beyond 'toiletisation'). The A4WA findings on the NESSAP and DESSAP revealed that:

1. the NESSAP has also elapsed (outdated);
2. the targets in the outdated NESSAP was premised on the MDGs;
3. the both action plans are not aligned to the SDG requirements
4. there is limited budgeting allocation for their implementation
5. there is political interference at MMDA level
6. the CSOs/NGOs should have project approach

Position Statements

Our position therefore is for a review of all national policies in the WASH sector. Alliance for Wash Advocacy (A4WA) believes that, the WASH landscape in the country is one of a mismatch between policy and targets as set in the SDG 6. Our national policies are outdated and therefore, do not respond to the demands of present reality.

- A4WA is of the firm belief that a review of policies is important if we are to leave no one behind. The National Water Policy (2007) and National Environmental Sanitation Policy (2010) should be reviewed as a matter of urgency to align the SDG6.
- More statutory funding should be allocated to sanitation to give a focused and dedicated attention to that sector.
- The Ministry of Finance should ensure timely release of all annual budgeted funds to the MSWR to implement sanitation and Water Policies.
- There should be proper engagement with political parties at manifesto development stage with WASH sector player to ensure that WASH related activities are priorities in the manifestoes of all political parties.
- The National Environmental Sanitation Strategy and Action Plan (NESSAP) as well as its associated investment plan should be reviewed to provide the necessary implementation framework for the revised ESP.

