

2012 SWA High Level Meeting

Theme: Economics of Sanitation and Water

Ghana Statement of Commitments

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A. Introduction

With just 3 years to meet the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), the Government of Ghana is making every effort to fully meet all of its Sanitation and Water targets. The National vision for water and sanitation sector is “**sustainable basic water and sanitation service for all by 2025**” which in detailed terms means “all people living in Ghana have access to adequate, safe, affordable and reliable basic water service, practise safe sanitation and hygiene and that water resources are sustainably managed”. Going by the WHO/UNICEF Joint Monitoring Programme on Water and Sanitation (JMP) report, Ghana has already achieved its MDG target for Water, with 86% of the population using safe water as of 2010. On account of this, providing safe water for the remaining 14% could be accomplished ahead of 2025. However, based on national policy and standards, and in line with sector plans, coverage data from service providers shows coverage in 2011 to be 63%. Ghana will continue to pursue achievement of the national targets of adequate, safe, affordable and reliable drinking water for all. The situation for sanitation is, however, much less impressive. Only 14% of Ghana’s population use improved sanitation facilities, 19% practise open defecation and 58% use sanitation facilities shared by two or more households. Thus, it will require enormous effort for the country to achieve the MDG target of 54% sanitation coverage by 2015.

B. The Importance of Sanitation and Water to Development in Ghana

Ghana's development is driven by the Ghana Shared Growth and Development Agenda (GSGDA), which captures Water and Sanitation as priority developmental issues. A National Water Policy and the National Environmental Sanitation Policy provide guiding principles and outlines strategic actions to meet national development objectives and achieve the MDGs. Upon joining the SWA partnership, the Government of Ghana recognized sanitation and water as “essential services” and made a commitment to invest substantially to accelerate progress towards meeting the MDG targets, and ultimately achieving universal coverage. It is our conviction that universal access to sanitation and water will guarantee opportunities for increasing the productivity of our people, enhance enrolment and retention of children (especially girls) in school, enhance women's dignity and ability to participate fully in development processes, reduce morbidity and mortality, and prevent water and sanitation related diseases. I am happy to note that, since July 2010, our country has broken the transmission of Guinea Worm disease through both WASH and health interventions in endemic areas and Ghana is well on the way to being certified free of Guinea worm disease.

C. Progress Report on Commitments tabled at the 2010 High Level Meeting

In 2010, Ghana launched the Sanitation and Water for All (SWA) Compact to accelerate progress towards meeting the MDGs for water and sanitation. The Compact outlined 20 commitments, categorized under 5 thematic groups and 9 sub groups. Ghana’s financial commitment (5.1, 5.2 and 6.1 in the table below) in the compact amounts to about USD400 million annually over a 5 year period from 2011 to 2015. An assessment was made of the post-

2010 annual budget which shows that Ghana met this commitment by 46% and 72% in 2011 and 2012 respectively. We now summarize below the specific achievements made against these Commitments.

Table 1: Summary of Achievements of Ghana SWA Compact Commitments

SWA Core Principle	Commitment	Status	
		2011	2012
1. Enhancing Political Prioritization and Commitment	1. Joining SWA initiative		
	1.1 Launch and present Ghana Compact of SWA at a publicised forum to Parliamentary Select Committee, DPs, CSOs and Senior Government Officials	2	
	2. Prioritizing Sanitation and Water as Essential Services		
	2.1 Enhance the capacity of sector institutions from the National, Regional and Metropolitan, Municipal and District Assemblies (MMDAs) levels.	0	1
	2.2 Approve the Environmental Sanitation Policy (ESP Revised 2009) and transmit memorandum to the MLGRD by 15 th April 2010.	2	
	2.3 Commence the process and designate the sanitation and water sector as part of essential services category by September 2010. GoG shall indicate this commitment in the 2011 Budget	2	2
2. Linking Policies to Plans, Programmes and Projects	3. Ensuring that preparation of components of national plans reflects sector priorities		
	3.1 Ensure that national policies derive from, and are based on priority measures and strategies of the sanitation and water sector	2	2
	4. Ensuring alignment of pipeline GoG/Development Partners Programs and projects to national plans		
	4.1 continue to support environmental sanitation and water sector planning at MMDA level using existing structures	2	2
	4.2 Institute a public hearing process led by NDPC for endorsement of pipeline projects to Parliamentary Select Committee on Local Government, Works and Housing, CSOs, Sector Officials and DPs	0	0
	4.3 Support the Water Directorate to prepare an actionable Strategic Water Sector Development Plan that reflects policy measures and cover all three sub sectors	1	2
3. Improving Investments to meet Priority Challenges	5. Ensuring that Costed Items of the MTDPF reflect sector investment plan levels		
	5.1 Spend US\$200m annually towards sanitation and water improvements to meet MDG targets and sustain improvements beyond	1	2
	5.2 Make additional allocations of US\$150m annually towards hygienic treatment and disposal of septage and faecal sludge as well as sullage and storm-water management.		1
	6. Pursuing Vigorous Awareness Raising for Behaviour Change		
	6.1 Make further allocations up to the minimum threshold of 0.5% of GDP (up to US\$50m annually) to cover capacity building for hygiene education including proper hand washing methods, countrywide outreach of Community-Led Total Sanitation (CLTS) and general enhancement of enabling elements.	1	1
4. Strengthening Ownership and Leadership	7. Ensuring that the Direction of Country Development is sector led, country owned and country managed		
	7.1 Strengthen and increase the capacity of the Water Directorate and the Environmental Health and Sanitation Directorate with increased budget allocations	1	1
	7.2 Complete a code of conduct and sign a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU for harmonizing procedures under a SWAp framework for the water sub sector	1	1
	7.3 Adopt a single-spine frameworks for results-based monitoring and performance-based resourcing of MMDAs by April 2011	0	0
5. Achieving Good Governance and Accountability	8. Pursuing of SWA Framework for Good Governance		
	8.1 Adopt the GLAAS framework for reporting on sector performance and disseminate the necessary guidelines to all agencies and MMDAs by August 2010.	1	1
	8.2 Enhance the participation of civil society in Annual Performance Review APRs) of water and environmental sanitation strategies of the MTDPF (2010 – 2013).	2	2
	8.3 Collaborate with relevant agencies to carry out assessment of aid-effectiveness and publish results of programmes as part of hearing process for the design of new programmes and projects	0	0
	9. Pursuing MDG 7 and mainstreaming environmental sustainability		
	9.1 Adapt strategies and mechanisms in the design and delivery of services in order to reduce the effects of climate change and global warming	1	1
	9.2 Publish the performance of sanitation and water projects responsive to reduction in emissions of GHGs	0	0

(Green = Done, Red = Not Done, Yellow = In progress, White=Not Applicable).

We will continue to reinforce areas that we performed well, notably in the area of improving investments, and review our strategies to improve areas we did not do well, notably on strengthening ownership/leadership and achieving good governance and accountability.

D. Primary Commitments

Between 2010 and 2015, about 10 million Ghanaians are expected to gain access to improved sanitation, thus raising the proportion of Ghanaians using improved sanitation facilities from 14% in 2010 to 54% in 2015. This will be achieved mainly through implementation of three priority interventions, outlined in the MDG Acceleration Framework (MAF) for Sanitation, namely, Scaling up Community Led Total Sanitation, provision of micro-finance for household latrine construction and establishing decentralized treatment systems which incorporate generation and use of biogas.

Based on the current report of the WHO/UNICEF Joint Monitoring Programme on Water and Sanitation (JMP), Ghana has achieved and exceeded the MDG target for use of improved drinking source. However, we will continue the drive towards sustainable universal access with improvements in service and water quality.

E. Specific Commitments

In reaffirming our resolve to achieving all the Water and Sanitation targets of the MDGs, we make the following commitments:

- 1) Continue to prioritize sanitation and water at the highest political level: We commit to
 - Continuing participation in the SWA Partnership, leading country level processes and participating in all future high level meetings.
 - Prioritizing water and sanitation alongside health and education in dialogue with donors, in national development plans and in sector strategies of other sectors
 - Increasing policy dialogue on sanitation and water at all levels of our economy and,
 - Engaging in South-South experience sharing and dialogue on WASH issues.
- 2) Increase allocation of resources for sanitation and water – We commit to:
 - Revising and reinforcing the Ghana Compact in line with the country's needs and capacity as an emerging Middle Income Country and to reflect the joint responsibility of Government, DPs and Civil Society for implementing the commitments.
 - Monitoring, evaluating and reporting on progress in implementing the Compact.
- 3) Improved targeting of funds to where they are most needed: We commit to:
 - Focusing resources and attention on achieving and sustaining progress on equitable delivery of the national and MDG targets especially for sanitation and WASH in schools.
 - Developing and applying clear criteria for equitable targeting of resources at national and sub-national level including indicators and mechanisms for monitoring performance.
- 4) Ensure strong country ownership and government leadership toward realization of the aid effectiveness agenda in the sector. We commit to:
 - Moving rapidly towards a Sector-Wide Approach (SWAp) and developing a government-led sector-wide coordination mechanism involving all relevant stakeholders.
 - Establishing mechanisms to ensure accountability for progress, including an effective monitoring and evaluation mechanism and transparency of resource management including public expenditure reviews and tracking.

- Mobilizing all stakeholders including Development Partners, Civil Society and the Private sector to contribute towards national targets for sanitation and water embodied in existing plans and frameworks
- 5) Implementation of national action plans: We commit to fully implementing all national plans and strategies on sanitation and water, including the:
- National Environmental Sanitation Strategy and Action Plan and its investment plan.
 - Water Sector Strategic Development Plan and the accompanying investment plans of the Rural, Urban and Water resources sub sectors.
 - MDG Acceleration Framework for sanitation
- 6) Ensure Sustainability and scaling up of Sanitation and Water Services: In addition to providing sanitation and water infrastructure, we commit to:
- Adopting a service delivery approach to ensure that facilities continue to deliver a basic level of service for all people and the benefits of these services endure over time through provision adequate budget for post construction support, capital repairs and maintenance.
 - Instituting measures to scale up achievement in WASH by developing a national programme for demand creation, and committing adequate resources to support research and testing of WASH innovative tools/approaches, knowledge management, promotion and application.
- 7) Establishment of Sector Information System We commit to:
- Instituting an effective Sector Management Information system to strengthen the role of monitoring and evaluation in sustainable services delivery;
 - Developing and implementing a framework for periodic analysis and regular monitoring of and reporting on equity and inclusion in the water and sanitation sector;
 - Sustaining our contribution to and participation in the development of the WASH Bottleneck Analysis Tool and to subsequently using the tool for periodic analysis to inform improved ability of the sector to deliver results.

F. Role for Development Partners (DPs), Civil Society (CSOs) and the Private Sector (PSOs) Organizations

Whilst Government recognizes its mandate and accepts responsibility for service provision to its people, Development Partners, Private sector and Civil Society Organizations have a role to play in supporting Government to deliver its mandate. Specifically, DPs, CSOs and PSOs can provide support in the following ways:

- Increasing alignment with Government Systems to deliver Aid within the context of a Sector-wide Approach and Paris declaration .
- Providing technical assistance in various forms to enable government and sector agencies to accelerate the achievement of the MDGs with focus on the MDG Acceleration Framework (MAF) for Sanitation and other sector strategic plans which address identified sector bottlenecks. Particular attention will be given to capacity development for the two directorates within the line ministries.
- Increasing current levels of financial support (particularly on investments) to the sector

especially sanitation and hygiene.