

WATER, SANITATION, AND HYGIENE GOVERNANCE TRAINING FOR LOCAL GOVERNMENT DECISION-MAKERS IN GHANA AND BURKINA FASO

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The USAID West Africa Water Sanitation and Hygiene (USAID WA-WASH) is a program funded by the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID). The Program aims to increase access to drinking water, sanitation, and hygiene in three countries in West Africa (Burkina Faso, Ghana, and Niger) over a period of four years (2011-2015). One of the Program objectives is to create an enabling environment for the sustainability of WASH interventions through the capacity building of decision-makers and planners on governance in the water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH) sector. The WASH sector governance is the range of political, social, economic, and administrative systems in place to develop and manage water resources and the delivery of water and sanitation services, at different levels of society. It is based on principles of good governance, which include equity, efficiency, participation, decentralization, integration, transparency, and accountability. Improving governance in the WASH sector is, therefore, not only about government systems and service delivery, but about encompassing a much broader range of factors such as engaging civil society, non-state agents and their relationship with the government. Good governance complements sound development policies and their implementation.

The USAID WA-WASH Program organized for local decision makers in Burkina Faso and Ghana four workshops which focused on governance in the water and sanitation sector. The objective of the workshops was to provide comprehensive training in WASH governance, its components, and its relevance to poverty reduction and sustainability. The workshops were held in Kumasi, Tamale and Wa in Ghana and Dedougou, Fada Gourma and Ouagadougou in Burkina Faso. The workshops brought together a total of 277 participants from public institutions, district assemblies, municipalities, ministries of water, sanitation and environment, parliament and civil society in the two countries. The workshops served as a framework to equip participants with the tools and methodologies to promote WASH governance in different contexts as well as a framework for sharing and building capacity to improve funding, institutional policy, and local WASH regulations.

The workshops were structured around ten training modules namely; (1) contextualizing WASH services; (2) WASH governance; (3) country specific WASH policies; (4) gender integration and equity in the WASH sector; (5) monitoring and evaluation in the WASH sector; (6) institutional arrangement for service provision; (7) planning in the WASH sector; (8) local WASH services; (9) infrastructure development in the WASH sector, and (10) advocacy and communication. In addition, field trips were organized to establish the status of water and sanitation facilities in selected areas, identify stakeholders and their roles and responsibilities in the WASH sector, identify WASH sector challenges, and make recommendations to address the identified challenges.

The module on contextualising WASH services discussed the different processes that water goes through to result in WASH services for the end users, the different institutions responsible for major processes in the management of water and provision of water and sanitation services, the various costs associated with the provision of water and sanitation services, and identified sustainability issues. WASH governance introduced the concept of good governance, good governance practices and their application in strengthening WASH governance and service provision. The module on WASH policies highlighted the role of WASH policies in enhancing the provision of water and sanitation services, the components of a WASH policy, identified critical issues that a national WASH policy needs to address to improve local government service provision. Gender integration and equity aimed to strengthen the participants understanding of gender inclusion and its importance in WASH governance.

The module on the institutional arrangement for WASH service provision enhanced the participants' knowledge on the roles and functions of water service providers, the relationship between a local authority, a water service provider and consumer and identified different water service providers' institutional options. WASH sector planning aimed to emphasize the importance of WASH development planning towards scaling-up WASH services and ensuring sustainable service provision. The presentation on infrastructure development in the WASH sector familiarized the participants with the WASH project cycle and the importance of community and stakeholder participation.

The module on monitoring and evaluation focused on the importance of the systematic collection and analysis of information throughout the life of a service to improve the efficiency, effectiveness and sustainability of WASH services. As an invaluable management tool, monitoring and evaluation is based on targets and planned activities, helps keep the work on track, and can signal when things are going wrong. The analysis of information collected enables problems to be identified and corrective action to be taken where necessary. Finally, the module on advocacy and communication aimed to improve the participants' understanding of advocacy and communication in WASH. The training also introduced a framework for an advocacy and communication plan for the participants' respective organizations.

After the presentations and the field trips, the participants discussed the issues observed and made recommendations. In Ghana, recommendations were made to revive the District Inter-agency Coordinating Committee on Sanitation (DICC) in each district, strengthen the WASH institutions to enforce the WASH by-laws, and support community led total sanitation and zero subsidies for household latrines. Other recommendations in Ghana were to establish relationships between local authorities and the regional directorates of water; strengthen the capacity of local actors in charge of the management of water infrastructure, disseminate and implement policy documents and regulations, and provide water services to the communities living around water bodies as an incentive to protect the watershed through activities such as good agricultural practices and tree planting along the banks of water bodies.

In Burkina Faso, the participants made recommendations to implement the existing policies and planning documents such as the municipalities' WASH development plans, improve financial management and other resources, improve the management of existing WASH infrastructure to improve their sustainability, and strengthen the capacity of public-private partnerships. At the end of each training workshop, participants developed an action plan indicating the activities that they could conduct in their respective organizations within specific timeframes in order to improve WASH governance. The action plans informed the USAID WA-WASH follow-up and support plan on the trainings on WASH governance.

This is an executive summary of reports dated August 2014. The full workshop reports are available (in English) upon request via our website. For more details about our program activities and other reports please visit <http://wawash.fiu.edu/>.

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