

# Country briefing

# Ghana



Sanitation and Water for All (SWA) is a partnership bringing together **governments, donors, civil society and multilateral organisations** at both global and national levels. It aims to ensure **all people have access to basic sanitation and safe drinking water**, with a specific focus on those countries most off-track in achieving this. To achieve this SWA calls for:

- Increased political prioritisation.
- Strong national planning, investment and accountability.
- Improved targeting and impact of resources.
- Evidence-based decision-making.
- Strengthened mutual accountability.

SWA aims to make this happen through three key components: 1) a High Level Meeting (HLM), 2) a global analysis and assessment of sanitation and drinking water (GLAAS) report, and 3) a National Planning for Results Initiative (NPRI). At present, the SWA partnership counts 83 partners (as of May 2012), including the Government of Ghana. The first HLM was held in 2010 and the second in 2012. Finance and sector ministers, and high level government officials from 45 developing countries participated in the 2012 HLM, and 37 developing countries made country-specific commitments to make progress towards ensuring water and sanitation for all.

**“We can resolve to champion the progress of sanitation and water for all so that young lives are not lost for want of basic human needs; safe water and sanitation.”**

**Hon Samuel Kofi Woods on behalf of HE President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf, Liberia, Goodwill Ambassador for Water in Africa**



The second HLM of the SWA partnership was held in Washington DC in April 2012. The Government of Ghana was represented by Honourable Kwabena Duffuor, Minister for Finance and Economic Planning, Honourable Enoch Teye Mensah, Minister for Water Resources Works and Housing, and Honourable Samuel Ofose Ampofo, Minister for Local Government and Rural Development<sup>1</sup>. This event represented a unique opportunity for the Government, and specifically the Minister of Finance, to set out firm commitments to address the water and sanitation crisis in Ghana.

<sup>1</sup> Kwabena Duffuor's statement to the HLM can be watched here:  
[www.youtube.com/watch?v=NZZMVMWWTAA&feature=player\\_detailpage#t=8018s](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NZZMVMWWTAA&feature=player_detailpage#t=8018s)

# Sector commitments

In addition to the High Level Meeting, the meeting of Sector Ministers from developing countries was also held on 19 April 2012. This meeting resulted in the Joint Statement which is summarised in the box on the next page. At this meeting, the Government of Ghana was represented by the Minister for Water Resources Works and Housing and the Minister for Local Government and Rural Development, who agreed, along with Ministers of 39 other countries, to “strive to achieve the following minimal increases<sup>2</sup> by the 2014 High Level Meeting<sup>3</sup>”:

- 1 Decrease open defecation by at least 15%.**
- 2 Increase improved water service access by at least 5%.**
- 3 Increase access to improved sanitation services by at least 7%.**
- 4 Increase water and sanitation service access to primary schools and rural health facilities by at least 10%.**
- 5 Reduce the number of non-functioning water services by at least 10%.**
- 6 Increase the practice of hand-washing with soap by at least 25%.**
- 7 Increase water and sanitation budgets annually by at least 15% in real terms.**
- 8 Ensure funding is not only provided for WASH infrastructure but is also allocated, by at least 10% of all WASH allocations to hygiene promotion, behaviour change and demand creation.**

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<sup>2</sup> Measured by JMP and GLAAS.

<sup>3</sup> Link to full text: [www.sanitationandwaterforall.org/files/HLM\\_2012\\_Sector\\_Ministers'\\_Statement.pdf](http://www.sanitationandwaterforall.org/files/HLM_2012_Sector_Ministers'_Statement.pdf)

# Country specific commitments

In addition to the joint commitments outlined above, the Government of Ghana released an individual **statement of commitments** in which they made a number of additional pledges<sup>4</sup>, many of which went beyond those agreed in the Sector Minister's statement.

In its HLM 2012 country statement of commitments, the Government of Ghana commits to:

- 1 Between 2010 and 2015, approximately 10 million Ghanaians are expected to gain access to improved sanitation, raising the proportion of Ghanaians using improved sanitation facilities from 14% in 2010 to 54% in 2015.
- 2 Ghana will continue the drive towards sustainable universal access through improvements in service and water quality.
- 3 A financial commitment of approximately USD400 million annually over a five year period from 2011 to 2015.
- 4 Revising and reinforcing the Ghana Compact in line with the country's needs and capacity as an emerging middle income country and reflecting the joint responsibility of the Government, development partners and civil society for implementing the commitments.
- 5 Focusing resources and attention on achieving and sustaining progress on equitable delivery of the national and MDG targets, especially in schools.
- 6 Developing and applying clear criteria for equitable targeting of resources at national and sub-national level including indicators and mechanisms for monitoring performance.
- 7 Commitment to fully implementing all national plans and strategies on sanitation and water.

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<sup>4</sup> Link to full text: [www.sanitationandwaterforall.org/files/Ghana - Statement to 2012 HLM EN.pdf](http://www.sanitationandwaterforall.org/files/Ghana_-_Statement_to_2012_HLM_EN.pdf)

- 8 Moving rapidly towards a sector-wide approach and developing a government-led coordination mechanism involving all relevant stakeholders.**
- 9 Commitment to monitoring, evaluating and reporting on the progress of the Ghana Compact.**
- 10 Establishing mechanisms to ensure accountability for progress, including an effective monitoring and evaluation process and transparency of resource management, eg expenditure reviews using CSO platforms and tracking.**
- 11 Implementing an effective sector management information system to strengthen the role of monitoring and evaluation in sustainable service delivery.**
- 12 Continuing participation in the SWA partnership, leading country level processes and participating in all future High Level Meetings.**
- 13 Provision of adequate budget for post-construction support, capital repairs and maintenance.**
- 14 Developing a national programme for demand creation and committing adequate resources to support research and testing of innovative tools/approaches, knowledge management, promotion and application.**

# Summary of analysis

- Through the above commitments, the Government of Ghana made a number of significant pledges related to:
  - 1 Provision of adequate budget for post-construction support, capital repairs and maintenance.
  - 2 Establishment of mechanisms to ensure accountability for progress, including an effective monitoring and evaluation mechanism and transparency of resource management, eg public expenditure reviews and tracking.
  - 3 Commitment to fully implementing all national plans and strategies on sanitation and water.
  - 4 Creating and sustaining an enabling environment for continuous CSO involvement and participation in Government of Ghana programmes in the spirit of transparency and accountability.
- The reaffirmation of the Government of Ghana's drive towards sustainable universal access with improvements in service and water quality was previously captured in the Water Sector Strategic Development Plan (2012-2025), which articulated the Government's vision of universal access to water by 2025 (including a budget and clear milestones for tracking progress). But, following the SWA High Level Meeting, there is now clarity from the Government that this is a shared responsibility with development partners, although the specific contribution by all relevant stakeholders is still unclear.
- In terms of sanitation, the emphasis on actual numbers of people (10 million) accessing improved sanitation services represents an additional commitment, which could be seen as signalling a re-enforcement of previous promises.
- Commitment to monitoring, evaluating and reporting on progress in implementing the Ghana Compact is a good sign but should be supported by fully functional planning, monitoring and evaluation units. In addition, the Water and Sanitation Monitoring Platform (WSMP) and civil society networks and organisations should be capacitated in order to provide complementary independent data. Budget tracking is also needed to provide the necessary evidence to monitor a number of commitments.

# Key recommendations

## Government:

- The Ministry of Finance should work closely with the Ghana Education Service and the Ministry of Education to ensure implementation of commitments, particularly in areas such as WASH in schools.
- The Government of Ghana should ensure a clear framework for monitoring commitments.
- The Government of Ghana should develop a robust budgeting tool.
- The Government of Ghana should continue to engage with the SWA partnership and attend all future High Level Meetings.

## Development partners:

- Development partners should align their funding with national WASH policies and comply with aid effectiveness principles.

## Civil society:

- CSOs should use continuous advocacy to ensure the commitments made by the Government are not neglected or forgotten.
- CSOs should play a crucial role in budget tracking and presenting results for public discussion.
- CSOs should support the generation of credible data and information on Government performance in the WASH sector.

## All stakeholders:

- Partners should work together to ensure clarity on the specific contributions of all relevant stakeholders (the Government of Ghana, development partners, communities and NGOs). These should be spelt out at a post-SWA High Level Meeting workshop to be convened at a national level as soon as possible.
- Capacity building of CSOs in advocacy monitoring and evaluation is needed in order to support the use of tools to track commitments.