We are four years into the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). As part of these global goals, governments have committed to “ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all.”

A vital aspect of the SDGs is the use of the human rights framework. The promise to ‘leave no one behind’ has been a central element in the pursuit to achieve these global goals by 2030. The review of SDG10 (reducing inequalities) in 2019 offers the opportunity to identify how inequalities manifest in access levels to basic services at the national level.

To measure SDG6 progress levels, indicators and service ladders were developed to guide governments and their delegated institutions. This country profile explores the inequalities found in Ghana based on these guidelines and indicators.

**The Basic Sanitation Inequality Gap**

While Ghana generally has low access levels to basic sanitation, there is a massive gap of 60% between urban richest and the poorest.

### Ghana Basic Sanitation Inequalities Chart

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Income quantile</th>
<th>% Access to basic service</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Rural</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Urban</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Sanitation Service Ladder**

- **SAFELY MANAGED**: Not shared, in-house and safe disposal of faeces
- **BASIC**: Improved and not shared
- **LIMITED**: Improved and shared
- **UN-IMPROVED**: Pit or bucket latrine
- **OPEN DEFECATION**: Open spaces

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Page 1: The Sanitation Inequality Gap
The gap between urban rich and rural poor for access to basic water is 35%. This reflects the starkly unequal redistribution of resources in the country. There are further inequalities within the rural areas of the country.

Ghana Basic Water Inequalities Chart

**Recommendations**

Ghana's 2007 National Water Policy committed to deliver services in a manner that "the principle of fundamental right of all people without discrimination to safe and adequate water to meet basic human needs". Yet, there are gross inequalities between who has access to these basic services. Our recommendations are:

1. A greater focus on who benefits from investments and resource allocation in the water and sanitation sectors, in both rural and urban areas.

2. Inclusion and involvement of marginalised groups in the planning, implementation and review stages of pro-poor investments in water and sanitation services. In Ghana, it is clear that the rural poorest have been left behind. Improving access levels to water and sanitation services for these groups will be central to the achievement of the aspiration of the national constitution.

3. The creation and allocation of a global public fund consisting 2% of GDP contributions and global profits of corporations to fund public goods and social services such as water and sanitation. Once created, this fund would be critical in providing a reliable and low risk funding instrument to meet the investment requirement to deliver services for the poorest and most marginalised. There is the need to step up investment for the sector.

For more information contact the following organisations: