



# GHANA

## Water and Sanitation Profile

POPULATION AND HEALTH STATISTICS	
Population (2008)	23.4 million <sup>a</sup>
Proportion of population living in urban areas (2008)	49% <sup>a</sup>
Average annual urban/rural population growth rates (1990-2008)	4.3 / 1.2% <sup>a</sup>
Under age 5 mortality rate (2007)	115/1000 live births <sup>b</sup>
Under age 5 mortality rate due to diarrheal disease (2004)	10.4% <sup>b</sup>
<small>Note: Most recently available data provided.  <sup>a</sup> World Bank. 2009 World Development Indicators (WDI) Database.  <sup>b</sup> World Health Organization (WHO). World Health Statistics 2009.</small>	

### WSS SECTOR OVERVIEW

Recognizing the value of a reliable and safe water supply to its economic growth and status within West Africa, Ghana has set national goals for access to improved drinking water and sanitation facilities that are more aggressive than its Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). Ghana has already met the MDG target for urban drinking water coverage and is on track for meeting the MDG target for overall drinking water access.

With respect to sanitation coverage, however, meeting even the 2015 MDGs will be challenging. The government has developed and largely implemented the needed policies, reforms, and institutional arrangements, as well as the decentralization of service delivery. To meet and maintain the MDGs, Ghana must place serious emphasis on better financing strategies and continued strengthening of the Ghana Water Company Limited (GWCL), the national water utility serving urban areas. GWCL's historic operating and financial problems led to uneven coverage in urban areas and problems of continuity in service delivery,

with a disproportionately negative impact on the poor. Intensive government and donor efforts are focusing on GWCL's reform with positive impact.

Access to sanitation lags behind access to water due to a lack of local capacity and funding. While GWCL is responsible for sewerage, coverage is minimal and recent efforts have prioritized on-site improvements as an interim measure to developing large-scale, centralized infrastructure. In order to catch up with past reform efforts that have been targeted solely at water, the sanitation subsector will need more direct assistance. Ghana's strong national policies for water supply and sanitation (WSS) can be better leveraged by advocating increased resources to the sector and directly linking sector improvements with national budgeting. Given the low efficiencies in the WSS sector, Ghana is dependent on external financing from the World Bank, African Development Bank (AfDB), and other donors.

WATER AVAILABILITY IN GHANA	
Renewable internal freshwater resources per capita, m <sup>3</sup> /person/year (2008)	1,298 <sup>c</sup>
Water withdrawals, m <sup>3</sup> /person/year (2002)	48 <sup>c</sup>
Projected water resources per capita, m <sup>3</sup> /person/year in 2015	1,093 <sup>d</sup>
<small>Note: Most recently available data provided.  <sup>c</sup> UN Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO). <i>FAO Aquastat Database</i>. "Freshwater resources" refers to estimates of runoff into rivers and recharge of ground water and does not include flows from other countries.  <sup>d</sup> Note this value was calculated using a straight-line calculation based on average population growth rates (1990-2008) with no adjustment for consumption or technology changes. Data was obtained from <i>World Bank WDI Database</i> (population) and <i>FAO Aquastat Database</i> (water resources).</small>	

## WSS SECTOR FRAMEWORK

The institutional organization of Ghana's WSS sector is well defined with few overlaps in sub-sector responsibilities. Ghana is one of only a few sub-Saharan African nations that have established an independent regulatory agency, the Public Utility Regulatory Commission (PURC). Created in 1997, PURC oversees electricity, water, and telecommunications, sets quality standards, approves water rates, and monitors performance.

Water sector policies, both rural and urban, are set by the Water Directorate within the Ministry of Water Resources, Works and Housing (MWRWH). Furthermore, the MWRWH oversees sector performance and prioritizes investments. The Water Sector Restructuring Secretariat, created in 1997 in the MWRWH, coordinates reforms, particularly related to private sector participation in the sector.

In the sanitation subsector, the Ministry of Local Government and Rural Development shares responsibility for setting policy and prioritizing funding with MWRWH. The Metropolitan, Municipal, and District Assemblies provide sanitation services through a decentralized service delivery system with oversight and coordination from the Community Water and Sanitation Agency (CWSA).

A National Water Policy (NWP) was launched in 2008 to help further clarify sector roles and priorities. The NWP covers water resources as well as urban and community water. The framework for drinking water services is well-defined, but the evolution of sanitation services has lagged far behind. To meet the MDGs in 2015, the capacity to manage local WSS must be scaled-up, especially in sanitation. This is particularly important in rural areas where financial, managerial, and technical capacity is limited.

## THE URBAN SUB-SECTOR

The urban sub-sector is primarily served by the national water company, GWCL. It was created as a government-owned, asset-holding operating company tasked to provide urban water services to 82 urban areas. GWCL has been plagued with financial and operational issues including overstaffing, low efficiencies, and a lack of commercial and managerial skills. In response, the government allowed a debt

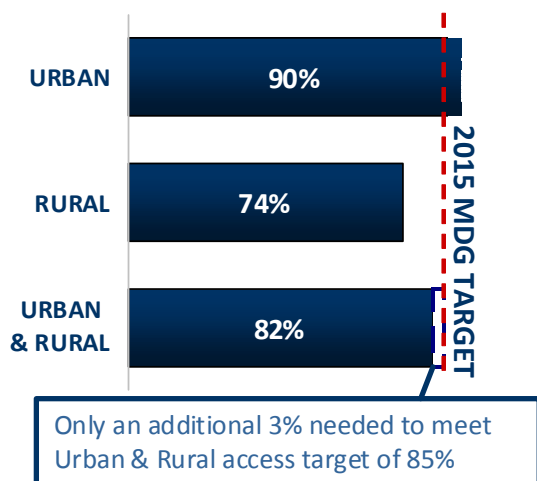
## KEY GOVERNMENT AGENCIES

Agency	Description	Contact Information
CWSA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Provides District Assemblies with support in WSS service in rural areas and small towns.</li> </ul>	Dr. Philip Gyau Boakye
GWCL	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Urban water service provider;</li> <li>Acts as an asset management company;</li> <li>Has leased management contract to private sector for 5 years.</li> </ul>	Daniel Adjetey Adjei, Dir. Water Ops. daadjetey@yahoo.com Tel: 233-21663552
MLGRDE	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Sets sanitation policy;</li> <li>Helps set local development policy;</li> <li>Oversees local government performance.</li> </ul>	
MWRWH	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Sets and monitors national policy and strategies.</li> </ul>	
PURC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Independent regulatory agency;</li> <li>Reviews and sets water rates;</li> <li>Monitors water quality and determines service standards.</li> </ul>	
WRC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Manages water resources;</li> <li>Transboundary issues on cooperation in the Volta and Densu River Basins;</li> <li>Raw water quality;</li> <li>Regulates water resource use and licenses water abstraction and wastewater discharges.</li> </ul>	

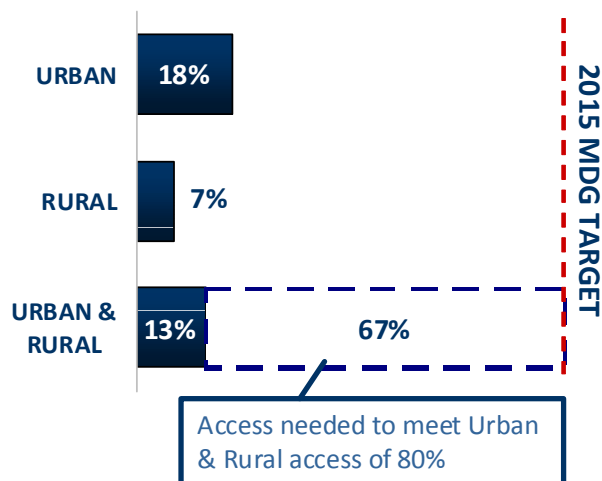
restructuring of GWCL and awarded management contract to a joint venture between Rand Water (South Africa) and Vitens (Netherlands).

In the 1990s, responsibility for sewerage was removed from GWCL and given to the municipalities under Local Government Act 462 and the adoption of the National Urban Environmental Sanitation Policy. Piped sewerage infrastructure is very limited, even in the urban areas. Most houses have on-site sanitation, and septic tank systems are often characterized by failed soak pits. Accra has a sewerage network yet it

Meeting MDG 7: Access to Water in 2008



Meeting MDG 7: Access to Sanitation in 2008



Data Source: WHO/UNICEF Joint Monitoring Programme for Water Supply and Sanitation (JMP), *Progress on Sanitation and Drinking Water, 2010 Update*. Note on comparing baseline data from earlier reports: The JMP methodology uses all available data in each successive report. This means that estimates may be recalculated for earlier years if more data becomes available. The JMP notes that these new estimates may affect the baseline reported in earlier data sets.

only covers about 15 percent of the city, mainly in the central business district.

With its sector reorganization and reform and intense donor support, Ghana has been able to achieve remarkable levels of access to improved drinking water in urban areas. Meeting the needs of unserved and underserved communities as well as growing peri-urban areas will be a considerable challenge to GWCL and its management contractor.

### THE RURAL SUB-SECTOR

The national policy to improve WSS services in the rural sub-sector is planned through the National Community Water Supply and Sanitation Program (NCWSSP). District assemblies (DAs) have been given control over all WSS services at the local level and are supported by the CWSA. Despite good institutional arrangements and local control, several barriers to improving access to drinking water and sanitation facilities remain, primarily with regard to capacity. The devolution of control to DAs has only occurred in the last decade, and they lack technical, managerial, and financial capacity. In response, the CWSA provides technical support, but more importantly, it is facilitating private sector engagement to provide technical services directly to DAs.

### DONOR INVOLVEMENT

Outside donor assistance has been extensive in Ghana. Many donors focus on integrated water resources management and river basin coordination, as well as some irrigation activities. The major donors working to improve water and sanitation in urban and rural areas include the World Bank, the European Union (EU), the AfDB, United Nations (UN-Habitat) and the governments of Canada, France, and Denmark. In general, donor contributions are aligned to the Growth and Poverty Reduction Strategy via the NCWSSP's Strategic Investment Program; however, better harmonization of aid coordination is required. Ghana is revising and standardizing its monitoring and evaluation framework, which should extend the progress made toward reaching the MDG targets.

DONOR	ACTIVITIES	CONTACT INFORMATION
AfDB	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Accra Sewerage Improvement Project;</li> <li>▪ Rural Water and Sanitation Program.</li> </ul>	Alieu Jeng, a.jeng@afdb.org Tel: 233-21-66-28-40, 233-21-66-28-18, Ext. 6130-6159 Arthur Swatson Tel: 216 -7110-2672
Canada/CIDA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Integrated Rural Project in Northern Ghana;</li> <li>▪ Northern Region Small Towns (NORST);</li> <li>▪ Northern Regional Water and Sanitation Project (NORWASP).</li> </ul>	Tel: 233-21-21-15-21
Denmark/DANIDA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ District Based Water and Sanitation Component of the Water and Sanitation Sector Programme Support Phase II (WSSPS II) for Eastern, Volta, Central and Greater Accra regions.</li> </ul>	Lars Møller Larsen Program Coordinator, lalars@um.dk Tel: 233-21-253-47-34
EU	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Rural Water Supply and Sanitation Project in the Northern Region;</li> <li>▪ Small Towns Water &amp; Sanitation Project in the Central and Western Regions.</li> </ul>	delegation-ghana@ec.europa.eu Tel: 233-21-774201, 774202, 774094, 774236
France/AFD	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Urban Development Project in Accra and Kumasi;</li> <li>▪ Peri-urban, Rural and Small Town Water Supply and Sanitation Project in the Brong Ahafo.</li> </ul>	Benoit LeBeurre afdaccra@afd.fr Tel: 233-21-77-87-55-56
UN-Habitat	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Water for African Cities Phase II. Includes 7 pilots to serve low income areas of Accra;</li> <li>▪ Amui Djor Housing Cooperative.</li> </ul>	Regional Office Tel: 254-20-7621234/7623221 roaas@unhabitat.org
World Bank	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Rural water supply and sanitation infrastructure improvements;</li> <li>▪ Revision of the National Water Policy and National Sanitation Policy.</li> </ul>	Kennedy Fosu, kfosu@worldbank.org Tel: 233-21-214142 Herbert Boh, hboh@worldbank.org Tel: 202-473-3548 Kofi Tsikata 233-21-229681 ktsikata@worldbank.org
*Contact information may change frequently and therefore be different from what is noted above.		

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Additional references that aided in the completion of this report include: WHO/UN Children's Fund (UNICEF) Joint Monitoring Programme for Water Supply and Sanitation, *Progress on Sanitation and Drinking Water, 2010 Update* (2010); WaterAid *National Water Sector Assessment: Ghana* (2005); African Ministers' Council on Water (AMCOW) et al., *Getting Africa on Track to Meet the MDGs on Water and Sanitation* (October 2006).

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