

## Validation of Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning Framework for the WASH Masterplan

The second meeting of the Asutifi North District Level Learning Alliance Platform (AN-DLLAP) was used to discuss and validate the Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning (MEL) Framework which is being developed for the district-based WASH full coverage initiative. The district MEL framework seeks to provide a structure for tracking implementation, and for measuring progress towards the stated goal and objectives of the WASH Masterplan. It contains baseline data values, indicators for monitoring, levels of data disaggregation, methods of measurement, and the means of verification. It also covers questions for mid-term and end-term evaluations of the district-based WASH full coverage initiative.

The second learning alliance meeting took place at the Assembly Hall of the Asutifi North District on Thursday, 30<sup>th</sup> August, 2018. Participants were made up of government institutions (Ghana Health Service, Ghana Education Service, the District Assembly, and the Water Resources Commission); Traditional Authority; Non-Governmental Organisations/Civil Society groups; Water and Sanitation Management Teams, as well as other identifiable groups and individuals with interest in WASH in the district. The meeting was moderated by resource persons from IRC Ghana and the National Development Planning Commission, with support from the Asutifi North District Assembly. Structured to get maximum contribution from participants, the meeting involved series of small group discussions and feedback sessions on specific aspects of the draft MEL framework.



In his prefatory remarks, the Coordinating Director of the Asutifi North District, Mr. George Padmore Mensah noted that the district had remained committed to the goal of the ANAM initiative – which is to ensure that over 84,000 people have access to safe water, sanitation and hygiene services in the next 12 years. He added that 'the indicators in the MEL framework will help us to know whether we are on the right track, and whether we are getting results for what we intended to do'. Mr. Mensah suggested that, the validation of the MEL framework on the district learning platform was another opportunity to deepen collective ownership, and to continue with the process of broad-base consultation of actors, both at the district and regional level for the successful implementation of the ANAM initiative.

Mr. Jeremiah Atengdem of IRC Ghana explained how the process of developing the district MEL framework began with the preparation of the WASH masterplan

plan, followed by the stakeholders' workshop which was held at the district in July, 2018 to prioritise key indicators, and also to draft the evaluation questions. Dr. Felix Addo-Yobo of the National Development Planning Commission gave a presentation on the draft district MEL framework and how it aligned with the national level medium term policy framework. Dr. Addo-Yobo explained how the various indicators were contextualized to ensure that they remained relevant to the local context, and the metadata for each of the indicators. He presented the indicators under the following five broad themes:

**Water Services:** Five indicators were identified to measure water services, as follows: i) Proportion of population using safely managed drinking water services; ii) Proportion of population using basic drinking services; iii) Proportion of water facilities with functional Water and Sanitation Management Teams (WSMTs); iv) Percentage of distribution losses; and v) Level of service provided by water facilities.

**Sanitation:** Three indicators were developed to measure sanitation, as follows: i) Proportion of communities that are open defecation-free (ODF); ii) Proportion of population with access to (at least) basic sanitation; and iii) Proportion of population that rely on communal toilets.

**WASH in schools and health care facilities:** Ten indicators were developed to measure WASH in

schools and healthcare facilities, as follows: i) Proportion of schools with safely managed drinking water services; ii) Proportion of schools with adequate toilet facilities including handwashing facilities with soap and water; iii) Proportion of schools with students' toilet facilities which are single-sex use; iv) Proportion of schools with acceptable student-toilet ratio; v) Proportion of schools with toilets that are suitable for people with limited mobility; vi) Proportion of health facilities with safely managed drinking water services; vii) Proportion of health facilities using safely managed sanitation services, including a handwashing facility with soap and water; viii) Proportion of health facilities with separate toilet facilities for staff and patients; ix) Proportion of health facilities with toilets that are suitable for people with limited mobility; and x) Proportion of health facilities providing menstrual hygiene facilities.

**Water resources management:** Three indicators were developed to measure water resources management, as follows: i) Proportion of bodies of water with good ambient water quality; ii) Degree of integrated water resources management implementation (0–100); and iii) Level of water stress: freshwater withdrawal as a proportion of available freshwater resources.

**WASH systems:** Three indicators were developed to measure WASH systems, as follows: i) Proportion of District Assembly expenditure on WASH activities; ii) Amount spent by external partners on WASH activities as part of master plan implementation, coordination and Partnership; and iii) Number and type of cooperation agreements signed with partners for the plan implementation.

The various evaluation questions were also presented, with the criteria used in their prioritization (relevance, effectiveness, efficiency, impact, and sustainability).

At plenary, participants discussed the wording and import of each of the indicators, and the adequacy/challenges with the various sources of data for their measurement. It was mentioned for example

that, it would be difficult for the District to measure and track the amount of money spent by partners on the master plan when their budgets and expenditure are not being disclosed to the district.

Suggestions from the various group works are summarised as follows: Disaggregation of data in the MEL framework by Area Council; inclusion of Open data Kits as additional tools for data collection; inclusion of district's annual financial records such as trial balance as additional sources of data for measurement; inclusion of technical/financial audits in piped schemes for measuring water loses; and inclusion of indicators for measuring solid waste in the district.

In his closing remarks, Dr. Felix Addo-Yobo mentioned that Ghana would be reporting on the progress of the implementation of the SDGs in 2019. Thus, it would be interesting to showcase the progress being made in the Asutifi North District on the SDG 6. Mr. Jeremiah Atengdem mentioned efforts of IRC in seeking strategic partnership and funding for the sanitation component of the masterplan which has remained largely under-funded. Mr. George Padmore Mensah indicated his personal commitment to the success of the initiative and demanded same from partners. He expressed appreciation for the contribution of all participants to the draft MEL framework.



#### ABOUT AN-DLLAP

The Asutifi North District Learning Alliance Platform (AN-DLLAP) is a WASH sector, multi stakeholder platform with the overall goal of improving sector learning and dialogue. It was established in July, 2018, and is being hosted by the Asutifi North District Assembly. The platform offers learning and sharing opportunity for sector players as one of the practical approaches to improving sector engagements/sharing with the long term aim of achieving a knowledge driven WASH sector that delivers quality and sustainable services in the district and beyond. AN-DLLAP meetings take place quarterly (or more frequently, when necessary) and are open to all interested parties. The discussions of each AN-DLLAP meeting can be found on the RCN website [www.washghana.net](http://www.washghana.net).

If you are interested to propose a topic for a meeting please contact us on,  
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