

40 years of Integrated Water, Sanitation and Hygiene Programming in Ghana



6 CLEAN WATER AND SANITATION



World Vision Ghana has since 1985 been implementing diverse interventions in Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH) in communities, schools and healthcare facilities to enhance access to WASH services for vulnerable children and their households as well as contributing to the eradication of Guinea Worm in Ghana. World Vision Ghana has a well-resourced Water Quality Laboratory that analyse water samples for both chemical and microbial contamination. WASH interventions are implemented in collaboration with partners such as the Ministry of Sanitation and Water Resources, the Community Water and Sanitation Agency (CWSA), the Coalition of NGOs in the Water Sector (CONIWAS), donors and development partners such as the Hilton Foundation, UN-Habitat and UNICEF.

Key Achievements

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3,518 boreholes fitted with hand pumps and 106 Limited Mechanized System (with 477 taps installed) in Communities (1985 till date)



1,418,182 people provided with access to potable water (1985 till date)







Amount spent on WASH to date

History of the WASH programme in Ghana

- WASH programme started in 1985 with Ghana Rural Water Project (GRWP I) to respond to safe water challenges in Ghana funded by USAID and World Vision offices in US, Canada, UK, Australia and New Zealand.
- GRWP I drilled its first borehole on October 1, 1986.
- With matching funds from WVUS, the Conrad N. Hilton's Foundation funded the GRWP II in the Greater Afram Plains.
- In 2003, GRWP commissioned its offices in Savelugu, Northern Region as part of the extension of Phase III.
- GRWP IV began as part of the West Africa Water Initiative (WAWI) that was implemented in Mali, Ghana and Niger from 2002 2009.
- Key indicator to eradicating Guinea worm in Ghana

Special WASH Projects:

Sesame WASH Up: This project is a school-based hygiene behaviour change programme aimed at using play, games, songs and other interactive learning approaches to encourage children to adopt positive WASH behaviour like regular handwashing at the five critical times.

P&G Water purifier: The Procter & Gamble (P&G) project aims to increase access to safe water through the provision of household point of use water treatment systems like the P&G Water Purifier. World Vision works with relevant WASH partners to provide P&G water purifiers to communities with hydrogeological challenges compelling them to rely on unimproved sources for consumption. P&G water purifiers are given as temporal interventions as WVG continues to plan towards providing them with a permanent source of water.

WASH in Disaster Prone Communities: This project was implemented in partnership with UN-Habitat with funding from Global Affairs Canada geared towards "Strengthening resilience to water-related shocks for households in disaster prone communities. The project targeted the rural poor who are the most vulnerable, and are disproportionately affected by shocks by empowering them to adopt measures that build upon improved management of savings as well as land and water resources in boosting livelihoods and overall resilience to climate change.

Universal WASH Project in Asutifi North District: This is a Hilton funded project which aims to provide sustainable safe water access to an estimated 32,000 people in the District at least at the Basic level by 2022¹. In addition, World Vision will provide sanitation and hygiene services in 56 communities, 15 schools, and seven healthcare facilities.

Programme Approaches and Models

The programme uses the Integrated WASH Project Model which gives room for context considerations, local needs and policy. Interventions in WASH are implemented under (4) key integrated approaches.

Hygiene Promotion & Behaviour Change

This is the entry point in all WASH interventions. The approach uses tools like the Design for Behaviour Change Model to address key barriers to a desired behaviour in hygienic practices.

Integrated Community Based WASH

This approach involves using an integrated approach to the provision of water and sanitation services at the community level. The sanitation component uses the Rural Sanitation Model and Strategy and the Community Led Total Sanitation approach to trigger communities to come to a self-realization of the need to stop Open Defecation by taking steps to construct and use their own household latrines.

WASH in Schools & Health Facilities

The WASH Programme also intervenes in schools and health facilities. The Programme ensures the provision of potable water, improved sanitation and appropriate hygiene practices (e.g. handwashing) in schools and health facilities.

WASH in Rapid Onset/Emergency

This is an approach to implement WASH programme in response to emergencies in communities during natural disasters and disease outbreak. With this approach, the WASH programme provides emergency hygiene kits and other WASH related supplies to communities who have suffered disasters like floods. The programme further builds local capacities to prepare Disaster Preparedness Plans so they can appropriately prepare themselves against the devastating effects of disasters.

Key Partners

University of North Carolina, Messiah College, Drexel University, University for Development Studies, District/Municipal Assemblies, Environmental Health and Sanitation Units, Ghana Health Service, Ghana Education Service, Ministry of Water Resources and Sanitation, Community Water and Sanitation Agency, Access Development, Coalition of NGOs in Water and Sanitation (CONIWAS), UNICEF, USAID and Non-Governmental Organisations and Community Based Organisations.

For further information on how to support World Vision WASH activities, kindly contact:

Robel Lambisso Wamisho The WASH Technical Programme Manager Phone: +233-0506385839 E-mail: Robel_Lambisso_Wamisho@wvi.org World Vision International Mail: No.3 Kotei Robertson Street, North Industrial Area, Kaneshie, Accra, Ghana