

DECENTRALISED MANAGEMENT OF WATER

PRESENTATION BY DISCAP

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DISCAP

- Stands for District Capacity Building Project
- Initiative between Governments of Ghana and Canada
- Started 2001 and will end 2007
- Covers all districts in the three Northern Regions

DISCAP GOAL

The goal of DISCAP is to strengthen the capacity of local government bodies to be able to manage potable water and sanitation Services in three northern regions.

WHY DISCAP

- In 1998 36 Small Town Water Systems and over 3,000 Point Sources were transferred to communities to operate and managed.
- Knowledge and skills of Water Boards and staff were not adequate to operate and manage these water systems.
- DISCAP designed to build the capacities of the relevant bodies to be able to manage water systems

Institutional provisions and arrangements for management of water

- By Act 462 of 1993, the District Assemblies have responsibility for the provision of water and sanitation services in small towns and communities. But.....
 - do not have access to donor funding
 - lack the expertise to implement
- By Act 564 of 1998, CWSA has a mandate to facilitate the implementation of W&S programming. CWSA.....
 - access to expertise and donor funding
 - implement rather than facilitate

- The Regional water and sanitation teams function to monitor, coordinate and facilitate the implementation of W&S at the regional level.
 - facilitation mainly for new sources and for rehabilitation.
 - little support for post-construction activities
- At the community level water boards manage water systems with oversight role of the DA and technical support of CWSA.
 - oversight role from DA mainly in monitoring and supervision of construction of new projects
 - little support for post- construction activities.
- Stakeholders, EHU, DWST, Service Providers etc support the water boards

CHALLENGES FOR DECENTRALISED WATER MANAGEMENT

- Technical deficiencies and inadequacies of the water systems.
- Inadequate knowledge and skills of board members and staff; O&M, water quality assurance, physical and commercial losses etc
- Inability of WSDBs to set and collect sustainable tariff.

- High turn-over of staff
- Inadequate dialogue among stakeholders and lack of clear understanding of roles and responsibilities
- Weak private sector for mechanised systems resulting in monopoly and expensive service

DISCAP LESSONS

Post- construction interventions in following areas necessary for decentralised sustainable management of STWSS

- Software
 - Awareness creation

 - Thematic workshop trainings (operations & management, physical and commercial losses, water quality concerns, tariff determination etc) for WSDBs staff and some staff of the DA

 - Follow-up on-the-job coaching

- Focussed and well coordinated formal training for WSDB members and staff (Tamale Poly, Tamale School of Hygiene, Nandom Vocational School, Bolga Poly)

- Good governance
Establish bye-laws governing the relationship between the Water Boards, DA and the community

- Good communication between WSDB, DA and the community.

- Some hardware provision (meters, valves, orifice plates)

CONCLUSIONS

- Demand response approach and community management are necessary but not sufficient for decentralised water management. Institutional and private sector support is also necessary.
- Roles and responsibilities of the District Assemblies and CWSA in the provision and management of water systems needs to be well defined.

- Post-construction interventions are necessary for sustained management.
- Human resource of the DA is weak in numbers and expertise to carry out the DA mandate on decentralised management of water.

THE END

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