

Taking Stock of CLTS implementation in Ghana

The third national CLTS stocktaking forum, organised by the Environmental Health and Sanitation Directorate (EHSD) Directorate of the Ministry of Local Government and Rural Development (MLGRD) was held from 19 to 21 April, 2015 at Fumesua near the Ashanti regional capital of Kumasi. There were over 120 participants from the EHSD, CWSA, Water Directorate, Development partners, NGOs and Academia.

The workshop which had the theme “Strengthening Capacities to Streamline CLTS Implementation’ was facilitated by Steve Ntow and Kwabena Nyarko. The formal opening was done by the Acting Director of EHSD, Demedeme Naa Lenason who bemoaned Ghana’s current global status of being among the poorest ten countries with the worst sanitation situation. He added that Environmental Sanitation is a public good, in that, the action and inaction of one person affects everyone. He also informed participants that Government was working with Fidelity Bank and other development partners on a six million Euro programme to scale up micro financing for households to install their own latrines. Touching on urban sanitation, he said that in the face of urbanization, it was necessary for government to construct public latrines in larger cities so that people who do not have places to sleep and therefore no access to latrines can also have access. He finally urged all agencies implementing CLTS to set realistic targets based on resources available to them.

Following the opening by the Director of EHSD, Mr Ben Arthur, and Executive Secretary of CONIWAS presented NGOs/CSOs perspective on the CLTS implementation process. He highlighted a number of bottlenecks impeding effective implementation of CLTS. These bottlenecks ranged from enabling factors, demand creation, supply side, and quality of service and included absence of MMDA bye-laws and sanitation courts in some MMDAs, none implementation of District Environmental Sanitation Strategy and Action Plan (DESSAP) in some districts, absence of a dedicated budget line for post triggering by MMDAs, absence of an NGO desk and none functioning of some Regional Inter-Agency Coordinating Committee on Sanitation (RICCS) and District Inter-Agency Coordinating Committee on Sanitation (DICCS). He also highlighted challenges with unstable soil conditions, delays in verification processes, sanitation credit and short donor timelines for those implementing the results based financing.

The director in response to the CONIWAS presentation mentioned that subsidy is not a problem but rather targeted subsidy. He informed participants that the Attorney-General’s department was formulating model bye-laws on sanitation to support MMDAs in their effort to instill discipline in community members.

Nine out of the 10 Regional Environmental Health Officers (REHOs) and their representatives provided updates from their regions as follows. Ashanti region reported that they do not implement CLTS. Greater Accra had data from only one partner and Western region could not make a presentation.

REGION	No. OF COMMUNITIES	REGIONAL POPULATION	TARGET	TRIGGERED	ODF BASIC	ODF	SANITIZED	CUMMULATIVE ODF
Brong Ahafo		2310983	741	220	108	55	0	55
Central	3913	2133266	566	175	175	0	0	0
Eastern	3390	2633154	235	235	128	52	0	52
Northern	4224	2468557	1150	1109	234	52	0	61
Upper East	1939	1097691	794	794	57	15	0	15
Upper West	1122	802205	1043	1011	304	75	0	75
Volta	3625	1635421	943	788	476		0	36
Greater Accra	Incomplete data		9	9	0	0	0	0
Ashanti	No CLTS implementation							
Western	No representative							
TOTAL			5481	4341	1482	249	0	294

The session on updates ended with presentations from Plan, WaterAid, CWSA, NORST, SNV, Global Communities and CRS on their CLTS projects. One of the new things from the presentations was SNVs new inexpensive and easy to construct latrine option, the Safi and Sato latrines. A complete Safi and Sato sub-structure with ring, ring cover and slab cost GHS 90. The session ended on the nice note of Safi and Sato latrines and all participants headed for the tea break with discussions on the morning's proceedings.