

WaterAid Ghana Country Programme Strategy 2023–2028



**Clean water, decent toilets
and good hygiene for
everyone, everywhere**



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● **Front cover:** Salamatu, a member of the Denugu Community demonstrating that improving access to safe and sustainable water is critical in enforcing good hygiene behaviours. Our Integrated Sustainable WASH in Healthcare Facilities Project is helping to address the poor linkages that exist between WASH and healthcare delivery in Ghana.

Foreword



Access to improved Water, Sanitation and Hygiene services in Ghana has become more crucial than ever, as some Ghanaians still lack access to these important services. Our shared efforts to double up our interventions in ensuring every one living everywhere is served, notwithstanding, one cannot over look the fact that the WASH sector in Ghana has a well organised institutional framework that indicates how sector institutions relate to one another from policy formulation and implementation of downstream service delivery.

The Ministry believes that provision of WASH can be delivered faster and sustainably through effective partnership and programming.

I am pleased to note that this country strategy document was developed through wide stakeholder consultation across the entire WASH sector, for which I commend the WaterAid Ghana team for their leadership in this regard.

The Ghana Country Strategy aligns with our national WASH sector policies and strategies and provides a roadmap for our collective efforts to achieve Sustainable Development Goal 6. It outlines proposed interventions to reach the vulnerable and marginalised communities with much-needed WASH services and is grounded on evidence and best practices from within and outside the country. The strategy defines Programme Aims and expected contributions towards the achievement of the Ghana Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH) sector vision and targets.

Hon. Cecilia Abena Dapaah
Minister for Sanitation and Water Resources,
Ghana

As we move forward with the implementation of this strategy, we need to work together to ensure that the interventions are implemented to achieve the desired results. The Ministry of Sanitation and Water Resources is committed to working closely with WaterAid Ghana and other partners to deliver on our shared objectives.

The strategy takes into account the unique needs of the population in the Upper East and Upper West Regions and outlines a comprehensive approach to addressing the challenges faced. I am confident that we can achieve our goals and improve the lives of millions of Ghanaians .

I urge all stakeholders to embrace this strategy and work together towards the common goal of improving access to water, sanitation and hygiene for all. Let us move forward with the shared sense of purpose and urgency to achieve our objectives.

I look forward to the positive impact that this strategy will have on the lives of Ghanaians across the country.



Message from WaterAid Ghana Country Director

It is with great pleasure that I introduce the new country program strategy for WaterAid Ghana. This strategy is the result of extensive collaboration and consultation with our partners, stakeholders, and staff in the country.

We believe that access to clean water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH) is a fundamental human right that is essential for improved health outcomes, dignity, and economic development. Yet, millions of people in Ghana still lack access to these basic services, and the COVID-19 pandemic has further highlighted the urgent need to improve WASH services to protect public health.

Our new strategy sets out our vision, mission, and strategic objectives to ensure that everyone in Ghana has access to sustainable and equitable WASH services by 2030. It outlines our theory of change, key focus areas, and the interventions we will implement to achieve our goals.

We will work in close partnership with the government, civil society organisations, and communities to build resilient and sustainable WASH systems and services that leave no one behind. We will also focus on improving the quality and effectiveness of our programs, strengthening our monitoring and evaluation systems, and advocating for policies and investments that prioritise WASH.

I would like to take this opportunity to express my gratitude to all those who have contributed to the development of this strategy. I am confident that with our collective efforts, we can make a meaningful impact on the lives of millions of people in Ghana and contribute to the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals.

Ewurabena Yanyi-Akofur
Country Director
WaterAid Ghana



WaterAid/George Osei

● **Mercy, a WaterAid Ghana volunteer has been measuring groundwater levels in her community for the past 6 years. Because she can explain the behaviour of groundwater, vis a vis surface water, community members in Anafobissi rely on her for advice on managing water during the dry season.**

Acronyms

CONIWAS	Coalition of Non-Governmental Organisations in Water and Sanitation
CSO	Civil Society Organisation
CWSA	Community Water and Sanitation Agency
GCNH	Ghana Coalition of NGOs in Health
GDP	Gross Domestic Product
MDA	Ministries, Departments and Agencies
MLGRD	Ministry of Local Government, Decentralisation and Rural Development
MMDA	Metropolitan, Municipal and District Assemblies
MOFEP	Ministry of Finance and Economic Planning
MSWR	Ministry of Sanitation and Water Resources
NDPC	National Development Planning Commission
NGO	Non-Governmental Organisation
O&M	Operations and Maintenance
WASH Fit	Water and Sanitation for Health Facility Improvement Tool

● Hayford points to the old latrines behind the new toilet blocks constructed by WaterAid Ghana at his school. Prior to the construction of the facility, Hayford and his friends used the dilapidated latrine which was unsafe and had no hand wash facility.



Executive summary

Since 1985, WaterAid Ghana has supported the Government of Ghana in its journey towards universal access to safe and sustainable water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH). This is our seventh Country Programme Strategy. Through it, we aspire to greater sustainable change at a faster pace. This urgency is driven by the current WASH situation in the country and risks from climate change that will have serious implications for reaching everyone, everywhere.

At present, Ghana's safely managed water coverage is 41.4% and only 13% of the population uses safely managed sanitation.¹ Those living in low-income and hard-to-reach areas are disproportionately affected by inadequate WASH services. For example, in Bongo District in the Upper East Region, approximately 60% of the population practice open defecation and nearly half of basic schools lack full WASH coverage.

● Mary's school used to rely on a borehole which was over a mile away. WaterAid Ghana provided rainwater harvesting tanks to the school as well as menstrual hygiene training. After participating in the training sessions, Mary, who no longer walks long distances in search of water, teaches younger girls in her community about menstrual hygiene.



The poor integration of WASH in district health plans may lead to inadequate resource allocation, and suboptimal WASH and health outcomes.² The lack of integration of WASH in district health plans may lead to inadequate resource allocation, and suboptimal WASH and health outcomes.

Sadly, 4,000 Ghanaian children die each year from diarrhoea and pneumonia, and about 23% of children will suffer from stunting (chronic malnutrition linked to poor water and sanitation).³

Despite barriers to change, such as lack of political will, poor financing and poor sustainability, current WASH coverage presents many opportunities for the private sector in the form of new technological, financial and business innovation. Stakeholders agree unanimously that citizen empowerment, fostering strategic partnerships, collaboration, increasing financing for WASH and prioritising gender-responsive WASH services, remain the key drivers of change for the sector.

Through WaterAid Ghana's previous Country Programme Strategy (2016–2021), we reached over 3.7 million Ghanaians with safe and sustainable WASH. But we can and will do more!

Our overarching goal for the next five year strategy period is:

- Safe, inclusive and sustainable WASH services and behaviours are universal, ensuring healthy and dignified lives for everyone, everywhere in Ghana. We will reach five million Ghanaians with improved access to safe water, adequate sanitation, and better hygiene practices in order to reduce the burden of waterborne diseases and improve their overall health and well-being.

1. WHO (2020). *Annual Report*. WHO/UNICEF Joint Monitoring Programme for Water Supply, Sanitation and Hygiene. Available at: <https://washdata.org/reports>
2. Asante, K. P., Amisshah, A. T., Agyemang, S. A., Acheampong, E., & Appiah-Brempong, E. (2021). Assessing the integration of water, sanitation, and hygiene in district health plans in Ghana. *BMC Public Health*, 21(1), 165. <https://doi.org/10.1186/s12889-021-10220-4>.
3. UNICEF Ghana (2020). *WASH in Ghana: Overview and Key Statistics*. Available at: <https://www.unicef.org/ghana/water-sanitation-and-hygiene-wash>

Our goal will be realised under three strategic aims:

■ **Aim 1**

To achieve universal, sustainable and safe access to WASH services in Bongo District that will influence wider change across the country.

■ **Aim 2**

To prioritise inclusive WASH services and hygiene behaviour change across the health sector to improve public health.

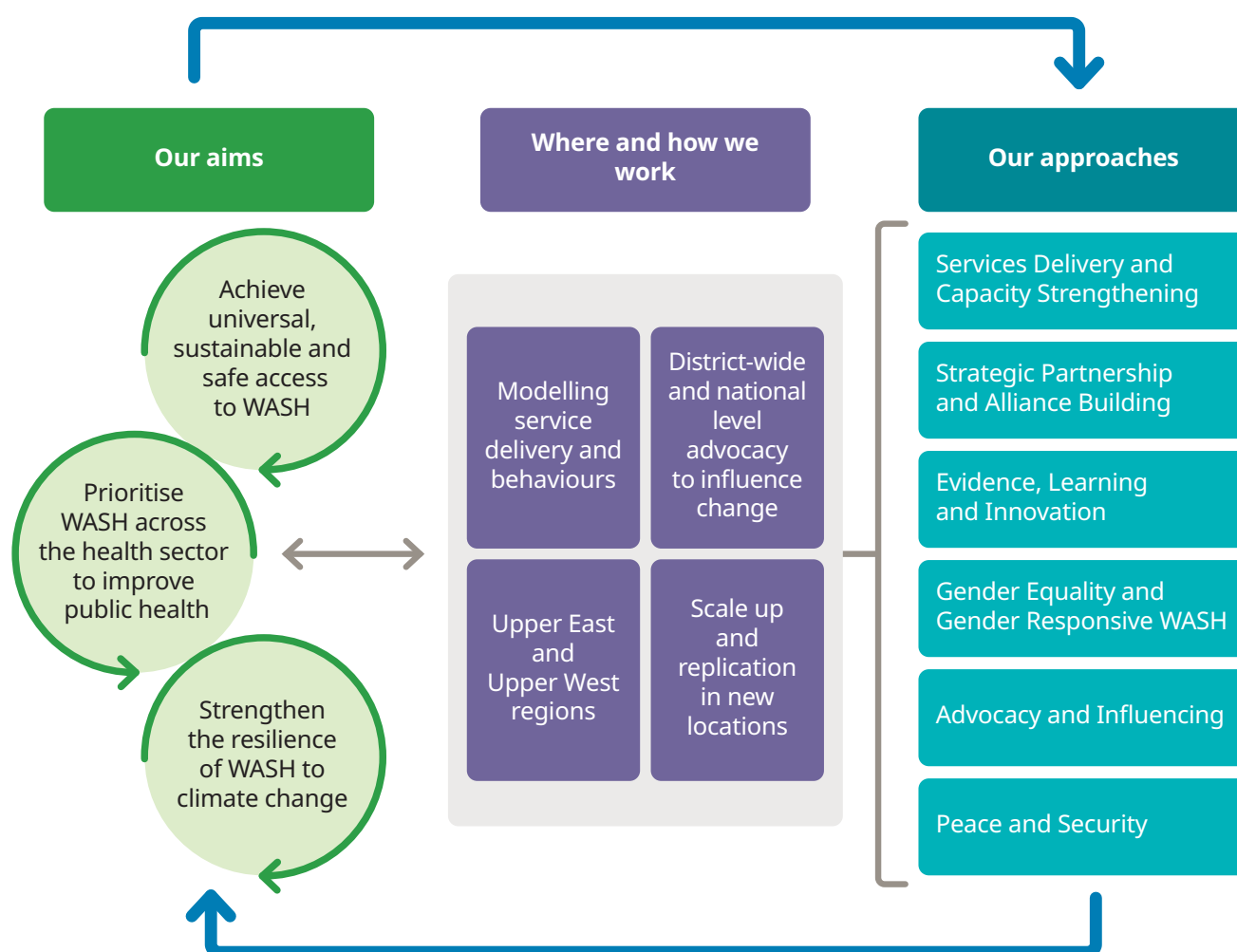
■ **Aim 3**

To strengthen the resilience of WASH services to climate change.

WaterAid Ghana brings value to the WASH sector based on our expertise, influence and financial resources. We will drive change through:

- Service delivery modelling and capacity strengthening
- Strategic Partnership and Alliance Building
- Evidence, learning and innovation
- Gender equity and gender responsive WASH
- Advocacy and Influencing
- Peace and Security

Figure 1: WaterAid Ghana Country Strategy at a glance



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Introduction

WaterAid's Global Strategy (2022–2032), along with our vision, mission and values, have provided the orientation for WaterAid Ghana's Country Programme Strategy (2023–2028). We believe that clean water, decent toilets and good hygiene should be normal for everyone, everywhere.

Our vision

A world where everyone, everywhere has sustainable and safe water, sanitation and hygiene. A world where:

- Everyone, everywhere has their human right to WASH protected, facilitated and fulfilled.
- Every woman or girl can improve their productivity, realise their right to a good education and live free of the risk of gender-based violence.
- High rates of maternal and infant mortality due to poor WASH become a distant memory.
- No one is forced to compromise their dignity and safety by defecating in the open.
- No community is ravaged by an endless cycle of sickness, disease and poverty arising from a lack of WASH.
- More people can face the future with confidence and assurance that the changing climate will not deprive them of the quality and quantity of water they need.

Our mission

To transform lives through sustainable and safe water, sanitation and hygiene.

● **Mamata smiles as she practices handwashing at the Worikambo Health Center. The availability of a limited solar mechanised water system at the Worikambo Health Center is supporting good hand hygiene behaviours which could help control the spread of infections.**

Our values

These define our culture and unite us across the many countries in which we work. They are at the very heart of WaterAid – who we are, what we do and how we do it.

- **Respect:** We treat everyone with dignity and respect, and champion the rights and contributions of all to achieve a fairer world.
- **Accountability:** We are accountable to those we work with and to those who support us.
- **Courage:** We are bold and inspiring in our actions and words, and uncompromising in our determination to pursue our mission.
- **Collaboration:** We work with others to maximise our impact, embracing diversity and difference in the pursuit of common goals.
- **Innovation:** We are creative and agile, always learning, and prepared to take risks to accelerate change.
- **Integrity:** We act with honesty and conviction, and our actions are consistent with openness, equality and human rights.





Our ambition

WaterAid Ghana's new Country Programme Strategy (2023–2028) is focused on securing and normalising clean water, decent toilets and good hygiene for everyone, everywhere in Ghana. We aim to achieve this by 2030 via three strategic aims and organisational transformation that aligns with WaterAid's Global Strategy (2022–2032).

Our new Country Programme Strategy is characterised by scale, sustainability and strategic partnerships. We will mobilise resources and support services in line with these new focus areas. By 2028, our ambition is to reach one million people directly with sustainable, safe and inclusive WASH and hygiene behaviour in ten focused districts of the Upper West and Upper East Regions of the country, with a special focus on Bongo District.

Working collaboratively with the Government of Ghana and other key partners in development, media, academia, the private sector and civil society, we will advocate for improved access to basic WASH services for a further four million people.



■ **Abubakari Alhassan Zoogbenaa proudly stands next to a latrine constructed by his household as part of activities under our hygiene behaviour change initiative.**

Our ambition by 2028

- Bongo District to have universal access to sustainable, safe, inclusive and climate resilient WASH, and lessons from our work used to encourage its replication elsewhere.
- WASH prioritised across the health sector in Ghana, resulting in better public health through improved hygiene behaviour within the country's diverse communities, healthcare facilities and schools.
- Communities and WASH services in the Upper East and Upper West Regions of Ghana to have improved resilience to the effects of climate change.

We will place particular emphasis on supporting local institutions to achieve their WASH ambitions and will be effective, dynamic and sustainable catalysts for change for these institutions and the communities they serve. We believe that by investing in people and strengthening local institutions, we can support them in leading their development, thereby increasing the impact of programmes and services, and producing sustainable solutions.

We will invest in generating evidence that shapes inclusive, affordable and replicable solutions for marginalised groups, with a particular focus on women, girls and people with disabilities. We will be bold and innovative in tackling the reasons for lack of access to basic WASH services. We will bring key stakeholders into the planning process to become joint owners of our strategic aims.

Situation analysis

People, economy and politics

Ghana has a population of approximately 31 million, with one third of people between the ages of 15–35. Its urban population rose from 50.9% in 2010 to 56.7% in 2021.⁴ The country had been experiencing rapid economic growth but this was halted by the COVID-19 pandemic.⁵ Ghana's debt amounts to more than 100% of its Gross Domestic Product (GDP), and debt repayments can range from 70–100% of Government revenue. This has significant implications for the fiscal space and Ghana's policy commitment to its 'Ghana Beyond Aid' mantra. The situation is made worse by dwindling investment in the WASH sector from traditional donors, with a shift from grants to loans for the private sector.

Ghana stands out as the most peaceful and strongest democratic state in West Africa. It increasingly influences sub-regional politics, particularly in conflict management and peacebuilding. However, the geography of Northern Ghana makes it prone to cross-border crimes and threats of terrorism from the Sahel region.⁶

● **Otto, another volunteer for the water resources monitoring under the securing water resources approach initiative, from the Anafobissi Community in the Upper East Region, helps in the monitoring of rainfall water to support and advise community members on when it is most appropriate to farm.**



WASH sector

Ghana's WASH sector has a well-organised institutional framework that sets out how sector institutions are related to one another, from policy formulation and implementation to service delivery. However, the inadequate existence of a collective vision and operational management framework has been a fundamental impediment to harmonisation and coordination. Sector mandates are fragmented, leading to overlapping functions and gaps, unclear mandates and accountability, and uncoordinated approaches. The system for tracking delivery of services and user indicators is yet to be fully established. While the establishment of a new Ministry of Sanitation and Water Resources is a step towards addressing the country's WASH challenges, there is still a need for more prioritisation of WASH issues by successive political governments to improve access to safe water, adequate sanitation, and better hygiene practices for all Ghanaians.

Access to water

As of 2021, according to the Joint Monitoring Programme (JMP) report by WHO/UNICEF, the population with access to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) standard of safely managed water is estimated at 41.4% (urban 60.3%; rural 16.1%). The population with access to basic services is estimated at 44.4% and population with access to limited services at 6.6%; about 2.8% of the population relies on unimproved sources for drinking water while 4.8% rely on surface water sources. The government faces the double challenge of providing access for everyone and improving the level of service to achieve the safely managed standards.

4. Ghana Statistical Service (2021). *Ghana 2021. Population and Housing Census*. Available at: <http://www.census2021.statsghana.gov.gh>
5. Owusu, E. D., & Adu, G. (2021). The impact of Covid-19 on the Ghanaian economy. *Journal of Economics and Sustainable Development*, 12(10), 79-87. Available at: <https://www.iiste.org/Journals/index.php/JEDS/article/view/55634/57369>
6. Adadevoh, E., and A. Yakah. "Assessing the Level of Preparedness of Hospitals in Northern Ghana towards the Management of Potential Bioterrorism Attacks." *BMC Public Health*, vol. 19, no. 1, 2019, p. 464. doi:10.1186/s12889-019-6735-3.

Access to sanitation and waste management

The population with access to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) standard of safely managed sanitation is estimated at 13.3% (urban 12.1%; rural 15.0%). The population with limited service sanitation is 47.4%, while 11.1% of the population rely on unimproved sanitation facilities. Overall 17.8% of the population still practice open defecation (urban 7.5%; in rural 31.6%). Ghana faces a significant task in catering for the huge population without access to improved sanitation, and in ensuring that excreta are safely managed.

Hygiene

Enhancing hygiene behaviour and preserving public health have been achieved through the utilisation of significant measures such as hygiene education and the enforcement of regulations. While hygiene has multiple dimensions, the global SDG indicator focuses on the proportion of population with handwashing facilities with soap and water on-premises (JMP 2020). In Ghana, the national population with access to basic hygiene services is 41.5% (rural, 34.9%; urban, 46.5%). About 36.6 % have limited access, while 21.9% have no access (25.4% rural, 19.3% urban). This low coverage requires Government to strengthen behaviour change communication throughout the country.

Disparities in WASH access and multidimensional poverty in Ghana

The unequal distribution of WASH services is evidenced by significant disparities in access to these services between regions as well as urban and rural areas. An illustration of such disparity is that 98% of individuals in Greater Accra have access to basic drinking water while only 71% in the rural Upper East Region have access. Additionally, the Upper East Region has the second-highest rate of multidimensional poverty in the country, with seven out of every ten individuals considered 'multidimensionally poor'.⁷

Bongo District, Upper East Region

Bongo District is the poorest and most deprived of the 15 districts of the Upper East Region, with only 24% of the population using safely managed water services.⁸ As many as 72,154

people (60% of the population) practice open defecation.⁹ WASH in schools is plagued by inadequate toilet and handwashing facilities, and poor sustainability mechanisms threaten any success. The district has 220 basic schools and 48% are without full WASH coverage.¹⁰ Overall, 69% of healthcare facilities in Bongo District lack full WASH services. The district has no data on hygiene or menstrual hygiene management. WASH challenges and their underlying causes are not unique to Bongo District – they can be found across the country.

Hygiene and WASH in healthcare facilities

The Covid-19 pandemic was a brutal reminder of how important good hygiene behaviour is for public health. The hygiene coverage for Ghana is 16% for basic hygiene services and 57% for limited hygiene services.¹¹ The general approach to hygiene promotion in the country is reactive and largely donor driven. This is linked to the fact that hygiene is not a health sector focus and is not systematically integrated into community health promotion campaigns.

WASH has been inadequately prioritised in health service delivery planning and implementation.¹² A recent study on access to WASH in healthcare facilities revealed that 25% have no basic water service, 31% have no basic sanitation service, 30% have no hygiene service and 44% have no basic waste service.¹³ There is also regional disparity. In Greater Accra, 92% of healthcare facilities have access to basic water services, compared to 12% in the Upper East Region.¹⁴

7. Ghana Statistical Service (2020). *Multidimensional Poverty – Ghana*. Available at: <https://www.undp.org/ghana/publications/ghanas-multidimensional-poverty-index-report>

8. WaterAid Ghana. (2022). *Field assessment to inform the strategy development*.

9. *ibid*

10. *ibid*

11. WHO/UNICEF (2021). *Progress on household drinking water, sanitation and hygiene 2000-2020: five years into the Sustainable Development Goals*. Geneva: World Health Organization (WHO) and the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF).

12. Ashinyo, M. E., Dalinjong, P. A., & Kalognia, L. A. (2019). WASH in healthcare facilities in Ghana: An appraisal of policy implementation, practice and performance. *Journal of environmental and public health*, 2019.

13. Ashinyo, M. E., Tiimub, B. M., Anokye, R., & Adekunle, I. O. (2021). Assessing sanitation governance structures for effective delivery of sanitation in Ghana. *Journal of Environmental Management*, 296, 113215. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jenvman.2021.113215>

14. Ashinyo, M. E., Tiimub, B. M., Anokye, R., & Adekunle, I. O. (2021). Assessing sanitation governance structures for effective delivery of sanitation in Ghana. *Journal of Environmental Management*, 296, 113215. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jenvman.2021.113215>



● Selina's visit to the Busongo Health Care Facility for her third childbirth is not the same as her previous two experiences, hence the broad smile on her face. Prior to WaterAid Ghana's intervention which saw the provision of a solar-powered mechanised water system which supplies water to the Health Care facility, Selina and other expectant mothers did not have access to decent toilets or water for use while on admission.

Sustainable WASH

The sustainability of WASH services and infrastructure is an ongoing problem that continues to bedevil the WASH sector in Ghana. The functionality of rural infrastructure is poor, with only 2% of rural water systems providing the basic levels of service for which they were intended and as high as 30% of them not being functional¹⁵ (IRC, 2021). Beyond the functionality of water points, water resource management also remains a challenge. The country is particularly vulnerable to the effects of climate change, with several studies noting that Ghana could become a water-stressed country by 2025. Over the past five decades, the country has witnessed a significant number of climate hazards, including at least three major droughts and nineteen flooding events.

The Government of Ghana has been developing a climate change policy architecture since 2010, but climate change and WASH have rarely been aligned with national development policies. Evidence suggests that strengthening access to sustainable WASH remains critical and fundamental to Ghana's adaptation strategy. However, there is inadequate information about the vulnerability of Metropolitan, Municipal, and District Assemblies (MMDAs) to climate change, resulting in weak responsive mechanisms to climate change threats.¹⁶ The lack of a collective vision and operational management framework has been a fundamental impediment to harmonisation and coordination, further hindering the sustainability of WASH services and infrastructure in Ghana.

3.1 Barriers and opportunities

Despite substantial problems within the WASH sector, there are opportunities to drive transformational change at scale. Major barriers preventing universal WASH coverage include:

- Inadequate budgeting
- Poor planning and coordination
- Lack of political will
- Inadequate monitoring and evaluation systems
- Low infrastructure sustainability

Inadequate budgeting

The WASH budget per capita is US\$ 2.26 compared to a regional average of US\$ 7.03 for sub-Saharan Africa.¹⁷

There are inadequate financial resources allocated to the Metropolitan, Municipal and District Assemblies (MMDAs) and the Ministries, Departments and Agencies (MDAs). Districts largely depend on the District Assembly Common Fund and suffer from inadequate or delayed allocations. Due to a history of financing WASH services at national level, evidence of allocations for WASH services is limited in many district budgets. Given the decline in aid, more districts are being encouraged to commit and explore innovative funding to deliver WASH services at scale.

15. IRC. (2021). *Water and Sanitation Services in Ghana: Rural water services*. Retrieved from https://www.ircwash.org/sites/default/files/ghana_rwssp_-_final_report_2021_1.pdf

16. Seth Agyakwah, W. (2021). Assessing Local Governments' Adaptation Capacities to Climate Change in Ghana. *Local Environment*, 26(7), 957-975.

17. Sanitation and Water for All (2019). *Ghana country brief*. Available at: <https://www.sanitationandwaterforall.org/partners/countries-map/ghana>

Poor planning and coordination

The WASH sector is not making much progress towards effective strategic planning and coordination. With Ghana's shift to middle-income status, there has been a reduction in donors for planning and budgeting. At the district level, there are overlaps, gaps and unclear areas in implementing and managing WASH services. The lack of a master plan for universal coverage hinders coordination of different WASH stakeholders.

Within the health sector, decentralising technical capacity from national and regional to district levels is incomplete and has affected the operation and maintenance of WASH in healthcare facilities.¹⁸ There is inadequate coordination and collaboration between stakeholders to drive for prioritising WASH and climate change. This makes advocacy, coordination and alignment of climate change and WASH almost non-existent.

Whilst these barriers remain, sector opportunities are emerging:

- Existing national platforms such as the Coalition of NGOs in Water and Sanitation (CONIWAS) and the Ghana Coalition of NGOs in Health (GCNH) can be enhanced by raising young peoples' voices to drive behaviour change and sector accountability.
- Getting more young people involved and adopting youth-friendly technology and innovation are key to supporting the WASH sector.
- If properly harnessed, there is potential to mobilise domestic resources to support WASH service sustainability.
- The role of the private sector and social entrepreneurs to leverage technology and innovation and drive WASH services to scale remains largely untapped.
- Ghana's WASH sector has a well-organised institutional framework that shows how sector institutions are related to one another, from policy formulation and implementation to service delivery.

3.2 Drivers of change

- Actively engaged and empowered citizens are critical drivers of change. The more citizens (especially young people and women) are empowered, the greater their potential to demand and promote transparent, accountable and inclusive WASH governance and service delivery. They are a critical force for influencing the Government to prioritise WASH.
- Prioritising WASH would require the Government to make WASH central to inclusive national development. For Ghana's WASH sector to be adequately financed it would need to be of appropriate quality and quantity, and include more domestic funding. Finances for WASH would have to be used effectively to deliver safe, inclusive and gender-responsive services to everyone, everywhere, with a particular emphasis on women, girls and people with disabilities.
- Leaders at all levels must appreciate that access to WASH is essential for healthy and dignified living. They must also recognise it as an enabler of school attendance and develop a 'no regrets' adaptation strategy to strengthen resilience to climate change. The Ministry of Sanitation and Water Resources' medium-term plans have been aligned with the Sustainable Development Goals. The strategic documents, however, must be reviewed to reflect that vision.
- Strategic partnerships with the private sector and social entrepreneurs that develop financially viable WASH business models have yet to be fully exploited. There is growing interest in extending market-based approaches to segments of the population that can pay full tariffs, and to developing equity and inclusion schemes for areas with the poorest populations.
- Gender inclusion, safeguarding and security-responsive policies, programming and budgeting need to be in place and prioritised at national and district levels.

18. Ghana Ministry of Health (2020). *National Health Policy*. Available at: <https://www.moh.gov.gh/wp-content/uploads/2020/10/Final-Draft-National-Health-Policy-2020-2030.pdf>



Our role

4.1 Lessons learned

With over 35 years of impactful work in WASH, WaterAid Ghana has expertise and experience that will provide the impetus for another successful strategy period. Our success will hinge on how well we use what we have already learned and how agile we are to adapt.

Our role, moving forward will be:

- **Planning for sustainability** through deliberate, deep engagement with all partners to co-create and co-own interventions that complement and maintain Ghana's vision of universal access to WASH.
- **Systems strengthening** at all levels, working with partners to ensure that the necessary skills are developed and embedded in the appropriate institutions, as well as continuous planning for change.
- **Strengthening accountability systems** is a laborious process that requires sustained commitment from a wide variety of stakeholders if system change is going to happen. WaterAid Ghana will continue to promote active citizenship, especially among young people. This will be through youth-friendly outlets such as social media, entertainment and other educational platforms, to ensure active and diverse youth participation in the process.
- **Continuing to lead in evidence-based advocacy** that is effectively linked to rooted advocacy, with strong networks of connected leaders and champions. This will amplify citizens' voices and develop a thriving advocacy network.
- **Stimulating sector learning through multi-stakeholder engagement** at national, regional and district levels, and improving research, documentation and sharing.

4.2 Our added value

WaterAid Ghana will bring value to the WASH sector based on its expertise, influence and mobilise financial resources. We will add value in the following areas:

Human Right-Based Approach

Our Country Programme Strategy will be anchored on rights-based approaches, equality and gender equity, using accountability as a cornerstone. We will continue to employ our expertise and financial resources to strengthen rooted advocacy by women and young people, using evidence and influencing, as well as working with local government authorities and duty bearers to fulfill their responsibilities. We will use research findings to advocate for and influence policies, and strengthen local systems to bring services to the most disadvantaged and remote communities within our focus districts.

Sector coordination and harmonisation

We will add value by supporting sector coordination and collaboration, as well as integrated programming and harmonising activities among sector actors and with the Government.

WASH governance/leadership

Government leadership will be central to achieving the enormous level of change and ambition reflected in this Country Programme Strategy. We will add value to the sector by leveraging our experience of the District Wide Approach and bringing new practices to leadership capacity strengthening and behaviour change, driving transformational WASH for women, girls and young people. We will continue to strengthen knowledge and skills for the District Wide Approach through documentation, learning and sharing within the sector.

WASH in healthcare facilities

We will continue to use our technical expertise in providing WASH services, including strengthening capacity in hygiene programming and modelling WASH in healthcare facilities to deepen the integration of WASH in public health.

Securing water resources and climate change in WASH

We will prioritise collaboration with the Water Resources Commission, the Environmental Protection Agency, the National Development Planning Commission (NDPC), the Ministry of Sanitation and Water Resources (MSWR) and the private sector to protect water sources for sustained water supply in the Upper East and Upper West Regions. Addressing water security and related livelihood challenges, with a focus on women and young people, aligns with the Government's climate adaptation and gender policies.

● **Faustina worked in the Katui Health Center which serves over 500 people. The Health Center had no access to clean water so patients and medical staff like Faustina, had to walk long distances to access clean water for both medical and personal use. Also, the only available pit latrine was unsafe and not fit for use by patients many of whom are pregnant women. WaterAid Ghana has provided a solar mechanised water system which will pipe water directly to the Health Center.**



4.3 Key shifts in our work

WaterAid Ghana will work more closely with like-minded sector organisations, the private sector, young people and women to increase the impact of our work. We will continue our work on systems strengthening and do more of the following to influence wider change:

- We will deepen and intensify our **climate change work**. This will include increased capacity strengthening for MMDAs and MDAs in assessing climate vulnerabilities and threats, and designing and delivering appropriate services informed by adaptation plans. We will further focus on climate funding for WASH and demonstrate how strong systems reduce the cost of climate impacts. Our work on water safeguarding will move from a primarily community-level focus to include high water users.
- We will push for support for **private sector investments in low-cost quality services** to expand their businesses and improve their contributions towards national and Sustainable Development Goal standards.
- A strong enabling environment is needed to expand and catalyse **youth and women-led entrepreneurs' growth in the WASH sector**. We will foster strong partnerships between youth-led private sector entities and the Government to identify ways of creating a more attractive, enabling environment for new private investment, especially for hard-to-reach populations living with marginalisation and exclusion.
- For **WASH funding and financing** we will work transparently with others to attract leverage funding to drive scale up of WASH services. **Private sector partnerships** with institutional businesses continue to develop, opening new possibilities and opportunities to reach more populations living with marginalisation and exclusion in a sustainable way. Locally leveraged resources will help maximise donor funds, making project impacts greater.



Our aims

WaterAid Ghana has identified three strategic aims to focus our efforts and catalyse transformational change at scale. These aims align and complement one another so that we can create synergy and cross-programme evidence-building, learning and innovation.

This will lead to holistic development for greater outcomes and enhance the sustainability of WASH services and behaviours. The Upper East and West Regions are the geographic focus areas for service delivery and behaviour modelling and will be used to influence wider change.

In all of our programme aims, we will prioritise joint ownership, trust and mutual accountability with all of our partners.

Aim 1: To achieve universal, sustainable and safe access to WASH services in Bongo District that will influence wider change across the country



Why this aim?

Achieving 100% WASH coverage in a district will have considerable influencing power and could catalyse major change beyond the specific geographic area where it occurred. WaterAid Ghana understands the key features that will deliver universal, sustainable WASH and the need to overcome critical barriers such as poor coordination among actors, inadequate funding, poor leadership and sustainability gaps. We will use evidence from the outcomes of this aim for influencing and to advocate for replication of our work in other areas and, eventually, for everyone, everywhere in Ghana. This aim models WaterAid's vision of ending the WASH crisis for everyone, everywhere under our new Global Strategy (2022–2032). The aim and our focus district also coincide with the strategic direction of the Government of Ghana and our development partners.

● **The Worikambo healthcare centre serves over 7,000 patients annually without a safely managed water system. In 2021, WaterAid Ghana constructed a limited Solar Mechanised water system for the centre. Now patients and Healthcare workers now have safely managed and clean water system for personal and medical use.**

What are the expected outcomes?

Ultimate goal

Bongo District makes significant progress in delivering inclusive, sustainable and universal access to WASH by 2028.

Outcome 1

By 2028, Bongo District has the capacity, resources and leadership to deliver sustainable WASH.

- Bongo District implements WASH policies and strategies for efficient service delivery and hygiene behaviour change.
- Bongo District has improved planning and coordination among the Decentralised Departments, Development Partners and Civil Society Organisations (CSOs).
- Bongo District effectively implements regulatory, monitoring and supervision frameworks for WASH service delivery and hygiene behaviour change.
- Bongo District has strong and long-term relationships with relevant state agencies and Development Partners, working towards a shared vision and funding for WASH.

Outcome 2

Sustainable, inclusive WASH service delivery and behaviour models are demonstrated and used to advocate for their replication in other areas.

- Bongo District delivers inclusive and sustainable WASH service and behaviour models in communities, institutions and public places.
- Bongo District has increasingly active, empowered communities, in particular with women leading the delivery of inclusive and sustainable WASH.
- Institutional arrangements for more effective Operations and Maintenance (O&M) and governance models have been explored and implemented.
- Improved environment and water resources management are implemented in Bongo District and are influencing their replication across the Upper East Region.

How will we deliver the outcomes?

We will support Bongo District to achieve and maintain its vision of universal access to WASH by strengthening our long-term partnerships and taking best practices to scale. Led by the District Chief Executive and involving all relevant sector players, we will work together to make significant progress in delivering inclusive, sustainable and universal access to WASH for 120,000 people by 2028.

We will be guided by a long-term theory of change and a system thinking approach that is based on a sound understanding of the political economy at two critical levels of decision-making – national and sub-national (district).

Capacity and systems strengthening

- We will partner with the the Institute of Local Government Secretariat to strengthen leadership capacity and design context-appropriate training modules on WASH system strengthening for MMDA staff.
- We will support capacity building for Bongo District to ensure that the processes, plans, finances, human resources, skills, regulations, coordination and accountability mechanisms to achieve sustainable, universal access to WASH are permanently enhanced.
- We will accelerate behaviours that ensure a 'systems strengthening' way of working for improved WASH sustainability, scalability and inclusivity.

Planning, coordination and accountability

- We will support Bongo District in convening all relevant stakeholders including Government (national and sub national), service providers, communities, Development Partners and CSOs to define a shared vision for WASH.
- Informed by data and national WASH guidelines, we will support the development of a ten-year WASH strategy and strategic investment plans. We will draw on the views of all stakeholders and link with systems and procedures to ensure widespread implementation.
- We will enhance the transparency and predictability of all resources to enable district leadership to attract, direct and monitor

sector financing and implement their district investment plans.

- We will push for district-level accountability and build the capacity of the district to hold external support agencies (like us) accountable, and vice versa.

Strategic partnerships and alliance building

- We will centre our partnerships around the activities of the Community Water and Sanitation Agency and other partners, to build on their successes.
- We will explore innovative, context-appropriate models that achieve radical transformation in maintenance culture, enabling functionality and sustainability levels to increase alongside behaviour change.
- We will facilitate engagement with the Community Water and Sanitation Agency, CSOs, the private sector and MDAs as key partners to stimulate local markets and find homegrown solutions for WASH, while addressing the barriers that prevent products or services from reaching communities.
- We will work with the Ministry of Sanitation and Water Resources, the Community Water and Sanitation Agency, the Ministry of Local Government, Decentralisation and Rural Development, the National Development Planning Commission, Regional Coordinating Councils and other key sector players to support the national systems that are required for local systems to function effectively.

Empowerment and equality

- We will empower women, young people and people with disabilities to hold leadership positions and be actively involved in service delivery and decision making. We recognise that with rights come responsibilities.
- We will ensure that communities can manage and contribute to their WASH services, where appropriate, and practice good hygiene behaviours.
- We will tackle inequalities by advocating for targeted resources to people living with marginalisation and exclusion so that their rights to WASH are realised.

Evidence, learning and innovation

- We will add value by supporting change processes as an innovator, networker, collaborator, facilitator and thought leader.
- We will establish Bongo District as a 'learning district' in support of broadly based district and national level partnerships.
- We will use the progress in Bongo District as a 'proof of concept' to encourage replication in other areas and promote a national level move towards universal access to WASH.
- We will enhance the ability of the WASH sector to continuously learn and adapt, both in policy and operational practice.



- Collaborating with critical stakeholders is critical to the success of our new strategy. By actively engaging our stakeholders in the Upper East region, we laid the solid foundation for a smooth uptake of our new strategy.

Aim 2: To prioritise inclusive WASH services and hygiene behaviour change across the health sector to improve public health

Why this aim?

WaterAid Ghana and its WASH sector partners chose this aim because we have established ourselves as key allies with the health sector and are leaders in encouraging greater WASH/health sector collaboration. Our positive work in the sector gives us the potential to be an even more impactful influencer. Focusing on this aim will allow us to continue advocating for the health sector to take leadership on WASH in health and strengthen systems by focusing on healthcare facilities, nutrition and neglected tropical diseases.

This aim aligns with the Ministry of Health's policy objective of strengthening the healthcare delivery system to become more resilient. It will create the space and opportunity for us to push for nationwide acceptance of proven models of WASH in healthcare facilities. Improving WASH conditions will help establish trust in health services and encourage mothers to seek prenatal care and deliver in facilities rather than at home – important elements of the strategy to reduce maternal mortality.¹⁹ There is growing interest from our stakeholders to direct support towards improving WASH in healthcare facilities.

What are the expected outcomes?

Ultimate goal

Implementing national WASH strategies and policies is continuously prioritised across the health sector in Ghana.

Outcome 1

The Ministry of Health/Ghana Health Services prioritise and integrate hygiene into existing public health programmes to drive sustained behaviour change by 2028.

- The Ministry of Health/Ghana Health Services design and implement effective hygiene behaviour change across relevant programmes to ensure patient safety.

- The Ministry of Health/Ghana Health Services prioritise and track basic hygiene services in outbreak-prone districts for targeted diseases/programmes.
- Clear national frameworks for planning, implementation and reviewing of hygiene programmes are in place.

Outcome 2

Improved access to inclusive and sustainable WASH services in healthcare facilities in the Upper East and Upper West Regions by 2028.

- Safe and inclusive WASH services modelled, with lessons generated for wider replication.
- Women and girls in targeted communities have improved capacity to claim and champion their rights to WASH in healthcare facilities.

Outcome 3

Increased investment in inclusive WASH services in the national health budget as well as in MMDA budgets and plans.

- Increased funding committed by the Government/Ministry of Finance and Economic Planning (MOFEP) and development partners for WASH infrastructure in healthcare facilities.
- National Costed Plan for WASH is reviewed and includes operational planning for WASH infrastructure and services.
- Improved sector coordination between the Ministry of Health/Ghana Health Services and key sector ministries to plan, finance and prioritise WASH in the health sector.

How will we deliver the outcomes?

We envisage a pathway to success through a collaborative partnership with the Ministry of Health/Ghana Health Services and other political actors. We will provide leadership and support to institute critical changes that ensure WASH is continuously prioritised in the health sector,

19. Russo, G., McConville, J., & Katzeff, C. (2012). Towards sustainable sanitation management: Establishing the costs and willingness to pay for emptying and transporting sludge in rural districts with high rates of access to latrines. *Waterlines*, 31(3), 220-232.

particularly for rural healthcare facilities. We will jointly prioritise interventions, informed by data and equity, so that no facility is left behind as the country commits to universal access to WASH.

Planning, coordination and accountability

- Together with the Ministry of Health/Ghana Health Services, we will review the National Costed Plan and include an operational plan for WASH infrastructure and O&M in healthcare facilities. There will be a road map to achieving universal access to WASH, with annual targets for all 16 regions in the country.
- Using the above plans as an implementation manual, we will work with all relevant stakeholders, including the Ghana Coalition of NGOs in Health and CONIWAS, to mobilise funding commitments from MOFEP and development partners to achieve set targets, with an emphasis on rural healthcare facilities.
- We will contribute to implementing the operational plan in hard-to-reach areas in the Upper East and Upper West Regions.
- We will leverage the Ghana Health Services' surveillance system to identify high-risk districts for selected diseases (including neglected tropical diseases) and work with Ghana Health Services to institute hygiene services for healthcare facilities.
- We will facilitate the delivery of outreach and promotion campaigns in targeted communities through Community Health Nurses and the Network of Practice.
- At national level, we will drive universal access to WASH in healthcare facilities by supporting policy reviews, advocating for increased investment for rural healthcare facilities, developing relevant WASH frameworks and guidelines, and strengthening institutional capacity.

Strategic partnerships and alliance building

- We will strengthen existing partnerships and prioritise new partnerships and alliances that catalyse transformation of WASH at scale.
- We will not only facilitate hygiene behaviour change service delivery in the Upper East and Upper West Regions but will also partner with the Ministry of Health/ Ghana Health Services to mobilise funding from other sector players to scale up interventions.

Capacity and systems strengthening


- Together with the Ministry of Health/ Ghana Health Services, we will prioritise putting World Health Organisation technical guidelines into practice in relevant, yet to be instituted, hygiene and sanitation areas.
- We will support skills strengthening and improving resources for implementation in targeted healthcare facilities, while driving sector players to invest in scaling up.

Evidence, learning and innovation

- We will bring the right stakeholders to the table to find suitable ways of delivering evidence-based hygiene behaviour change across relevant health programmes for patient safety and a healthy population. The design of hygiene behaviour change programmes will be underpinned by sustainability, scale, complementarity and the role we can play to improve delivery of hygiene behaviour change to people vulnerable to exclusion.
- We will continue to model WASH-friendly healthcare facilities and generate lessons for wider replication. Our safe and inclusive WASH-friendly facility model will train focal persons for WASH and health information to report routine District Health Information Management System (DHIMS) data and implement the Water and Sanitation for Health Facility Improvement Tool (WASHFIT).
- We will strengthen the Network of Practice to supervise and enhance district peer review mechanisms and continue prioritising WASH in the health sector.

Empowerment and equality

- We will place women, pregnant women, lactating mothers and adolescent girls at the heart of this aim so that they can claim and champion their rights to WASH in healthcare facilities.
- Together with communities, Ghana Health Services, and the environment, health and safety departments of MLGRD and MSWR, we will champion the benefits of WASH beyond quality of care to empower mothers and households so they can protect themselves from repeated infections.



● Memunatu Iddrissu lives in the Kakpagyili Sheezugu community in northern Ghana. Improved access to safe and sustainable water means the mother of three now spends less time in search of water. This frees up her time allowing her to engage in economically viable activities.

Aim 3: To strengthen the resilience of WASH services to climate change

Why this aim?

WaterAid Ghana's consistent work on climate change over the years has built us a positive reputation as one of the key WASH sector International Non-governmental Organisation (INGOs) working on climate change issues. Our recent collaboration with the Water Resource Commission and Environmental Protection Agency, as well as representation on two national climate change adaptation 'Technical Working Group' committees, has further strengthened our position as an influencer in the sector.

In line with the Government's flagship programmes for 'One village, one dam',²⁰ there is a good opportunity to work with Government actors and the private sector under WaterAid's Securing Water Resources Approach for impactful adaptation initiatives.

Focusing on this aim over the next five years will provide us with an opportunity to deepen our work at a time when threats to water resources are on the rise, with severe consequences for, in particular, women, girls and people with disabilities.

Key barriers to sustainable universal WASH coverage include:

- Pollution of water bodies
- Deforestation
- Watershed destruction
- Poor coordination
- Inadequate leadership
- Accountability

Increasing our work on the nexus of climate change and WASH has the potential to catalyse, at minimum, greater coordination between WASH and other sectors. The increase in climate financing provides funding opportunities. WaterAid Ghana is well placed to achieve this aim as we can provide continuous support to efforts addressing WASH and the climate crisis.

What are the expected outcomes?

Ultimate goal

By 2028, communities and WASH services in the Upper East and Upper West Regions have improved resilience to the effects of climate change.

Outcome 1

Institutional capacity is enhanced to support climate resilient, inclusive WASH services in targeted districts that inform wider uptake and replication.

- Climate resilient service delivery and behaviour change models exist and are applied contextually.
- Targeted MMDA strategies, policies and plans for climate change adaptation and WASH are developed and aligned with long-term management and funding.
- Improved institutional capacity of MDAs/ MMDAs on WASH and climate change to develop appropriate instruments that align with country context and policy documents.

Outcome 2

By 2028, women, young people and people with disabilities are increasingly active and empowered in the delivery of sustainable, climate resilient WASH services and behaviours.

- Communities have strengthened their oversight role on District Assembly performance in aligning WASH and climate change.
- Communities realise gender-responsive and inclusive water security outcomes that are affordable and have realistic management practices.

20. Dauda, L., & Gyasi, R. M. (2021). A review of water storage infrastructure development in Northern Ghana. *Water Policy*, 23(5), 1045-1060.

Outcome 3

Increase international and national climate funding for WASH to enable people living in poverty to adapt and build resilience by 2028.

- WASH and climate change adaptation are well-aligned and reflected in national commitments and policies.
- MDAs/MMDAs design marketable proposals to unlock climate funding.
- High water users contribute on a continual basis to improving water security and climate resilience for people vulnerable to the effects of climate change.

How will we deliver the outcomes?

We will seek to build alliances and partnerships that facilitate sustained coordination, planning, funding, implementation and learning among stakeholders to achieve resilient WASH services and behaviours in focused districts for wider uptake and replication.

Coordination, planning and accountability

- In partnership with the Environmental Protection Agency and focused districts, we will identify climate change problems experienced over the past 50 years and those we might face in the next 50 years.
- In partnership with critical stakeholders at local and national levels, we will establish social accountability platforms to ensure that climate resilient WASH outcomes are affordable to users, without imposing an unrealistic management burden on communities holding duty bearers to account.
- We will enhance our Securing Water Resources Approach to continuously improve access to water for people living in poverty, with a focus on good-quality, well-managed water resources, well-managed water supply services and disaster risk management.
- We will champion the call for development partners to support district Climate Vulnerability Assessments to inform adaptation plans that align WASH and climate change.

- We will champion an implementation manual to support all 261 MMDAs with Climate Vulnerability Assessments and adaptation plans.
- We will work with the National Development Planning Commission to document successes and challenges with Climate Vulnerability Assessments and the adaptation planning process to improve replication and wider uptake in the sector and beyond.
- We will prioritise assembly specific Climate Vulnerability Assessments in focused districts, that contextualise indicators and engage the right stakeholders, including women, young people and people with disabilities. This will contribute to critical national priorities in addressing 'No Climate Resilience without WASH'.
- Together with the Ministry of Sanitation and Water Resources, the Environmental Protection Agency, development partners, the private sector, the media and other relevant stakeholders, we will help prioritise collaborative planning in determining sector contributions to inform the upcoming Nationally Determined Contributions review in 2024.
- In partnership with the Ministry of Sanitation and Water Resources, we will accelerate and sustain the interest and use of these Nationally Determined Contributions informed by Climate Vulnerability Assessments and district adaptation and investment plans.

Strategic partnerships and alliance building

- Together with the Ministry of Sanitation and Water Resources and the Ministry of Local Government, Decentralisation and Rural Development, we will facilitate and strengthen collaboration between WASH-focused and climate change-focused organisations, and address the gaps between WASH and climate change at national and local levels while deepening engagement with the private sector and the media.

Capacity and systems strengthening

- We will adopt a systems-strengthening approach informed by strong contextual analysis to support ten focused districts of the Upper East and Upper West Regions and Bongo District to understand climate vulnerabilities and threats.
- We will facilitate institutional capacity strengthening for national and sub-national government, service providers, communities, Development Partners and CSOs in focused districts, in collaboration with the Environmental Protection Agency.
- We will mobilise Development Partners to support the sector and reach more districts with local level engagement.
- We will provide training, tailored support and technical assistance to local governments to help them launch or deepen partnerships with the private sector on water management and sanitation solutions.
- We will support focused districts to design marketable proposals to unlock climate funding that prioritises WASH services and behaviours, delivering benefits to people vulnerable to the effects of climate change.

■ **Bukari Sulemana is the physician in charge at the Worikambo health centre, serving over seven thousand patients annually. In June 2021, WaterAid Ghana constructed a limited solar mechanised water system for the center. Now patients and health workers have access to clean water, for both personal and medical use.**

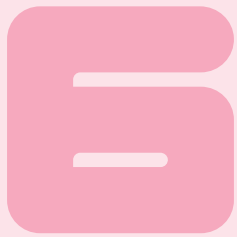


Evidence, learning and innovation

- Using Climate Vulnerability Assessments, we will facilitate district adaptation and investment plans that promote innovative financing to develop bankable projects and attract funding from local and international sources.
- We will use Climate Vulnerability Assessment results to enhance Draft Medium-Term Development Plans, district-wide WASH strategies, investment plans and WASH service delivery models.
- In partnership with youth-led private actors, we will prioritise adaptation and resilience and, where necessary, facilitate mitigation measures informed by relevant data to strengthen community conditions for water security and safely managed sanitation.

Empowerment and equality

- We will facilitate and raise the voices of women, young people and people living with disabilities to champion their right to a water supply that is safe, close to home and available all year round.
- We will facilitate engagement and awareness in our focused districts on the Nationally Determined Contributions process to ensure that women, young people and people with disabilities are increasingly active and empowered in the delivery of sustainable, climate resilient WASH services and behaviours.
- We will call upon high water use sectors to recognise and make WASH a priority, especially for women, girls and people with disabilities who are disproportionately affected by climate change.
- We will work with the Water Resources Commission to guide the allocation of water resource (surface and underground) budgets to high water use industries and utilities. We will guide water abstraction rates and safeguard watersheds in the Upper East and Upper West Regions to support ecosystems and the ever-increasing population.
- We will use this engagement to highlight the responsibility of high water users to ensure their operations do not pose a risk to water resources or people's right to water. Where necessary, we will challenge those who fall short.



Our approaches

Service delivery and capacity strengthening

We will model better service delivery and provide critical capacity strengthening at all levels. Our capacity strengthening will be informed by analysis and context needs. Where clear roles do not exist, we will support Bongo District Assembly to create and strengthen new structures. Over time, WASH sector players and service providers must become fully functional and independent from WaterAid Ghana (or other external) resources.

Evidence, learning and innovation

We will improve the sustainability and inclusion of WASH services and behaviours by engaging with and strengthening WASH systems. Our approach to strengthening systems is to convene relevant actors to analyse systems and their contexts, implement strategic activities (including integrating digital technologies) and reflect and learn together about how WASH services can be improved.

Advocacy and influencing

We will continue to leverage our service delivery work to maintain our credibility to participate in discussions around sector policies and strategies. We will take the lessons learned from Bongo District and bring them to the national level, helping to create an enabling environment for replication of sustainable, district-wide coverage.

We will use our progress in the Upper East Region as a 'proof of concept' under the three programme aims to promote a move towards universal access to safe, inclusive and sustainable WASH services and behaviours, and encourage replication across the country.

Strategic partnerships and alliance building

We will continue to improve integration and alliance building between the WASH sector and other areas of development including health, education, nutrition, environment (including water resources and climate change) and the private sector. Our partnerships will emphasise country ownership of this Country Programme Strategy, alignment with local systems and objectives and mutual accountability among key stakeholders. We will build on local institutions, processes and networking to achieve universal access to WASH by 2030.

Gender equality and gender responsive WASH

Using WaterAid's Rights-Based Approach, we will model partnerships with groups living with marginalisation and their representatives to address barriers to WASH access and encourage their participation. We will empower WASH sector players and service providers to understand providers to understand the needs of different users and be responsive to them. We will model a systems strengthening approach that addresses everyone's needs and build our thought leadership in menstrual health and hygiene for all.

Peace and security

The chieftaincy conflicts coupled with youth unemployment, poses a significant risk to peace, development, and economic growth in the targeted region of our Country Programme Strategy. Besides, the geography of northern Ghana makes it prone to cross-border crimes and threats of terrorism from the Sahel region. We will strengthen our capacity and that of key stakeholders, such as government agencies and local government units, to mainstream concerns for women, peace and security into our policies, plans, programmes and monitoring.



● Mercy, a WaterAid Ghana volunteer has been measuring groundwater levels in her community for the past 6 years. Because she can explain the behaviour of groundwater, vis a vis surface water, community members in Anafobissi rely on her for advice on managing water during the dry season.



Conclusion

WaterAid Ghana continues to build on strong foundations as we adapt and prepare for tomorrow in a rapidly changing context. In launching our Country Programme Strategy (2023–2028), we have a sense of both urgency and optimism for the future.

We are gravely concerned with the ongoing challenges of unequal access to WASH services due to an under-prioritised and under-resourced WASH sector, particularly considering growing inequality, youth unemployment, insecurity and climate change. However, we also recognise the unique progress of recent decades and the opportunities we have before us to achieve sustainable and safe access to WASH services and behaviours for every Ghanaian.

We want to be part of the solution to the most challenging problems in Ghana. We believe that our new Country Programme Strategy will help us to catalyse transformational change at scale. We are motivated by the opportunities before us to advance our mission and we are humbled knowing that we are stewards of a legacy of over three decades of service to millions of Ghanaians.

Together with our allies and supporters, we will work with determination and urgency towards our vision of a Ghana, where WaterAid no longer needs to exist.



● Double Chamber incinerator at Denugu Health Centre provided by WaterAid Ghana for healthcare waste management.

WaterAid is an international not-for-profit, determined to make clean water, decent toilets and good hygiene normal for everyone, everywhere within a generation. Only by tackling these three essentials in ways that last can people change their lives for good.



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