**Danida’s support to the Water and Sanitation Sector**

**Basic Information**

Danida’s first intervention in the water and sanitation sector happened under the Rural Water Supply and Sanitation Project (RWSSP) in Volta Region Phase 1 (1993-1997. Main activities included construction and rehabilitation of water systems, subsidised production of latrine slabs, centralized and decentralized capacity building in various areas, including operation and maintenance of water facilities.

**Support at-a-glance**

***Duration of support:***

1993 – 2012 (19 years)

***Total disbursement:***

DKK 1 billion (approx..)

***Key national partners:***

Ministry of Sanitation and Water Resources, Ministry of Local Government and Rural Development, Community Water and Sanitation Agency, Water Resources Commission, Water Research Institute, Ghana Meteorological Agency, Hydrological Services Department, the Office of the Head of Local Government Service, and the Coalition of NGOs in Water and Sanitation (CONIWAS).

***Geographical coverage:***

Volta, Eastern, Greater Accra and Central Regions benefitted directly from water supply and sanitation interventions, while all regions benefitted from decentralized institutional support.

***Key Outcomes:***

RWSSP (1993-1997): Improved water access for 195,000 village dwellers, subsidised production of 200 latrine slabs to selected communities in five districts of the Volta Region. Training in operation and maintenance of water facilities.

WSSPS 1 (1998-2003): One million people received access to clean drinking water. 13,750 household latrines and 1,074 latrines in public institutions were constructed.

WSSPS 2 (2004-2008): 1,235 deep wells fitted with hand pumps. 2,995 household latrines plus 42 public latrines (small towns). Legislation governing operations and groundwater development operationalized. Strengthened capacity of central and decentralized institutions and NGOs in the sector.

LSDGP (2009-2012): 415 new boreholes installed with hand pumps for 125,600 people. 195 school latrines. 8 new groundwater piped schemes for 40,138 people. 4 small-scale environmental sanitation infrastructure. Strengthened capacity of central and decentralized institutions and sector NGOs.

This project-based support dovetailed into the first phase of the Water Supply and Sanitation Programme Support (WSSPS 1: 1998-2003). Main activities of the sector programme were provision of rural water supply and sanitation facilities in three regions (TA input from Carl Bro to the Volta Region and COWI Consult to the Greater Accra and Eastern Regions); installation of water and sanitation facilities in small towns (TA input from COWI Consult); sector capacity-building for public and private stakeholders (TA input from PEM Consult); centralized capacity building in water resources management (TA input from NIRAS in co-operation with Hedeselskabet and Danish Meteorological Institute); and the promotion of hygiene awareness and practices in targeted communities.

The Water Supply and Sanitation Programme was extended for another four years (WSSPS 2: 2004-2008). The second phase was designed to support a more district-based implementation of water supply and sanitation requirements. It was based on a decentralised modality for poverty targeting, including implementation of district water and sanitation development plans. Main activities included provision of district-based water and sanitation facilities (TA-input from COWI Consult); strengthening the integrated water resources management (TA-input from NIRAS); promotion of school hygiene education (TA-input from a Danida Adviser); and support for policy analysis, monitoring and management (TA-input from PEM Consult), including support to sector NGOs and CSOs through the coalition of NGOs in Water and Sanitation (CONIWAS).

The final phase of support to the water and sanitation sector was through the Local Service Delivery and Governance Programme (LSDGP: 2009-2012) which was formulated based on best practices from the Water and Sanitation Sector Programme Support Phases I & II. Main activities included provision of improved water and sanitation facilities at the district level; hygiene promotion and education; strengthening capacity at the decentralized level, including mainstreaming water supply and sanitation activities into the planning and budgeting process at the local level; and support to NGOs in the sector through CONIWAS.

**Results and Key Achievements**

The Joint Evaluation of the Ghana-Denmark Development Co-operation (1990-2006) Final Thematic Paper on Water and Sanitation Sector found Danida’s support to the water and sanitation sector in Ghana to be consistent with national policy and to have addressed many policy and institutional development issues. The Country Assistance Strategy Assessment (2002) also noted that, “in line with its strategy to support the development of sector strategies and plans in areas where the Ghanaian Government had not yet prepared its ‘own’ programmes, Danida has been courageous in providing start-up funding for new institutions, in the sectors it has assisted, where it became necessary.” This observation was seen as mainly applying to the water sector. Furthermore, the Assessment noted that Danida was a consistent and reliable partner, providing significant support not only in the provision of water facilities, including access to clean water, but also in its commitment to capacity building in the sector. Danida has been in the forefront of implementation of decentralised water supply and private sector involvement in the construction of water and sanitation facilities (including household latrines and latrines for institutions). The Joint Evaluation also noted that “Danida is a pace setter in the implementation of decentralised water supply and private sector involvement in the construction of water and sanitation facilities.” According to ‘The Evaluation of Danish Support to Water Supply and Sanitation (1999-2005)’, which assessed the performance of bilateral Danish water supply and sanitation interventions in seven countries including Ghana, “Danida is a highly appreciated development partner because of the reliability and the continuity of its programmes and the substantial financial contributions and technical assistance.”

**Lessons Learned**

The Evaluation of Danish Support to Water Supply and Sanitation (1999-2005) strongly recommended the need for increased private sector involvement in water and sanitation investments, including maintenance and operation in sub-Saharan countries such as Ghana. It added that this could be preceded by investigating and stimulating the various options for increased private sector involvement in this activity. The establishment and operationalization of the District Works Department (DWD) under LSDGP helped to enhance a sense of ownership of the water and sanitation projects at the district level. The DWD is the department responsible for infrastructure (i.e. roads, water supply, sanitation and building) at the district level, in line with Ghana’s administrative decentralization agenda. Prior to this development, local ownership was a challenge during the project and programme phases where district water and sanitation teams (DWSTs) were directly recruited and paid by the project/programme and operated from project offices at the district level. Sector challenges included over-dependence on donor funding due to inadequate government funding, slow implementation of sector policies and limited development of the private sector.

**Links**

* Joint Evaluation of the Ghana-Denmark Development Co-operation 1990-2006 (2007): <https://um.dk/en/danida-en/results/eval/Eval_reports/publicationdisplaypage/?publicationID=78EEFD4A-6547-4CB8-A628-C0C3981817E1>
* Evaluation of Danish Support to Water Supply and Sanitation 1999-2005 (2007): <http://um.dk/en/danida-en/results/eval/Eval_reports/publicationdisplaypage/?publicationID=2A708A26-8249-45BF-8B92-D565D7E2AABF>