



Liberia Programme

Project title: High Level Capacity Building Support for Governance of the Liberia Water and Sanitation Sector

UNDP Country Office:
Liberia

Duration: 2 years 4 months
1 January 2011 – 30 April 2013

Background:

Globally, almost 1bn people lack clean drinking water; 2.4bn have no access to hygienic sanitation facilities; 1.2bn lack any sanitation facilities at all. Each day 5,000 children die due to preventable water and sanitation related diseases. It is estimated that women and children in Africa alone spend 40 billion hours every year fetching and carrying water – a figure equivalent to a years labour for the entire workforce of France. The UNDP GoAL WASH programme aims to accelerate the achievement of the water and sanitation Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) through strategically targeted interventions that strengthen governance of the water and sanitation sectors.

This project is designed to contribute to the government of Liberia (GoL) Poverty Reduction Strategy (PRS) Phase 1 (current PRS ends December 11) and Phase 2 (commencing 1 July 2012) which in turn support the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), in particular MDG 7, although WASH as the basis of preventative health impacts all the other seven MDGs as well.

Liberia is a poor West African country in a period of transition after over 23 years of civil conflict and humanitarian emergencies which saw the country's GDP per capita decline by 84% between 1980 (US\$800) and 2003 (US\$120)(LPRS, 2008). Out of a total population of 3,476,608 people (Census, 2008), nearly two out of three (63.8%) Liberians live below the poverty line (LPRS, 2008).

The proportion of Liberians with access to improved water (68%) and sanitation (17%) facilities are below regional averages for urban water supply, urban sanitation, and rural sanitation (JMP, 2010).

Expected Outcomes:

Strengthened national capacity to manage and plan the water and sanitation sector (WASH) able to promote equitable accessibility, availability and affordability for urban and rural areas and across gender, disability and ethnic boundaries.

Key Expected output:

Overall outputs:

Support the mandate of the **National Water Resources Supply Board (NWRSB)** through:

- Establishing an operational, effectively staffed and resourced **National Water, Sanitation and Hygiene Promotion Committee (NWSHPC)** able to operationalize - sector policy, strategy, planning, technical support, coordination, M&E, human resource development, capacity building, decentralization and programs
- Establishing an operational, effectively staffed and resourced **Water Supply and Sanitation Commission (WSSC)**, able to promote a clear and comprehensive regulatory framework for Water Supply and Sanitation
- Raised national awareness on the need for safe drinking water and sanitation and hygiene

Key outputs are:

1. Advocate for the executive order for the establishment of the NWRSB
2. Coordinate the mobilization of the NWSHPC
3. Secure financial resources for NWSHPC and WSSC
4. Secure infrastructure and support resources for NWSHPC and WSSC
5. Advise and assist with the recruitment of professional staff for NWSHPC and WSSC including managing consultancies for establishing regulations
6. Establish work programme for NWSHPC and WSSC
7. Support advocacy and awareness raising for safe drinking water and sanitation, including facilitating cross country learning
8. Review scope and mandate of NWSHPC and WSSC

Target group:

This project will directly benefit the government ministries responsible for the WASH sector in Liberia: - Lands, Mines and Energy, Health, Public Works and Water and Sewer. Indirectly the entire population will benefit through improved public service in the WASH sector.

Implementing partner:

UNDP Liberia Country Office

Other partners:

Government of Liberia and Civil Society

Context analysis:

Water governance in Liberia is currently characterised by a multitude of fragmented and uncoordinated responsibilities between different ministries and entities, against a background of gravely inadequate water and sanitation services in both urban and rural districts. However a framework for a more coherent institutional structure has been approved, which proposes the establishment of a National Water Resources and Sanitation Board (NWRSB) under the aegis of the Minister of Lands, Mines and Energy (MLME). This board will have representation from the key ministries involved in delivering water supply and sanitation. The workhorses of the board will be a National Water, Sanitation and Hygiene Promotion Committee (NWSHPC) and a Water Supply and Sanitation Commission (WSSC) which will both have operational responsibility. (Annex 1 institutional framework structure). The NWSHPC, which will be staffed by a Coordinator and an Administrator, will be comprised of technocrats representing the NWRSB, and the WSSC will be comprised of Experts in Water & Sanitation, Economics, Sociology, Law, Public Health, Environment, Finance, who will regulate Tariffs, Licenses, PPPs, Service Standards, Water Laws compliance.

Intervention Strategy:

The project will support the Ministry of Public Works in making operational the NWSHPC and the Ministry of Lands, Mines and Energy in making operational the WSSC. This will be achieved by appointing Senior Technical Advisers to the ministries whose central roles will be to ensure that the NWSHPC and the WSSC become operational. This will entail securing effective budgetary and other financial support for these bodies, advising on staffing and assisting with external recruitment with national counterparts as necessary, designing a work plan with prioritized outputs, working with other public sector and civil society organisations to raise the national awareness of the need for safe drinking water and sanitation, and reviewing the scope and mandates of the NWSHPC and WSSC. The NWSHPC will become the key coordinating entity for the WASH sector and the WSSC will, perform a regulatory function under the oversight of the NWRSB, and will be in a position to drive further institutional development. In order to ensure sustainability of the project the Senior Technical Advisers will be coupled with National Coordinators thus ensuring capacity building and national ownership which will ultimately take over NWSHPC and WSSC leadership.

Coordination and synergies with other projects and actors:

The overarching problem in terms of the water and sanitation sector is the lack of a governing body. There are a myriad of challenges as a result of this such as a lack of coordination and synergy with other projects and actors. This project will therefore effectively raise the performance and effectiveness of the sector by working to enhance mutual accountability and a collective coordinated effort between Government Ministries, Departments and Agencies, as well as bilateral and multilateral agencies.

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INSTITUTIONAL FRAMEWORKS FOR WATER AND SANITATION SECTOR



