

## *SDG 6 IWRM Support Programme*

### Stage 1

#### Stakeholder Consultation Report

SDG 6.5.1, degree of implementation of IWRM

Ghana

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# Stakeholder Consultation Report for SDG 6.5.1

## Executive Summary

The Water Resources Commission (WRC) is the national authority responsible for managing freshwater bodies in Ghana and also in charge of reporting on SDG 6.5. Accordingly, WRC initiated the process of filling out the country survey instrument for S.D.G indicator 6.5.1 in early May 2020.

WRC received support from the SDG 6 IWRM Support Programme towards broadening the consultation process. Over thirty (30) stakeholders participated in a series of physical (face-to-face) and virtual meetings. To this end, UNICEF agreed and hosted two virtual meetings on 3<sup>rd</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> July 2020. The first virtual meeting introduced and explained the country survey instrument to participants, while the second was the validation of the filled template. In between the virtual meetings, four (4) physical meetings were held with the stakeholders, who were put into four (4) groups.

Each group filled sections of the survey instrument for which they had expertise. For instance, the group that filled Section 1 on Enabling Environment, were drawn from the Ministry of Sanitation and Water Resources, Local government authorities and water supply organisations. However, some groups filled two sections. The diversity of the stakeholders from different sectors contributed richly to filling of the survey instrument. Interactions were very lively and the stakeholders appreciated the self-evaluation nature of the survey. Discussions were critically objective.

A Core Team, made up of WRC and Ghana Country Water Partnership representatives, compiled all the responses, after which the Technical Committee with representatives of all the groups that filled the survey instrument harmonised and agreed on the score for each question, leading to the country score and its validation by stakeholders.

In the end, the country score for 2020 monitoring and reporting exercise was 57%, marked by 8 percentage point increase from the 2017/8 baseline score of 49%. In general, there has been improvements in all the sections, ranging from an increase of 8% to 11%. For instance, under Enabling Environment, the National Water Policy is undergoing review while other regulations for managing water resources are being implemented nationwide. Further, under Financing, government funding for IWRM related activities in sectors such as agriculture and energy has increased from the national outlook for the period under review. The gains made are worth noting and resulted in the increase recorded in the 2020 assessment. The filled survey instrument was submitted to UNEP-DHI on 24<sup>th</sup> July 2020 and available upon request at WRC.

## Introduction

The Water Resources Commission (WRC), the national authority responsible for managing freshwater bodies in Ghana and also in charge of reporting on SDG 6.5., initiated the process of filling out the country survey instrument for S.D.G indicator 6.5.1 in early May, 2020.

WRC benefited from the SDG 6 IWRM Support Programme towards broadening the consultation process. Over thirty (30) stakeholders participated in a series of physical (face-to-face) and virtual meetings. UNICEF agreed and hosted two virtual meetings on 3<sup>rd</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> July 2020, which were held to introduce and explain the country survey instrument to participants, and to validate the filled template, respectively. In between the virtual meetings, four (4) physical meetings were held with the stakeholders, who were put into four (4) groups.

The process ended with a validated filled survey instrument by all the stakeholders after it had been harmonised by a Core Team and Technical Committee (comprising representatives of the four groups). In the end, the country score for the 2020 monitoring and reporting exercise was 57%, which is 8 percentage point increase from the 2017/8 baseline score of 49%.

This report presents the results of the facilitated discussions held on all the four (4) sections of the survey instrument. For each section, the key points and overall messages from the roundtable discussions and feedback, as well as inputs received outside of the meeting/workshop are presented. It also includes relevant points made to justify the rationale for certain scoring, or divergences in scoring where applicable (e.g. between different stakeholder groups, differences in scores from different areas/levels). These are addressed and presented under five (5) major questions:

- a) What are the main challenges to progress in the country?
- b) How can the main challenges be addressed?
- c) At the question level or in general, what is the perceived rate of progress, and what is the likelihood of reaching High or Very high implementation by 2030? Is there a need for national (interim) target setting (which may be taken up in more detail in Stage 2 of the SDG 6 IWRM Support Programme)?
- d) What are the major points stakeholders do not agree on and why?
- e) Other interesting points of note from the discussion?

## 1. Conclusions of the Facilitated Discussions on Section 1: 'Enabling Environment'

- a) What are the main challenges to progress in the country?
  - Limited communication and knowledge base on National Water Policy objectives and implementation.
  - Limited enforcement of regulations on IWRM.
- b) How can the main challenges be addressed?
  - Strengthen communication and knowledge base for the National Water Policy formulation and implementation.
  - Strengthen collaboration with security agencies for enforcement of IWRM related regulations.

c) At the question level or in general, what is the perceived rate of progress, and what is the likelihood of reaching High or Very high implementation by 2030? Is there a need for national (interim) target setting (which may be taken up in more detail in Stage 2 of the SDG 6 IWRM Support Programme)?

- From the stakeholder consultations, participants critically analyzed the status of the country in relation to the questions and block of answers provided. Ghana obtained a score of 67% which is in the “Medium-High” score range. This 2020 score is an increase of 11 percentage points over the baseline score of 56% (2017) and is 4 percentage points below the “High” score range. The progress is quite significant and slight effort will lead to a score in the “High” score range. Setting an intermediate target now is too early and, therefore, a determination will be made by the end of next reporting exercise.

d) What are the major points stakeholders do not agree on and why?

- There were no major disagreement points. The stakeholders are inclined to policy formulation and implementation processes and appreciate the associated challenges.

e) Other interesting points of note from the discussion?

- None.

## **2. Conclusions of the Facilitated Discussions on Section 2: ‘Institutions and Participation’**

a) What are the main challenges to progress in the country?

- Lack of national monitoring and evaluation plan that harmonises IWRM elements of the relevant sectors such as mining, irrigation, environment and energy.
- Limited knowledge and capacity of stakeholders including traditional authorities, district assemblies for IWRM implementation at local level.
- Limited engagement with the private sector in IWRM initiatives.
- Lack of formal representation of the public in contributing to decision making on important issues and activities.

b) How can the main challenges be addressed?

- Develop M&E Plan for IWRM across sectors for effective implementation and management.
- Build capacity of stakeholders through mainstreaming of water resources related actions and implementation across all levels.
- Map out opportunities to engage the private sector for IWRM participation.
- Initiate processes towards formal representation of the public in IWRM processes towards decision making on important issues and activities.

c) At the question level or in general, what is the perceived rate of progress, and what is the likelihood of reaching High or Very high implementation by 2030? Is there a need for national (interim) target setting (which may be taken up in more detail in Stage 2 of the SDG 6 IWRM Support Programme)?

- The stakeholders acknowledge the strides made over the reporting period and scored 61%. This score is in the “Medium-High” score range. The progress made as compared to the

baseline is a 6-percentage point increase and shows 10 percentage points below the “High” score range. Going forward, any increase in the score hinges on a sustained commitment towards improvement in the country’s outlook in the next reporting horizon. Setting intermediate target now will be premature and a determination will be made at the end of next reporting exercise.

d) What are the major points stakeholders do not agree on and why?

- There was consensus in all the discussion points.

e) Other interesting points of note from the discussion?

- None.

### **3. Conclusions of the Facilitated Discussions on Section 3: ‘Management Instruments’**

a) What are the main challenges to progress in the country?

- Limited sites for continuous groundwater monitoring.
- Limited implementation of effluent standards.
- Flood and drought early warning system is limited to some basins.

b) How can the main challenges be addressed?

- Retool the primary hydrological stations and expand the hydrogeological network for continuous surface and groundwater monitoring.
- Upscale the flood and drought early warning systems (FEWS and DEWS) to other at-risk areas in the country.
- Develop the effluent discharge and pollution control regulations while reviewing guidelines for water quality.

c) At the question level or in general, what is the perceived rate of progress, and what is the likelihood of reaching High or Very high implementation by 2030? Is there a need for national (interim) target setting (which may be taken up in more detail in Stage 2 of the SDG 6 IWRM Support Programme)?

- The stakeholders scored 48%, an increase of 8 percentage points from the baseline score of 40% (2017). This score is in the “Medium-Low” score range, and is 3 percentage points below the “Medium-High” score range. To reach the “High” score range looks quite daunting. Clearly, sustaining the gains and building on it requires commitment to bring about the desired positive change. At this point, it is appropriate to work with the global target and is early to set intermediate target.

d) What are the major points stakeholders do not agree on and why?

- Data generation has cost implications. Some stakeholders opine that data should be free. Others want the data free of charge, depending on usage.

e) Other interesting points of note from the discussion?

- None

#### 4. Conclusions of the Facilitated Discussions on Section 4: 'Financing'

a) What are the main challenges to progress in the country?

- Insufficient government funding for IWRM planned elements.
- Capacity gaps exist for drawing budget for implementation in some projects.
- Micro-management of projects limits drawing of funds for implementation of IWRM elements.

b) How can the main challenges be addressed?

- Develop and implement strategies to increase Internally Generated Funds (IGF).
- Engage the Ministry of Finance for increase in government budgetary allocations and disbursement to implement IWRM elements.
- Attract the private sector to participate in identification and invest in water resources infrastructure/development projects.

c) At the question level or in general, what is the perceived rate of progress, and what is the likelihood of reaching High or Very high implementation by 2030? Is there a need for national (interim) target setting (which may be taken up in more detail in Stage 2 of the SDG 6 IWRM Support Programme)?

- The stakeholder consultations afforded participants critical assessment of funding for IWRM elements in the water and water related sectors including agriculture, energy and environment. The 2020 score of 52% is an increase of 8 percentage points from the 44% scored in 2017. Government funds alone cannot be adequate and therefore, developing bankable proposals and attracting the private sector will help boost financial resource mobilization. A 19 percentage points below "High" score range is a formidable task to achieve but sustained commitment can improve performance. A mid-term evaluation will assess options for intermediate target setting, or otherwise.

d) What are the major points stakeholders do not agree on and why?

The sectoral perspectives e.g. finance, water user, data management, civil society, private sector and water related regulation influenced the extent of financing IWRM.

e) Other interesting points of note from the discussion?

- The representative from Ministry of Finance explained that government funding of key projects and programmes contributed to funding of IWRM elements that are water related in other sectors of the economy. He noted for instance the government funded flagship One-Village-One-Dam programme under the agricultural sector among other interventions.

#### 5. Next Steps

The next steps are on the key points from the closing remarks and comments, including cross-cutting challenges and ways to overcome them, reflections on the overall rate of progress and likelihood of achieving global targets by 2030, recommendations for accelerating IWRM implementation, and follow-up actions for the continuous monitoring of the SDG 6.5.1 indicator in the country.

- In his closing remarks during the validation meeting, the Executive Secretary of WRC, Mr. Ben Ampomah appreciated stakeholders for the inputs made in filling the survey instrument and commitment demonstrated throughout the consultative process.
- He noted that the country score of 57% was a significant leap into the “Medium-High” score range compared to the baseline score (49% in 2017).
- He hoped for a continued stakeholder collaboration and demonstration of collective resolve to improve the country performance in the next monitoring and reporting exercise and towards sustainability of the gains made.
- Ghana appears to be doing well in the policy and regulatory environment and Institutions and Participation. However, gender related WRM interventions need to be given attention as well as engagement of the private sector in IWRM participation.
- Achieving global targets for management instruments and financing looks quite daunting. However, going forward, collaboration among the relevant stakeholders will help implement actions that would bring about the needed results for positive outlook of the country.

## **ANNEXES**

Annex 1: List of Participants

Annex 2: Agenda

Annex 3: Facilitator’s Comments

Annex 4: Photos

### Annex 1: List of Participants

#### Workshop participants – Physical and Virtual

No	Name	Organization	Position	Email address
1	Ewuradjoa Dadzie	Ministry of Sanitation & Water Resources	Officer	<a href="mailto:fedeld@yahoo.com">fedeld@yahoo.com</a>
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20	Maxwell Boateng-Gyimah	Ghana Country Water Partnership	Executive Secretary / Project Manager	<a href="mailto:boatgyimax2@gmail.com">boatgyimax2@gmail.com</a>
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		Scientific & Industrial Research		
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**Annex 2: Agenda**

**STAKEHOLDER CONSULTATIVE MEETINGS ON SDG 6.5.1 (IWRM) COUNTRY MONITORING AND REPORTING FOR 2020**

**VENUE: CONFERENCE ROOM, WATER RESOURCES COMMISSION**

**DATE: MAY - JULY 2020**

No.	Date/Activity	Institution/Organisation
	6 <sup>th</sup> May 2020	- WRC/GWP CORE TEAM
	3 <sup>rd</sup> July: Zoom Meeting with all Stakeholders	
	<b>IN PERSON (PHYSICAL) MEETINGS</b>	
1	Monday, 6 <sup>th</sup> July 2020  ENABLING ENVIRONMENT / FINANCING	- Ministry of Sanitation and Water Resources
2		- Community Water & Sanitation Agency
3		- Ga South Municipal Assembly
4		- Ghana Water Company Limited
5	Tuesday, 7 <sup>th</sup> July 2020  INSTITUTIONS AND PARTICIPATION	- Ministry of Finance
6		- Civil Society
		- Environmental Protection Agency
7		- Ga West Municipal Assembly
8	Wednesday, 8 <sup>th</sup> July 2020  MANAGEMENT INSTRUMENTS	- Association of Ghana Industries
9		- Ghana Irrigation Development Agency
10		- Hydrological Services Department
11		- Ghana Meteorological Agency
12	Thursday, 9 <sup>th</sup> July 2020  INSTITUTIONS AND PARTICIPATION	- Water Research Institute
13		- Volta River Authority
		- Ministry of Food and Agriculture
		- Forestry Commission
21	Virtual Meetings	- Coalition of NGOs in Water & Sanitation
22		- Densu Basin Officer
23		- IWA - Young Water Professional
24		- IWA REP
25		- The Netherlands Embassy
	13-14 July 2020: Harmonization of group work by core team (WRC/CWP)	
	15-16 July 2020: Technical Committee meeting	
	21 <sup>st</sup> July : Virtual Validation Meeting with participants	
	24 <sup>th</sup> July: Submission of Draft report	

### **Annex 3: Facilitator's Comments**

The facilitation of the SDG indicator 6.5.1 on Degree of IWRM implementation in Ghana was undertaken and successfully implemented with the filling and submission of the associated survey instrument in a timely manner.

The enrolment and participation in the training programme implemented by GWP and partners was very useful. The training material was helpful and encouraged learning in a more comprehensive manner. The case studies were informative and allowed for consideration of country context and perspectives.

The broad participation and institutional representation was key to allow for diversity and capturing information on how individuals interacted and institutions participated in IWRM across all levels. This “mix” of stakeholders that responded to each of the four (4) sections of the survey instrument fostered learning while at the same time enabled sharing useful information and the progress made in IWRM processes in Ghana.

The 2020 score of 57% in the “Medium High” range for Ghana is in the right direction. A lot of work has been done in the last three (3) years in all the IWRM focus areas. At the same time, the country should aspire higher and be more ambitious if the target by 2030 is to be met. This calls for more commitment, improving partnerships, and working together for the collective good.

It is worth mentioning the support received from UNICEF, Ghana, in assisting the process by hosting the virtual meetings. The GWP global, regional and country offices played key roles in providing technical and financial support that are worth commending. UNEP-DHI support in clarifying the purpose and available opportunities of the monitoring and reporting for SDG6.5.1 is also appreciated.

We have had a very good consultative process and we can only improve this to get other stakeholders on board to further broaden the frontiers of institutions and participation. We look forward to the next monitoring and reporting season.

### Annex 4: Photos



In Person Meetings with Stakeholders, Observing COVID Protocols