

# Local Government Capacity Programme

LGCP | Country programme 2012-2016

## > Ghana



<b>OBJECTIVE</b>	Better sanitation facilities for the population
<b>TARGET GROUP</b>	5 local governments and the national association of local government NALAG
<b>INTENDED RESULT</b>	Local governments can develop and implement sanitation programmes
<b>ACTIVITIES</b>	On-the-job coaching, training, benchmarking, platform meetings with the target group

Dirty public toilets, poor drainage and waste processing lead to the spread of disease. A large part of the Ghanaian population deals with this on a daily basis. Only 13 percent of the population has access to toilet facilities of an acceptable level.

Local governments should play a central role in setting up and maintaining sustainable sanitation facilities. Unfortunately they are often not able to do so. The Ghanaian government recognises the problem of the lack of good sanitation facilities and developed strategies for improvement. With the execution of these strategies at local level, a lot is again expected of local governments.

### SANITATION SERVICES

The LGCP Ghana programme wants to contribute to the development of knowledge and experience with municipal sanitation services. The focus is on councillors and local council staff of 5 selected local governments and on the National Association of Local Authorities of Ghana (NALAG).

In this manner the LGCP contributes to the goals of the Ghanaian government and complements the activities of the Royal Netherlands Embassy in Accra, in the area of water and sanitation facilities.

- The Ghanaian local governments are going to exchange the experiences and successful interventions of this programme. Nationally they are disseminated via the national association of local government. •



# Ghana

• **'Many local administrators realise the importance of sanitation facilities, but they do not have the necessary funds. So they have to raise money, through local taxation or by asking citizens for a fee for the use of the public toilets. But many people cannot or do not want to pay taxes or fees. They might be willing to do so if the municipal facilities were clean, but they are not. And the local government does not have the money for maintenance. A vicious circle.'**

Suzanne Valkman, Country Programme Manager of LGCP Ghana •

## Background

Economically things have been going well for Ghana in the last few years, but in the area of sanitation facilities the country still has a long way to go. Toilet facilities are completely lacking in many places.

The Ghanaian central government is asking local councillors and their staff to prepare plans for improving the situation in their region before 2015 and to implement those plans in the short term. However, local governments often lack the knowledge and experience. The necessary funds are also lacking.

## Aim

The LGCP wants to enhance the capacity of 5 local governments in the area of sanitation facilities. The key point in the approach is cost control of the services and capacity building for the planning, budgeting, implementation and maintaining of the facilities. Alignment is sought with the District Environmental Sanitation Strategy and Action Plans.

There has been previous cooperation with the selected Ghanaian local governments. The new programme is based in part on the experience gained then, the network which was built up and the relationship of trust. Due to the involvement of the Ministry of Local Government and Rural Development and the national association of local government, it is possible to share the results and experience nationally and thus considerably increase the scope of the programme.

## Activities

After extensive consultation with Ghanaian and Dutch local governments, it was decided that the focus of the LGCP activities will be on:

- Data gathering and analysis;
- Budgeting and cost control;
- Maintenance of facilities;
- Monitoring and assessment;
- Internal knowledge management;
- Change in conduct.

Knowledge exchange and capacity building takes place by means of on-the-job coaching projects, benchmarking (exchange of experiences between local governments), participative workshops and training by municipal experts. In addition, platform meetings with all parties involved must help increase the supporting base for the municipal sanitation strategy.

## → What do we want to achieve?

- **Enhanced capacity of 5 local governments to develop District Environmental Sanitation Strategies and Action Plans and generate the necessary funds.**
- **Enhanced capacity of 5 local governments to implement those strategies and action plans, with permanent results.**
- **Enhanced capacity to monitor and assess the activities and learn from them.**
- **The 5 local governments and the national association have learned to closely involve interested external parties in the preparing and implementation of the local strategies and action plans for better sanitation facilities.**



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