

CAPACITY STATEMENT

Water, Sanitation and Health (WASH)

World Vision
GHANA

About World Vision

World Vision is a Christian humanitarian organization dedicated to working with children, families, and their communities worldwide to reach their full potential by tackling the causes of poverty and injustice. World Vision serves all people, regardless of religion, race, ethnicity, or gender. In Ghana, World Vision began operations in 1979 and is currently in 14 out of the 16 regions.

WVG has 154 staff members, 70% of whom work at the field level i.e., communities and districts in broad areas such as health; education; livelihoods; food security; child protection; economic empowerment; and water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH).

WASH Programme Overview

Nearly 40 years, World Vision's work in the WASH sector has grown exponentially. In recent years our WASH programming grew substantially enabling us now to directly impact about 100,000 people each year with access to clean water. With more than sixty (60) WASH project officers and technical staff members guiding our work in sixteen (16) Area Programmes, World Vision Ghana has emerged as a leader in its commitment to accelerate universal and equitable access to WASH services under Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 6.

Driven by the vision of transformative WASH for child well-being, World Vision Ghana's strategic direction is laid out in our **WASH Business Plan (2021 to 2025)**, which outlines World Vision's intent to provide universal WASH access in Ghana, with an emphasis on reaching the most vulnerable. The business plan uses a diversified funding approach, pooling multiple financial streams to accomplish activities and leveraging a flexible revenue base of private funding to raise additional funds.

World Vision's four WASH business plan goals are:

- Accelerating universal and equitable access to WASH services under SDG 6
- Deepening our focus on the most vulnerable, especially in fragile contexts
- Demonstrating sustainable impact
- Leveraging a \$1 billion business plan to mobilize financing for WASH services

Yearly targets of our WASH Programme include providing:

- Providing vulnerable communities with safer, more accessible water
- Contributing to improved sanitation in communities
- Educating communities on improved hygiene practices
- Ensuring healthcare facilities and schools have improved WASH services





Partnerships for Effective WASH

World Vision Ghana collaborates with local community groups, National governments and donor organizations to address the most pressing WASH challenges where we work. Together with our partners, we develop joint efforts that leverage resources to achieve shared objectives.

In terms of multilateral organizations, World Vision Ghana has partnered with the World Health Organization since 2013, particularly in support of quality WASH services in healthcare facilities and ensuring that drinking water systems meet water quality standards.

Recently, we developed a new partnership with the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine to assess the impact of Nurturing Care Groups and Market-Based Sanitation Approaches for achieving basic household sanitation and driving hygiene behaviour change at scale.

The University of North Carolina Water Institute (UNC) has been a key learning partner for World Vision since 2015, collaborating in the areas of research in WASH studies.

Programme Approaches

Our WASH technical approaches in communities, schools, and healthcare facilities, include:

- Water supply and quality
- Sanitation and hygiene
- Governance and Finance
- Water security and resilience

Water Supply and Quality

To achieve universal coverage plans, World Vision Ghana works with governments at the National level. It embraces a holistic approach to helping communities advance up the SDG drinking water service ladder by supporting targeted investments in new infrastructure, rehabilitation of existing infrastructure, innovation and technology and strengthening of management systems to promote safe and reliable water.

World Vision Ghana prioritizes improved water quality that meets World Health Organization and national water quality standards. We do this by building the capacity of government water technical services, to perform water quality tests at the source and households, and endorses water system construction with certified water system components (e.g., pipes). We also support governments to provide flowing water, free from bacterial and chemical contamination. New water systems are tested and analyzed before they are commissioned for use. We also promote ongoing, routine water quality monitoring and analysis for the continual delivery of high-quality drinking water.

We also prioritise the mechanization of high-yield water sources, generally using solar-powered pumps, installing solar micro-grids and battery systems as a sustainable source of energy in critical facilities in communities e.g., schools and health care institutions along with WASH infrastructure. Because of our expertise with solar power, WVG is exploring opportunities to leverage WASH funding to meet the energy needs of other critical facilities in communities we are working in.

Sanitation and Hygiene

World Vision Ghana tackles sanitation and hygiene with a multipronged approach. We work simultaneously to bolster demand for sanitation products through tested and emerging methodologies, identify and fill supply gaps, engender behaviour change through people-centred approaches, and improve governance and financing to drive district-wide universal service coverage.

Our current model moves beyond the Community-Led Total Sanitation approach and focuses on the entire sanitation value chain. For example, it stimulates demand and provides a variety of products and financing options for the poor and marginalised while helping to drive behaviour change and sustainable enterprise development.

For hygiene, we promote the adoption of WASH behaviour such as handwashing with soap and running water at critical times into our WASH programming in communities, schools and healthcare facilities to influence social perceptions and norms that can transform communities to achieve sustained impact. We also promote modifying physical environments to support and sustain new behaviours through engaging and mobilizing community influencers, including faith leaders, educators, mothers in leadership positions, and community health workers.

World Vision's eight essential WASH behaviours include:

- › Handwashing with soap and flowing water at critical times
- › Safe construction and proper/hygienic use of toilets
- › Safe disposal of infant/child faeces in a toilet (linked with toilet use)
- › Separation of children from soil and animal faeces
- › Households treat, handle, and store their drinking water with appropriate methods
- › Safe use and disposal (or cleaning if reusable) of menstrual hygiene materials
- › Food hygiene (including eating utensils and eating area)
- › Paying for water use

Governance and Finance

Improved WASH governance and financing—including reengineering community-based management approaches, strengthening regulatory oversight, and implementing innovative financing approaches are critical to achieving progress under SDG 6 (clean water and sanitation for all). To ensure the long-term impact of our work, we embrace a systems-based approach by leveraging the capacities of local stakeholders, such as district and national governments.

We also explore creative financing measures, such as leveraging capital markets, facilitating public-private partnerships, and tapping microfinance institutions for household water connections and better sanitation facilities. World Vision Ghana supports the development of district-level WASH service plans and uses life cycle costing to build awareness among users of how much annual funding is required for the upkeep and maintenance of water systems.

For new WASH infrastructure, World Vision Ghana has applied blended financing strategies with promising results. We encourage decentralized agencies of government to set aside a dedicated budget annually for water system maintenance, ensuring that ongoing costs do not become a barrier to sustained WASH access. When appropriate, WVG assists in creating an automated fee collection system to ensure consistent and equitable collection of water-user fees.

Water Security and Resilience

Recognizing that climate change has the potential to both reverse decades of progress on water access and impact local hydrological cycles, World Vision Ghana prioritizes climate-resilient WASH services “beyond the pipe”, to ensure the integrity of ecosystems, catchments and the mitigation of pollutants.

Additionally, water resource management such as forest conservation, farmer-managed natural regeneration, erosion control, and groundwater recharge helps to safeguard investments in drinking water infrastructure.

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Robel Lambisso Wamisho
The WASH Programme Manager
Robel_Lambisso_Wamisho@wvi.org
+233506385839

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