The African Development Bank in Action
Activities in the water and sanitation sector in Ghana – March, 2012

Overview and key elements of interventions


- It has invested over USD 1.6 billion on concessionary terms in all sectors of the country’s economy.
- In the water and sanitation sector, the Bank has financed two projects, for close to USD 88.2 million.
- The Bank currently has one on-going project, the Accra Sewerage Improvement Project, having concluded and closed a Rural Water Supply and Sanitation Project in Ashanti Region in December 2011.
- In addition to these, the Bank through the African Water Facility Trust Fund (AWFTF) has recently approved three grants, two for projects and one for a study, all totalling EUR 4.1 million.

- In line with the Bank’s Medium Term Strategy 2008 - 2012 and the Government’s new Medium Term National Development Policy Framework (MTNDPF 2010 – 2015), it is anticipated that the Bank will continue to be a key development partner in Ghana’s water and sanitation sector.

Ongoing projects

Accra Sewerage Improvement Project Approved in 2006 (UA 51.74 million).
The Project Objectives are: (i) To provide an improved and extended sewerage and sanitation system for disposing of waste water from the city of Accra, in an environmentally and socially acceptable manner, to meet the demand up to year 2020; (ii) To strengthen the Accra Metropolitan Assembly (AMA) so that it can operate and maintain the system on a sustainable basis.

The main components of the project are: a) Infrastructure provision consisting of construction of sewage treatment plants to treat 12,358m³ of sewerage effluent per day, rehabilitation and extension of 63.1km Sewerage Network and 147 public toilets and 37 septage reception tanks; b) Institutional Strengthening consisting of Staff training and institutional strengthening of Accra Metropolitan Assembly, supply of sewer maintenance equipment; and c) project management.

The project was projected to impact 2.97 million people in urban and peri urban Accra.

The total cost of the project is UA 51.74 million.

The Objective of the project is to build national capacity for planning and delivery of pro-poor water, Sanitation and hygiene (WASH) services for accelerating sustainable access to urban sanitation and water supply.
Pilot infrastructure in the three towns of Ashaiman, Mankessim and Huni Valley to demonstrate the participatory approach involving community based organisations, local government and the private sector together with innovative technologies and approaches for more efficient and sustainable service provision in poor urban areas. Local and national learning Alliances will improve the enabling environment for replication and scaling up of successful approaches.

The total cost of the project is EUR 1.98 million.


The Objective of the project is to demonstrate the benefits of the reuse of nutrients and water in improving sanitation schemes in Ghana by shifting the design focus from disposal to productive reuse; capturing the economic, social and environmental benefits that will provide incentives and help finance robust sanitation schemes; and strengthening the human and institutional capacity for reuse-oriented sanitation and preparing against climate variability.

The four value chains of reuse in irrigation, aquaculture in maturation ponds and the use of compost and biogas will be studied and implementation plans elaborated for specific existing plants.

The total cost of the project is EUR 0.50 million.


The Objective of the project is to produce technically and economically feasible reoperation plans which will retain existing benefits of Akosombo and Kpong operations while reintroducing lost livelihoods and ecosystems functions and generate knowledge for wider application. A reoperation study, an experimental reoperation demonstration and monitoring and a global learning program shall be implemented.

The total cost of the project is EUR 1.61 million.

* 1UA = 1 Unit of Account ≈ USD 1.5 as of September 2010

Akosombo dam