

## Capacity building in Water Quality Monitoring and Surveillance in Ghana

In Ghana, inadequate water and sanitation contributes to 70% of the diseases and an estimated 60% of water related diseases was suffered by children. In some places, 72% of Ghanaian children are infected with guinea worm. In 2009 four out of five parameters at the water treatment plants did not comply with the national standard, and the quality of the drinking water in Ghana remains a major cause for concern.

# Accra Ghana

### Region

The Central Water Quality Hub will be established in Accra, the capital of Ghana. The regional laboratories of Ghana Water Company Limited will be strengthened in Western and Ashanti region. Specifically the awareness-raising programme is targeted at government institutes, schools and communities in peri-urban areas located in the catchment areas of Weija in Accra, Barekese in the Ashanti region and the Pra in Western Region.

### Project objectives

Contribute towards improved health of the Ghanaian population in the service areas of Ghana Water Company Ltd. by ensuring high quality, sustainable national water quality testing, monitoring and surveillance.

### Main project activities

The project will:

- Improve independence of quality control within the drinking water organisations.
- Improve competency and knowledge of officials, operators and laboratory personnel by capacity building.
- Improve quality of laboratories by investing in equipment and improved availability of materials and consumables.
- Disseminate results, stimulating replication of the project in other regions and act as an example for neighbouring countries.
- Raised awareness on quality aspects of drinking water targeted at:
  - a public awareness with regard to safeguarding the quality of the sources;
  - b officials and operators within the drinking water utilities to improve operations;
  - c government and legislative bodies to embed drinking water quality aspects in legislation and management.



## Expected results

This project significantly boosts the health situation in Ghana by improving control on the quality of drinking water. The main activities comprise the following mandatory results:

- Project management and project evaluation.
- Establishment of National Institutional Framework.
- Improved capacity in laboratory skills.
- Well-equipped central laboratory of GWLC (the CWQ - Hub).
- Establishment of regional water quality monitoring centres attached to GWCL.
- Awareness-raising on the importance of water quality.
- Business case.

## Population

Ghana Water Company Limited currently serves approximately 8 million people in all urban centres in Ghana.

## Financing

European Union Water Facility (72%), VEI (14%), IWA (2%), Local GWCL (11%).

## Type of contract

Technical assistance.

## Contract value

€ 1,141,730.

## Duration of the contract

2012 - 2015.

## Available funds

Vitens and Evides Waterbedrijf, the Netherlands two largest water utilities make € 3 million available for international projects each year. This internal budget is leveraged by contracting public-private partnerships and deploying the financing opportunities of the various parties, such as the Netherlands' Ministry of Development Cooperation and Economic Affairs, the World Bank, the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD) and the Asian

Development Bank. Vitens and Evides have also formed the independent charity foundation Water for Life, which enables clients to contribute to international water projects via their water bills.

## Vitens Evides International

Vitens Evides International supports water companies in developing countries by helping them improve their business processes in a sustainable way. We do this by sharing the extensive and prolonged experience of the two largest privately run public operators in the Netherlands: Vitens and Evides Water Company. Through technical, operational and management support, we enable local utilities to make progress in such areas as Water Quality and Safety, Non-Revenue Water, Asset Management and Financial Planning & Control. By teaming up for better performance, we aim to generate the investments required to improve and expand water services in the world's most rapidly developing urban areas. This means that more people will enjoy reliable and safe drinking water and sanitary facilities, now and in the future. With its activities, Vitens Evides International contributes to achieving the Millennium Development Goals set by the United Nations. Over the past ten years, Vitens Evides International has already helped improve water services to more than twenty million people in Asia, Africa and Latin America.

## Millennium Development Goals

The Netherlands government actively supports the UN target to halve the number of people without safe drinking water and sanitary facilities (1.0 billion and 2.5 billion people respectively) by 2015. In this context, Vitens and Evides are doing all they can to share their expertise and experience in the operation and maintenance of water supply and sewerage with water companies in developing countries. Through their international alliance, Vitens and Evides are involved in providing safe drinking water to over 20 million people in parts of the world where reliable water services are not readily available.

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