

UNDP GoAL WASH Programme – Governance, Advocacy and Leadership for Water, Sanitation and Hygiene

GoAL WASH is an innovative UNDP programme that aims to accelerate achievement of the water and sanitation Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). It focuses on strategically targeted interventions, that strengthen Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH) governance at appropriate levels, in countries that are off-track to reach either the water or sanitation (or both) MDG targets.

GoAL WASH is an integral part of the UNDP's Water and Oceans Governance Programme and is based at the UNDP Water Governance Facility at SIWI in Stockholm. Each country project is overseen by a national manager in the UNDP Country Office, to ensure local ownership of the development process.

The programme works in a wide range of social and environmental contexts and can cover a variety of water governance themes. These include:

- Decentralisation
- Sector-wide co-ordination, regulation and planning
- Monitoring and targeting of resources
- Cost-recovery and sustainability
- Capacity Building
- Human Rights based approaches
- Integrity and anti-corruption



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The Liberia WASH Compact – An important step to improve water supply and sanitation services

In January 2012 the President of Liberia, Madam Ellen Johnson Sirleaf, signed the Liberia WASH Compact. The Liberia WASH Compact was developed as a result of the Joint Mission held in Monrovia in April 2011, supported by the Government of Liberia and the Sanitation and Water for All Partnership. Through the Compact the Government, with the support of development partners and civil society, outlined a series of commitments to ensure equitable and sustainable delivery of water and sanitation services for all Liberians.

To date the Compact has increased coordination and provided a focus for the work of sector stakeholders. In particular, the National Water, Sanitation and Hygiene Promotion Committee, which was established shortly after the Joint Mission, has provided a forum for discussion and mutual accountability.

Regulation is needed now

There is currently no regulatory agency for the water and sanitation sector in Liberia. Current standards are limited and often non-existent, resulting in poor service, unpaid bills and underfunded water supply and sanitation services. The absence of a functioning regulatory agency has led to continued fragmentation of roles and responsibilities within the sector, and has stifled the development of a vibrant private sector in water and sanitation services. There are numerous small, medium and large water companies that are not regulated. As a result no one knows the quality of water produced and distributed. Cholera and other water related diseases remain a challenge for the emerging economy of the country.

The establishment of the Water Supply and Sanitation Commission (WSSC) is the key outstanding Liberia WASH Compact commitment needed to drive progress in the sector. The establishment of WSSC will result in the development of a strong private sector that will complement the effort of government in providing safe drinking water for the population of Liberia.

The WSSC will be responsible for regulation of tariffs, licenses for water and sanitation, develop Public Private Partnerships, set service standards, and develop water laws and ensure compliance – in order to ensure that water and sanitation services are provided in an efficient, fair and sustainable manner for all.

UNDP GoAL WASH Support to the Water Supply and Sanitation Commission (WSSC)

The UNDP GoAL WASH project is supporting the development of Liberia's WASH Sector regulation by making the Water Supply and Sanitation Commission operational. The Basque Country has generously provided funding to establish the WSSC secretariat and cover the costs for year one of its operations.

This secretariat would serve as an incubator that is expected to transition into a full Commission, with a strong institutional memory to drive the operations of the Commission when established.

The funds are sufficient to recruit two principal positions – a secretariat coordinator and coordinator of regulation – and the support structure that is needed to get the secretariat operational. These positions would then be absorbed within the WSSC, once the Executive Order is signed by the President of Liberia and it is formally established.



What will the WSSC do?

The Water Supply and Sanitation Commission (WSSC) will serve as the regulatory agency in the sector. It will be responsible for:

- Enforcement of tariffs
- Set standards
- Issue licenses to service providers
- Develop strong public private partnerships (PPPs)
- Ensure that water laws are developed and enforced
- Ensure equity and quality of WASH services

