

Pro-poor Urban Water Supply Management in Accra – Case study of Teshie

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Abstract

This study reviewed the policy framework for urban water supply, assessed the water supply situation in Teshie, a low income community in Accra and subjected the results to a Multi-Stakeholder (MSF) or Learning Alliance (LA) with the aim of achieving an Integrated Urban Water Management (IUWM) with a pro-poor orientation. An assessment of water and sanitation situation in the community revealed poor accessibility to improved water and adequate sanitation. A review of the policy framework for water supply including the social policy for drinking water revealed policy gaps, differences between policy and the practice.

The results of the assessment and the policy review were shared with the Learning Alliance (LA) and used as the basis for jointly finding solutions for achieving a sustainable water management in Teshie. The MSF/LA process is a long, difficult and slow as there are many stakeholders and each with its interest. Notwithstanding the problem of accessibility to improved water and sanitation was shared by all stakeholders but the challenge was the source of funding and the management model that should be used and the level of user tariff to ensure fairness and revenue sufficiency. Through the SWITCH project a demonstration project to test IUWM in Accra is planned but requires a matching fund which is a critical requirement for the demo. As such the role of the LA was important to capitalise on potential synergies to at least the matching fund to pilot a project in Teshie.

The paper highlights the differences between the policy and practices for urban water supply. The paper also discusses the process of engaging the stakeholders for achieving results and challenges and progress made so far in achieving integrated IUWM in a socially inclusive manner in Teshie.