



Ghana Coalition of NGOs in the
Water and Sanitation Sector

MOLE XXXV WASH CONFERENCE

Enhancing the Role of Young WASH Professionals

Ato Kwamena Senayah

An Overview

- This session seeks to explore the critical need to foster greater integration of young professionals into leadership, innovation, and decision-making in the WASH sector.

- It will focus on identifying practical strategies to amplify the voices of young professionals in key areas such as
 - *research,*
 - *knowledge management,*
 - *policy influencing,*
 - *project implementation, and*
 - *emphasizing their role in driving sector-wide innovations.*

The Young WASH Professionals in Ghana's WASH Sector

1

Strengths

Young WASH Professionals bring unique strengths and fresh perspectives to the WASH sector.

2

Challenges

YWPs face challenges in contributing meaningfully, including limited opportunities for leadership and decision-making.

3

Mentorship

Mentorship and capacity-building programs are crucial to help young professionals transition from observers to active leaders.

4

Inclusive Platforms

Inclusive platforms are needed for young professionals to learn, collaborate, and contribute their ideas.

Collaboration with Seasoned Professionals

Experienced Professionals

Experienced professionals provide valuable knowledge, direction and guidance through inter-generational dialogues.

Young Professionals and the next big idea

Young professionals bring fresh ideas and innovative approaches needed to transform WASH delivery.

Co-creating a Dynamic Ecosystem

Collaboration creates a dynamic ecosystem of knowledge transfer and continuous innovation.

Value Addition for Sustainable WASH Solutions

1

Technology & Innovation

Introduce new technologies and innovative solutions that improve WASH practices – digital tools.

2

Community Engagement & Activations

Engaging communities in co-creating solutions to their WASH problems and co-managing their development processes.

3

Policy Advocacy & Influencing

Advocacy on policies that promote equitable access. Influencers for policies & decision-makers.

4

Empowerment & Capacity Building

Empowering young professionals is crucial for advancing sustainable WASH solutions,

5

Sustainability & Resilience

Ensuring the WASH sector remains resilient and adaptive to emerging challenges through keeping the focus on sustainable practices

6

Interdisciplinary Collaborations

Collaborating with sectors like health, education, and environmental management to create integrated WASH solutions.

The Young WASH Professionals' Network (YPWN) of CONIWAS

□ Core Mission:

"To empower and mobilize the next generation of WASH leaders through capacity building, innovation, and advocacy to drive sustainable WASH solutions in Ghana."

□ Objectives:

- 1. Capacity Building and Skill Development*
- 2. Innovation and Knowledge Sharing*
- 3. Advocacy and Policy Influence*
- 4. Networking and Collaboration*
- 5. Young Professionals Participation in Decision-Making*

Working Groups for Mentorship and Capacity Development

1. Behavior Change, Community Engagement and Social Marketing for WASH
2. Water Resources, and Quality Management
3. Gender and Social Inclusion in WASH
4. WASH in Schools and Health Care Facilities
5. Research, Data and Knowledge Management for WASH
6. Technology, Digital Tools and Innovations for WASH
7. Climate Resilience and Adaptation in WASH

Plenary Session Objectives

- 1 Assess the current role and level of participation of young professionals in the WASH sector of Ghana.
- 2 Highlight the opportunities and challenges faced by young professionals in the WASH sector.
- 3 Explore strategies for mentorship and capacity-building that facilitate knowledge transfer between experienced professionals and young professionals.
- 4 Foster dialogue and collaboration between experienced professionals and young leaders in the WASH sector.
- 5 Identify actionable recommendations for enhancing youth participation in the WASH sector's future development.

Plenary Session Format

Panel Discussion

Young WASH professionals, sector experts, and policymakers.

Fishbowl Conversation

Experts discuss, participants listens, share experiences and asks questions.

THANK YOU!