



UNIVERSITY OF CAPE COAST

Cape Coast, Ghana

Institutional Alignment for Improved WASH Services Delivery

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Sub-Theme Address

MOLE XXXV

Volta Serene Hotel, Ho, 6-11th October, 2024

Organised by CONIWAS, Ghana



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Outline of presentation

- Introduction
- WASH as a driver for national development
 - WASH and the SDGs
 - Impact of WASH on health
- Threats to WASH services delivery
- Analysis of existing institutional framework for WASH
- The need for an institutional review
- Conclusion



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Introduction

- Inadequate access to water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) services has serious implications for:
 - health,
 - wealth and
 - dignity.
- Yet, access to WASH services is generally inadequate, mostly in developing countries (WHO/UNICEF 2023).
 - There are also vast disparities across localities, regions, and socio-economic groups.
- These differences represent *health inequities*,
 - defined as unfair and avoidable differences in health-related outcomes and experiences based on socially stratified circumstances, such as place of residence, gender, socioeconomic status, and education (O'Neill et al., 2014).



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WASH as a driver for national development



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WASH and the SDGs

1 NO POVERTY

2 ZERO HUNGER

3 GOOD HEALTH AND WELL-BEING

4 QUALITY EDUCATION

5 GENDER EQUALITY

6 CLEAN WATER AND SANITATION

7 AFFORDABLE AND CLEAN ENERGY

8 DECENT WORK AND ECONOMIC GROWTH

9 INDUSTRY, INNOVATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE

10 REDUCED INEQUALITIES

11 SUSTAINABLE CITIES AND COMMUNITIES

12 RESPONSIBLE CONSUMPTION AND PRODUCTION

13 CLIMATE ACTION

14 LIFE BELOW WATER

15 LIFE ON LAND

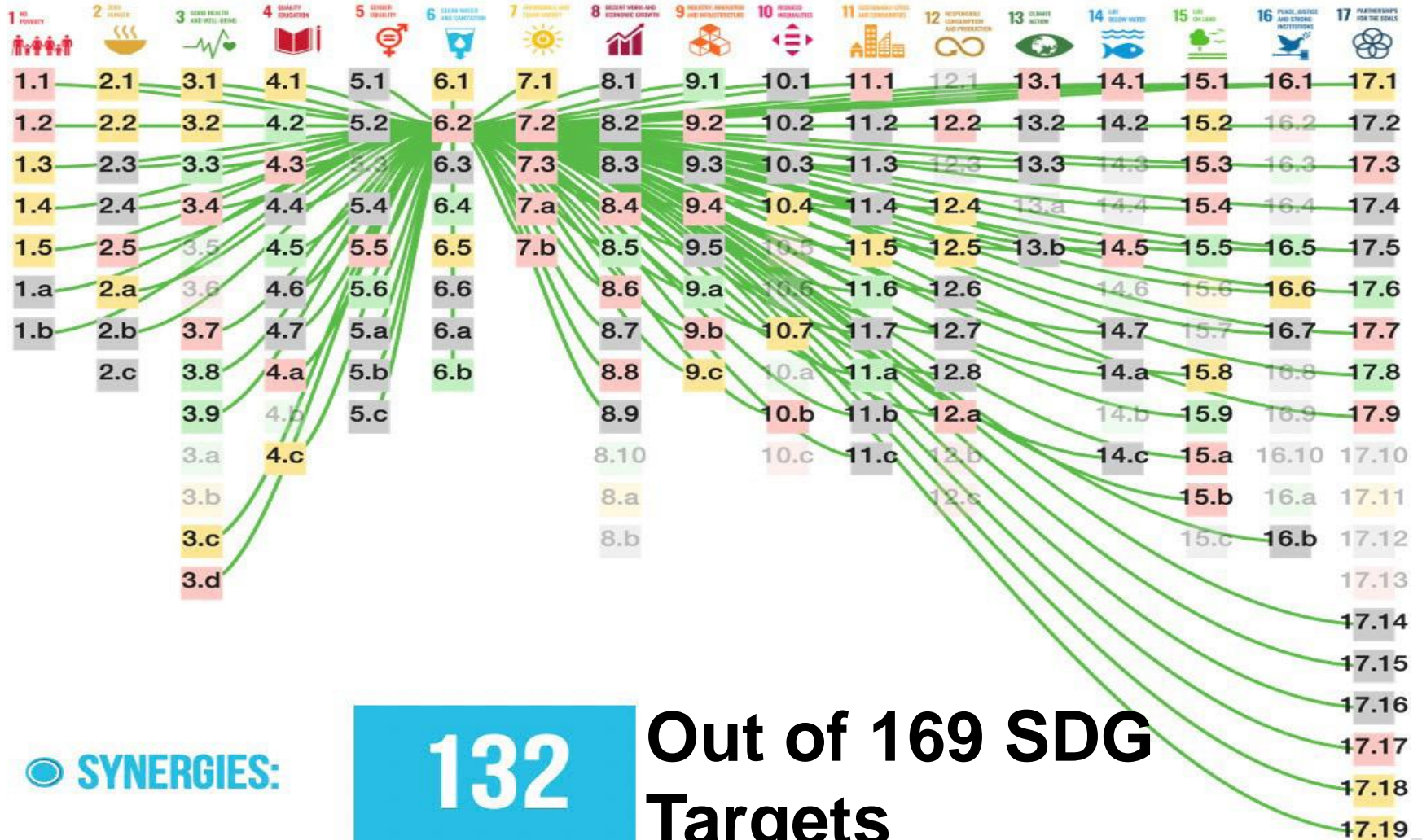
16 PEACE, JUSTICE AND STRONG INSTITUTIONS

17 PARTNERSHIPS FOR THE GOALS


SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS



Sanitation and the SDGs



SYNERGIES:

132

Out of 169 SDG Targets

Source: NDPC (2023)

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WASH on Health and Mortality

- WASH for health:
 - Research has shown that improved sanitation and quality drinking water reduces diarrhoea by 25% and 62%-75% respectively while better hand hygiene reduces diarrhoea by 30% (Wolf et al, 2018; 2022).
 - Several other WASH-related diseases include:
 - Cholera, typhoid, dysentery, stunting, wasting,
- WASH-related mortality?
 - Inadequate WASH was attributable to almost **2 million deaths** and almost **123 million disability-adjusted life years** in 2016 (WHO, 2019).
 - About **7,635 WASH-related deaths** in Ghana in 2019 (WHO, 2019)
 - **About 21 deaths per day**



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Threats to WASH services delivery



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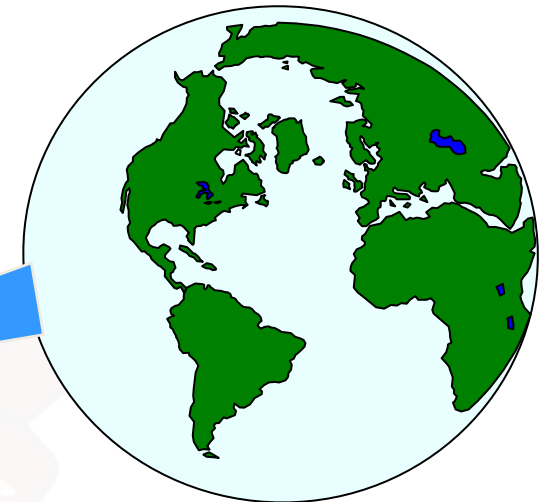
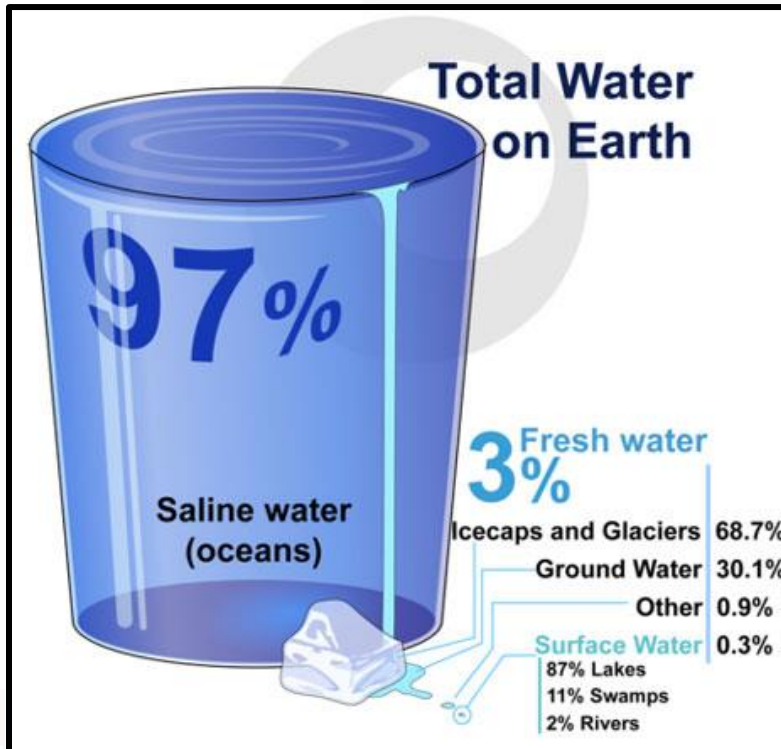
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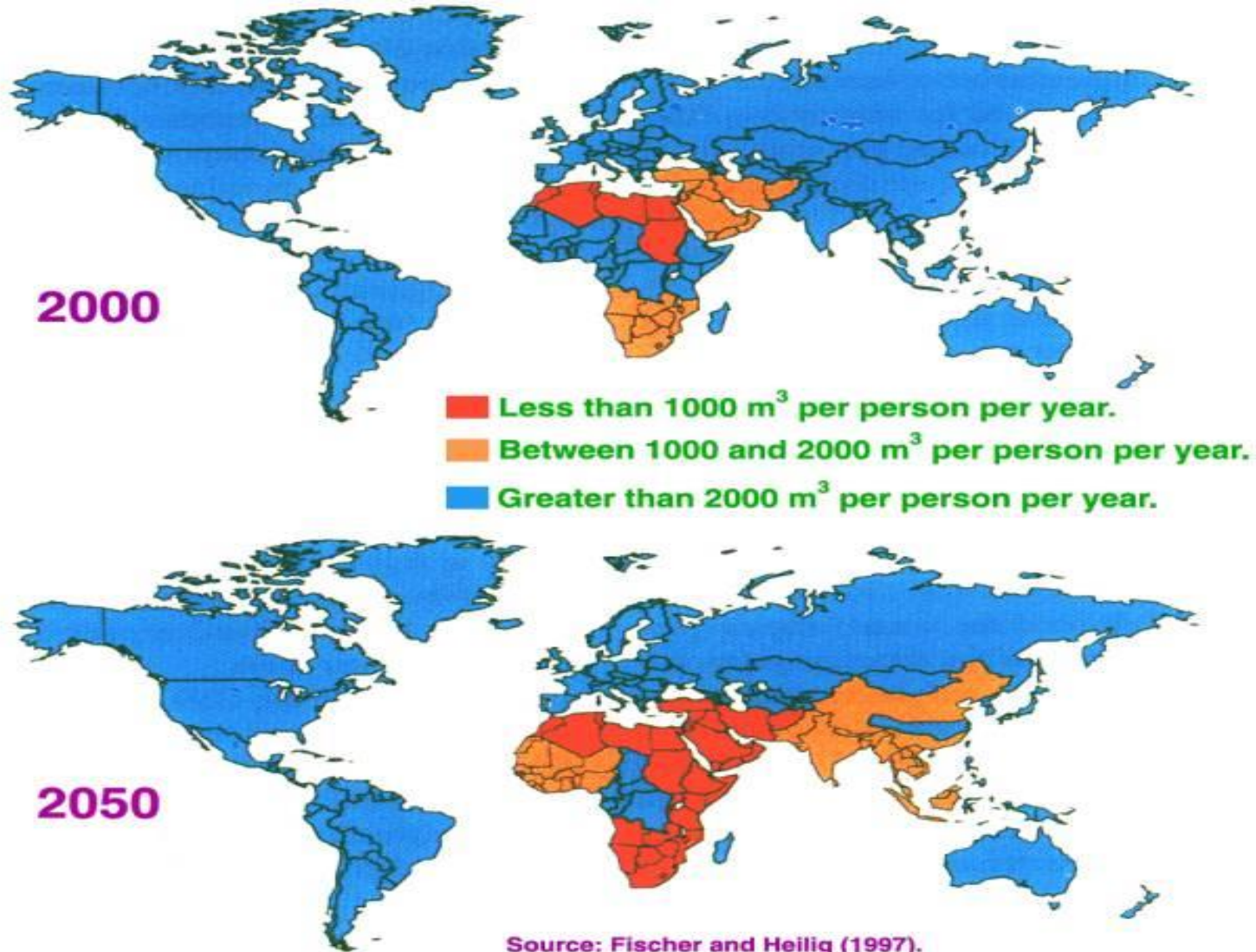
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The Global Water Budget

		<u>Global Freshwater</u>	
<u>Global Water</u>	}	87%	Not Accessible
97% Seawater		13%	Accessible (0.4% of global)
3% Freshwater			



Global Water Scarcity



Source: Fischer and Heilig (1997).

Threats of 'Galamsey'

- Pollution of water bodies
- Threat to availability and quality of water
- Increased cost of treatment



Pollution of the Pra River by uncontrolled mining activities

Source: Images from Google.com

Threats of Climate Change

- Seawater intrusion into groundwater
- Threat to WASH infrastructure
- Threat to livelihood and HH investment in WASH
- Increased domestic violence and threat to WASH

Environ Monit Assess (2021) 193:264
<https://doi.org/10.1007/s10661-021-09059-1>



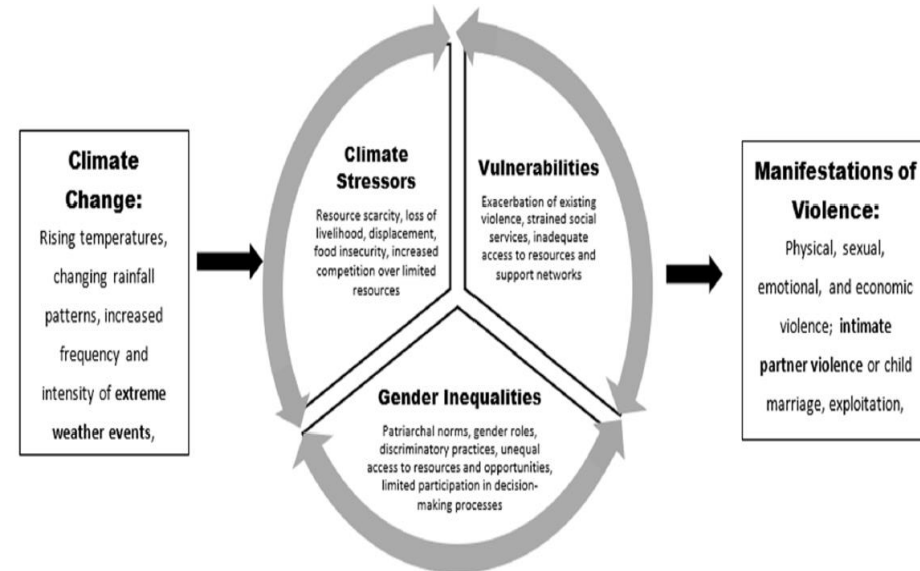
Evaluating the impacts of on-site sanitation facilities and saltwater intrusion on shallow groundwater quality in peri-urban communities of Cape Coast, Ghana

Joseph T. Zume · Simon Mariwah · Ebenezer N. K. Boateng

Received: 12 October 2020 / Accepted: 5 April 2021
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Abstract Populations in peri-urban communities of Sub-Saharan Africa frequently depend on shallow aquifers and on-site sanitation facilities concurrently. Routinely, domestic wells end up too close to toilet facilities, risking groundwater contamination. For coastal communities, saltwater intrusion adds to the risk of groundwater contamination. This study assessed both risks in five peri-urban communities of Cape Coast, Ghana. Groundwater samples collected from 40 domestic wells were analyzed for physico-

chemical parameters. The water table is below the land surface (within 2 m), the higher the contaminant loads. Lastly, using molar ratios of Cl^-/HCO_3^- and Na^+/Cl^- with R-mode HCA, the study isolated a few wells, located within 2 km of the coastline, that are experiencing effects of saltwater intrusion. Overall, this study provides useful information for aiding groundwater quality mitigation policy, and the baseline data for aiding future investigations in the study area. It also has broader policy implications for other peri-urban settings throughout



Source: Munala et al (2023)



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Sanitation: The Old Stubborn Child

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 13, 1968

Poor sanitation threatens lives in Accra

ACCRA is rapidly becoming one big refuse dump. Refuse is thrown almost everywhere and it is left there to pile up into mounds.

The drains are not cleaned and some are so sand-logged that they overflow whenever there is little rain.

The public places of convenience are not well kept and since there are so few of them, anyway, it is virtually impossible to use those available.

For instance, there is no public place of convenience in the area of Dr. Morton's hospital to the Liberation Circle. There is only one in all Official Town (near King Tackie Memorial Primary School).

There used to be two in this area, but the one near the Pioneer Meat Company was demolished in 1965 and has not been rebuilt. This means that people who were using this place of convenience have had to go to the King Tackie School area. The over crowdedness resulting could be imagined.

As a result of insufficient public places of convenience, some people

By
Mike
Adjei

use open places like the undeveloped area between the overhead bridge and Liberation Circle.

Conditions are worse in Nima, Accra New Town, Pig Farm and other outlying areas where most of the residents are in the lowest income group.

The threat this unsanitary conditions pose to the dweller is enormous.

Stench

The Accra Experimental Primary School No.1, is just about 30 yards from a refuse dump and a public place of convenience. The refuse "mountain" has just been torn down, the stench from the unremoved place of convenience however, is unbearable from the school and the surrounding area.

The headmistress of the school said in an interview that: "You can't teach in that stench.

At times, when it is too much, I have to take the children out of the

classroom and this affects teaching because there are no blackboards in the open space."

The children, the headmistress said, also play around the refuse dump and collect dirty pieces of pans from there or at times the wind blows the pieces of paper to the school compound.

"The risk of the children catching disease is very great," she added.

Miss Sarah Angmor, who teaches primary two in the same school, said: "Oh, it is very bad."

Asked how the stench affects her lessons, she said that sometimes the children hold their handkerchiefs to their noses and this usually disrupts classes.

The primary three teacher, Mr E. K. Tetteh, agreed with her in a separate interview:

"It smells so badly at times that what you teach does not get across to the children.

"Everybody will be shouting 'what is smelling, what is smelling?'" When this happens, you have to stop the class for some time."

• *Continued*

Source: Daily Graphic
13th December (1968)



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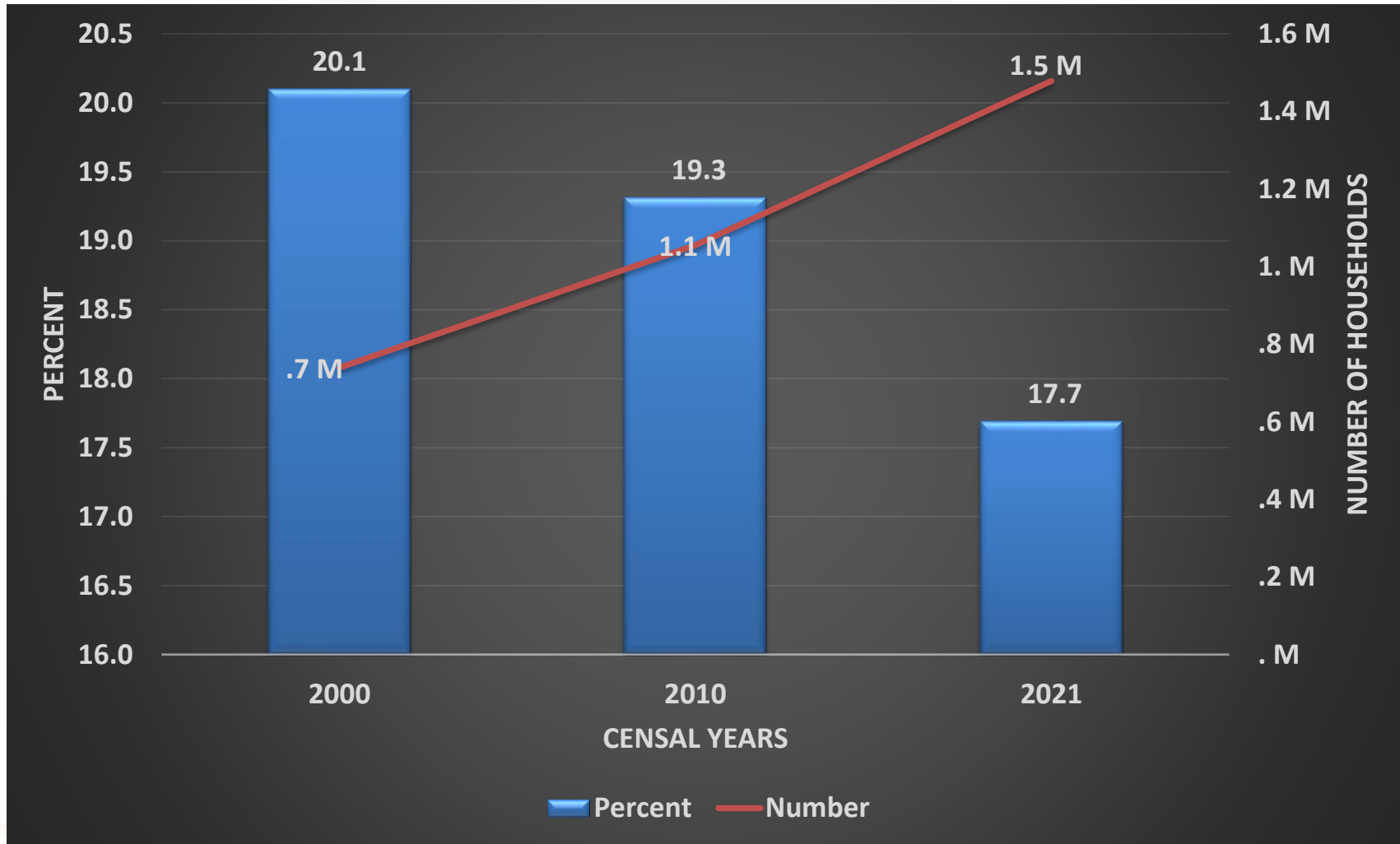
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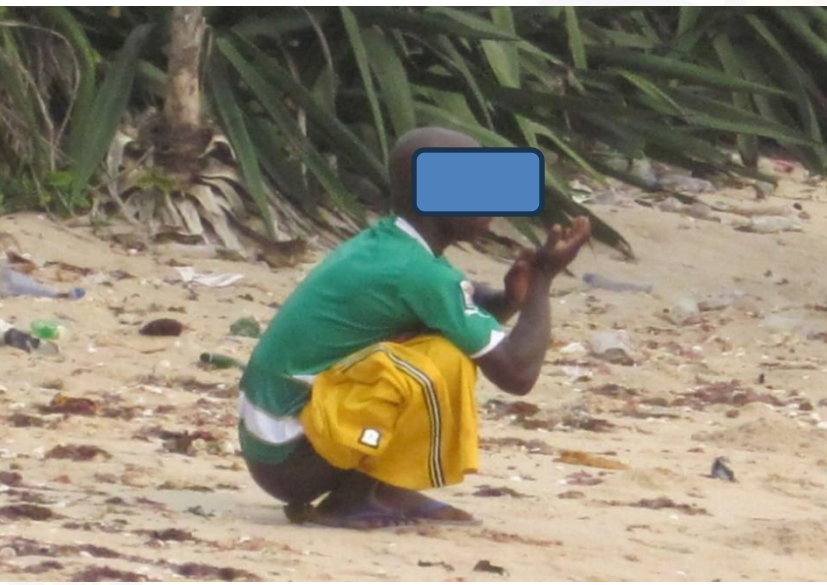
Trends in open defecation



Source: Ghana Statistical Service (2023)



Threats of Open Defecation



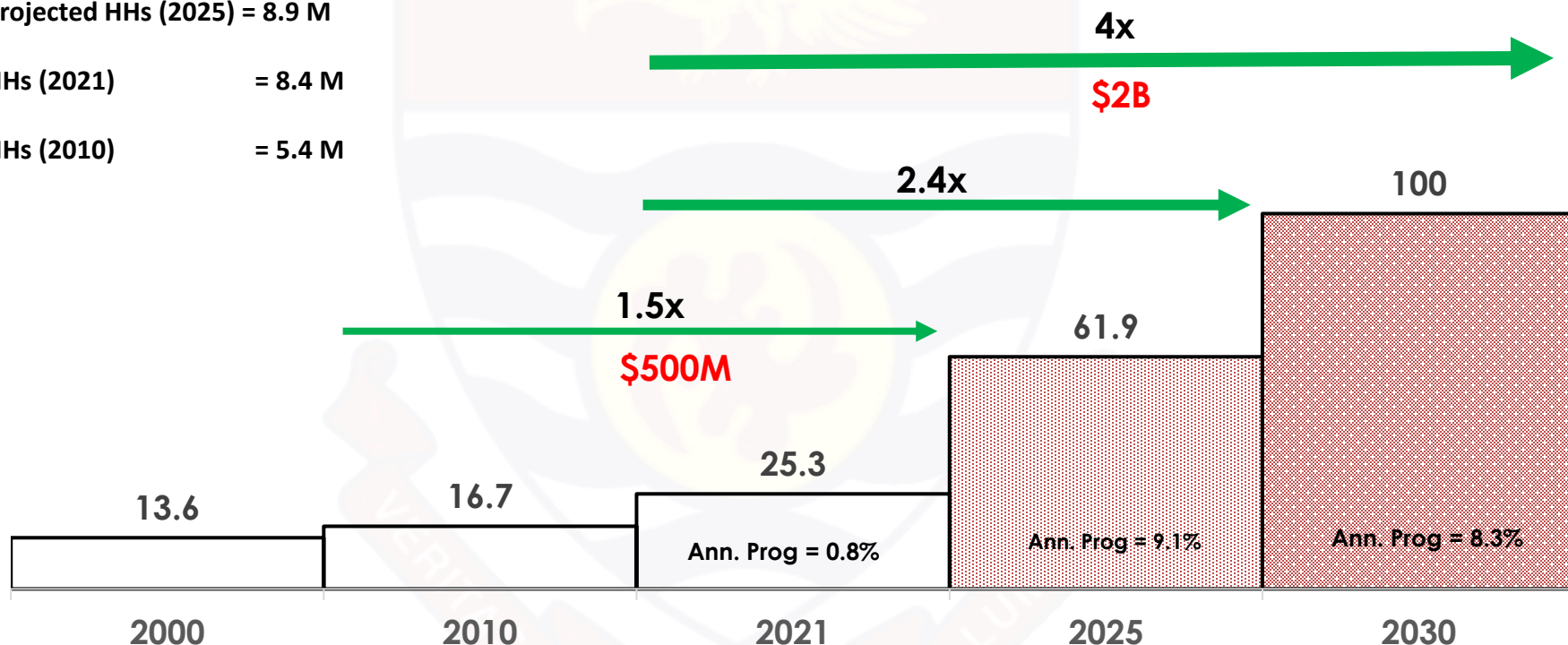
The need for Acceleration towards Basic Sanitation

Projected HHs (2030) = 9.8 M

Projected HHs (2025) = 8.9 M

HHs (2021) = 8.4 M

HHs (2010) = 5.4 M



Source: Mansour and Dateh (2022): Sanitation Financing Assessment



Institutional framework



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Brief history

1/2

- 1961: WHO recommended a vast programme for sanitary conditions in Ghana.
- 1965: Ghana Water and Sewerage Corporation was established (GWSC) by Act, 310.
- 1986: Rural Water Department under GWSC.
Sanitation???
- 1996: Water Resources Commission was created
- 1998: Community Water and Sanitation Agency was established by Act 564.
- 1999: GWSC was converted to Ghana Water Company Limited (GWCL)



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Brief history

2/2

- 1998/99: Rural water and sanitation were taken from GWSC to MMDAs.
 - **Official reason:** to enable effective coordination with other environmental sanitation activities (GoG, 1999).
 - **Unofficial reason:** to get rid of the unwanted to make water more attractive to investment (Bohman, 2010)



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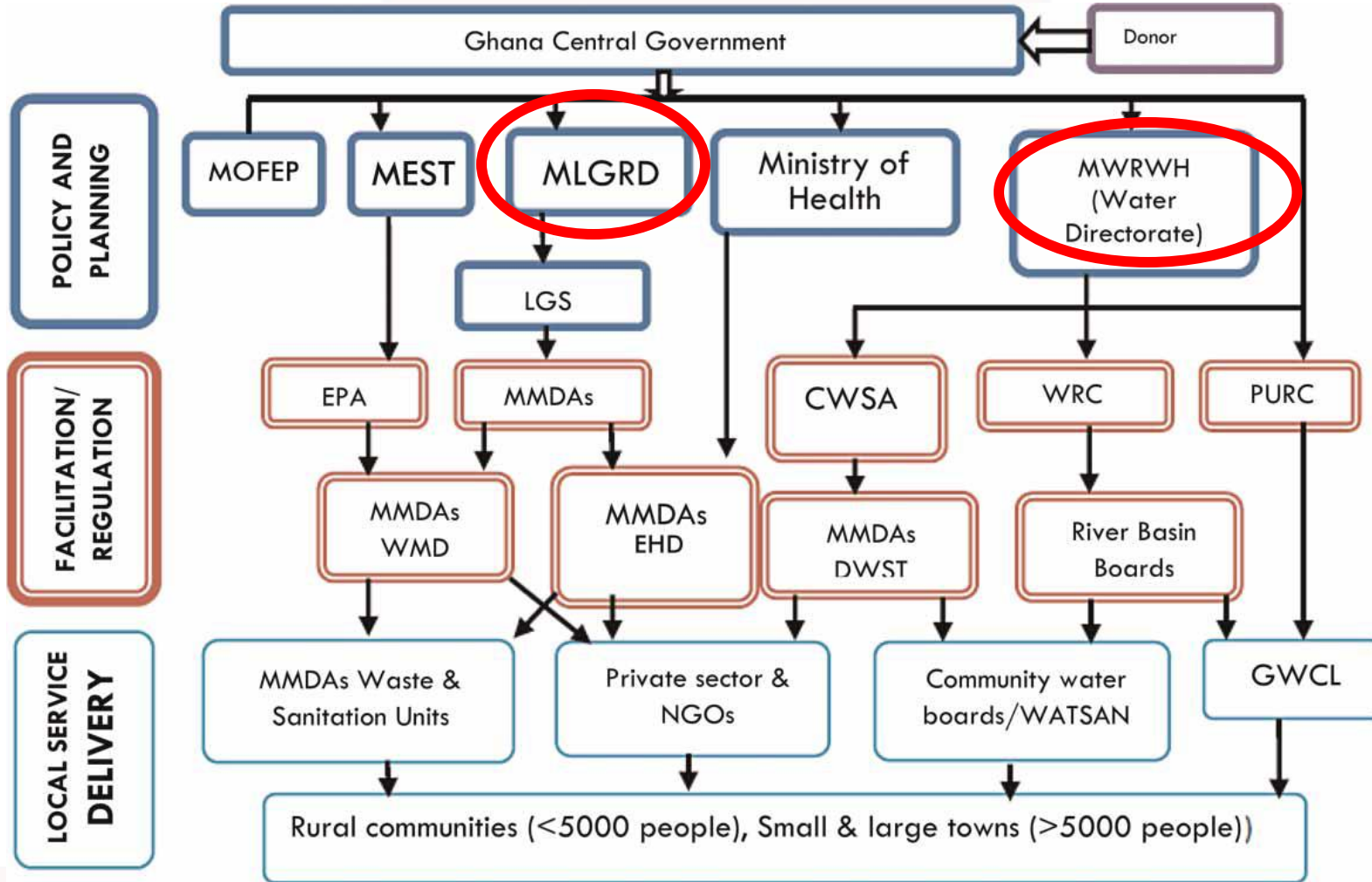
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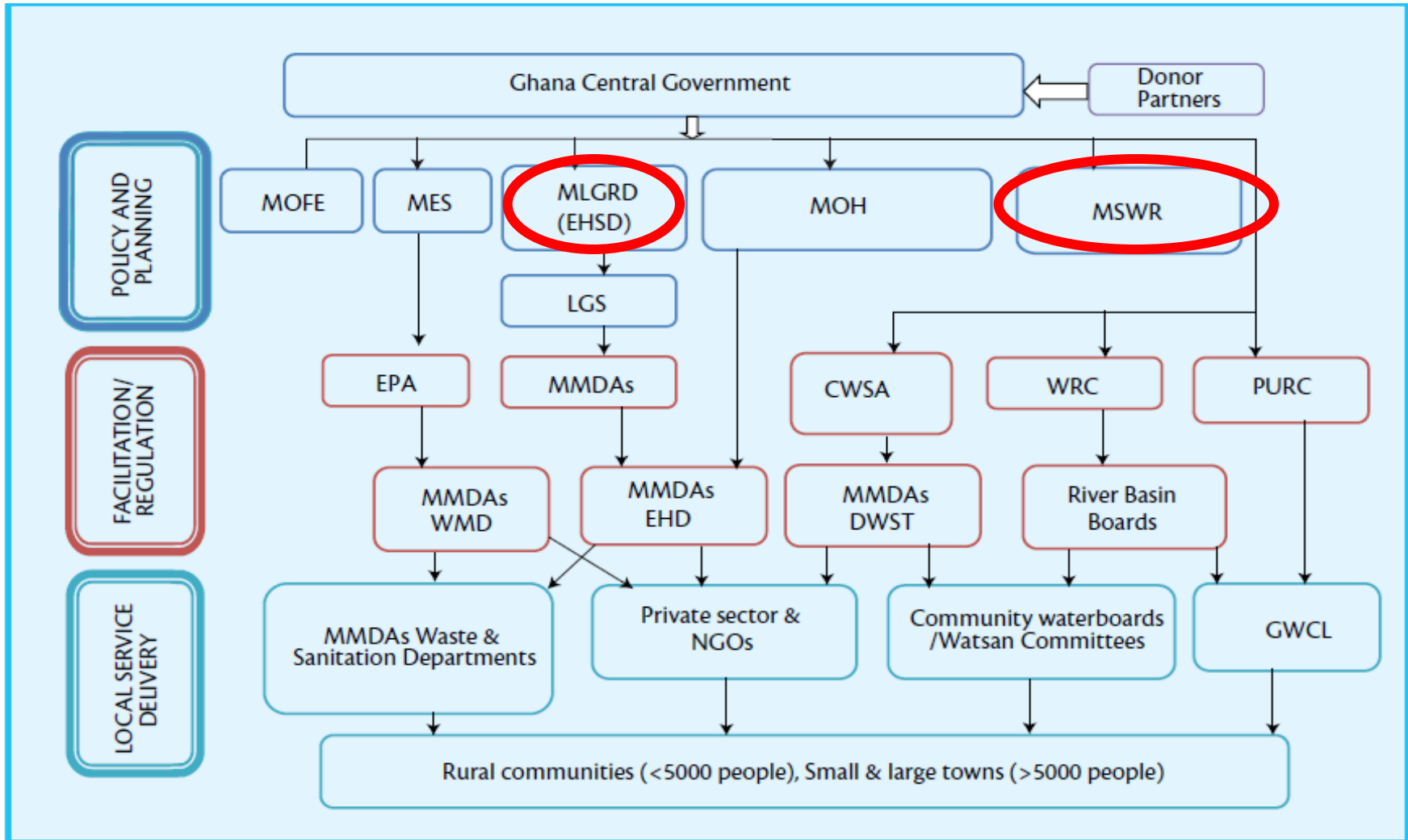


Institutional Framework till 2017



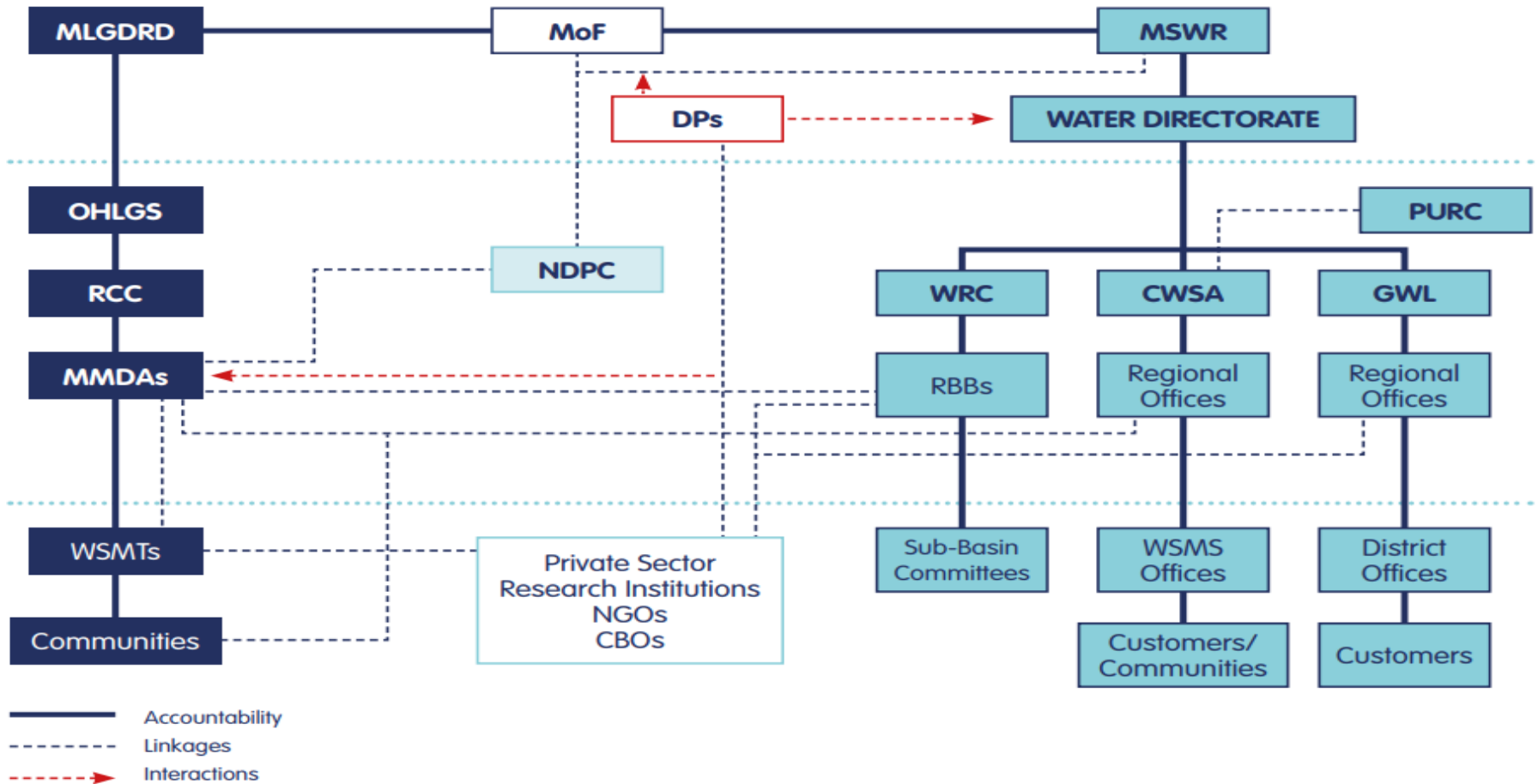
Source: Appiah-Effah et al (2019)

Existing Institutional Framework



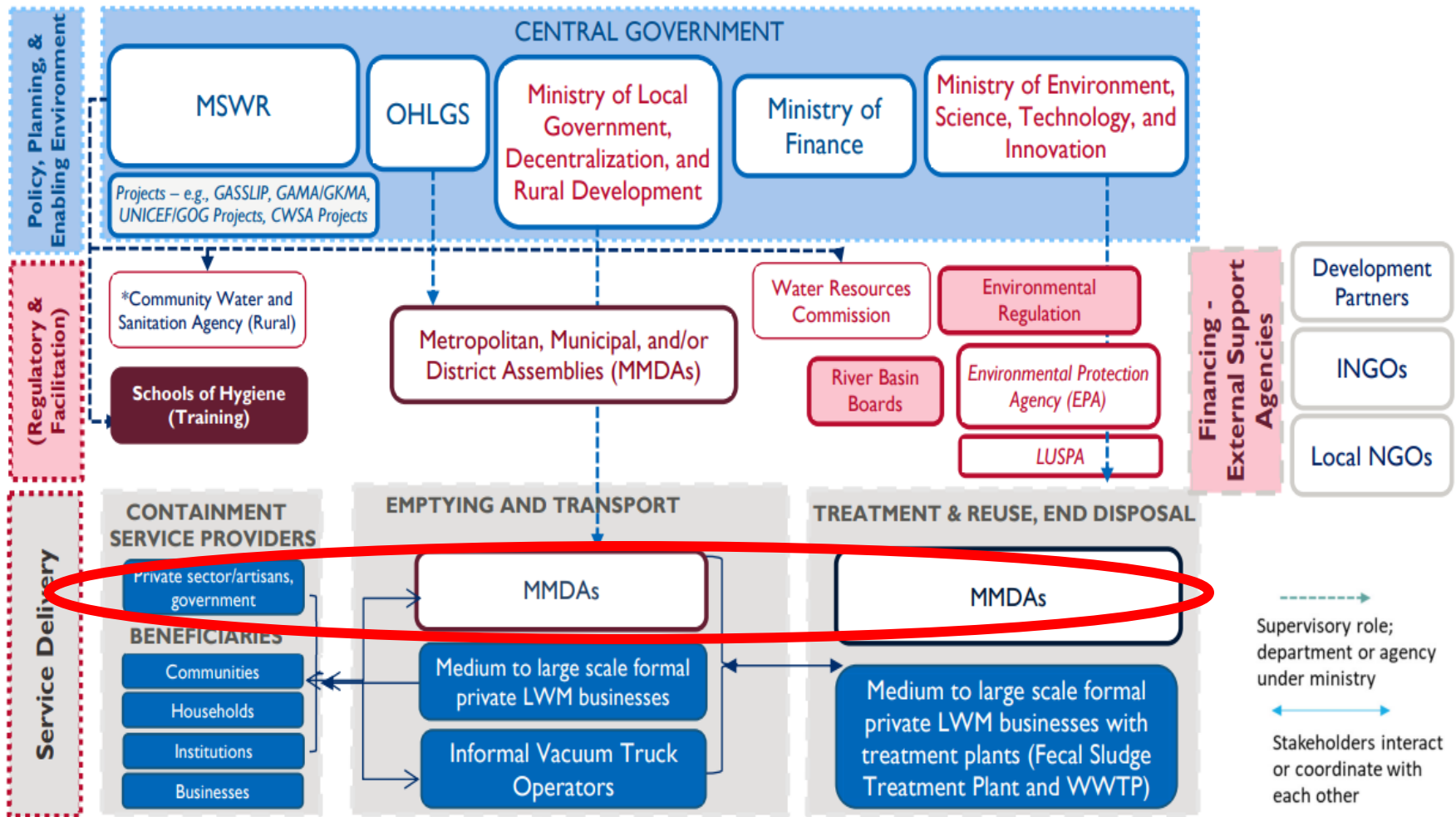
Source: Appiah-Effah et al (2019)

Institutional Framework for Water Sector



Source: Revised National Water Policy (2024)

Institutional Framework for Sanitation



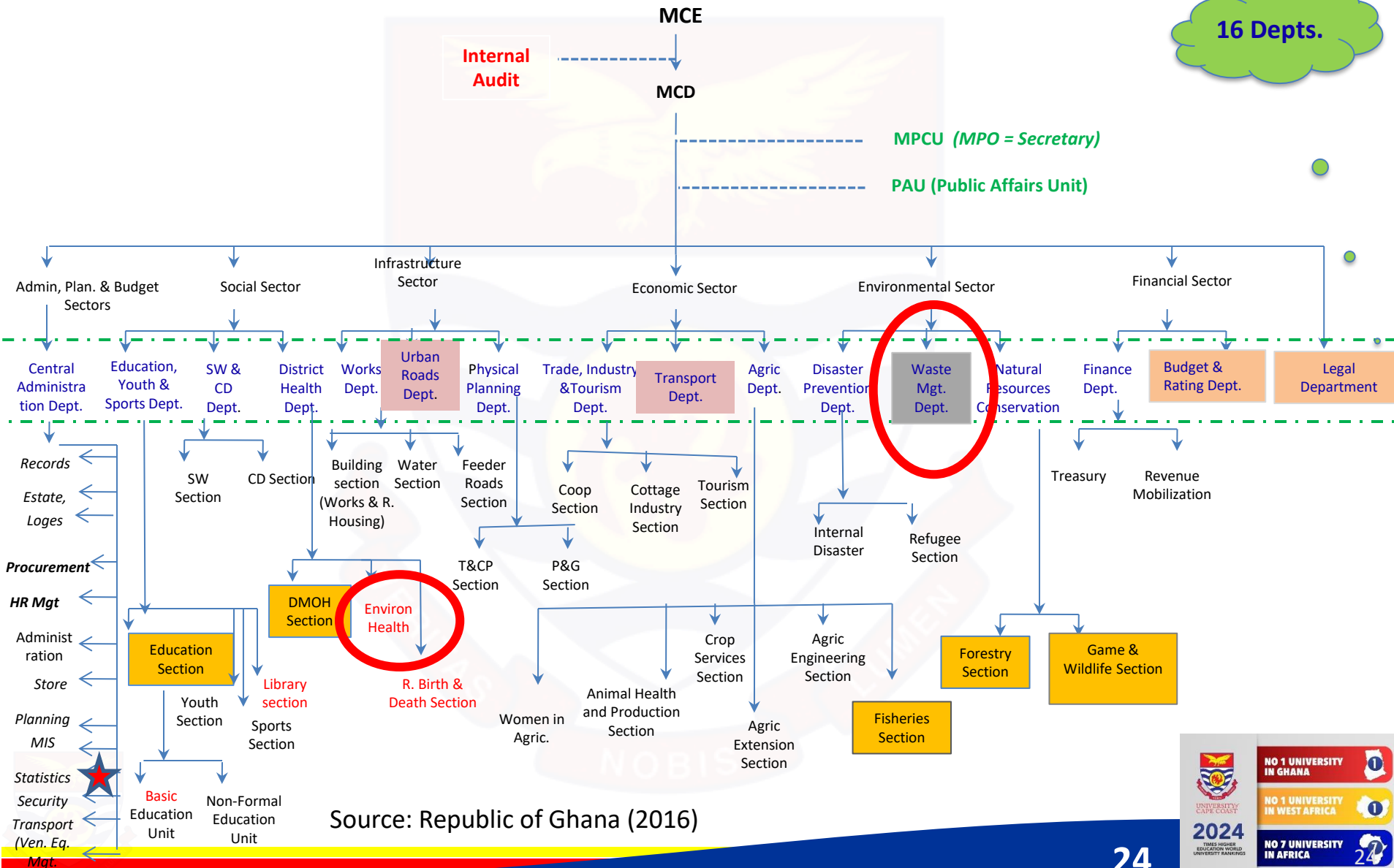
Source: USAID (2023)

NOBIS



METROPOLITAN DEPARTMENTAL ORGANOGRAM (FUNCTIONAL)

16 Depts.



Source: Republic of Ghana (2016)



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Key Constraints of the WASH Sector

Weak sector coordination

Inequitable resource allocation

Weak MISs for WASH

Lack of integrated planning between IWRM and WASH services

The WASH planning process at the local level is not linked to the reality

Poorly constructed and managed WASH facilities that are not sustainable

Source: GWASHSDP (2023)



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Key Constraints of the WASH Sector



Low priority given to system strengthening and human resource development

Sectoral focus on WASH access rather service delivery

Inconsistent and inadequate financing

WASH services are not reaching the poor

Providing and sustaining WASH in institutions

Capacity gaps in key WASH institutions

Source: GWASHSDP (2023)



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Key Constraints of the WASH Sector

- Several factors may account for these challenges.
- However, poor institutional alignment is a major culprit:
- What is the impact of the existing framework for:
 - WASH prioritization?
 - Policy planning and development?
 - Policy implementation?
 - Coordination?
 - Staffing and capacity development?
 - Resource mobilization?
 - Budgetary allocation?



The need for an institutional review



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Complex Stakeholders: Dedicated Body?



Source: WaterAid (n.d)

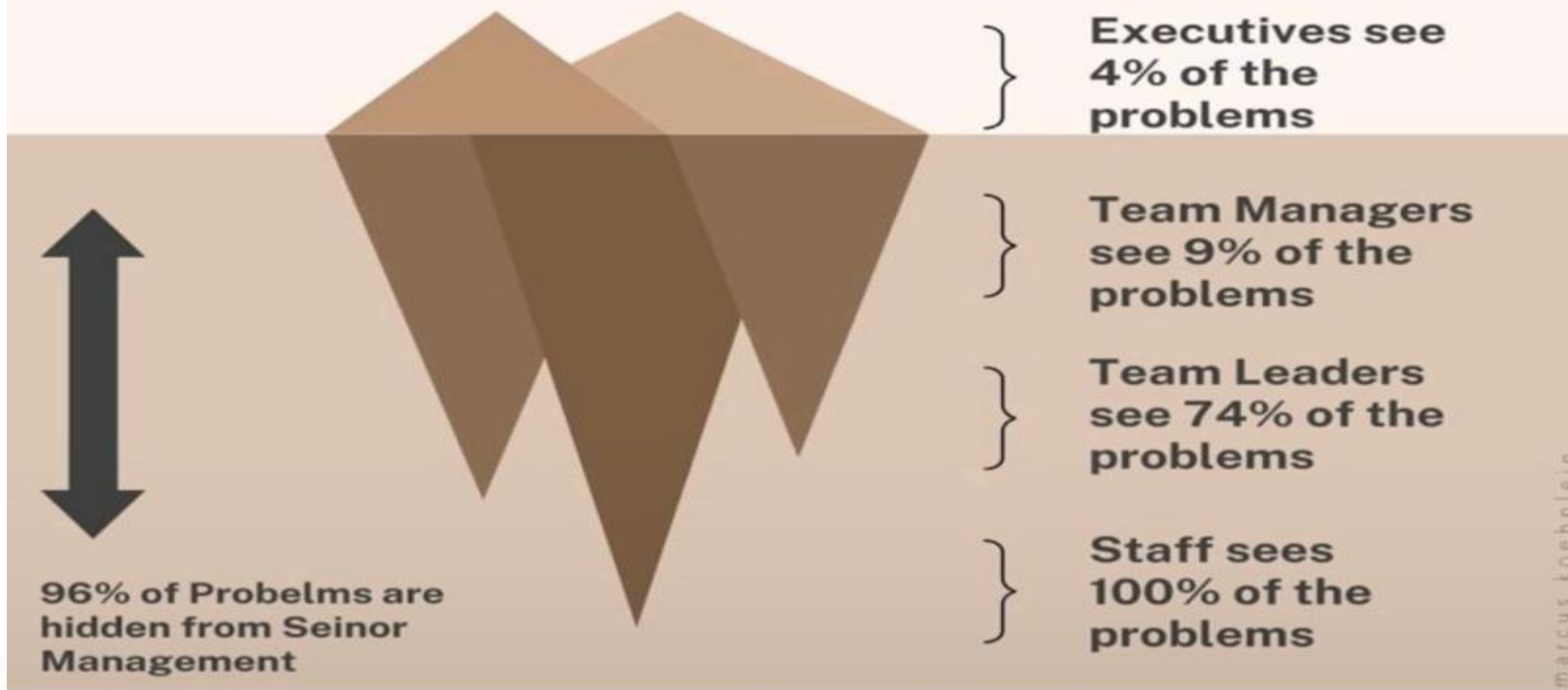
Leadership and Coordination Matter

- Which Ministry, Departments and Agencies are responsible for WASH (From policy to implementation)?
 - MSWR?
 - MESTI?
 - MLGDRD?
 - MoE?
 - MoH?



Voices of the Staff Matter

THE ICEBERG OF IGNORANCE



Source: Unknown



Rethinking the institutional framework

- My preferred option is to review and strengthen the Ministry of Sanitation and Water Resources:
 - To avoid fragmentation, unhealthy competition for resources and unnecessary turf wars.
- A single Ministry for WASH, Environment and related sectors is required for:
 - Coordinated approach
 - Continued progress and focus
 - Expertise and capacity building
 - Advocacy and public awareness
 - Addressing specific challenges
 - Regional commitments and global aspirations





Rethinking the institutional framework

- Establish a National Sanitation Authority (NSA) as the **coordinating** and **implementing** arm for sanitation policies and interventions.
- **Why NSA? Another bureaucracy?** We need to appreciate the sufferings of the sanitation sector?
 - Most prominent sectors of the country have coordination and implementation arms such as Ghana Health Service, National Ambulance Service, Ghana Aids Commission etc for the Ministry of Health, the GES, GTEC, and CTNET for the Ministry of Education, and for the transport sector, we have GCAA, GHA, GRDA, etc.
- The water sector is better in terms of institutional framework.
 - WRC, GWCL, CW(S)A
- **How about sanitation?**
 - **A sick, abandoned orphan needs special attention**



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Decouple rural sanitation from CWSA



- Community Water and Sanitation Agency (CWSA) is responsible for rural water and sanitation.
- However, CWSA is overly focused on water to the detriment of sanitation.
 - Check their Act, Policies and Activities: Water dominates
 - Sanitation has remained the neglected Siamese twin of water
- Apparently, the link between poor sanitation and water pollution has not received the needed attention
- In the 1960s and 70s, investing in water infrastructure was recognized as a preventative measure with regard to public health
 - At that time, about 80% of the cases reported to the hospitals in Ghana were thought to be caused by the impurity of water and therefore **"if we could provide good drinking water the number of cases would be considerably reduced"** (Parliamentary debates, 1965 cited in Bohman, 2010)



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Conclusion

- The current institutional framework does not support efficient WASH services delivery in Ghana
- Properly planned and implemented institutional alignment is required for:
 - Stronger institutions
 - Stronger inter-sectoral linkages
 - Stronger human resource capacity
 - Stronger logistical capacity
 - Stronger financial mobilization and management
 - Stronger local participation



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