

SECTOR COOPERATION ON URBAN WATER BETWEEN GHANA & DENMARK, Annual report for 2019

Danish Authorities in International Cooperation



Signing of the MoU, Aarhus, June 2019.

Project description

The key partners of this new Strategic Sector Corporation (SSC) are the City of Aarhus, the City of Tema, Ghana Water Company Limited (GWCL) and Aarhus Vand. During this first year of partnership, the inception phase, it has become clear there are many similarities between the cities, e.g. the location at the sea, having the largest container port of the country, the size and population, and the important role as an economical driver in the region.

Tema has since the sixties undergone a significant expansion, but insufficient investments in new infrastructure and maintenance, planning and coordination and the development of institutional capacity building over the years, has resulted in water and wastewater systems lacking behind.

There is a strong demand and pressure to change this, and find solutions, which will be even more important with the ongoing urbanisation in Ghana. In this context, the three-year SSC on Urban water was defined, having the overall objective to support the development of a well-functioning, sustainable and climate resilience water and waste water system.

Key activities in year 2019

Specifically, the SSC will focus on Waste Water Management, including flood and climate resilience,

reduction of Non-Revenue Water (presently above 50%), institutional capacity building, operation and maintenance and finally the strengthening of planning and coordination between key stakeholders.

The identification of focus areas and the mutual understanding and partnership has been developed through several visits and missions, with participation at political, management and technical level, e.g. the visit to Tema in February 2019 and the visit in Denmark in June by the Mayor of Tema and the Managing Director of GWCL. Following there has been technical missions, skype meetings and follow-up meetings by the resident sector counsellor. A revisit from the Mayor of Aarhus to Tema in 2020 will consolidate the mutual commitment.

During the visit from Tema to Aarhus in June 2019, the delegation visited Danish solution and technology providers e.g. Grundfos, AVK and Kamstrup, and had also a general meeting with a broader span of water companies.

Main achievements and lessons learned in 2019

The main achievement is the final draft SSC project document (2020-2022), the strengthened institutional relation and mutual understanding, and the general improved network and insight into the water sector in Ghana.

The outreach to other key stakeholders e.g. ministries and agencies, other bi- and multilateral development partners, finance institutions, including IFU/DSIF and NGOs has been an important task during this first year.

The DFC research and scholarship program has been facilitated, resulting in several Ghanaian course participants from key stakeholders and Danish-Ghanaian research projects in the pipeline. Finally, several communication products have been produced and published in various types of media during this inception phase.

Status: Inception phase

Project period: January 2019 to December 2019

Partners: Tema Metropolitan Assembly and Ghana Water Company Limited

Contact information:

Project manager: Niels Cajus Pedersen ncp@aarhus.dk

Sector Counsellor: Ole Pilgaard Stubdrup olestu@um.dk