Global Communities takes a comprehensive approach to WASH by coupling infrastructure development, community mobilization and behavior change communication to improve sanitation and hygiene practices. We work closely with local governments and communities to address the full life-cycle costs and risks associated with water and sanitation investments and water quality monitoring. Strong local partnerships ensure the long-term sustainability of solutions that are equitable, environmentally friendly and well-suited to the specific needs of each community.

Examples of WASH Programs

Liberia

Through the USAID-funded IWASH program, Global Communities is helping residents in three counties in Liberia and targeted neighborhoods in Monrovia to improve their overall health through better water supply systems, sanitation facilities and hygiene practices. Through the project, Global Communities is working with community members, local partners and local governments to develop sustainable, market-driven solutions to meet communities’ water and sanitation needs. At the same time, the project promotes education and learning among individuals and communities about sanitary practices and water hygiene.

Community-Led Total Sanitation (CLTS), an innovative methodology for mobilizing communities to eliminate open defecation, is being implemented by Global Communities as part of the IWASH program. Since February 2013, IWASH has worked with the CLTS National Technical Coordinating Unit, county and district level structures to adapt the methodology to the African context and mobilize more than 350 communities for CLTS, more than 209 of which are now open defecation free (ODF). Over 46,000 beneficiaries are currently living in open defecation free societies. Natural leaders who have lead their own communities to ODF status join the Natural Leader Network (NLN). The NLN allows for cost-effective implementation of CLTS as leaders in the network have the opportunity to trigger and facilitate neighboring communities to become ODF, receiving a small payment for each community verified as ODF. There are 84 teams of Natural Leaders helping to expand CLTS out of 364 Natural Leader Network members. Social marketing of CLTS also takes place through radio dramas, street theater and billboards.

IWASH also creates sustainable access to WASH products and services by training local entrepreneurs to repair hand pumps, make/distribute/sell soap, and sell water purification products. As of March 2014, 56 entrepreneurs were trained
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Water, Sanitation & Hygiene (WASH)

Global Communities is working in four slum communities of Accra and four slum communities in the urban area of Sekondi-Takoradi. By the close of the project, it is expected that slum communities will have an additional 10km of water mains extended into their communities. As a result, 1,424 households will benefit from house/yard water connections, and 1,500 people will benefit from public water kiosks and limited reticulated borehole source water schemes established in their communities. Finally, it is anticipated that at the close of the project, 400 households will have access to improved sanitation through the provision of household latrines.

At the national level, extensive planning and consultation with national government, metropolitan, municipal and district assemblies, communities and key stakeholders resulted in the launch of the National WASH BCC Strategy in September 2011, and the National Strategy for Community Participation in Provision of WASH in August 2012.

Ghana

About 24 million people in Ghana – more than 80% of the Accra urban population – live in slum settlements. Due to the informal nature of these settlements, water supply and sanitation services in these areas are inadequate. Using a community-driven approach that involves residents and a broad range of stakeholders, including local government, communities and the Ghana Water Company, Ltd., Global Communities is helping to improve availability and access to water and sanitation services in urban areas. Global Communities has brought innovative technology—including biofil digester toilets—to the beneficiary communities as well as partnered with microfinance institutions to pioneer a credit product for water and sanitation home improvements. Through the WASH-UP program, Global Communities is working in four slum communities of Accra and four slum communities in the urban area of Sekondi-Takoradi.

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