

The Contribution of Civil Society-generated Evidence to the Improvement of Sanitation Services in Ghana

**ICED Evidence to Action 2019 Conference
Panel on Evidence Use
ISSER, Accra, July 12, 2019**

**Dede Bedu-Addo,
Ghana Monitoring & Evaluation Forum (GMEF)
on behalf of**



Anthony Mensah, Director, EHSD, MSWR, Accra



The Case

- Environment where consultation and participation of CSOs in policy processes is valued and enabled
- Effective waste management and access to improved sanitation services is a major challenge in urban and rural Ghana
- Historically low levels of attention to sanitation by the state (limited budget allocation, limited capacity)
- Space created was taken up by diverse CSOs, who are major evidence generators but operate at project level
- Civil Society have been key change agents in getting government to use evidence for service delivery improvements
- International pressure, with evidence-based advocacy campaigns driven by large INGOs, such as WaterAid, UNICEF, SNV, Coalitions like CONIWAS and local CSOs led to increased Presidential commitment to sanitation reforms
- As part of civil society advocacy, CDD-Ghana began 2 projects: the “I am Aware” (IAA) and the District League Table (DLT) projects

Evidence Generation Process

- Various surveys, studies, evaluations of donor-funded programmes have fed into policy process
- CDD-Ghana's IAA and DLT projects disseminate up-to-date, government-produced information on the state of public goods and service delivery in Ghana, including sanitation
- They use administrative data collected at national level, as certified by central government agents from district  regional  national levels.
- The IAA project has a data facility centre that helps assemble, archive, and disseminate the information₃

Consequently ...

Interventions

- Access to data and analysis in user-friendly formats
- CSOs use information for advocacy through social marketing
- Evidence generation directly linked to service delivery performance
- Etc.

Mechanisms

- Individuals understand data and analysis (evidence) related to their own priorities
- Government officials are aware of sanitation priorities and needs
- Government officials motivated to recognise value evidence for their own performance

Outcomes

- Increased collaboration and use of the evidence for social accountability
- District Assemblies take critical actions for more equitable distribution of national resources
- Increased use of evidence in decision making, in planning and budgetary allocation

Facilitators and Barriers to Evidence Use

FACILITATORS	BARRIERS
CSO consultation and active participation in policy processes	Inter-agency coordination problems
Popular pressure for change (both international and internal)	Outsourcing of service delivery responsibility to private sector with limited support and oversight
Prevailing policy narratives (including President's statement)	Limited resources and administrative red tape on generation of data
Established mechanisms to enable flow of information and involvement of CSOs in decision making processes (eg. Water Conference)	Knowledge that evidence is not always used for decision making is a disincentive
Building Capacities (of CSOs and Development Partners) to use evidence	Lack of sustained advocacy
Incentives (allocation of budgetary resources based on provision of data & reports)	Timeliness of data generation
Receptiveness of District Assembly personnel to use evidence in developing their plans	
Evidence champions and mentors	

Lessons for Ghana and Beyond...

- Strengthen and harmonise the data ecosystem
- Non-state data producers (CSOs/academia) need to improve their understanding of how, when and which government institutions and other actors use evidence for policy design, implementation and monitoring for better use of these opportunities
- Need for increased recognition and use of CSO-generated evidence in policy interventions by state institutions
- Evidence is used when government and key stakeholders are involved in the evidence use change process from the design stage.
- Developing and building on an inclusive culture is paramount in promoting evidence use at all levels of society.
- Uptake of evidence is better when championed by a senior Statesman, eg. the President, with adequate resources and institutions to sustain it.

ME DA MO ASE! THANK YOU

