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WEST AFRICA MUNICIPAL WATER, SANITATION AND HYGIENE ACTIVITY

COST NEEDS ASSESSMENT FOR PLANNING SANITATION INTERVENTIONS FOR MUNICIPALITIES IN COTE D'IVOIRE

SUMMARY

In June 30th, 2020, the West Africa Municipal Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene (MuniWASH) Activity completed a needs assessment to quantify costs for sanitation improvements in eight municipalities in Cote d'Ivoire, which included Abengourou, Abobo, Bouaké, Gagnoa, San Pedro, Soubré, Yamoussoukro, and Yopougon.

The purpose of the assessment was to quantify the sanitation needs to achieve the national objective of "75% access to improved sanitation facilities in urban areas" by 2030, as outlined in the 2016 Sanitation and Drainage Sector Policy Letter approved by the Government of Cote d'Ivoire. As a result of the assessment, the estimated costs for onsite sanitation in these municipalities are approximately XOF 77.5

billion, which includes XOF 74 billion for the construction of 130,040 toilets and XOF 3.5 billion to acquire 77 emptying trucks. There are several key actors that support access to sanitation services at the household level including civil society organizations (CSOs), private operators, and local elected officials. The assessment found that each one has different perceptions of the approach needed to improve sanitation in the communities. CSOs placed emphasis on more toilets and sanitation infrastructure for households. Private operators highlighted the need for improved access to financing. Finally, the elected officials signaled the need for significant improvements in the institutional framework with more responsibility entrusted to them.

CONTEXT

USAID MuniWASH is a water and sanitation project in partnership with the African Water Association (AfWA) and funded by the United States Agency for International Development (USAID). The project is working with municipalities to increase and expand water and sanitation services. USAID MuniWASH partnered with the municipalities of Abengourou, Abobo, Bouaké, Gagnoa, San Pedro, Soubré, Yamoussoukro, and Yopougon after completing a consultation and selection process in Cote d'Ivoire. USAID MuniWASH completed a cost needs assessment with the goal to understand the financial gap between the current sanitation access rate and the access rate to be achieved linked to 2030 national targets. The lessons learned from the analysis of the sanitation sub-sector in these eight intervention municipalities are the subject of this learning note.

APPROACH

The 2016 Sanitation and Drainage Sector Policy Letter approved by the government of Côte d'Ivoire set targets for sanitation until 2030. Two notable targets for municipalities include "75% access to improved sanitation facilities in urban areas" and "100% of collected wastewater is treated". Using these targets, USAID MuniWASH compiled an updated inventory of the sanitation sector in the municipalities. The project team collected data from relevant national and municipal technical services and carried out an analysis of the needs in toilets and emptying trucks necessary to reach the national objectives taking into account population size and investment plans already funded. These estimates were budgeted to provide an estimate of the funds necessary to meet the national targets.

RESULTS

TABLE 1: STATUS OF ACCESS TO SANITATION - USAID MUNIWASH

MUNICIPALITIES	ABENGOUROU	ABOBO	BOUAKE	GAGNOA	SAN-PEDRO	SOUBRE	YAMOUSSOUKRO	YOPOUGON
On-site sanitation (%)								
Global	79	61	67	55	24	30	90	30
Urban	77	61	40	60	24	27	95	30
Rural	2	-	27	20	-	3	50	-

Source: Costed Needs Assessment Report Côte d'Ivoire (USAID MuniWASH, 2020)

TABLE 2: QUANTIFIED ASSESSMENT OF SANITATION NEEDS - USAID MUNIWASH

MUNICIPALITIES	ABENGOUROU	ABOBO	BOUAKE	GAGNOA	SAN-PEDRO	SOUBRE	YAMOOUSSOUKRO	YOPOUGON
Number of toilets	3 036	20 634	21 102	3 296	10 095	7 477	1 360	67 039
Cost (in thousand FCFA)	1 669	11 348	11 605	1 812	5 552	4 112	748 028	36 871
Number of Empty Trucks	6	17	13	6	6	6	6	17
Cost (in thousands of FCFA)	281,25	750	562,5	281,25	281,25	281,25	281, 25	750
TOTAL (CFA)	1 950, 9	12098,7	12 168,3	2 094,2	5 833,3	4 393,7	1 029, 3	37 621,5

Source: Costed Needs Assessment Report Côte d'Ivoire (USAID MuniWASH, 2020)

ANALYSIS OF RESULTS

The results of the cost needs assessment in the eight municipalities show that challenges with onsite sanitation are most pronounced in the municipality of San Pedro (24%), Soubré, and Yopougon (30%). Additionally, the municipalities of Gagnoa (55%), Abobo (61%) and Bouaké (67%), also need improvement even though they have higher rates of access to sanitation than the national average of 52% in 2018¹¹. Demographic trends and the effects of climate variability and change are likely to delay progress towards the national target. Only the municipality of Yamoussoukro can cover the sanitation needs for most of its population (90%), which will have to improve services through the ongoing maintenance of infrastructure.

The analysis quantified and budgeted the needs for toilets and emptying trucks for all eight municipalities. Approximately 130,040 toilets and 77 emptying trucks are required to enable these municipalities to offer adequate sanitation services to their populations. The investment cost of the toilets is about XOF 74 billion and the cost for the acquisition of emptying trucks is XOF 3.5 billion. An amount of approximately XOF 77.5 billion is needed to be mobilized for the eight municipalities targeted by USAID MuniWASH.

Stakeholders' perception of the quantified evaluation of needs

Municipalities, private operators, and CSOs are key players in the provision of sanitation services. Their leadership facilitates community mobilization and motivates households to adopt better hygiene promotion practices. Briefed on the cost needs assessment, These stakeholders have various perceptions of the sanitation sector and the interventions required.

The Deputy Mayor of Yamoussoukro stated, "Sanitation in Côte d'Ivoire is the responsibility of the Ministry and ONAD (*Office National de l'Assainissement et du Drainage*), but it is also the responsibility of the municipalities.

The quantified evaluation of needs is a tool for decision-making, planning, and fund-raising, but it is not enough.

The assessment must lead to a proposal for improved governance of the sanitation sector with more power and means of action granted to the municipality. ONAD, for example, is not decentralized

¹¹ (https://www.who.int/water_sanitation_health/monitoring/investments/country-highlights-2019/cote-ivoire-glaas-2018-19-country-highlights-fr.pdf)

enough. The municipalities are the first line of access close to the communities."

USAID MuniWASH's discussions with the Secretary General of the *Collectif des Enseignants du Nord* (a CSO active in the field of sanitation) and some members of her team in Bouaké revealed that: *"the idea of initiating studies is welcomed. But many studies have been carried out and the results have not been followed up."*

Households are facing sanitation problems - especially the availability of adequate toilets and emptying because the costs are very high. Côte d'Ivoire must work to reduce costs at this level. The President of the National Federation of Emptying Operators of Côte d'Ivoire (FENAVICI) believes that *"as emptying operators in Côte d'Ivoire, our greatest need remains access to funding to be able to increase our business volume and also increase our emptying capacity to better serve customers. it is only this way we can reduce our cost and earn more revenue We believe that this needs assessment is for us like a compass that will show the real needs for the sector but also the levels of investment needed. I am convinced that this study can make a difference in our sector, because a lot of people talk about improving the sector, but with USAID MuniWASH, we now have a clear idea of what we need because many operators are struggling with access to finance and even with estimating their financing needs."*

The problem of access to sanitation and its resolution is not approached in the same way by the different actors. While the municipalities consider the solution from the point of view of improving the institutional and regulatory framework for intervention, the CSOs aim to reduce the cost of services. The private sector, on the other hand, advocates for greater access to financing.

LESSONS LEARNED

The quantified evaluation of sanitation needs in Côte d'Ivoire has helped to assess quantitatively the sanitation needs of the population. From the results of the study, two major lessons emerge.

First, on the evaluation exercise, USAID MuniWASH noted a different perspective according to the actors. Households were pessimistic of initiatives that are not accompanied by the construction of infrastructure for their benefit. The daily difficulties experienced by households amplified by the harmful effects of the global pandemic on the local economy help justify this stance. Private fecal sludge disposal operators also remain critical of the support expected from the competent technical services in this area. For local executives, this is an opportunity to be seized for more advocacy and access to various funding, especially private.

It is clear that giving the municipalities greater responsibility for the issue, with more power and means of action, are institutional solutions that should be explored. Reducing the cost of emptying services through mechanisms for granting credit at preferential rates to private operators as well as supporting households to construct sanitation facilities that meet standards will support better promotion of hygiene at the grassroots level.

CONCLUSION

The eight municipalities targeted by USAID MuniWASH in Côte d'Ivoire have a total investment need of about XOF 77.5 billion in the sanitation sector to achieve the national goal of "75% access to improved sanitation facilities in urban areas by 2030". To achieve this access rate, it will be necessary to ensure the maintenance and renewal of the depreciated fleet of trucks by private operators.

Additionally, households need to be made aware of and responsible for the maintenance and proper use of sanitation facilities to guarantee them a better life span. The main stakeholders involved in solving sanitation problems at the grassroots level have different perceptions according to their field of intervention. CSOs expect support to the households for the construction of toilets.

Private operators are asking for easier access to credit, while local elected officials are calling for a reorganization of the institutional and regulatory framework for intervention. For efficient planning of its interventions, the challenge for USAID MuniWASH is to create a favorable environment for consultation and reconciliation of positions between actors (public and private partners and society's organizations) to produce more lasting and sustainable effects. The needs are certainly enormous but so are the opportunities

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