



Submission No 114

Review of Australia's Relationship with the Countries of Africa

Organisation: AusAID
Africa Strategy, Performance & Partnerships
Section



Australian Government

AusAID

6 May 2011

Dr John Carter
The Secretary
Joint Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade
Parliament House
CANBERRA ACT 2600

Dear Dr Carter

Thank you for your email to Sarah Willis (First Secretary Development Cooperation) and Ian Gould (Third Secretary) at the Australian High Commission, Accra, seeking further information about the Water Aid project in Sabon Zongo, funded under AusAID's Australia-Africa Community Engagement Scheme (AACES).

The Government recognises that Australian NGOs are an important delivery partner for Australian aid to Africa. There are a range of civil society organisations which have close links with African communities and governments and can help implement Australia's aid program objectives in Africa. AACES, currently under development, builds on these strengths with three primary objectives:

- Objective 1: Marginalised people have sustainable access to the services they require.
- Objective 2: AusAID policies and programs in Africa are strengthened particularly in their ability to target and serve the needs of marginalised people.
- Objective 3: Australian public are more informed about development issues in Africa.

The largest component of AACES is a partnership between AusAID and ten Australian NGOs to implement a range of activities which complement AusAID's programs in food security; water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH); and maternal and child health. This includes WaterAid Australia's *Water Sanitation Program*. The program will aim to train local organisations, communities and companies to construct and operate water and sanitation facilities in poor rural and urban communities of Ghana, Malawi and Tanzania and advocate with local and national governments to improve access to water and sanitation.

Water Aid program in Ghana

Within Ghana, WaterAid is aiming to address the water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) needs of some of Ghana's poorest communities through:

- the provision of sustainable and equitable WASH facilities and services;
- capacity building of communities, schools, community based organisations and government institutions to address WASH needs and maintain WASH facilities; and

- policy dialogue and influencing activities at the local, district and national government levels.

WaterAid will be working with both government and non-government partners in rural and urban districts in the Eastern Region and Greater Accra.

Local NGO partner organisations include ProNet, a WASH specialist development NGO and the Centre for Indigenous Knowledge and Organisational Development (CIKOD) who specialise in Indigenous development approaches. The project is aimed at benefiting an estimated 65,700 people in Ghana.

AACES urban project in Greater Accra (Sabon Zongo)

WaterAid's urban project in Greater Accra (Sabon Zongo) is aimed at addressing the lack of access to WASH services in Accra's urban areas. The rationale is based on evidence indicating that of Ghana's 50 per cent urban population, around 61 per cent lack access to WASH services.

The program in Sabon Zongo involves collaboration between ProNet, local Government and the urban water and sanitation authorities - Aqua Vitens Rand Limited/Ghana Water Company Limited (AVRL/GWCL) and the Ablekuma Central Sub-Metropolitan Assembly.

WaterAid and ProNet are aiming to assist local communities to negotiate with local Government and the Government Water and Sanitation Authorities to establish fee-for-service water kiosks, community toilets and hard rubbish collection. This aims at helping poor people with limited resources and land tenure to gain access to essential services as well as provide cost-recovery and sustainability.

In addition to strengthening the existing WASH work undertaken, the AACES project will also aim to reach other poor settlements of Sabon Zongo to improve access to water and sanitation; improve institutional arrangements for urban WASH service delivery; drive urban sector reforms; and address land tenure arrangements and tariff settings in urban areas.

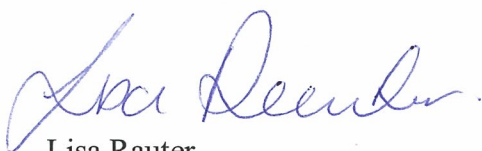
WaterAid is also aiming to provide gender and disability friendly WASH facilities to schools in the Sabon Zongo community. Developing such facilities is also aimed at school retention, especially for girls and people with disabilities.

Definition of a 'skip pad'

You (Dr Carter) also sought further information on the operation of a 'skip pad'. WaterAid has advised that a skip pad is a mechanism to assist households within Sabon Zonga to be connected to Accra's waste collection service. A skip pad is a rubbish collection point, usually made of a concrete 'pad' with a metal 'skip' where people periodically empty their bins and then these bins/skips are emptied into a rubbish truck during its regular collection.

Should you require any further information on AusAID's AACES programs in Africa, please contact Naomi Dumbrell, Director Eastern Africa on (02) 6206 4949 or email naomi.dumbrell@ausaid.gov.au. If you require any further information on AusAID's programs in West Africa more broadly, please contact Andrew Edge, Director Africa Strategy, Performance & Partnerships on (02) 6206 4684 or email andrew.edge@ausaid.gov.au.

Yours sincerely



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