

UNIVERSITY OF CAPE COAST



**Building Inclusive and Resilient
Water, Sanitation and Hygiene
(WASH) Systems to Reach the
Unserved**

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Outline of presentation



- Introduction
- Conceptual clarifications (Inclusiveness, Resilience)
- Progress and state of WASH Services
- How we got here
- Gaps in the existing WASH system
- Areas to be strengthened
- Key questions for consideration
- Conclusion

Introduction



- Inadequate access to water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) services has serious implications for:
 - health,
 - wealth and
 - dignity.
- Yet, access to WASH services is generally inadequate, mostly in developing countries (WHO/UNICEF 2020).
- Even where is adequate access to WASH services, several challenges threaten the sustainability of such systems.
- There are also vast disparities across localities, regions, and socio-economic groups.

Conceptual clarifications



- **Inclusiveness of WASH systems**
 - An inclusive WASH system should address the needs and aspirations of all categories of users, **leaving no one behind:**
 - Children,
 - Aged,
 - PWDs,
 - The sick etc
- **Equity of WASH systems**
 - Wealth: Rich vs Poor
 - Gender: Males (boys) vs Females (girls)
 - Generational: Children vs Adults vs Aged
 - Geography: north-south, rural-urban

Conceptual clarifications

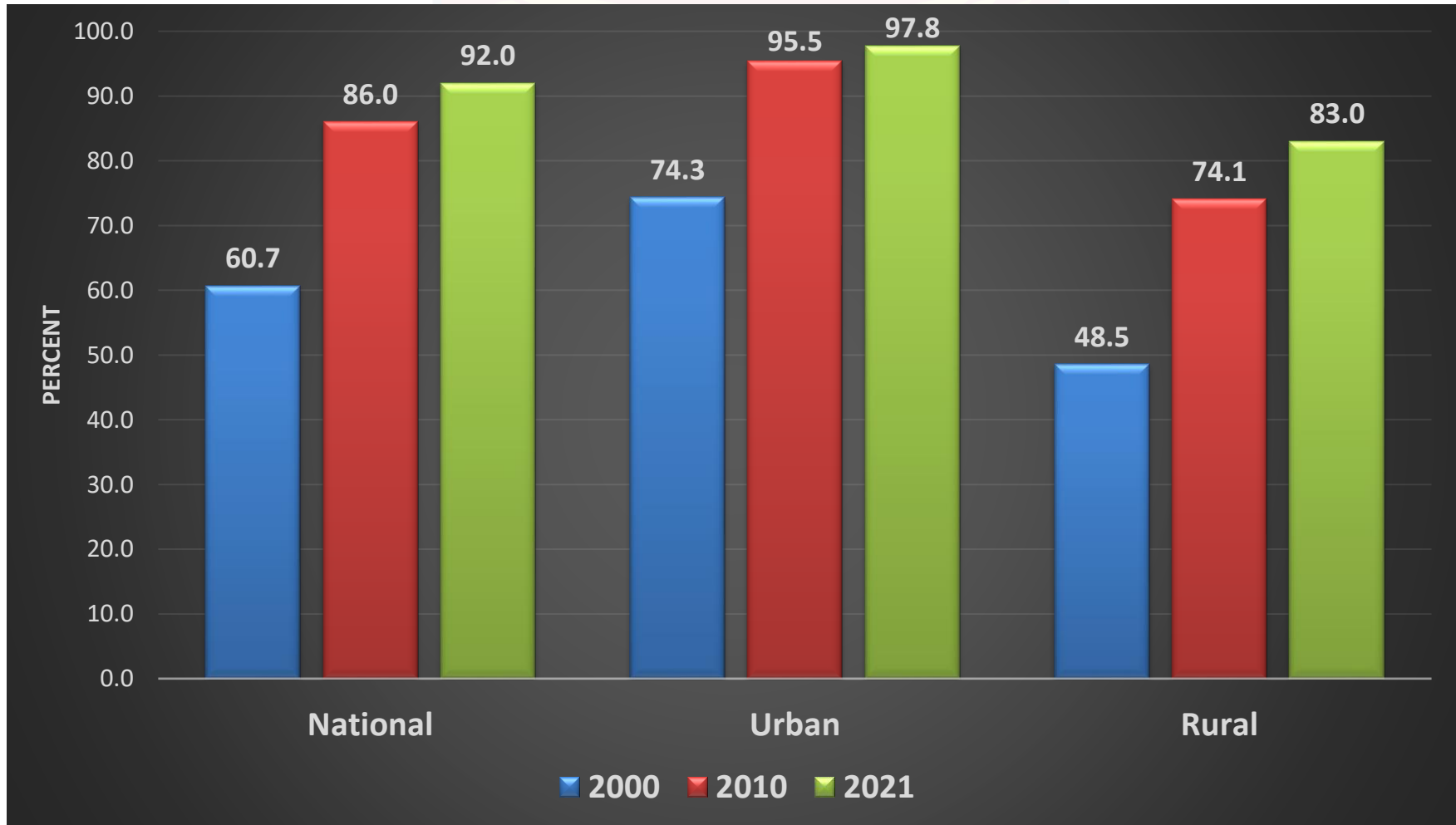


- **Resilience of WASH systems**
 - Resilience is closely linked to sustainability
 - Sustainability is simply defined as the ability ‘to last or continue for a long time.’
 - In the context of WASH, resilience is about whether or not WASH systems continue to work and deliver benefits over time (WaterAid, 2011) during disasters or others.
 - That is WASH systems should be resilient technically, environmentally (climate change), economically, and socially
 - The resilience should be across the chain, from containment to treatment and disposal.



Where are we? Progress in WASH

Progress in Drinking Water Coverage



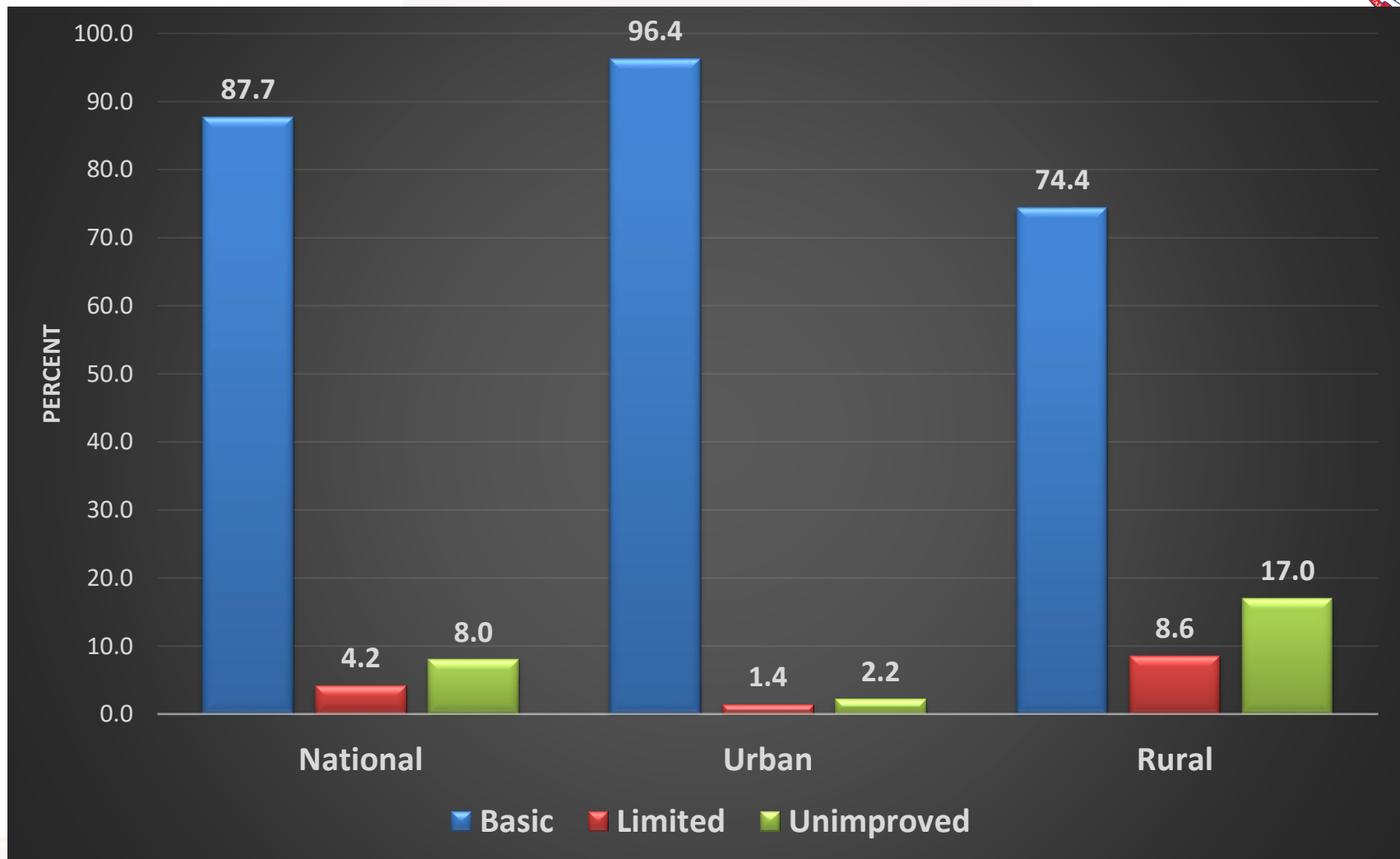
Source: GSS, 2023

State of Drinking Water Coverage



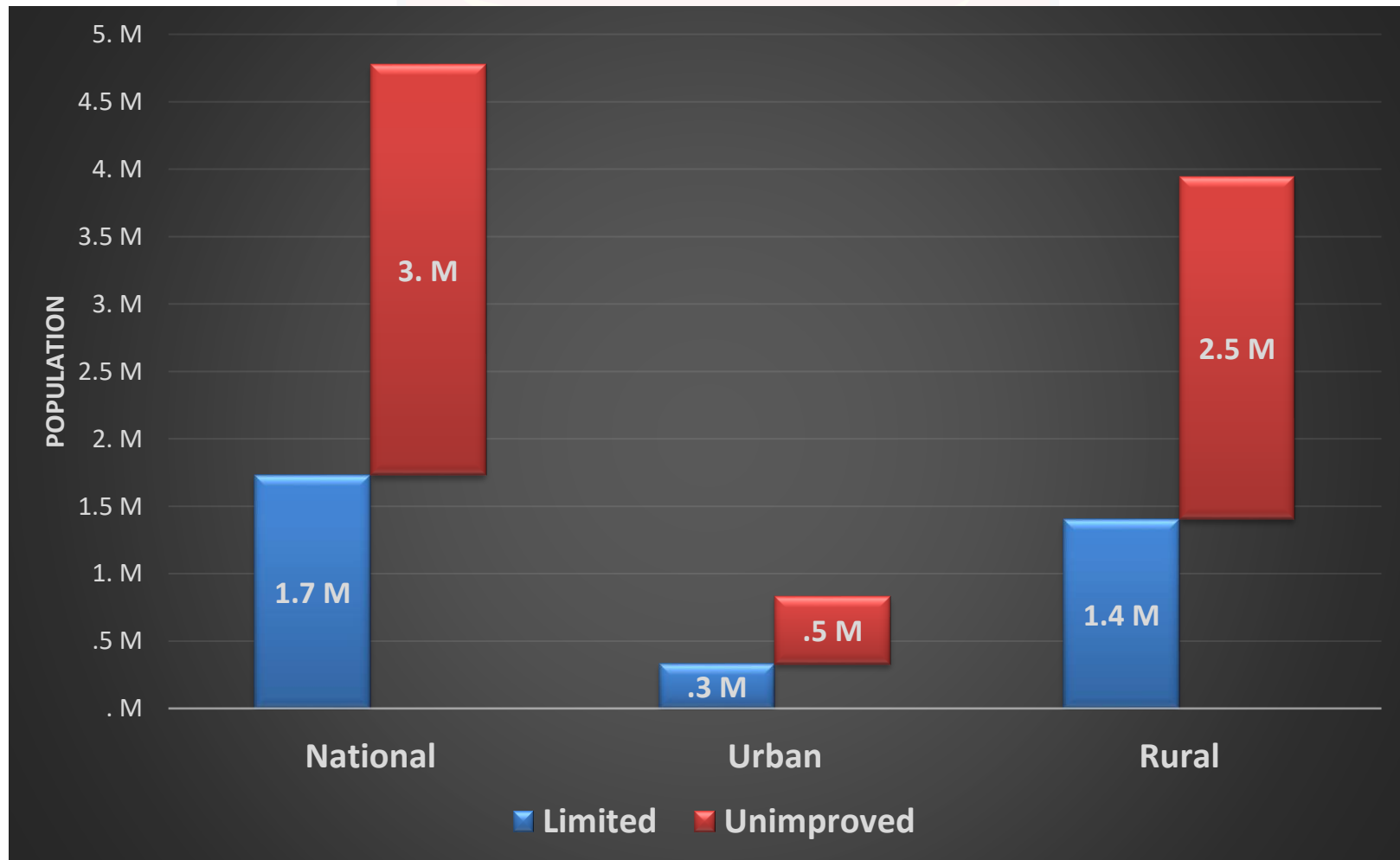
Source: GSS, 2023

State of Drinking Water Coverage



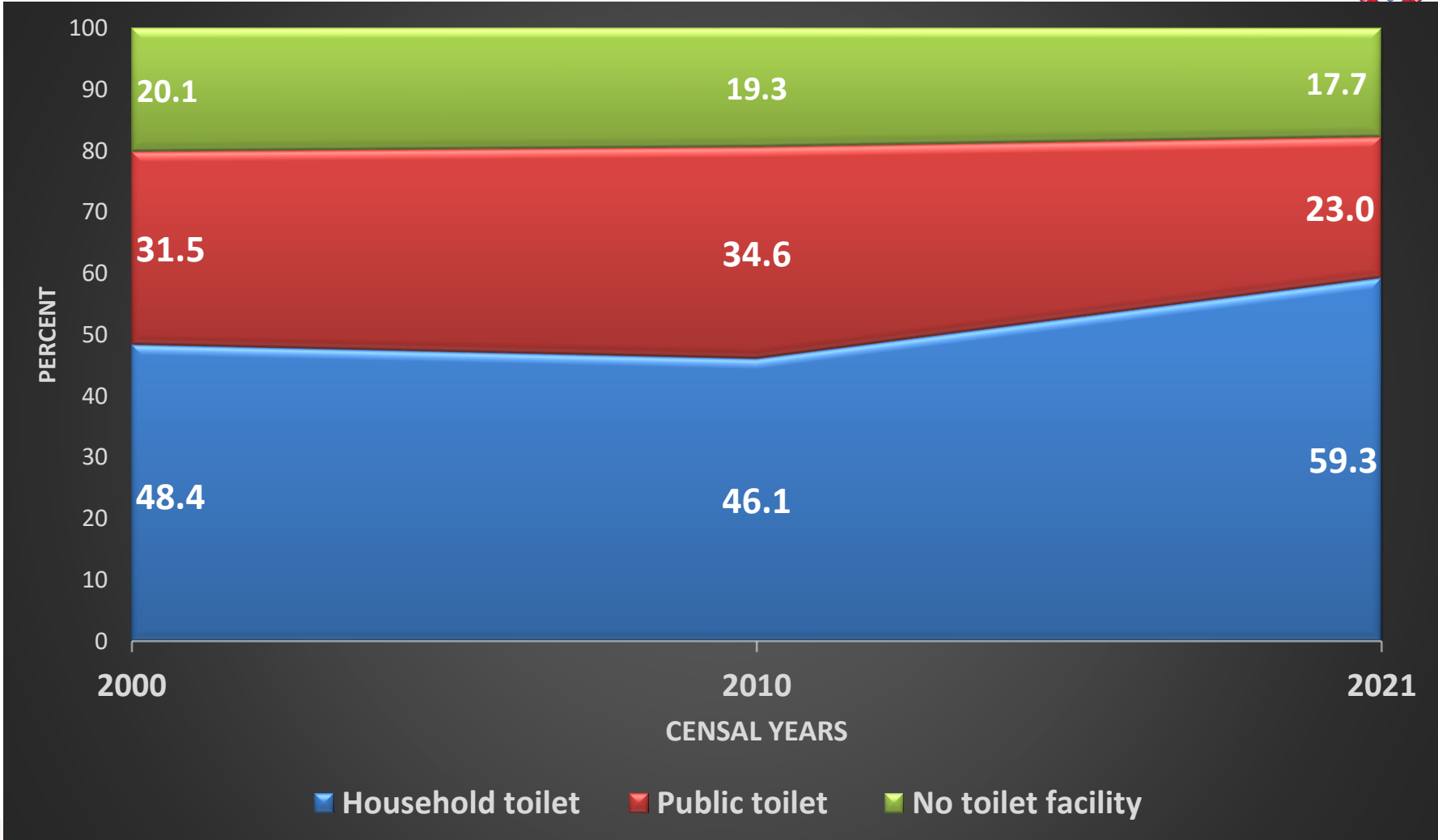
Source: GSS, 2023

Population without basic drinking water



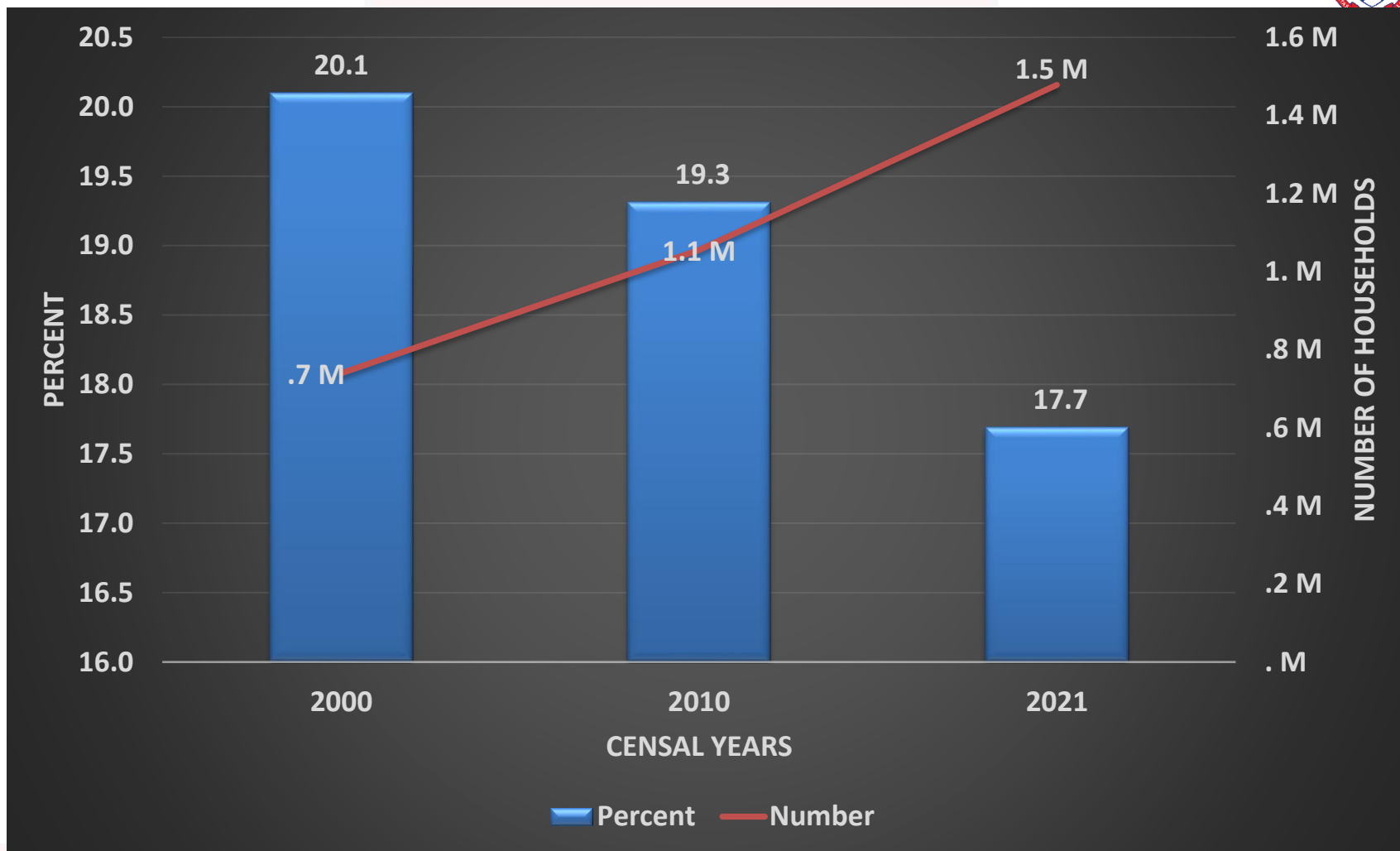
Source: GSS, 2023

Progress in Sanitation Coverage



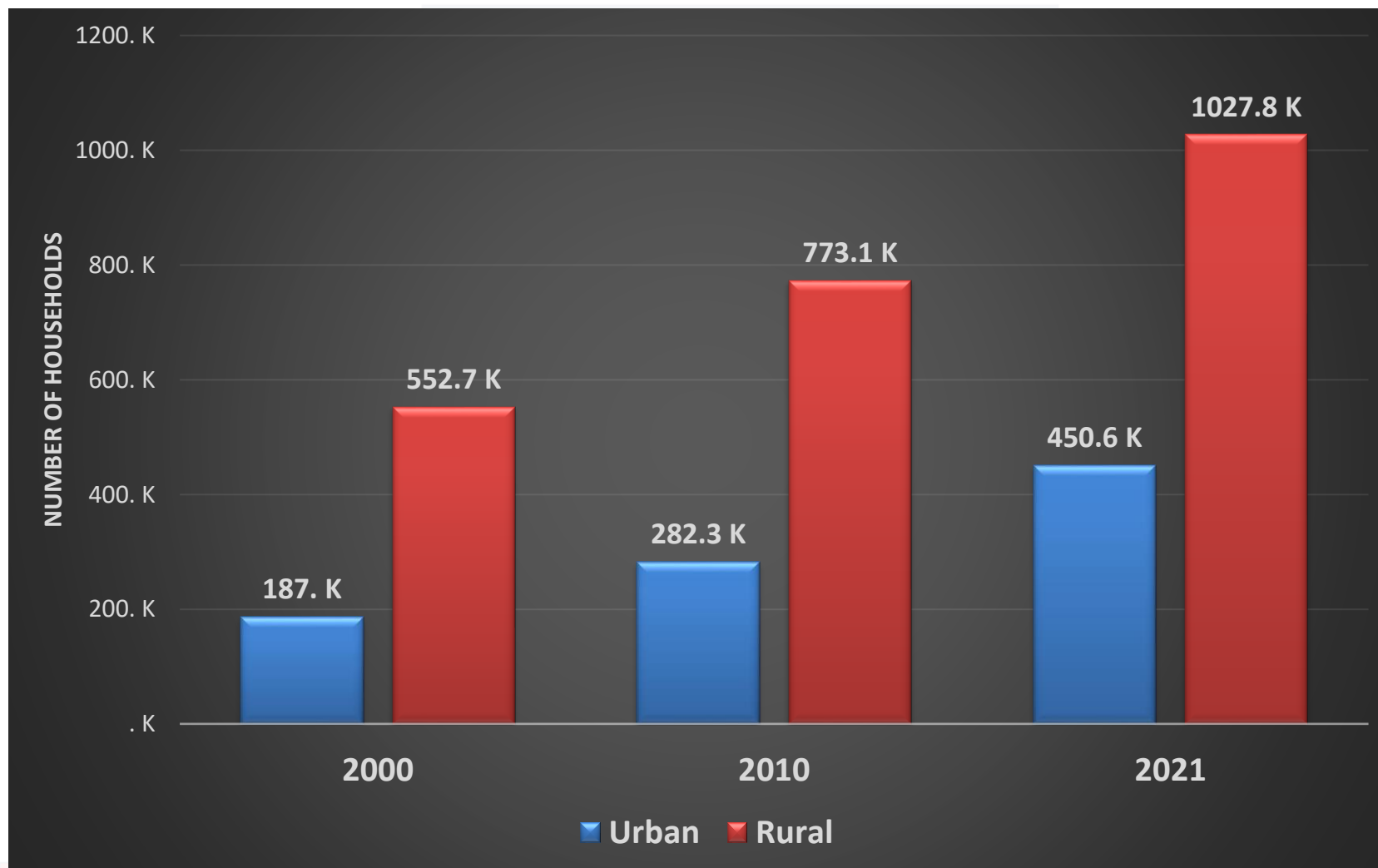
Source: GSS, 2023

Trends in open defecation



Source: GSS, 2023

Trends in open defecation by locality

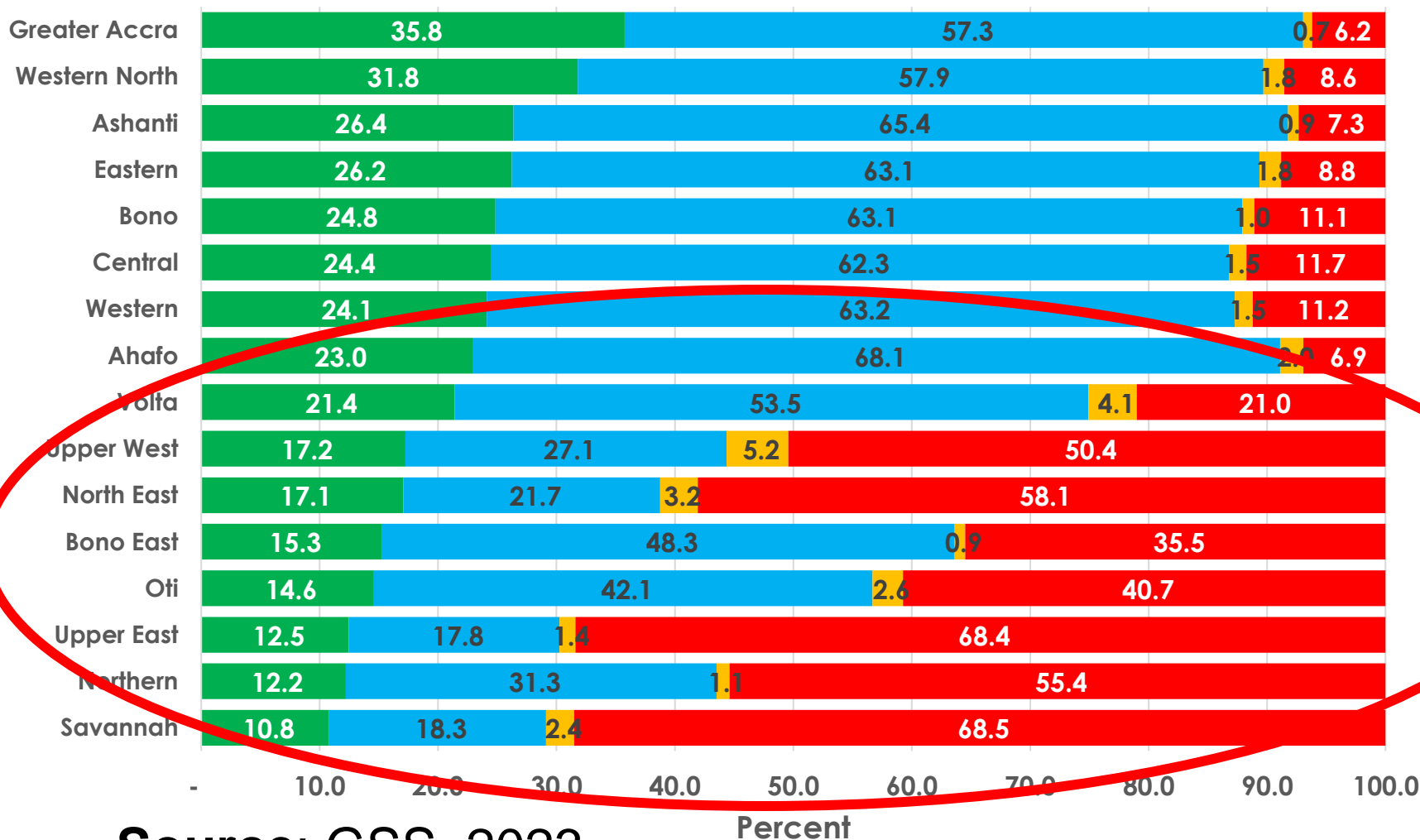


Source: GSS, 2023

Household sanitation service levels

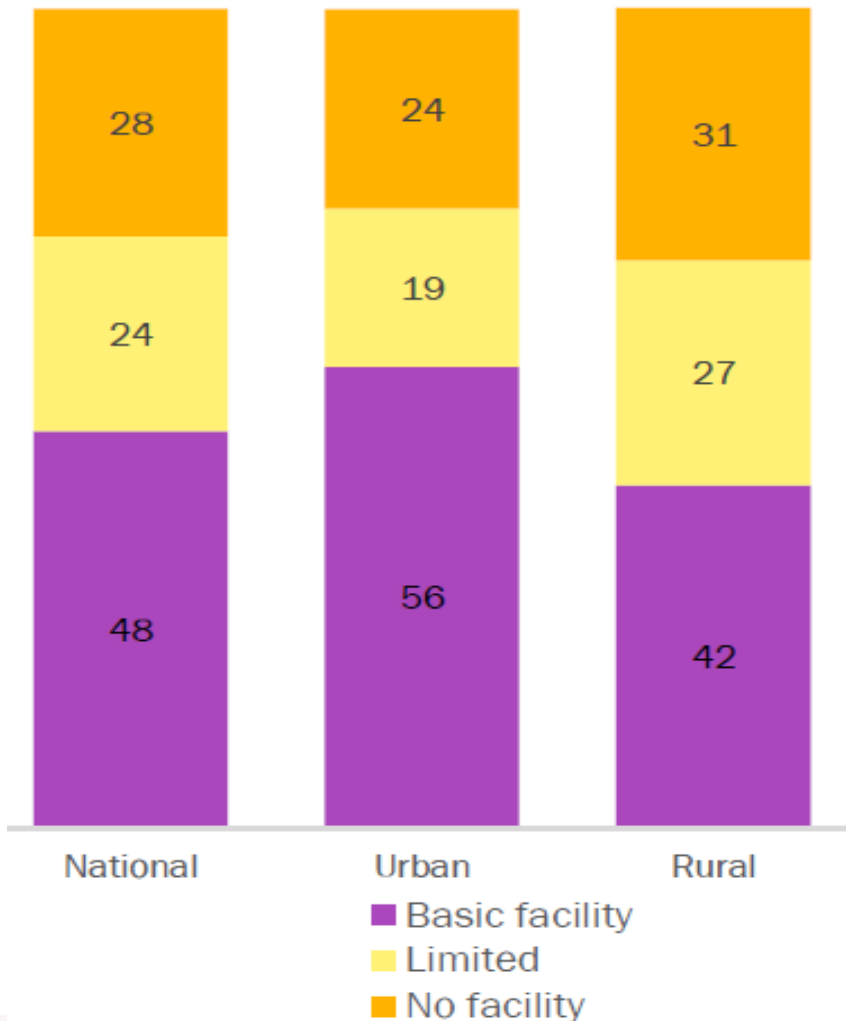


Basic Limited Unimproved No Toilet



Source: GSS, 2023

State of hand hygiene



- **Ghana's situation is worse than the global average:**

- **52% lack functional facility, of which 28% have NO facility at all**

- **Meanwhile, the presence of functional facilities does not guarantee handwashing**

- **So, handwashing practices might even be far lower**

Source: GSS, 2018 (MICS 2017/18)



Neglected/Underserved Areas

- **Leaving no one behind?** Neglected areas of concern
- Many public places DO NOT have (decent or functional) WASH facilities:
 - Prisons
 - Health facilities
 - Schools
 - Churches and Mosques
 - Drinking spots (pubs) without toilets
 - Police check points on our roads
 - Market places
 - Lorry stations
 - Funeral grounds/social gatherings



How did we get here?



Impressive WASH interventions

- There are many examples of impressive interventions in WASH:
 - Government of Ghana through:
 - MMDAs,
 - Community Water and Sanitation Agency
 - GAMA Sanitation and Water Project (SWP)
 - GKMA Sanitation and Water Project (SWP)
 - Greater Accra Sustainable Sanitation and Livelihoods Improvement Project (GASSLIP)
 - Local and international NGOs implementing Community-led Total Sanitation (CLTS)
 - Development Partners supporting in diverse ways (UNICEF, USAID etc)



Gaps in the Existing System

The Challenge with Data



- Do we know how much faeces we throw into the environment on a daily basis?
- Approximately, 17.7% practise open defecation, representing 1,477,747 households (HHs).
- Although there is no nationally represented data, a crude estimate puts the daily amount of faeces as follows:
 - NB: Average faeces/person/day = 100g-400g=250g = **0.25kg**.
 - Average HH size*No of HHs without toilets*Average faeces/person/day
 - 3.6* 1,477,747*0.25kg=1,329,972kg
 - **Approximately=1,330 tonnes**
- Can be greater in carbohydrate-dominant meals in Ghana

The Challenge with Data



- We can do the same for the 2,163,752 households that use septic tanks.
- Within the MMDAs, do we have data on how many trips per day, per week, per month and per year?
- **Lack of comprehensive data: Where is our SIS?**



Lack of FSM in CLTS



Level	Status (Indicative Time Frame)	Minimum Indicators
1	ODF- Basic (2 Months)	No visible faeces accessible to humans, domestic and wild animals in the entire community
2	ODF (6 Months)	No visible faeces. 80% of households own and use improved latrines with hand washing facilities. All households have access to and use improved refuse management facilities.
3	Sanitised Community (12 Months)	No visible faeces. 95% of households have improved latrines with hand washing facilities. All structures (schools, market places, health centres, mosques, health posts etc) have improved latrines with hand washing facilities. Proper waste water management.
4	Sustainable Sanitised Community (36 Months)	Community has maintained its Sanitised Community status for three successive years

No faecal sludge management?

MLGRD (2013)- Revised protocol for CLTS verification and certification

Lack of FSM in CLTS



- According to Chambers and Myers (2016), when pits in rural areas are filling or full, there are four options:
 1. Stop using and dig another pit.
 2. Empty the pit.
 - 3. Use sparingly [potential for open defecation].**
 - 4. Abandon and revert to open defecation.**
- In Ghana, SNV (2014) found that in 53.1% of cases, excreta had been emptied into a hole on the compound and just left open.
- Is it something to worry about?
- Is it something we need to address urgently?

Lack of sustainability planning



- Almost all stakeholders in the WASH sector (politicians, MMDAs, NGOs, DPs, etc) are just interested in the **numbers**, **What about quality?**:
 - The number of WASH facilities provided
 - The number of BCC programmes implemented
 - The number of communities declared ODF
 - The number of Cedis invested
 - The number of households and communities served
 - The number of this, the number of that...
- In other words, no one is actually interested in the sustainability of the interventions.
- Do we really consider WASH in emergencies?
 - Akosombo Dam and Bagre Dam Spillage and matters arising

Lack of synthesis for scale-up



- **Projectification** of WASH interventions, leading to **pilotitis** (Huang et al., 2017).
- There are so many success stories in terms of:
 - Resilient and cost-effective technologies
 - Pro-poor financing
 - Effective behaviour change communication
 - Efficient resource mobilisation
- No evidence of **synthesis** and **adaptation** for **scale-up**.
 - Don't we believe in the stories we share?
- **We always come here to share lessons but NEVER to learn lessons?**

Policies vs Politics



- Countless policies, without recourse to implementation.
 - RSMS on my mind
 - Political expediency
- Politicization has killed communal spirit and community-based initiatives. Now we see:
 - No water, No votes
 - No toilet, No Votes
 - No This, No That



Policies and Regulations



- GWASH Sector Development Plan (2021-2030) recently launched aligning to SDG 6.
- Revised National Water Policy yet to be finalized and outdoored.
 - Hopefully, it addressed gaps such as incentivizing private sector and dealing with challenges of small towns and rural water sector
- Regulatory regimes/framework are not adequate to promote accelerated WASH delivery eg. SWEs, Private sector sanitation financing.

Weak Systems Approach



- Our approach to WASH delivery does not consider holistic development issues in a district or community. Eg link WASH to livelihood, to energy, environment etc
- We do not consider a service delivery approach where critical service benchmarks such as quality, quantity, functionality, distance and customer service are monitored.
- Issues of planning, policies, coordination, finance, infrastructure, community participation, gender issues, monitoring and evaluation are not **comprehensively** appraised periodically.



Areas to be done strengthened

Innovative Service Delivery



- Small Water Enterprises (SWEs) are currently excellent models but limited.
 - Need to scale up with increased private sector financing and PPP arrangements
- Innovative financing schemes such as basic sanitation funds need to scale up.
 - MFIs, NGOs WASH credit schemes are limited
- GAMA-SWP good model but limited to few areas.
 - Need to scale up



Private Sector Participation (SWEs)

- Ensure the enabling environment for private sector investment is incentivizing enough to attract additional private sector investments into WASH
- Ensure unambiguous regulation. Eg water quality, appropriate tariff, clear reporting procedures, complaints mechanisms etc

Climate Change, Disasters and WASH



- We need to fully appreciate the local impact of climate change on WASH resilience.
- Prioritisation and integration of climate change and disaster risk reduction strategies into WASH programming and interventions.
 - Investments and capacity building in this regard
- **Harvest floodwater from the Bagre Dam spillage into dams for agricultural purposes in Northern Ghana.**
 - This will minimize its impact on WASH and other sectors

Establish a National Sanitation Authority

- There is the need for a National Sanitation Authority to implement policies and coordinate WASH interventions.
 - Most prominent Ministries of the country have coordination and implementation arms such as Ghana Health Service, National Ambulance Service etc for the Ministry of Health, and the Ghana Education Service for the Ministry of Education.
- Community Water and Sanitation Agency, which was established to provide water and sanitation services for rural communities, is overly focused on water to the detriment of sanitation.
 - **Sanitation has always been the neglected Siamese twin**

Strengthen WASH M&E Systems



- Sustaining functionality and service levels of WASH systems require effective monitoring and evaluation (M&E) as well as knowledge and skills in data management.
- We have existing systems such as BaSIS, DiMES, ESICAPP, ESICOME etc
- However, weak infrastructure and HR capacity are rendering the systems ineffective.
- There is an urgent need for M&E plans and associated investments for all MMDAs
- Accelerate the roll-out the Sector Information System (SIS)

Learning & Knowledge Management



- Continue but strengthen existing learning and knowledge management structures and processes. Eg MOLE, RCN-NLLAP, etc.
 - Activate RLLAPs and DLLAPs to improve policy dissemination and improve coordination.
- Deliberately learn from other good practices and adapt to our context
- How functional are RICCS, M/DISCCs etc now?

Poverty and WASH



- **WASH is Health; WASH is Wealth**
- There is the need to re-examine the link between poverty and WASH
- WASH interventions and systems should be closely linked with livelihood empowerment because poverty has much to do with the WASH challenge.
 - **All of us here will choose other competing needs over sanitation.**
- We should recognise how poverty intersects with other factors to challenge uptake of WASH services.
- We need a holistic, integrated and participatory approach to WASH services delivery.

Other initiatives



- Strengthen community-based initiatives (e.g. CLTS)
 - Communal labour
 - For rural districts, have a bye-law to strengthen participation
 - **Strengthen existing community structures**
 - Working with traditional and religious leaders
- Partnership with neighbouring MMDAs to build waste treatment and recycling plants.
 - Neighbouring MMDAs and the private sector could come together to invest in such initiatives using PPP models
- Strengthen partnership with the electronic media to devote one of the prime times for WASH activities.
 - Once a week or once a month e.g. WASH hour on GTV



Key questions for consideration



Key questions for consideration



1. How can WASH policies, plans and strategies be made more effective and lead to a steep change in the WASH sector, and address inequities and cover the unserved so we can accelerate to 2030 and beyond?
2. How can the building blocks in **system strengthening** be made more functional and address inequities, promote innovative service delivery so we can reach the underserved and unserved?
3. How can we accelerate the roll-out of a robust and credible **sector information management** system and a strong learning culture to accelerate innovative service delivery to ensure underserved and unserved are covered with sustainable WASH?

Key questions for consideration



4. What more is needed in our **sector reforms** to ensure that WASH gains/achievements last and have the best chance of reaching everyone?
5. What is required to ensure **Government accountability** such as making simple, realistic and concrete commitments at continental and global levels and to ensure these are fulfilled?
6. What are the opportunities and innovative approaches we can explore to achieve **universal access** incrementally in hard-to-reach geographic locations?



THANK YOU

