

ASSESS

West Africa Analytical Support Services and Evaluations for Sustainable Systems

Commissioned Activity	Impact Evaluation of USAID West Africa Sanitation Services Delivery Program (SSD)
Position	Impact Evaluation Specialist – Team Member
Start date (tentative)	March 2015
Duration	40 days in 2014, 30 days in 2017 and 40 days in 2019

I. Background

USAID West Africa ROECCR has commissioned the Analytical Support Services and Evaluations for Sustainable systems (ASSESS) to undertake a performance evaluation and an impact evaluation of the USAID West Africa's Sanitation Services Delivery (SSD) program throughout its lifetime and after. ASSESS is a USAID funded project implemented by USDA and its partners (US and Africa University partners) under the PASA mechanism that conducts evaluations of USAID West Africa REGO Portfolio programs. The broad objective of ASSESS is to ensure that Systematic and Meaningful Feedback of USAID activities is expanded for evidence-based decision making to Advance Economic Growth and Environmental Resiliency in the West Africa region.

The impact evaluation for the SSD program by ASSESS, will seek primarily to measure the changes in adoption of improved sanitation services and improved enabling environment for sanitation in West Africa attributable to the intervention. The findings of the impact evaluation will be used to improve decision making process in USAID/WA REG Portfolio and shared with donors and partners, in order to transfer lessons learned and best practices to promote replicability and scalability.

The SSD is a five-year regional sanitation program (2015-2019) designed to support achievement of the global USAID Water and Development Strategy (2013-2018) strategic objective I (SOI) "Water for Health" and its intermediate result "increased access to improved sanitation and waste management for households in urban and peri-urban areas". The overall goal of the program is to improve sanitation outcomes by developing and testing scalable business models that engage private sector service providers and by contributing to the creation of an improved enabling environment for sanitation in West Africa.

The specific objectives of the program are to:

- Increase use of improved sanitation,
- Increase use of safe disposal and/or reuse of fecal waste,
- Disseminate learning on market-based approaches to promote the provision of sanitation services throughout West Africa.

Population Services International (PSI) is the Implementing Partner for the SSD Program in partnership with PATH and Water and Sanitation for the Urban Poor (WSUP), and activities will be implemented

in Benin, Cote d'Ivoire and Ghana. Along with its partners, PSI will be building the capacity of private enterprises and the public sector, and strengthening the linkages between the two, to create a sustainable sanitation marketplace in West Africa.

II. The scope of the SSD impact evaluation

ROECCR, to ensure that the program impact evaluation is carried out in alignment with USAID standards, mobilized the ASSESS mechanism from the beginning of the program. ASSESS should make sure that impact evaluation activities are implemented with a consistent team in the course of the CA from 2015 to 2019. The SOW for this impact evaluation comprises the following core activities:

1. Design of the entire impact evaluation approach (March-April 2015).
2. Assist PSI and its partners to carry out the baseline study with focus on additional information needed at outcomes and impact levels and the description of the general situation analysis at the program baseline stage. (July-August, 2015).
3. A beneficiary assessment to be conducted at the time of the SSD Midterm performance evaluation, (March-April, 2017).
4. A final impact evaluation at the end of the program (March-April, 2019) that will draw conclusions, findings and recommendations for the entire process.

ASSESS team will mobilize an independent team to implement this CA. The team will be technically supervised by ASSESS Accra Office which will also provide technical and logistical supports in all the process. The independent experts' team comprises:

1. Impact Evaluation Team Leader and Market Analyst.
2. A Sanitation Specialist, with strong experience in impact evaluation.
3. An Impact Evaluation Expert, Statistician.

III. The Impact Evaluation Specialist Scope of Work

The Impact Evaluation Specialist is required to be conversant with Quasi Experimental Designs (QED) and counterfactual approaches for impact evaluation. The Specialist will assist the team to operationalize the evaluation concepts and approaches using recommended scientific statistical techniques. The expert will assist the evaluation team to review the program's theory of change and/or development hypotheses including critical assumptions for program success. The specialist will provide technical direction for designing and implementing the impact evaluation including field work at baseline, mid-term and end of project.

The Specialist will lead the development of the evaluation design, providing technical guidance for the selection of the most appropriate QED and corresponding sampling techniques, data collection tools and analysis methods that are commensurate with the level of detail required for the selected outcome and impact indicators. The expert will work closely with PSI and ASSESS M&E teams to develop a comprehensive list of indicators relevant to the impact evaluation.

The Specialist will be responsible for operationalizing the selected quasi-experimental evaluation designs, tailoring them to the context of the 3 countries (Benin, Cote d'Ivoire and Ghana) while maintaining statistical validity. The expert will also advise on the sampling design, ensuring that techniques adopted are free of selection bias and the sample size for the evaluation is adequate to allow for effective statistical analysis. In particular the Specialist will be responsible for ensuring the collection of high

quality data and will provide direction for the correct application of standardized tools to enhance precision and validity of information.

The expert will lead the data analysis process and assist the evaluation team to interpret results, simplifying concepts and explaining their statistical significance particularly to enable the team establish evidence for a plausible linkage between program outputs and higher level outcomes and impacts, while triangulating and providing logical conclusions on attribution. The expert will also assist the evaluation team with statistical techniques to control for confounding factors and to measure the actual impact attributable to the program.

The impact evaluation expert will additionally be responsible for data management and record keeping of all data and will be required to build an open database that captures the different surveys conducted in the course of the impact evaluation. The Specialist will contribute to the development of reports and all relevant deliverables in accordance with the evaluation SOW and USAID's impact evaluation policy.

IV. The Impact Evaluation Specialist Qualifications and Skills

- Advanced degree (Ph.D. preferred) in Statistics, Economics, Development Studies or related social science fields.
- Extensive experience in the conduct of impact evaluations, preferably in the WASH sector.
- Advanced social science research and statistics skills including strong data visualization and analysis.
- Experienced in the design and conduct of baseline studies, large scale surveys, impact evaluations.
- Highly skilled in the development and implementation of quasi-experimental evaluation designs.
- Demonstrable experience in the conduct of statistical analyses with large sets of qualitative and quantitative data
- Strong knowledge and familiarity with Statistical and Econometrical packages for quantitative and qualitative data housing and analysis (e.g. SPSS, SAS, STATA, etc.).
- Previous experience in the assessment of market-based approaches.
- Familiarity with USAID impact evaluation policy is strongly preferred.
- Strong report writing skills with proficiency in English (French is a plus).

Send interested Expert CV to Emmanuel Fletcher efletcher@assess-wa.org, and Barbara Arthur barthur@assess-wa.org, with copy to aba@assess-wa.org, before February 27, 2015, 5PM Accra time.