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<i>Title of dissertation</i>	Community Based Organisations in the planning and implementation of Water, Sanitation and Hygiene projects for Poverty Reduction and Sustainable Development in the Northern Region of Ghana.
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Reading literature indicates that poverty reduction and sustainable development (the Green Economy) are global challenges and concerns to governments, civil society organisations and international bodies. The fight to rescue thousands of people in the northern part of Ghana out of the poverty bracket is saddled with the inability to provide basic utilities such as water and sanitary facilities among others especially to the rural folk. However, Ghana is one of the countries in the West Africa sub-region that has for the past two decades focused on decentralized planning with stakeholder's involvement in the planning and implementation of infrastructural projects particularly in the areas of water, sanitation and hygiene. A system that is tailored towards sustainable development and poverty reduction. Community Based Organisations (CBOs) are such stakeholders that have contributed immensely in the planning, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of these earlier stated facilities in the Northern part of the country to augment government efforts. A contribution in this sector is not only recognized at the local level but at national and international platforms. This is because, the global community has identified these facilities as a global challenge to poverty reduction and therefore called on governments and their partners of all member states of the United Nations to be inspired to implement activities that would address 8 global goals in which the target of: halve by 2015 the proportion of people without sustainable access to safe drinking water and basic sanitation were outlined.

The problem is that inadequate water and basic sanitation infrastructure are undermining efforts to end extreme poverty and disease in most communities especially in rural northern Ghana. It is reported that "access to clean drinking water and basic sanitation facilities could transform the lives of millions in the world's poorest countries".

The Northern Region of Ghana has for some time now experienced acute potable water situation. It is common to see women and girls both in urban and rural communities in this region spending most of their entire day gathering water for their families, walking between 4-5 kilo metres on average each day to collect potable water. Most of the girl children are often drop out of primary school because their communities lack these facilities and they turn out to be used as labour for fetching water from far distances. Those that cannot find potable water resulted to drinking from polluted sources. The problem is also aggravated as a result of the water table dynamics in this region.

The linkage between water and other sectors have exasperated the problem such that the target to eliminate gender disparity in primary and secondary education may not be achieved especially in rural communities due to the target's linkage to water; improved water and sanitation also has relations in improving quality health and production among other factors.

The questions the research seeks to address include:

1. To what extent has these organisations contributed in the provision of WASH infrastructure at the rural community level?
2. What type of Water and Sanitation facilities are provided by these organisations in these communities?
3. What processes are followed before these infrastructure projects are implemented?
4. To what extent has the provision of these facilities aided in addressing the disparities in the WASH sector?
5. How has the provision of these facilities aided in addressing the disparities within geographical locations?
6. To what degree has these organisations contributed in addressing the MDG of; “to reduce by half the proportion of people without access to safe drinking water and basic sanitation by 2015?
7. Is there any significant relationship between water and sanitation and poverty reduction?
8. In which ways can government facilitate effective collaboration towards sustainable government CBOs initiatives in Northern Ghana?

The researcher intends to use the Case Study method or approach to investigate the collaborative efforts of these organisations in the WASH sector in the Northern Region of Ghana. This method is adopted because it allows the researcher to inquire in depth a program, event, activity, process or one or more individuals. Again, the researcher collects detailed information using a variety of data collection procedures over a sustained period of time (Creswell 2009 cited Stake 1995).

The research methods which involves the form of data to be collected, how this data would be analysed and interpretation that the researcher proposes would employ the mixed methods approach where both open and closed ended questions would be used, multiple forms of data drawing on all possibilities, the use of statistical and text analysis as well as across databases interpretation.

Key findings would comprise the contribution of these organisations in providing improved water, sanitation and hygiene projects to ensure human health and the well being as well as the view that these facilities are an engine of sustainable development.

The Hypothesis to be tested would be:

H₀: A community with potable drinking water and basic sanitation will have no significant change in poverty reduction. This hypothesis will be tested against the alternative:

H_A: A community with potable drinking water and basic sanitation will lead to a significant change in poverty reduction and whether the results would accept or reject the null hypothesis.



Access to improved water and sanitation for human dignity.

In Ghana, there are quite a number of CBOs that operate in various sectors of the economy. Some are international in nature whereas others are locally formed with the vision and mission to provide basic services to augment governments efforts in service delivery. Majority of these organisations are into WASH programmes and projects delivery.

Whereas their contributions are expressed informally in articles, newspapers, magazines and other media especially during the commissioning of projects implemented by these organisations, there is however little

scholarly writings about CBOs particularly in the Northern Region of Ghana. This is one of the academic and scientific studies that would add knowledge and literature to the subject matter of the area.

In another instance, the eight MDGs were adopted in 2000 by member countries of the United Nations. Ghana as a member of the UN started the implementation of these goals in the same year. The seventh goal is to ensure environmental sustainability with a target “to reduce by half the proportion of people without access to safe drinking water and basic sanitation by 2015”. If CBOs are into the provision of these services then there is an effort in addressing this particular goal.

The study is therefore to outline the contributions these Organisations have made in the Water and Sanitation sectors in the Northern Region, the deficit that needs to be planned and implemented to ensure that people have access to these facilities and how lessons from these organisations could be replicated in policy directions in the country.

Lastly, academic research works are carried out for various purposes. The findings of this research could accord others the opportunity or provide a platform for additional researches to be carried out on the subject matter