

Water Supply and Sanitation (WSS) Regulators in Africa – Country Profile Ghana



General information	
Region	Western Africa
Surface area	238,533 km ²
Total Population	30,832,019 (GSS, 2022)*
Urban pop.	56.7%
Rural pop.	43.3%
Access to improved water supply services	92% (GSS, 2022)*
Access to improved sanitation services	59% (GSS, 2022)*

WSS Regulatory Status

	Urban		Rural	
	Water Supply	Sanitation	Water Supply	Sanitation
Type of Regulation	Regulation by Agency		Ministerial Regulation	
Name of Regulator	Public Utilities Regulatory Commission (PURC)		Metropolitan, Municipal and District Assemblies (MMDAs)	
Year of establishment	1997			
Policy	National Water Policy, 2007			
Legal instrument	Public Utilities Regulatory Commission Act, 1997 (Act 538)		-	
Area of Jurisdiction	National		Sub-national	
Number of regulated service providers	1		-	
Type of service providers	National		Regional	
Key functions				
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Developing guidelines • Monitoring and inspections • Competition regulation • Tariff setting • Advising government • research, and reporting. 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Development and enforcement of by-laws for drainage and sanitation • Regulation of private sanitation service providers • Oversight over and tariff approval for some water supply service providers. 		

Best practice: Pro-Poor Guidelines and Water Fund

In addition to pro-poor aspects like water tariff designed as a rising block tariff to ensure low-income households are not priced out of the services provided by Ghana Water Company Limited (GWCL), PURC developed a Pro-Poor Water Fund and Guidelines and Procedures for Accessing Pro-Poor Water Funds. The objective of this fund is to reduce the burden for those who face the greatest deprivation in water supply, particularly those spending a high proportion of their household income on water purchased from secondary and tertiary suppliers.

Significantly, efforts to increase the financial equitability of water supply services are built into institutional arrangements for water supply service provision. Of note, the Public Utilities Regulatory Commission (Amendment) Act, 2010 (Act 800) specifying that 20% of the PURC's levy is to be used for pro-poor water programmes, while GWCL has established low-income consumer support units and dedicated departments focused on water supply services in low-income areas. Ultimately, efforts in this area have been shown to impact the financial equitability of services.

*[Source](#)

For more information on PURC, click [here](#)