

WAN 2021 Progress Updates – JULY 2021

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Photo: Treated water ready for use from a newly open water business in partnership with SAHA Global

Background

Despite Ghana's growth, its five regions in the north i.e., Upper West, Upper East, Northern, North East and Savannah Regions¹ still struggle to reach their full potential in terms of health, economic viability, and education²— disproportionately affecting the country's most impoverished and vulnerable people, especially children. 71% of people live below the poverty line (less than \$1/day) in the Upper West Region, 55% in the Upper East Region and 61% in the Northern Region (now Northern, North East and Savannah)³. Under-five mortality rates in rural areas and districts of these regions are estimated to be 36% higher than those in urban areas. About 10% of the population in the Northern region depends on unsafe water for drinking from either a dam, lake, pond, canal, or irrigation water.⁴

Introduction

Over the years, Catholic Relief Services (CRS) and Water Access Now (WAN), in collaboration with local government authorities, through the Improving Access to Water in Northern Ghana (IWANG) project, have partnered to address some of the social and developmental challenges, especially related to limited access to safe drinking water. Since 2007, WAN and CRS have supported over **220 health facilities, schools, and communities** to gain access to safe drinking water in the Northern, Upper East, Upper West, and Oti Regions. To date, WAN has provided over **\$2,132,733** to support the provision of safe water supply through the construction and rehabilitation of boreholes, including limited mechanized boreholes, and simple water treatment sites (i.e., at communities with poor ground water potential and without an improved source to drinking water).

In 2021, WAN provided funding of **\$250,000** for the construction of **20 boreholes, one limited mechanized water system, and two small water businesses** (using simple chlorination treatment), across five districts namely Nabdam, Mamprugu Moaduri, Gushiegu, Karaga and Saboba.

Beneficiary Selection

As part of the activities to kick-start the 2021 project activities, the project team undertook field verification of pre-selected health care facilities, schools, and communities to determine their suitability as beneficiaries of boreholes for the 2021 implementation year. This involved visits to all preselected locations to conduct a detailed reconnaissance on the need to provide them with a safe source of drinking water. The field assessment was carried out in February-March 2021 by a joint team of CRS WASH staff (WASH Officer), and District Partners, such as District Water and Sanitation Teams (DWST), District School Health Education Program (SHEP), and District Health Promotion Officers (DHPOs).

To maximize the benefits of holistic programming, CRS strategically aligns WAN's funding to supplement the Country Program's current health and WASH portfolio, which includes the following projects: Rural Emergency Health Services and Transport for Development (REST4D), Developing Acute Care and Emergency Referral Systems (ACERS), and Integrated Community Water, Sanitation and Hygiene Improvement Project (ICOWASH 2.0). The criteria used in identifying beneficiary communities, schools and health facilities is based strictly on assessed needs and the ability and community willingness to manage the facility for sustained use.

¹ Ghana's Northern Regions refer to Northern, Savannah, North East, Upper East and Upper West Regions

² National Development Planning Commission (2013) Annual Report for 2012

³ GSS et al, Ghana Living Standards Survey Round 7 (GLSS 7), August 2018

⁴ GSS et al, Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey (MICS) 2011

Table 1. Number of boreholes per beneficiary community

S/N	Region	Districts	Communities	Proposed No. of boreholes	
1	Upper East	NABDAM	Daliga Maha Area	1	
2			Zoorog	1	
3			Ntouzori	1	
4			Zoog yakin/ Zogabre	1	
5			Nakpala (Health Directorate area)	1	
6	Northern	KARAGA	Borimang Kura	1	
7			Tong CHPS	1	
8			Yaga	1	
9			Napolihu AME Zion Basic School	1	
10			Tanyeli DA Primary	1	
11		GUSHEGU	Yakazia No 2	1	
12			Nagali	1	
13			Lapoya	1	
14			Namalgu No 3	1	
15			Yishie School	1	
16		SABOBA	Kpegu CHPS	1	
17			Maujun DA primary	1	
18			Nambiri	1	
19			Demon CHPS	1	
20			Kuntuli CHPS	1	
21		North East	Mamprugu Moaduri	Nangruma CHPS	1
22				Yag-Namoo CHPS	1
23				Tuvuu School	1
24				Yagaba DA School	1
25				Kochoglum	1

Table 2 SAHA Global water business model beneficiaries

Small Water Business Communities (by Saha Global)		
S/N	Districts	Communities
1	KARAGA	Nanyuni
2	WEST MAMPRUSI	Sooba

Formation and Training of WASH Committees

To guarantee continuous functionality of the water systems and sustainability of water service delivery in the beneficiary communities and institutions, Water and Sanitation Management Teams (WSMTs) have been formed in all 25 selected communities. Plans are currently underway to train them from 18th July to 10th August 2021 in thematic areas such as, roles and responsibilities of WSMTs, mobilization of funds for operation and maintenance (O&M), recordkeeping, financial management & accountability, organization of meetings and writing of minutes, water safety monitoring, water site management and hygiene, and networking and negotiations with Area Mechanics and spare outlets for preventative maintenance works. After their trainings, the WSMTs will participate in the drilling and construction of the earmarked boreholes to enable them to fully understand the systems being put in place to facilitate informed O&M.

Siting, Drilling and Construction

Procurement of suitable contractors and consultants to undertake the drilling and construction of boreholes is far advanced, with contract awards expected to be completed in the coming weeks. CRS has been monitoring the early start of rains this year and working to ensure that contractors move to site at a time that will not inhibit access to communities and also prevent the determination of false water table levels, which could impact future access to water in communities when the water tables deplete due to receding runoffs and groundwater recharge.

SAHA Global Water Business

The [SAHA Global](#) *Water Business Model* is targeted at communities that lack an improved source of water, where several failed borehole drilling attempts have been made, but do have access to year-round surface water (dam, river, stream, etc.). After an initial engagement in February 2021, during the community assessment and selection stage, the SAHA Global staff and CRS team returned in June 2021 to meet and sensitize community leaders (i.e., chief and elders) for Sooba and Nanyuni on the water treatment business model. The entire community was subsequently engaged, and four women were selected by the community to operate the water business. These women were taken through a simple two-step process (flocculation using alum and chlorination using “aquatabs”) for treating raw water from a river that flows past the community. The treated water would be sold for a small fee. Safe storage containers have also been distributed among the women to ensure treated drinking water drawn from the treatment site does not get contaminated at home. Work in the second community, Nanyuni, is progressing steadily, community leaders and community member have been met, the treatment site is currently under construction and should be completed by July 9, 2021. The completed water businesses will be monitored weekly to assess their performance overtime during the project life and for up to 10 years per the agreement with Saha Global.

Conclusion

Work has progressed steadily, and all outstanding tasks are on course to be completed before April 30th, 2022. A number of health care facilities are under consideration for the limited mechanized water system.

Photos:



Photo 1: Previous source of drinking water at Sooba



Photo 2: Community entry and engagement at Sooba



Photo 3: Women being taken through treatment of raw water



Figure 4: Treated water being transported in safe storage containers



Photo 5: School children were also given a brief overview of the water business model



Photo 6: Community entry and engagement at Nanyuni