

WAN 2021 Progress Updates #2 – December 2021



Prepared By: Catholic Relief Services, Ghana Program

BRIEF EXPENDITURE UPDATES

Table 1: Summary of Funding and Expenditure for 2021

Description	Amount
Advance payment (80% of 2021 approved funds)	\$200,000
Total spending (April 2021 to Date)	\$105,391
Projected Expenditure (December 2021 to April 2022)	\$144,609
Total Expenditure (Actual + Projected)	\$250,000
Projected (Deficit)/Surplus	(\$50,000)

CRS is therefore requesting an additional payment of **\$50,000** (outstanding 20% of 2021 approved budget) as funds from WAN for the 2021 project implementation period.

BRIEF PROJECT UPDATES (UPDATE #2)

Borehole Drilling and Construction (*Procurement of contractors/Consultants*)

Procurement in 2021 implementation year faced some peculiar challenges. The project team suspended award of contracts in May 2021 due to early start of rains, which were heavy compared to previous years. The situation worsened between July and September, with floods and the opening of the Bage Dam in Burkina Faso causing severe damage to road infrastructure, cutting off many communities. Following these events, the project team planned to have construction start in October (tail end of the raining season) and end in December 2021. The year 2021 also saw significant market volatility and hikes in prices of construction materials. Our strive to get value for money in the award of borehole drilling contracts therefore suffered further delay due to the market price offer. After careful consideration, the project team has tentatively withheld the construction of the 1 limited mechanized water system as well as capped the number of boreholes at 20, due to budgetary concerns. This means that the additional 5 boreholes which was factored in for contingency (adding up to the original 25) have been temporarily dropped.

The process of engaging contractors and consultants for construction of the water facilities have now been concluded. Two (2) contractors have been engaged for the drilling of 20 boreholes and one (1) consultant to conduct siting and supervision of borehole drilling and construction. CRS is in the process of making first tranche payments to the contractors and consultant for work to commence in early January 2021. A very robust monitoring framework has been designed to ensure that all drilling and construction works are completed by February end, and installation of handpumps completed in March 2022.

Field visit to SAHA Global Water Business sites

In November, CRS and SAHA Global field team conducted joint monitoring visits to Sooba and Nayuni communities, where the IWANG 2021 project is implementing 2 water business (SAHA Global initiatives) to assess community perceptions, patronage and challenges encountered by women entrepreneurs managing the water businesses and community members at large. At the time of the visit, treatment differed from the two locations. While at Sooba water treatment was

done weekly and opened for sale on Mondays, it was ad hoc in Nayuni. The observed disparities emanated from the patronage, which is also influenced by the community size and population as well as the amount of rainwater stored by families within the month.

It was also noticed that, both groups had depleted the initial stocks of water treatment consumables (alum and aqua tabs) but had procured additional supplies on their own to continue with the treatment, which is a positive sign of ownership, community patronage, and sustainability. Both groups had not started keeping proper records of their transactions but indicated they had made marginal profits and had already invested GHS 60.00 and GHS 120.00 of their proceeds in paddy rice and shea butter production in Nayuni and Sooba respectively. These are still early days yet. However, the prospects are very bright for a very successful project for the economic empowerment of women groups and to provide safe and adequate supply of portable water to rural households.

Selection of additional sites for Water Businesses for 2022

Following the joint assessment and the prospects of the two established water businesses, CRS and its government partners (in West Mamprusi Municipal Assembly) in collaboration with SAHA Global conducted preliminary assessment of 2 two additional communities in the municipality (Yakazia Titari and Dibsi) in in November 2021, to determine their suitability for implementation of water businesses. From the assessment, Yanakazia appears to be suitable, but a more detailed assessment will be conducted in January 2022 to confirm the initial observation.

Community	Findings	GPS Coordinates
Yankazia Titari	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 11 houses • No existing boreholes • One shallow well in community (dries up at the peak of the “dry season”) • Two failed drilling attempts • River 1.2km away from community (perennial river) • Community will not be accessible during the rainy season 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • latitude (x.y °): 10.1961418 • longitude (x.y °): -0.6897422
Dibsi	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 4 existing boreholes with handpumps (only 3 are functional) • 2 other boreholes have not progressed beyond drilling and are without handpumps (might have suffered yield or water quality test failure). • One shallow well present in the community • Possible Sulphur contamination in functional boreholes given the rotten egg/ gunpowder smell of water • White Volta 700m away (very steep banks) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • latitude (x.y °): 10.3730016 • longitude (x.y °): -1.0482028

Human Interest and Project Impact Stories

As part of routine and supportive monitoring to beneficiary communities (with focus on planning and budgeting for operation and maintenance of water points), the project team continue to document human interest and impact stories to support fund raising efforts by WAN. The team has captured stories from the Nangodi health centre, 3. Kupeliga Naab Yaare and Deni Yaare communities in the Upper East Region and Gushegu Girls Model School in the Northern Region. For the health facilities visited, staff recounted the struggles they used to go through before the provision of mechanized water supply system. The top three common issues mentioned include the following:

- Previously, health workers had to compete with community members to fetch water from the manual borehole with handpump to carry out their day-to-day activities.
- Time spent fetching water could have been used to attend to patients.
- Patients and pregnant women who were admitted needed the help of others to get water for bathing and other uses.



Fig. 1: CRS WASH Officer on monitoring visit to Kulpeliga Madina community, in Talensi district

Attached are videos and written accounts that tell the stories of project beneficiaries, who describe the interventions of WAN as a treasure that has improved their lives.

Challenges

1. The 2 groups managing the water businesses do not have literate members and are currently not keeping proper records of their transactions, which may pose a serious challenge to financial management and accountability. CRS intends to use Savings and Internal Lending Communities (SILC) group members to manage future water businesses. These groups have the benefit of Field Agents (whose selection process ensures competencies in literacy and numeracy) to support them. This will ensure proper documentation and expenditure and profit tracking for improved and accountable management of the water businesses.
2. *Price hikes in construction related activities:* The incidence of COVID 19 significantly increased the cost of doing business, especially those related to construction. During the period of reporting, cost of credit ballooned, fuel prices increased more than 6 times and the cost of construction materials also saw an appreciable increase. This partly delayed the construction activities for the 2021 project implementation year, since we wanted to achieve the targets set in the proposal without over-spending the budget envelop. The project team has therefore decided to put on-hold the construction of the limited mechanized planned for 2021 and to cap the number of boreholes at 20, to allow it to work within the approved budget of \$250,000, while the team continue to monitor the market volatility to make informed decisions.
3. *Torrential rains and flooding in 2021:* Most communities in Northern Ghana, including those in the WAN intervention Districts for 2021, experienced torrential rainfall and flooding in 2021, making most project communities inaccessible and restricting interactions between project staff

and beneficiary/participating communities. This has adversely affected project implementation and delivery of results, especially in borehole drilling and construction. However, the project has put in measures to ensure that all drilling and construction works are completed by February end, and installation of handpumps completed in March 2022.

Media Articles

1. <https://newsghana.com.gh/crs-ghana-hands-over-limited-mechanised-water-systems-to-3-healthcare-facilities-in-nabdram-and-talensi-districts/>

Attachments

Additional materials related to the progress of the project

- Attachment 1 -Project Impact accounts (written narratives) from beneficiary communities
- Attachment 2 -Project Impact videos from beneficiary community members