**Concept Paper on Water for Cocoa Farmers Project**

**I. Background**

*Country Overview*

Ghana has a population of approximately 25 million, with 58% living in rural areas and 42% in urban areas. Agriculture, accounts for 50% of GDP and employs 85% of the workforce. Cocoa is the most cultivated crop and accounts for 450% of Ghana’s export earnings. Although Ghana's economy is improving, the nation remains one of the poorest nations in the world. After decades of improvements, the infant mortality rate (64/1000) and the under 5 mortality rate (111/1000) seem to have stagnated at considerably high levels (DHS 2003). Water-related diseases, such as diarrhea, Guinea worm, bilharzia, typhoid, cholera, and dysentery, are predominant in Ghana due largely to the fact that more than half of the rural population depends on unsafe water sources. In fact, diarrheal diseases are the third most commonly reported cases in health centers across the country.

*Wassa Amenfi West District*

Located in Ghana’s Western Region, the Wassa Amenfi West District has a population of 186,257 and a total land area of 3,464.61 square kilometers. Asankrangwa is the district capital. Agriculture employs about 75.6% of the active labor force and about 99% of these farmers are cocoa farmers. Some of the district’s cocoa farmers earn as little as $290 USD per year, while a bag of rice that feeds an average family for a month currently sells for $45 USD. Maternal mortality rate (757/100,000 live birth) in the district has been above the national rate of (214/100,000 live birth). Most families live on their farm lands, which can be as far as 6 to 35 km from health facilities. The area is sparsely populated with little concentration around the villages, which are linked with very poor road networks. Transportation is inadequate, expensive, and in some areas non-existent.

**II. Problem Statement**

Safe water and proper sanitation are not available to most people living in the communities of Wasa Amenfi West District. Unprotected sources of water for domestic use remain widespread, particularly to women and children in the Wasa Amenfi West District in Ghana. Water sources such as streams and rivers which serve as sources of water have been polluted by illegal miners. Attempts by the government to curve the activities of the illegal miners have yielded little results with the cocoa farmers still suffering seriously from the activities of the illegal miners. Where the source is available, source of drinking water is either an uncovered hand dug well, stream or pond. Guinea worms which grow up to three feet long inside a person are often found in these sources of water. Inhabitants of these communities are always contracting diarrhea and other water borne diseases. Women and children have to walk three to four kilometers to fetch water; spend hours away from school, child care, farming and income generating activities. The people are mostly cocoa farmers who cultivate cocoa on small scale so income levels are very low and live in small communities in their farms.The problem is worse especially during the dry season and affects education of the children as children of school going age have to walk two to four kilometers in search of water . These problems are worse when it comes to the school. Schools in such communities lack latrines and portable water for the teachers and school children. This affects effective teaching and learning.

**III. Project Objectives and Activity Description**

AME –SADA proposes to implement Water for Cocoa Farmers (WCF) project that will provide potable water and sanitation management training including teachers and school children to six communities in the Wassa Amenfi West District.. This project is, aimed at reducing water-borne diseases affecting the cocoa farming communities and encourage children of school going age to go to school instead of searching for water.

The project’s objectives are:

*Objective 1: To increase access to potable water in targeted communities*

Activities:

* Construct six new hand-dug covered wells equipped with rope pumps. AME SADA will work with its local partners to in the project implementation. Only communities who listed well digging and water and sanitation (WatSan) activities on their community action plan will be selected as construction sites. Other criteria will include high level of community engagement and population coverage.
* Rehabilitate four existing wells and equip them with rope pumps. In two of the district’s communities where wells already exist, the proposed project will install rope pumps to these wells. In addition to pump installation, rehabilitative measures will include disinfection through chlorination, strengthening of the permanent lining, and installation of well cover and apron for water protection.

*Objective 2: To strengthen the capacity of communities to manage water points*

Activities:

* Assist the communities in the establishment of water and sanitation committees and pump maintenance committees in communities where the project’s six new wells will be constructed. WatSan committees will be formed early in the planning stages to ensure it is involved in the decision-making process. This committee will be empowered to make decisions regarding all aspects of the project, including: the location of the wells, the method of construction, whether the initial contribution should consist of cash and/or labor, the method of collection for monthly water fees, method of payment for any repairs and maintenance, and the daily maintenance and cleanliness of the system.
* Train WatSan and Pump Maintenance Committees at each of the project’s community wells equipped with rope pumps. The purpose of this workshop is to ensure that every member of the WatSan possesses the knowledge and skills to effectively carry out his duties. Topics covered during the workshop will include: water fund management and reporting, accountability on the community water fund, pump maintenance and repairs.

*Objective 3: To increase knowledge of sanitation and hygiene in targeted communities*

Activities:

* Train two Community Health Volunteers (CHV) per targeted community in sanitation and hygiene education. The training workshop will cover topics such as basic WatSan and hygiene education, health communication, message delivery, and outreach session planning.
* Develop and reproduce a WatSan and hygiene image toolbox. This image toolbox will be the primary tool used by the CHVs, who will use its content to guide discussions during community awareness sessions. To ensure local appropriateness and acceptability, CHVs will participate in selecting images, drawings and photos to be included in the toolbox.
* Produce IEC materials to be distributed in the 10 communities targeted by this project. A total of 1,000 leaflets will be printed and distributed by the CHVs during community awareness sessions by the WatSan committee members at community wells and by health agents at the health centers.
* Organize community and school awareness sessions on WatSan and hygiene related topics. Awareness will focus on key messages for the prevention of water-born diseases and worm infections, including: maintaining the community well surroundings clean; hand washing with soap before eating or child feeding and after defecation; protecting food from flies.

**IV. Implementation Methodology**

To ensure community ownership and promote sustainability of project activities, the ten communities will be involved from the onset. Local leaders will be involved in site selection and the identification of WatSan committee members. In addition to playing an integral role in project planning, implementation and monitoring, community members will contribute time and labor (for digging and cleaning) as well as money by paying monthly fees.

Local governmental agents, namely the Community Development Officer, the Environmental Health Officer and the District Engineer, will provide technical assistance and supervision in the areas of site selection, environmental assessment, well-digging, training, water quality, and monitoring and evaluation.

Ghanaian-made rope pumps will be used because parts are inexpensive and readily found locally. This innovative pumping technology is also suitable to the district’s high water table. Rope pumps are cheaper compared to the imported Nira hand pumps. WatSan committee members will learn how to install, maintain and repair their pumps.

Water fund accountability will ensure that community members continue to pay their monthly water fees. Local partners have emphasized the importance of ensuring that water fund managers be held accountable to the community. The project will thus closely monitor the fund’s tracking mechanism, and will make sure income and expenses are reported to the community by the WatSan committee on a monthly basis.

*Project Implementation Timeline*

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Activities** | **Month 1** | **Month 2** | **Month 3** | **Month 4** |
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 1  | 2 | 3 | 4 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
| Preparatory Meetings |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Selection of site and contractor  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| WatSan committee training  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Well-digging and pump installation |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| CHV training (WatSan & Hygiene) |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| IEC tools dev. & reproduction |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Community awareness  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Monitoring |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Evaluation |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Final Report |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |

**Budget**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Description** | **Amount(USD)** |
|  | **Funding Required** | **AME SADA Matching Fund** | **Total Budget** |
| Construction of 6 Boreholes | 25,000 | 600 | 25,600 |
| Rehabilitate 4 Boreholes  | 6,000 | 400 | 6,400 |
| Training of Committee Members and Teachers | 2,700 | 300 | 3,000 |
| Printing of educational materials | 500 |  | 500 |
| Administrative and operational Cost  | - | 12,000 | 9,000 |
| Total Budget |  |  | **$ 36,400** |

**Our Profile and Experience**

The African Methodist Episcopal Church Service and Development Agency (AME-SADA) is the humanitarian relief and development entity of the African Methodist Episcopal Church (AME), the oldest organized African American Church in the United States.

AME-SADA is a nonprofit organization, dedicated to improving the quality of life in Africa and the Caribbean. Since its founding 28 years ago, AME-SADA has demonstrated the implementation of its mission, *Helping People Help Themselves*, by providing essential assistance to those in need through health, micro-credit and education programs, as wells as emergency humanitarian aid in Africa and Haiti.

AME-SADA is a charitable institution under section 501 (c) 3 of the Internal Revenue Code. AME-SADA's financial support comes from the AME Church, government, foreign institutions and thousands of persons committed to our vision for a better world.

AME-SADA has its headquarters in Washington, D.C., with field offices in Haiti, South Africa and Ghana.The Ghana Office was opened in March,2016

**List of Contracts**

1. USAID HAITI FUNDED Contract No. 521-C-00-00-00023-00, Haiti’s Health Systems 2004 Project – Phase II Subcontract Number: 521-023-0187, Gourdes Budget Adjustment, Amendment One, MSH Letter # HS2004-03-278. This project has been continued for an additional three years under the DJAM project and was again renewed for three more years ending in September 2012.
2. CS Grant GH/HIDN-01203, US$1,249,309.00 for Haiti, 2005-2009.
3. Between 2000 and 2002, under a sub-contract (US$90,000) from USAID/Haiti-funded Academy for Educational Development (AED) AME-SADA provided training for over 1000 primary school teachers in the Cabaret/Arcahaie areas.
4. In 2003 AME-SADA was awarded a USAID/Haiti-funded Micro-Credit contract by SOPHIDES for the expansion of its village banks in the Cabaret/Arcahaie area.
5. In 1996 AME-SADA was awarded for South Africa US$2.39 million from the United States Agency for International Development/Office of American Schools and Hospitals Abroad (USAID/ASHA) for the design and construction of the Multipurpose Educational Facility (Phase I) with a new library, classroom building and administration facility. This building was dedicated in 2000.
6. In 1998, AME-SADA was awarded for South Africa US$1.25 million from USAID/ASHA for the construction of the Distance Learning Center and faculty housing (Phase II), dedicated in September 2003.
7. In 1999 AME-SADA was awarded for South Africa US$700,000.00 from the USAID/ASHA for the design and construction of the Dormitory Facilities (Phase III). Completion of this project was completed in September 2008.
8. In 2000 AME-SADA was awarded for South Africa US$850,000.00 from the USAID/ASHA, for the design and construction of a Dining Hall Facility. Groundbreaking for this project is scheduled to be completed in December 2010.
9. In 2003, AME-SADA was awarded for South Africa US$1.2 million from the USAID/ASHA), for the design and construction of a Community Center and groundbreaking for this project is anticipated in the spring of 2011.
10. UNICEF School Health Project 2008-2010; continuation still under discussion with the agency
11. UNICEF Post Hurricane Recovery 2008-2010
12. Plan International School Health Project 2008-continuing.