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Unlocking Public and Private
Finance for the Poor

Sekyeredumasi District Assembly



Adiza Sulemani is a 37-year-old woman with four children. She has been living in the Kobiriti community in the Sekyeredumasi District since moving from Accra two years ago.

Kobiriti has four handpumped borehole facilities. When two of these broke down, it left only two functioning boreholes for a population of just over 200. The older residents found it difficult to operate the manual handpump and sometimes had to ask the neighborhood children to help them fill their water containers.

Using COVID-19 support directed to Ghana's metropolitan, municipal and district assemblies, the GrEEN project has established a mechanized borehole in Kobiriti. This has freed community members of the laborious activity associated with fetching water.

Adiza, washing her corn before taking it to the cornmill, says that the water from the mechanized borehole is "sweeter" than that previously pumped in the community, which is salty and undrinkable. Like the rest of the community, Adiza is quite pleased with the mechanized borehole brought to Kobiriti by UNCDF through the GrEEn project.



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Sekyere Affram Plains District



The Sekyere Affram Plains District is the poorest in the Ashanti region; its residents have no source of livelihood beyond subsistence farming. Asibi Adongo, a 50-year-old married woman with seven children, remembers when the land was fertile and the yield from an acre meant she could sell the extra for more income for the family. But that is no longer the case, and Asibi is not quite sure why.

She is, however, extremely happy with the water UNCDF has provided the community through the borehole constructed by the GrEEn project with COVID-19 relief funds. The borehole means the community no longer has to trek to a stream miles away to fetch

water for cooking and drinking. This water source was unreliable, drying up during the dry season; it was also unhealthy. Because it was also used for cattle, the water was usually muddy by day's end.

The new borehole has helped the people of the community tremendously, notes the community's chief. He points out too that the people used to have medical issues associated with skin rashes and stomach pains. Since using the potable water from the borehole over the past two months, he has not heard anyone complaining of such ailments anymore. The borehole serves a population of about 915 people.



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Sekyere Kumawu District Assembly



“Water is life,” notes Mary Gyasiwa Yeboah, a resident of the 3,479-person community of Banko in the Sekyere Kumawu District. And when water comes into a community, it brings opportunity – particularly to one dependent, as Banko is, on farming. Banko’s only livelihood is farming vegetables and some root tubers. However, residents find it difficult to expand their farms because they lack financial resources and thus the fertilizer they need to increase their yields.

But the mechanized borehole constructed by UNCDF through the GrEEn project holds the potential for change. The structure supplements Banko’s one existing borehole, which typically dries up during the dry season, forcing residents further afield to fetch water.

Mary has four children – one in university and the others about to enter secondary school. Because she herself did not go to school, education is very important to her. The fact that this new borehole frees her children from onerous labour clearly and firmly links it to a better, more prosperous future for her, her farm and her family.