

INTRODUCTION

Over the past two decades, the north-eastern part of Ghana has been marred by sporadic ethno-political wars. The warring factions are the Mamprusi and Kusasi ethnic groups both found in the Upper East region of Ghana. The wars have claimed the lives of at least 2000 people since 1980 with the most recent clash being in 2002. The infrastructure of various communities involved in the war has been seriously damaged. Desertification is also a growing concern for the region. In general, the northern part of Ghana is stricken by poverty and often neglected by Ghanaian politicians. Though tribalism has played a huge part in instigating the violence, division along political lines has also produced tensions between the ethnic groups.

The main objective for this peace initiative is to organize the people from warring factions to take part in projects aimed at improving the infrastructure of the region. This form of communal labor will facilitate reconciliation amongst the people. Currently, we intend to build 2 water pumps in the town of Bawku. These projects will involve people from the warring ethnic groups; we intend to organize workshops during which we would have local politicians, historians from the University of Ghana and the regional minister (equivalent to Governor in the US) come to speak and emphasize the need for peace. We strongly believe in uniting and strengthening communities by achieving a common sense of ownership. This can be accomplished through a joint development project aimed at improving the quality of life.

Coupled with the workshops, we also intend to involve the members of the ethnic groups in an open discussion concerning peace in the region. The water pumps would serve approximately 2000 people in the region of concern. We are currently talking to several Non-Governmental Agencies (NGOs) among which including Community Water and Sanitation Agency (CWSA) regarding provision of personnel to supervise our workshops. In addition, the Kwame Nkrumah University of Science and Technology (KNUST) has agreed to offer us assistance in the form of providing us with resource personnel, equipment and vehicles.

Project objective: To use a development project as a means of resolving conflict in the Bawku East District of Ghana

Specific objectives:

1. Design, build and install 2 bore-hole water pump wells in Bawku using communal labor from both the Mamprusi and Kusasi ethnic groups.
2. Hold workshops that will involve an open discussion amongst the leaders of both communities
3. Plant a peace tree

Methodology

Prior to our arrival, questionnaires will be distributed amongst the people of eastern part of Bawku where the population of Mamprusi's and Kusasi's are about equal. The questionnaires are aimed at evaluating the quality of life amongst the people and would be conducted under the auspices of the Member of Parliament for Bawku Honourable Abdul. It is likely that we will measure the quality of life based on access to drinking water, schools and health care. We are currently having discussions with environmentalist from KNUST on other ways to measure the quality of life. The results of our evaluation would be presented to the traditional leaders of the communities.

The Center for the Development of People (CEDEP) has agreed to assist the Chiefs of both the Mamprusi and Kusasi community in mobilizing the people for the construction of the bore-hole water pump project. Furthermore Mr Aboagye is in the process of getting approval for the project from the Chief of Staff in Ghana.

Upon our arrival, we will complete the design of the water pumps and the bore hole under the supervision of Mr. Kwabena Nyarko and Dr. Odai, water pump experts in the College of Engineering at KNUST in Kumasi.

Student Biographies

Kobbina Awuah: I am a student of Cornell University majoring in mechanical engineering. Over the past three years, I have been working with non-governmental organizations including the World Bank, DANIDA (Danish Embassy), and UNESCO on various water and sanitation projects in Ghana. The most recent project that I worked on was co-funded by UNESCO and the EU. This project involved the design of a water pump system for several communities in Ghana. I intend to assist in the building infrastructure in developing nations.

Sarah Long: I am a second year student majoring in civil and environmental engineering. As a student at Cornell I am involved service projects associated with the National Society of Black Engineers and the Cornell Computer Reuse Program, which collects and distributes donated computers to the community both local and abroad. I am currently on the Agua Clara project team working on a student designed water plant in Honduras. I wish to address the social, economic, and political issues involved in developing underprivileged communities.

TIME TABLE

It is expected that this study will take approximately ten weeks

Time	Activity	Deliverable
1 st week	Finish design of bore hole and water pumps. Desk study on the Water supply in rural communities at the CWSA offices in Kumasi, Tamale and Bawku.	Submit final design to CWSA office in Tamale
2nd Week	Meet with chiefs, traditional leaders and local politicians at Bawku and Tamale to discuss their expectations	
3 rd and 4th Week	Start construction of bore holes in Bawku east district	Submit report to all supporting agencies. (Both bore holes should be completed by the second week)
5 th week	Produce another questionnaire in order to document people's response to the project. In addition, participation by each ethnic group would be evaluated.	Results of questionnaire analysed
6 th Week	First workshop organized based on results obtained from the analysis of the questionnaire.	Workshop proceedings
7 th Week	Complete construction of bore holes	
8 and 9 th weeks	Produce another questionnaire in order to document people's response to the project. Organize two other Workshops in Bawku	Achievements and progress of projects discussed
10 th week	Unveiling of water pumps	Final report