**CENTRE FOR NATIONAL TRANSFORMATION GHANA**

PROPOSAL ON

***HARVESTING RAIN FOR IMPROVED LIVELIHOOD IN THE***

***WANTUGU AREA OF THE TOLON DISTRICT IN GHANA***

NARRATIVE PROPOSAL

FINANCIAL PROPOSAL

Submitted to:

**DUBAI CARES**

**Contact Person**

Mohammed Alhassan Baako

Chief Executive Officer

P. O. Box TL 612

Tamale

Telephone: +233.372.095.872

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**Executive Summary**

In response to the recent call for grant application, issued by your foundation on your website, inviting applications from eligible organizations to submit project applications, we wish to submit the following proposal, titled *Harvesting rain for improved livelihoods for the people of Wantugu and its surrounding communities in the Tolon district of Ghana*.

The goal or broad objective of the 12-month project is to contribute to improving health and livelihoods of 492 families in 3 poor rural communities in the Wantugu area by December 2019. The specific objectives are: i) to increase access to clean drinking water for 492 families in the Wantugu area through the construction of 12 rain harvesting units for 3 communities by July 2019; ii) to enhance capacity of 3 community level structures in management of all water sources by end of September 2019; and iii) to facilitate linkages of all 3 project communities to water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) service providers and stakeholders by end of November 2019. Iv. Educate the people on safe nutrition, hygiene and health.

The expected outputs of the project are: a) increased access to clean drinking water in all 3 project communities; b) enhanced capacity of community-based structures to manage water, sanitation and hygiene related activities and interventions; c) less hours used by girls and women to fetch water; d) less incidence of water related diseases among school cildren, teachers, youth and adults; and e) improved linkages of communities to water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) service providers and stakeholders.

The total budget is GHS130,636 (local currency) or AUD38,422. We are requesting AUD29,369 from Dubai Cares. CeNT Ghana and beneficiary communities will contribute AUD6,653

**Background**

Residents of the Wantugu area which is in Tolon district of the Northern region of Ghana have challenges with clean drinking water. They experience perennial water shortage with the dry season being the worst period. Historically and today, the communities in the area have depended largely on seasonal dugouts for drinking water, which is of poor quality due to turbidity and contamination by microbial matter. The water in the reservoir of the dugouts does not even meet the needs of the people because the dugouts often dry up in the dry season around January/February worsening the situation until the first rains arrive in April/May. A solar powered borehole with mechanized standpipes was provided by the Baptist Child Development Program at Wantugu but it is not enough to address the safe drinking water needs of Wantugu alone. Although the Government of Ghana has plans to provide all communities with dugouts/ponds or rehabilitate existing ones, under its “One village, One dam” project, it will take a longer time to provide for all communities, as not even a single community from the proposed project area has been selected among the first batch that will be provided with new or rehabilitated dugouts/ponds this year. Even if these communities are provided with dugouts/ponds they will not be provided with filtration galleries, which means the water will still be unclean for human drinking.

According to the last Ghana Population and Housing Census (2010) by the Ghana Statistical Service, for rural communities in the Tolon district, the major sources of drinking water for households include river/stream (15.3%), dugout/ pond/ lake/ dam/ canal (36.7%), borehole/pump/tube well (27.4%) and protected wells (5.0%). According to sources of the Community Water and Sanitation Agency (CWSA) cited by the Center for Democratic Development, Ghana (CDD Ghana) in its Water bulletin No. 3, published in September 2015, as part of the I AM AWARE Citizen Empowerment Project, Water coverage in rural areas (such as the Wantugu area) in the Tolon district was 40%, less than Northern regional coverage of 63% and the Ghana national average of 64%, placing the district at 181st position out of 203 districts.

CentGhana has been working with the communities to address this challenge by engaging experts in surface water management to teach the women (who traditionally draw water) how to treat water from the dugouts before drinking. However, the women, often exhausted by drawing and carrying the water, sometimes feel reluctant to boil or sieve the water before making it available for drinking. Their house members therefore drink unclean water which makes them vulnerable to waterborne diseases.

Residents of these communities do not appreciate the link between insanitary/unhygienic surrounding and the health of the populace.

In some communities there is a lack structures to properly manage water resources to ensure their sustainable and hygienic use. Some few communities have on their own formed these structures, but they need to be trained on water resource, sanitation and hygiene management and assisted to develop community level actions to enable them to perform effectively.

Linkages to water and sanitation service providers (private and public) is virtually non-existent. This impedes the communities’ ability to look for technical support or service to improve water and sanitation services in the area.

**Description of the proposed project area**

The Wantugu area has about 5,509 persons residing in 492 households/families, which translate into an average household size of 11.2 persons in a household. 50.78% of the population are females. Children below five years constitute 14.8% of the total population. Majority of the inhabitants of the area are subsistence farmers from the Dagomba ethnic group, growing maize, peanut, cassava, and rice. Small-scale activities such as sheabutter and groundnut oil processing, petty trading in grains are done mostly by women. Small animal rearing is also an economic activity of residents in the area.

According to the 2010 Population and Housing Census published by the Ghana Statistical Service, illiteracy was 73.8% in the Tolon district; above the Northern regional average of 62.8%. This situation remained virtually unchanged in 2014 since the Ghana Living Standards Survey, Round 6 (2014) found that the rural savannah areas (Wantugu area inclusive) has the lowest rate of literacy rate of 30%.

Productive means such as farmland land and bullock are owned by men. Inheritance is patriarchal and so houses, animals and tree fruit trees are owned/inherited by men only.

The communities consist of traditional round compound houses, majority of which is built with mud and roofed with grass.

While the south of the country has two rainy seasons per year, the single rainy season in the north, which includes the Janton area, permits only seasonal farming, leaving many youth and adults idle and without any income generating activity during the long dry season from December to May. This restricts family incomes, and community development activities.

**Determination of needs**

Through participatory rural appraisals methods facilitated by CentGhana since 2015, the lack of access to clean drinking water has been invariably ranked as the top issue among all the issues identified by various groups in each community – children, youth, women and men. From field visitation to the communities, staff of CentGhana have also observed that the main source of drinking water for them is the dugouts.

**Effects of the lack of clean water*.***

1. residents, especially children, will continue to suffer frequently from diarrhea, stomach pains, and skin diseases;
2. absenteeism or lateness to school on the part of pupils and teachers will continue;
3. women and girl children will continue to suffer physical stress they travel long distances to fetch water in the dry season;
4. women will have less time for their kids and income generation activities as they must spend more time looking for water;
5. productivity of adult farmers (men and women alike) will continue to be affected which if they are dowm due to an incapacitating disease, which leads to low income earnings; and
6. teachers, nurses and other professionals will continue to refuse posting to the area because of the additional cost of treating unclean water before use. Those who accept posting to the area usually live in Tolon, the district‘s capital town and commute daily to work in the area. This will continue to adversely affect the quality of teaching and learning, and health service provision for the communities.

The overall effect is that the absence of clean water, coupled with insanitary and unhygienic environs, is a major obstacle to eradicating poverty in the area

The government, recognizing the lack of essential services in the rural communities such as the Wantugu are, and being aware that it cannot do it all alone, has on numerous occasions appealed to non-governmental organizations like CentGhana for support in the provision of essential services, such as clean water, to communities.

**Previous attempts to address issue**

There are currently no governmental or non-governmental programs to address the issue of clean drinking water in the area. Between 2015 and 2016 the Baptist Child Development Program, with support from the Christian Children’s Fund of Canada, Ghana Country program, provided a solar powered borehole with mechanized standpipes in Wantugu community but the location of the borehole, which was determined by a geophysical survey is far from the community and does not yield enough water, causing women and girls to spend many hours queuing until it is their turn to fetch the water. The government plans to construct or rehabilitate one dam in every community of the northern part of Ghana, where the proposed project area is. However, this will take a very long time to materialize. And even then, the water quality will be poor due to turbidity and contamination.

In terms of sanitation the proposed area has not seen any meaningful interventions. A water and sanitation (WASH) committee was formed in Wantugu but the committee needs refresher training especially in terms of linking them to Water and sanitation service providers and stakeholders.

**Project description**

**Title**

Harvesting rain for improved livelihood in the Wantugu area of the Tolon district of Ghana

**Goal**

To contribute to improved livelihoods of 492 families in 3 poor rural communities in the Wantugu area by December 2019.

**Specific objectives**

1. to increase access to clean drinking water for 492 families in the Wantugu area through the construction of 12 rain harvesting units (each unit comprising 6-metre long gutters and 30,000 - litre rain water harvesting tank) for 3 communities by July 2019;
2. to enhance capacity of 3 community level structures in management of all water sources by end of September 2019; and
3. to facilitate linkages of all 3 project communities to water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) service providers and stakeholders by end of November 2019

**Results**

Outputs

1. Increased access to clean drinking water in all 3 project communities;
2. Enhanced capacity of community-based structures to manage water, sanitation and hygiene related activities and interventions;
3. Less hours used by girls and women to fetch water;
4. Less incidence of water related diseases among school cildren, teachers, youth and adults
5. Improved linkages of communities to water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) service providers and stakeholders.

Outcomes

The outputs above will lead to the following outcomes:

1. 70% increased in number of residents drinking clean water from rain harvesting tanks;
2. All 100% of rain harvesting tanks, dugouts and other water resources properly maintained and cmmunities kept clean through WASH committee-led actvities;
3. 60% reduction in physical stress for women and girls since they will spend less time looking for water;
4. 85% reduction in pupil and teacher lateness or absenteeism in school;
5. 60% increase in productivity for youth and men and women who will spend less time absent from work due to water related illness; and
6. 65% improvement in timely delivery of essential services right within the communities by teachers, nurses and other professionals will accept posting to and reside in the area to offer on time and right within the communities.

**Activities**

1. Inception meetings with all government line agencies and beneficiaries.

Upon approval of the project we shall organize two meetings. In 1-day meeting we shall meet the Tolon District Coordinating Council, the District Water and Sanitation Team, and the District Environmental Health Unit to review the implementation plan, monitoring and agreed roles, responsibilities and contributions. In the other meeting we shall meet community leadership in the proposed project area to discuss their roles, and contributions and project implementation, monitoring and sustainability.

1. Construction of 12 rain harvesting units, each unit comprising 6m long harvesting gutter and 30,000L concrete re-enforcement blocks.

Physical construction of 12 rain harvesting and storage units of 30,000 litre rain harvesting ferro-cement tanks in 3 communities will be done after a participatory siting of the tanks and a participation schedule mapped out for sections of the communities to take turns and provide in kind contribution in the form of unskilled labour to the project. One key condition is that the gutter be fixed on the lower edges of corrugated aluminium or iron sheet roofs. Each ferro-cement tank will have two fetching points comprising a chamber and a faucet to control water flow by opening and closing the orifice. One fetching point will be reserve and for that matter locked, and will be opened when the other one in use is faulty. Each community will provide unskilled labour and two youth (young man and young woman, if possible) to learn from the construction team. Each community will also mobilize their men and women to take turns to fetch water during the construction.

1. Training of WASH Committee members and community water and sanitation technicians in the operation and maintenance of water facilities.

To ensure the availability of local resource to maintain the facilities and ensure their correct use WASH Committee members will be formed and trained/retrained. Members will be trained in how to manage the facilities by ensuring a clean environment around the tanks and around dams, especially around fetching points. They will also be trained in the institution, collection; recording and use of user fees to maintain the tanks and treat water from the dam. The WASH Committee includes elected members from men, women and youth groups. The WASH Committee comprises nine (9) members, including at least four females. These members will be selected based on their commitment, leadership and spirit of volunteerism. The training will be done by the District Water and Sanitation Team (MWST) of the Tolon district.

1. Training of two community-based rain harvesting units construction and maintenance technicians

Two community-based rain harvesting tanks technicians will be trained on construction and maintenance of the harvesting gutters and storage tanks, as wells as in basic plumbing works to fix broken gutters/tanks and repair faulty standpipes and faucets. The two technicians will work with the contractors during the construction process to learn on the job. The contractor has agreed to not only let the youth learn from them, but also, they have agreed to even offer them post-training support to enable them work effectively. The two technicians will be provided with one steel toolbox containing wrenches, pliers, spanners, measuring tapes and solvent to use in the discharge of their duties. The toolbox and its contents kept by the technicians will enable them to ply their construction and plumbing trade, commercially in the Wantugu area and elsewhere. They will be connected to the District Water and Sanitation Team of the Tolon district to benefit from ongoing support and market access to enable them repair harvesting gutters and storage in other areas.

1. Facilitating linkages of communities to water and sanitation service providers

All 8 project communities will be linked to service providers in the Tolon, the district’s capital town, located at about 15km from the project area or to service providers in Tamale, located about 38km from Tamale, the capital city of the Northern region. The rationale of this activity is to enable the WASH Committees whose capacities would have been enhanced through the execution of the training activity planned for them in “b” above, to identify and engage with strategic service providers. The project will accompany the WASH Committees in their initial visits to the service providers to identify capacity gaps in the WASH Committees that need to be bridged through mentorship and coaching, to ensure that the WASH Committee can effectively engage the service providers thereafter.

**Community involvement**

Involvement in project planning

This proposed project is a culmination of discussions among community leadership, women’s groups, youth groups and children. It is the active involvement of the community in the planning of this project that informed the decision to construct rain harvesting tanks instead of boreholes. Also, their involvement at the planning stage has led to their decision to contribute in kind (unskilled labour, accommodation and feeding for construction technical team, and space and security for deployed construction materials). The outcomes and outputs as well as the indicators, activities, risks and mitigation strategies were discussed extensively with the communities, who endorsed them.

Involvement in project implementation

The communities will be actively involved in the implementation of the project. A project implementation committee will be formed to over a successful project implementation. The communities will have two elected representatives on the implementation: one man and one woman. The communities will meet every fortnight to discuss project implementation or review the implementation of planned activities for the past fortnight. Materials required will be made available to the construction team, in-kind labour will be mobilized and communities will elect two young persons (one young man and one young woman) to work with the construction team so they can learn the skill at the end of the project. This was suggested by the community to empower them with local resources to be in charge of regular maintenance of the gutters and the tanks.

**Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning**

Monitoring will take place in the form of field visits, analysis of progress reports and review meetings.

There will be three levels of monitoring. The first level of monitoring will be from the district level. A 3-member monitoring and evaluation team shall be formed to assess the extent to which project outputs and outcomes are being met. The team shall comprise one representative each from the District Coordinating Council, the District Water and Sanitation Team and the Environmental Health and Sanitation Unit of the Tolon district. This will be done every other month beginning from February or the end of the second month of project implementation. Reports will be reviewed, after which a meeting to discuss matters arising from the reports shall be held. Issues that need follow-up action will be discussed so that the project management team they can take timely corrective measures where and when necessary.

The second level of monitoring will be done by project management team led by the Chief Executive Officer or CEO of CentGhana. In this monthly monitoring, field visits will be made to the project sites following review of reports from the WASH Field Officer leading the implementation of this project. evaluate achievements, document and share learning.

The third level will be done by community members. One woman and one man from the proposed project beneficiary communities will regularly visit the team constructing the harvesting unit to check on the progress of the construction including community participation. They will also check on the WASH Committee training.

A performance monitoring framework will be developed for this project. It will spell out the objectively verifiable indicators (baseline and target), means of verification of the indicators, where it can be verified, frequency of indicators, as well as who will do carry out the verification.

The indicators will be identified in a participatory manner involving the beneficiary communities and stakeholders.

**Risks and Mitigation**

Risks

1. Community failure to make in-kind construction

The communities have agreed to offer in-kind contribution in the form of labour, accommodation for construction team members and security for construction materials, however, there have been bad experiences with other communities in other areas who initially agreed to contribute but later default, resulting in delays in project completion and reporting.

1. Drininking of water from dams

Community members may still resort to drinking unclean water from the dams if the water in the tanks is inadequate due to limited numbe of tanks, damaged harvesting gutters or leaking tanks.

Mitigation measures

1. Sensitization and community mobilization by CentGhana will be key to ensuring that the each community plays its role as expected. The involvement of the community leadership and other interest groups in the community in the needs identification and planning stage is a good start because it is a project they themselves have identified and sought assistance to accomplish. Their involvement in the implementation stage will further boost interest and commitment, ensuring that they contribute towards the project’s success and gain the ownership of the project, so they will continue the activities to maintain the water and sanitation facilities.
2. Steps will be taken to ensure that the harvesting units (gutters and tanks) and properly constructed with quality and right quantities of materials. Community monitoring will ensure that all materials procured for the construction will be used only in that. The training of two community level technicians will also address this challenge. WASH Committees are also required, as part of their fucntions, to organize education on the need to boil and treat water from ponds/dugouts before drinking.

**Capacity to implement**

The Centre for Transformation in Ghana (CentGhana) is not-for profit and non-governmental organization working with communities, state and non-state agencies to improve the living standards of children, families and communities. Our program approach is holistic, rights-based, environmentally friendly and culturally appropriate. We create spaces for women’s empowerment and child protection and participation through participatory and capacity building processes. We pay attention to a deprivation, exclusion and vulnerability (DEV) model, which informs our program design and practice. We build structures for sustainability into our program work, for which reason we place a high premium on demand-side approach to programming, allowing the groups or communities experiencing the deprivation, exclusion or deprivation to get actively involved, and to the extent possible, even lead program design and implementation, so they can own the project, be empowered in the process of implementation with skills so they can sustain the gains of successful projects or learn useful lessons from not-so-successful projects.

This project, which aims, address inadequate access to clean water for drinking in three communities in the Tolon district will further enhance our capacity to plan and manage water, sanitation and hygiene projects. The project will complement CentGhana’s efforts at strengthening livelihoods through viable and sustainable projects such as this project we are proposing.

The project will be managed by a project management team (PMT) headed by the Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH) Field Officer with support from the Director of Programmes and leadership direction from the Chief Executive Officer.

CentGhana has staff who have gained experience in program design, implementation, monitoring and evaluation and will bring their rich experience to bear on the project we are proposing to ensure successful implementation so that planned outcomes are achieved.

Our organization also receives technical expertise and guidance from our Advisory Board in the management of projects. We shall leverage any technical support needed from the board and from the relevant government institution like the District Coordinating Unit, District Water and Sanitation Team, and District Environmental Health and Sanitation Unit of the Tolon district for the successful implementation and management of this project, especially, ensuring that standards are met in the provision of water and training of WASH Committees.

**Budget**

The total project budget is One hundred and thirty thousand, six hundred and thirty-six Ghana cedis (GHS130,636). This is equivalent to thirty-eight thousand four hundred and twenty-two Australian dollars (AUD38,422). AUD29,689 is being requested from Go Go Love Foundation, while CentGhana and the three beneficiary communities will contribute AUD6,653. Please see detailed budget below.

