

July 2011

Project ACWA
(Access to Clean Water
for Agyementi)
Status Report

ADI IS A SOCIAL
ENTREPRENEURIAL 501(c)(3)
NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATION
DEDICATED TO INVESTING IN
OPPORTUNITIES TO IMPROVE THE
HEALTH, EDUCATION, AND
ECONOMIES OF COMMUNITIES IN
LOW-RESOURCE SETTINGS



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With the Latrine Construction Program several months underway, we track our progress, review our challenges, and look ahead to future action in order to reach our goal of complete sanitation coverage in Agyementi.

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and Progress Report**

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Program

*As we mentioned in our last re-port in February, we embarked on a **Latrine Construction program** to construct 39 additional latrines (to reach our goal of complete sanitation coverage in Agyementi) in two phases: 20 household latrines in phase 1 and 19 household latrines in phase 2. Phase 1 started thanks to funding from the **Rho-des Scholars South African Forum** and other individual donors. Phase 1 was met with a whole host of challenges, which forced us to re-assess our approach and to strengthen our local presence on the ground.*

For the past two years, we have worked in partnership with the **Akuapem Community Development Pro-gramme** (ACDEP) to implement the hygiene and sanitation components of our work in Agyementi, and this partnership has been largely successful.



For phase 1 of the Latrine Construction program, we partnered with ACDEP again and looked forward to another successful project. However, as happens all too often in our line of work, we lost all contact with our partners for two months. Despite numerous e-mails, calls, and office visits, our primary contact was nowhere to be found. Eventually, we were able to track down our contact, who had been out of town for a prolonged period, and apologized for the lapse in communication. He informed us that the project has failed to meet its completion deadline due to a number of issues that have come up (along with his untimely vacation).

Fortunately, **to ensure effective implementation** of these actions, our ACDEP contact has taken a one-month vacation leave from his organization during June in order to have a full time oversight of the project. The latrine artisans have already been dispatched to the community to commence this process. The chief of Agyementi has also expressed his apologies for the delay and extended his assurances to ensure that the project is successfully completed within the stipulated time frame.

Progress

Latrine Type	Number	State
a. Alternating Pit (Kumasi Ventilated Improved Pit type)	3	Pit dug and lined with blocks
b. Multiple Latrine (3 in 1)	1	Pit dug and lined with blocks
c. Multiple Latrine (2 in 1)	1	Pit is under excavation
d. Single Pits Latrines	8	4 out of the 8 pits have been dug and lined with blocks. The remaining 4 are under excavation
Total Latrines in Progress	16	



Challenges and Action

Challenge

Rocky nature of soil would not allow households to dig up the minimum depth of 8 feet

Inadequate requisite hand tools for the excavation works

Some households could not undertake the excavation by themselves because they do not have the men to dig for them and do not have money at present to engage outside labor

Some households declared that they could not afford to provide their part of the contribution within the 2 months period.

A few households do not have sufficient land space to construct their latrines. At the moment no landlords are willing to give portions of their plots out for latrine building.

As tenants, some heads of households are unwilling to construct the latrines because they claim their landlords should provide them. Those who are willing to pay for their latrines want their landlords adjust their rent fees according to their contribution. Several landlords conceded that they are responsible for providing latrines, however, they claim they do not have the resources to build the latrines at this moment.

Heavy rains have delayed construction

Action

Design and adopt alternating type of pit latrine and other options based on household ability to afford



Supervisor to provide those vital tools to facilitate work



Supervisor to identify and introduce skilled excavators to the community. Special arrangement would be made with the excavators to permit households to pay in installment.



Such households are deferred to the 2nd phase to give them enough time to save.



Households with such problems will be deferred to the 2nd phase while the necessary arrangement will be made to make land available to them, including further discussions with landlords



Households with such problems will be deferred to the 2nd phase while we engage with the chief and local committee for a resolution



Extend the project time frame through August and adjust to the needs of our clients



Looking Forward

For ADI as an organization, the challenges with project implementation are fine and expected. What we find unacceptable is the lapse in communication and the breakdown in oversight. To this end, we are **strengthening our local presence** by further institutionalizing our relationship with Ashesi University.

And now that Ashesi University has opened its campus in Berekuso, a 10-minute drive from Agyementi, we will be able to have a constant presence in Agyementi even when modern communication lines fail. Our goal is to receive more timely feedback so that implementation pitfalls can be quickly and adequately addressed. Equally important, the talented students from Ashesi University will surely be a source of **fresh ideas, energy, and scrutiny for ADI**.



Currently, one of our undergraduate members, **Rose Nyamekye**, is spending the summer in Ghana and will be working on this initiative. We look forward to updating you on this in our next Project ACWA report.



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