

# ANAM HUBDATE

GHANA - ASUTIFI NORTH DISTRICT AHONIDIE MPUNTUO (ANAM) UPDATE

DECEMBER 2019



ANDA



ISSUE 0001

## IRC Ghana and partners receive Hilton Foundation representatives



The Conrad N. Hilton Foundation's new Vice President of Strategy and Programs – Marc J. Holley, and Chris Dunston (Senior Program Officer) - arrived in Kenyasi on a 5-day visit to Ghana.

The Hilton representatives arrived in Kenyasi to a warm welcome by IRC and partners and were accompanied to the District Assembly for a brief formal reception.

The District Chief Executive, Mr. Anthony Mensah, the Member of Parliament for Asutifi North, Hon. Joseph Benhezin Dahah and the representative of the Traditional Authorities, Nana C.K. Yaboah welcomed them and expressed appreciation for Hilton's support to the district. "On behalf of the Asutifi District Assembly and the good people of the district, I welcome you with the traditional kente stool and

express our appreciation for your continuous support to the district through the [ANAM initiative](#)," Mr. Anthony Mensah said.

In their welcome words to the Hilton representatives, the [Safe Water Strategy \[SWS\]](#) partners (IRC, World Vision International (WVI), Safe Water Network (SWN), Aquaya and the District Assembly) stated that over the years they have worked together towards bringing safe and reliable drinking water to the rural poor in Ghana. They indicated that continuing from the successes drawn, there was a need for them to synergise to maximise the collective impact

[Continue on next page](#)

## INTRODUCTION

Welcome to the Asutifi North District Ahonidie Mpuntuo (ANAM) initiative Hubdate. The periodic update seeks to highlight selected main ANAM project events. This edition focuses on the visit of Conrad N. Hilton Foundation Vice President of Strategy and Programs – Marc J. Holley, and Senior Program Officer – Chris Dunston to the Asutifi North District of Ghana (October 28 – 29, 2019).

Happy reading!

### IN THIS ISSUE

IRC Ghana and partners receive Hilton Foundation representatives



Hilton Foundation Team meets Safe Water Strategy Partners



Hilton Foundation team visits four communities in Asutifi North District



A shared vision on the road to full WASH coverage



Partners working together on a shared vision in Asutifi North



Hilton Foundation team wraps up visit to Asutifi North with high impressions



### EDITORIAL TEAM

**Editor-in-Chief:** Vida Duti  
**Editor:** Abubakari M. S. Wumbei  
**Sub-Editor:** Jeremiah Atengdam  
**Contributors:** Freda Adiali & Abdul-Kudus Husein  
**Editorial Support:** Vera van der Grift & Sara Bori

of their diverse but complementing efforts.

The partners said, "The funding from the Conrad N. Hilton Foundation to implement the district-based "Safe Water Strategy" was therefore timely. This catalytic funding is enhancing capacities of grantees and the Asutifi North District Assembly to effectively work together to improve delivery and quality of water services."

On the way forward the partners added, "As we chart this new path towards system strengthening through this strategic partnership involving the Conrad N. Hilton Foundation grantees, the Asutifi North District Assembly, civil society/ NGOs and the traditional authorities in Asutifi North District of the Ahafo regions of Ghana, we are in prayer that with your unrestricted support, we can achieve our collective vision of reaching everyone with access to sustainable and safe water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH) services in the district by the year 2030; and presenting a case for replication to improve the livelihoods of the rural poor in Ghana and beyond."

Chris Dunston has been part of the SWS initiative from the start. He introduced Marc J. Holley to the local team, and indicated the purpose of the visit;

to familiarise the new Vice President of the Foundation with the Safe Water Strategy, appreciating the role of local government leadership in catalysing the implementation of the WASH master plan, understand the partnership and its workings to drive the implementation of the WASH master plan and to receive updates on progress of implementation of the WASH master plan and how it translates into improvements in WASH services to beneficiaries.

Marc J. Holley was grateful for the traditional local reception offered and he was looking forward to interacting with the team during the two-day visit in Asutifi North District and possibly learn from the team and from the field visit.

The representatives were in Asutifi North for two days - 28 and 29 October 2019 - and visited four communities including Gambia NO.1, Ntrotroso, Wamanhinso and Panaba. The Hilton representatives also participated in the SWS partners' meeting and visited the WASH Hub Office in Kenyasi. The team then left for the Western region for a two day visit to the Foundation-supported Safe Water Network and Water4 WASH facilities, where they wrapped up their visit to Ghana.



ANDA officials together with Hilton grantees inspecting a solar mechanized borehole under construction in Gambia No. 1

## Hilton Foundation Team meets Safe Water Strategy Partners



James Ata-Era of ANDA presents the success story of SWS initiative

On 28 October 2018 the Asutifi North District Assembly, IRC and Partners organised partners meeting at the Assembly in Kenyasi to brief the Hilton Foundation team on the Safe Water Strategy (SWS) initiative; and to discuss how the catalytic funding is fostering partnerships for the implementation of the master plan and alignment with national policies and processes to provide safe and reliable water services in Ghana.

The overview of the SWS project was presented by the Planning Officer of the Asutifi North District Assembly, James Ata-Era. He presented the success story of the initiative to date; the role of the Assembly and respective partners work as part of the collaborative effort in the delivery of the safe water strategy; and how this is being facilitated by the Conrad N. Hilton Foundation grant.

Mr. Ata-Era shared the achievements to date, which include, jointly developed WASH masterplan; political and financial

commitment from Assembly; the signed partners operational agreement; jointly developed district monitoring, learning and evaluation framework; and assessment of WASH status in schools and health care facilities.

The other achievements included the regular partners and stakeholder's review meetings; ongoing construction of limited mechanized schemes and boreholes in across the district; the public schools and health care facilities WASH status assessed; ongoing pilot of water kiosk and water quality assurance fund mechanisms; and the establishment of ANAM WASH desk, website, and radio platform to mobilise and build network of citizens to support the masterplan implementation.

Mr. Ata-Era briefly touched on the specific role of the partners, stating that the Asutifi North District Assembly (ANDA) was the planning and development authority that owns the WASH Master Plan and provides leadership for the implementation,

[Continue on page 4](#)



Marc Holley discusses with SWS team and stakeholders after the presentation

coordination, and collaboration with other departments relevant to the district-based initiative.

He commended the role of the Hilton partners, stating that IRC Ghana was the hub that facilitates and coordinates the partnership to drive change towards achieving SDG6 through co-creating and guiding the shared vision; supporting continuous communication, knowledge management and documentation; supporting alignment of activities and prioritisation of interventions; building public will and popular support for the initiative; supporting resource mobilisation and advocacy for consolidation of gains and scale-up of best practices.

The planning officer stated that Safe Water Network was responsible for establishing small water enterprises in urban and peri-urban areas; World Vision International provides water services in rural and deprived communities and institutions; and Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Netcentric Campaigns and Aquaya Institute

respectively supports WASH in schools and health care facilities; facilitates partnerships and networks; and develops approaches for drinking water quality management.

The presentation was followed by a plenary discussion on partners' perspectives on how the collaborative effort was enhancing the capacity of the District Assembly and Partners to work together to provide safe and reliable WASH services.

The Vice president commended the team for the progress made so far and asked several questions bothering on the partnership, the key emerging issues from the townhall meetings and the learning platforms among others. The District Chief Executive, Mr. Anthony Mensah, the Member of Parliament for Asutifi North, Hon. Joseph Benhezin Dahah and the representative of the Traditional Authorities, Nana C.K. Yaboah took turns to respond to the issues raised and to assure the CNHF team of their continued commitment going forward.

## Hilton Foundation team visits four communities in Asutifi North District

The Hilton Foundation team visited four communities in the Asutifi North District: Gambia No. 1, Ntrotroso, Wamahinso and Panaba. In Wamahinso and Panaba, the team was greeted by community members led by their traditional authorities. After the welcome gestures the team visited ongoing SWS interventions – Hilton Foundation supported WASH facilities led by the respective partner in charge and spoke to the women and men who were in charge or beneficiaries or members of the community water and sanitation management teams.

### Gambia No.1

Gambia No.1 Community Health and Planning Services (CHPS) Health Care Facility was the first point of call on October 28, 2019. Together with the District Chief Executive and team, the member of parliament for Asutifi North and the traditional ruler, the visiting team interacted with the Assemblyman of the area, the Water Sanitation and Management Teams, Nurses of the Health care facility, the SWS partners

including World Vision project staff who conducted the team around the facility.

According to the World Vision International (WVI) Ghana project coordinator, Cephas Wedam, the health care facility serves a catchment population of about 6000 within the Gambia sub district; and records an average OPD attendance of 500 with an average antenatal attendance of 150 a month. According to him, due to the non-functioning of the existing mechanized borehole with a very low yield of 5 liters per minute, the health care facility had to resort to buying water from the overcrowded community borehole or sometimes rely on rainwater to provide health care.

The SWS initiative funded by the foundation intervened and drilled a productive well of 45 meters with a yield of 65 liters per minute for mechanization. The WVI Ghana project coordinator indicated that the construction works on the solar mechanization is in progress and based on the standard practice, the plan is to extend pipe connections to the



Inspection of productive well drilled for mechanization at Gambia No1 Health Post

clinical rooms of the health care facility and construct standpipes at the school and settlements close to the health care facility.

On how the facility will be managed, Mr. Wedam stated that trained water and sanitation management team (WSMT) will engage a vendor at the standpipe serving the settlements to sell the water for a fee. This is to generate revenue for a sustained management of the facility; and that the trained WSMT are committed to ensure the generation of funds for the operations and maintenance of the system.

The good news for the community and healthcare workers is that after completion of the solar mechanized systems, the health care facility will have safe water on premises to provide quality and safe healthcare; and the school and settlements close to the health care facility fully connected.

### Ntrotroso

The team stopped briefly at Ntrotroso on the way to Wamanhinso and Panaba to inspect Aquaya Water kiosk pilot of small-town water scheme standpipe. The team was briefed by AJ of Aquaya Institute together with a water vendor who also took some time to explain how water kiosk works.

The intervention is part of ongoing pilot of Water Kiosk and Water Quality Assurance Fund mechanisms to address lack of or irregular water quality testing by service



Aquaya representative briefing the team on water kiosk pilot

providers. The team then proceeded to Wamahinso for the second event of the day.

### Wamahinso

The team was received by the chiefs and people of Wamahinso at a mini durbar organized to welcome the Hilton Foundation guests. There was also a brief community durbar where the citizens engaged with the leadership of the Assembly on their WASH needs.

The chiefs and community members then accompanied the team to inspect the ongoing construction of limited mechanized station with 5 standpipes. Safe Water Network team led by Joseph Ampadu-Boakye conducted the team around the facility. The visiting team was escorted by the District Chief Executive, Mr. Anthony Mensah and team, IRC and WVI.



Ongoing construction of SWN limited mechanized station with 5 standpipes at Wamahinso

### Panaaba

On 29/10/2019 the CNHF team was in Panaaba, a farming community located towards the eastern part of the Asutifi North District with an estimated population of 700. The team was there to inspect the provision and rehabilitation of boreholes with trained WSMT practicing pay as you fetch; and to interact with the community leaders and members.

Briefing the team at a community durbar in Panaba, the Assembly member, Nnuro Ameyaw stated that previously, the borehole



Inspection of rehabilitated borehole at Panaaba

that served the community was unreliable due to frequent break down and was inadequate to meet the water needs of the community. For this reason, community members had to make about 1-hour round trip including queueing to access water in the next Community. During periods of overcrowding at the water point in the next Community, some community members had to resort to fetching water from the Tano River, which is about 2km away. Mr. Nnuro narrated that there were five unsuccessful drilling attempts for having an additional borehole to augment the unreliable source of

safe water in the Community and that the lack of water had negative impact on the community, especially school children and women.

The CNHF-sponsored SWS initiative intervened through WVI and drilled a productive well with a depth of 45 meters with a yield of 12 liters per minute. According to the WVI Ghana project coordinator, Cephas Wedam, the tested water passed all the physicochemical and bacteriological parameters per WHO and Ghana Standard Authority guidelines; and that the borehole is fitted with a hand pump with a well-constructed platform and a wastewater trough. According to him, the non-functioning borehole has also been rehabilitated to augment the new borehole. Mr. Wedam stated that the WSMT were trained on facility management, revenue generation, records keeping, sanitation and hygiene; and that the WSMT has since engaged a vendor who sells the water at a fee. The team visited the WASH facility amidst singing and dancing by the community



Inspection of rehabilitated borehole at Panaaba

members with the popular slogan, 'where Hilton and Partners go, Water flows!'

The representative of the Chief, Nana Attakorah Amaniapong, who decorated Marc and Chris with traditional bracelets to signify the gratitude of the community, stated “the construction of a new borehole has indeed reduced the water burden of the entire community and so our slogan in this community is, where Hilton and WVI go, water flows!”

The WVI WASH Programme Manager, Robel Lambisso Wamisho explained that the facilities were managed by trained WSMT who are committed to ensure the sustainability of the facilities through a pay as you fetch approach, and that the intervention was in line with the safe water strategy of proven and promising solutions and models.

The CNHF team and partners were entertained with traditional dance and singing at the community durbar with the whole team joining in the dance at one point. Present at the durbar were the Assembly member of the area, Nnuro Ameyaw, the representative of the Chief, Nana Attakorah Amaniapong, the WSMT and community members.

## DISTRICT WASH Hub office

The team rounded up the field trip with a visit to the District hub office to familiarize with the Hub office where partners are co-sharing office space and facilities. The hub accommodates some of the CNHF Grantees including, World Vision International, Aquaya and IRC. It is the pivot of partner coordination and support to ANDA as the front runners of the ANAM initiative. The team was conducted round the hub facility by the team of IRC staff led by Jeremiah Atengdem and accompanied by staff of the other grantee partners – WVI, Aquaya and SWN. The Hilton Foundation Team interacted with the grantees on their day-to-day operations and urged the team to continue to work together, share resources and continue to forge partnerships and build synergies for the delivery of the safe water strategy.

Mr. Marc J. Holley indicated at the end of visits that he was touched by the nice things he saw during the field visits, “In terms of the observation, things that I think are important for the theory of change are first and foremost, the buy-in of government and leadership;” secondly the strength of the SWS coalition in working together and sharing facilities; and finally community buy-in. The SWS partners assured the Hilton team of their

resolve to continue to work together in delivering on their respective roles. The DCE called for continuous support for the initiative and especially in the area of sanitation to ensure that full WASH coverage is attained come 2030 and that no one is left behind.



At the District WASH Hub Office with the SWS partners – IRC, WVI, Aquaya, SWN

## Hilton Foundation team wraps up visit to Asutifi North with high impressions

On 29 October, 2019 at the Wooden Tower in Kenyasi, the Conrad N. Hilton Foundation Vice President of Strategy and Programs, Marc J. Holley and Senior Program Officer, Chris Dunston ended their visit to the Asutifi

North District with high impressions and observations of the progress made with the implementation of the WASH masterplan and prospects of the Safe Water Strategy (SWS) partnership.



Marc Holley giving his impressions about the community visits

Mr. Holley also shared his observations, which included the strong government leadership and commitment evidenced in the co-investments and political leadership; the strength of the SWS partnership reflected in the shared office, complimentary activities and expertise which reduces duplication and improves efficiency; and the high level of community buy-in at the communities visited, which reflected in willingness to pay for services and engage with leadership.

Mr. Holley said, “I was impressed by the community buy-in in both Panaaba and in

Wamahinso, where we went for the community durbar and I thought in both cases it was extraordinary because, i) in the Panaba village the provision of the facility led to payment and that is going to lead to sustainability; and ii) in the Wamanhinso township hearing – that you (chief executive) were willing to answer their questions unscripted was extraordinary – I was really moved by this! – so the buy-in of the community will lead to sustainability and by you being involved will allow them to hold you accountable.”



Panaaba community joins visiting Hilton Team and partners after mini durbar

The vice president of strategy and program outlined the issues to consider going forward, which includes issues around water quality – the quality of water the SWS partnership provides to the communities; sustainability – how to keep up the current momentum of strong political and leadership commitment; and how to scale-up beyond the Asutifi North District – the question of whether there are policies that encourages investments in this direction to ensure replication across the country and beyond. He indicated that these were pertinent issues for reflection.

Mr. Holley recalled one area of concern around sustainability – “the rainwater collection facility we saw at Gambia No.1 health post which was in bad shape – And so the worst thing for us would be to come back in a few years and see those hand pumps not working;” He noted that the antidote for that was precisely the strength of political leadership (DCE and team).

In response to the wrap-up comments, the DCE, Mr. Anthony Mensah assured the team of the unflinching commitment of government and the assembly to the initiative. He also commended his team for the hard work and urged them to keep it up. On their part the partners took turns to explain current efforts and activities geared towards building sustainable and scalable structures.



Durbar with Chiefs, Queen Mothers and community members at Wamahinso

## A shared vision on the road to full WASH coverage

It is an exciting day in Panaaba, a farming community in the Asutifi North District of the newly created Ahafo Region in Ghana. The people led by Nana Attakorah Amaniapong, a representative of the Chief of Panaaba, are gathered under a mango tree to welcome two guests from the Conrad Hilton Foundation; Vice President of Strategy and Programs – Marc J. Holley, and Senior Program Officer – Chris Dunston.

Marc and Chris are on a field mission in Ghana to interact with communities and Hilton Foundation Grantees in the Safe Water Strategy Initiative in the Asutifi North District. With disarming humility, the local choir welcome the guests amid dancing and songs of praise for Hilton Foundation. But there is much more to this town than dancing and singing. As it turns out, Panaaba is quietly achieving full Water Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH) coverage with support from the Hilton Foundation and its grantees.

Prior to the intervention, Panaaba had one unreliable borehole that served nearly 800

people in the community. Residents were therefore compelled to walk long hours in search of water for domestic use. For many girls this meant time spent out of school in search of water.

Access to WASH services is a necessity in life. Life without proper WASH services often results in poor health, education and nutrition. For Panaaba and other communities in Asutifi North, the intervention of the Hilton Foundation and its partners working on a shared vision towards full WASH coverage is enough to tackle their WASH problems and a reason to celebrate.

“There are so many reasons to celebrate” says Nana Amaniapong. “We now have access to safe water and every household is in the process of having a toilet facility” we can now live in dignity with our families and our children will now stay in school; our town has faced many water and sanitation challenges in the past; and we are grateful to the Hilton Foundation and its partners for coming to our aid by providing us with clean water”



On going construction of limited mechanized station with five standpipes by Safe Water Network for the people of Wamanhinsu

## Partners working together on a shared vision in Asutifi North

Since 2017, IRC Ghana, World Vision, Safe Water Network, Netcentric Campaigns, Aquaya Institute and the Centre for Disease Control, CDC (Otherwise known as the Hilton Grantees) together with the Asutifi North District Assembly have been working on a master plan to collectively achieve full WASH coverage in Asutifi North with funding from the Hilton Foundation.

The Master Plan also known as the Asutifi North Ahonnidie Mpontuuo, (ANAM Initiative, loosely translated as, working together on a shared vision to achieve full WASH coverage in Asutifi North) involves a joint visioning and partnership between the Hilton Grantees and the District Assembly geared towards achieving SDG6 in many communities including Panaaba.

The relationship between the Hilton Grantees and the District assembly in the master plan is built on shared interests and shared values that continues to thrive and remain strong. “with the gentle progress made in Panaaba and other communities, we are moving closer to our target of “Every person in Asutifi North District, approximately .... 84,423 in 2030 having access to sustainable safe water, sanitation and hygiene services in a conducive environment where water resources are sustainably managed” says Jeremiah Attengdam, IRC Ghana Water Expert, who has been conducting the team around the communities in the company of staff of the Asutifi North District Assembly and other project partners.

“Our commitment to the objectives of the Asutifi Master plan is unwavering and we will work together to keep our partnership close to tackle the problems of WASH in Asutifi North” he adds.

The partnership strategically gives room to all the partners to play defined and agreed roles in their area of expertise. For example, Safe Water Network is working to establish small water enterprises in urban and peri-urban areas in the District including Waemahinso where a community water taker system has been constructed and ready for use.

World Vision is also working to provide water services in rural and deprived communities like Panaaba and Gambia No. 2 where they have constructed boreholes to ease the burden of the farming communities.

Aquaya Institute on the other hand is developing approaches for drinking water quality management including piloting a water kiosk in Ntotroso. Netcentric on the other hand is providing technical support to assess the seven elements of connection among the key players in the District who must have the capacity to work as a network. The CDC is supporting WASH in schools and health facilities, whilst, IRC Ghana provides the backbone support and partnership with the District Assembly and other partners to achieve full WASH coverage.



Ward inspection at Gambia No. 1 Health facility

For further information on the ANAM initiative visit: <https://www.anamwash.com>