

## UNIVERSAL ACCESS TO WATER, SANITATION, AND HYGIENE IN ASUTIFI NORTH DISTRICT



## BY THE NUMBERS

**BUDGET:** \$3.5 million

**PARTICIPANTS:** 53,754 people reached

**WATERPOINTS:** 226 total water points

- 134 taps from 12 mechanized systems
- 51 drilled boreholes
- 41 rehabilitated wells

**RURAL SERVICE COVERAGE:**

Basic water coverage increased from 45% at baseline in 2017 to 60% at the 2022 endline.

**GENDER INCLUSIVITY:** The project achieved 38% female representation in 124 Water and Sanitation Management Teams.

**DONOR:** Conrad N. Hilton Foundation and World Vision match

**LOCATION:** Asutifi North District

**PROJECT TIME FRAME:** December 2018 to November 2022

**PARTNERS:** Aquaya Institute, Asutifi North District Assembly, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), IRC WASH, Netcentric Campaigns, and Safe Water Network

## Overview

In 2018, World Vision worked with the Asutifi North District Assembly, IRC WASH, and other key partners to develop and launch a district-wide Universal Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene (WASH) Coverage Master Plan with funding from the Conrad N. Hilton Foundation. The vision of universal access to WASH across the district was arrived at following a year of extensive context analysis, stakeholder consultations, and inception meetings to stimulate local understanding and buy-in. Building on the motivation of the district assembly and partner organizations to implement the district master plan, the Universal Access to WASH in Asutifi North project was launched in 2019 in collaboration with key partners and was completed in 2022. To support achievement of the Asutifi North master plan, the project provided WASH services to 85 communities, 30 schools, and seven healthcare facilities (HCFs). This successful four-year project provided sustainable safe water access to 53,754 people and strengthened governance of WASH services in these communities, education facilities, and health facilities for long-term sustainability.

## Partner Roles and Responsibilities

- **Asutifi North District Assembly (ANDA):** Provided leadership for implementation of the master plan
- **IRC WASH:** Served as a lead organization, providing hub and learning support and strengthening systems
- **World Vision:** Provided WASH services in rural communities, schools, and healthcare facilities
- **Safe Water Network:** Established small water enterprises in urban and peri-urban areas
- **CDC:** Conducted assessments of WASH in schools and healthcare facilities
- **Netcentric Campaigns:** Facilitated advocacy, grassroots networks, and campaigns
- **Aquaya Institute:** Developed approaches for drinking water quality management



Community members in Kenyasi No. 3 collect water from the mechanized system provided to their community by the project.

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## Innovation and Learning

The ambitious initiative to deliver safe water and sanitation to everyone within the Asutifi North district was a local authority-driven process. The initiative aimed to test a local-authority-led partnership with nongovernmental organizations for district-wide access to WASH services. To support the Asutifi North District Assembly in driving the process, the initiative included a hub function to facilitate the task of partner coordination. This function was performed by IRC WASH, leveraging the partners' shared ambition for collective success by guiding the processes of joint visioning and implementation, fostering harmonization of partners' efforts and innovations, and ensuring mutual accountability for progress toward equitable outcomes.



The nurse in charge of the Kenyasi No. 3 healthcare facility washes her hands after using a toilet constructed for the center.

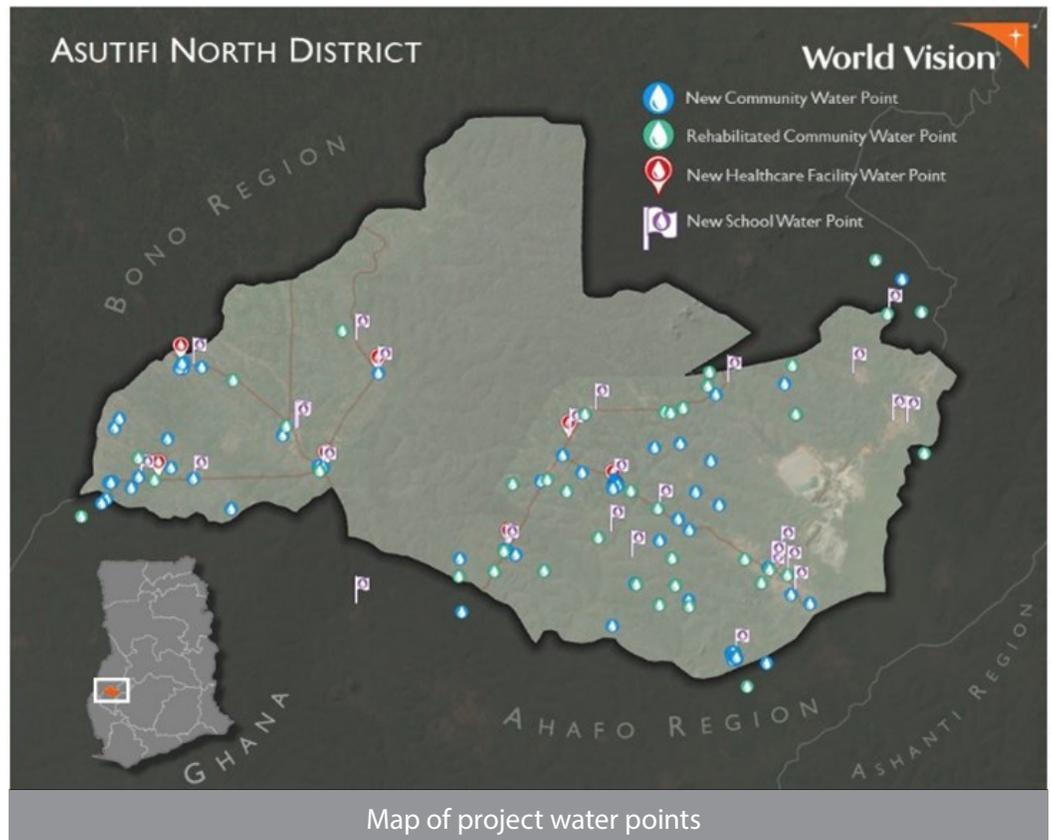
## Objectives and Key Accomplishments

### Objective 1: Build the capacity of Water and Sanitation Management

**Teams (WSMTs) to improve governance and ensure reliable and sustainable access to WASH services.** The project conducted capacity building for district partners and helped to establish, train, and support WSMTs. To manage mechanized water supply systems, we partnered with Safe Water Network to implement the Small Water Enterprise Market-Based Solutions Model, where WSMTs worked with private vendors to employ stronger revenue-generation approaches. Additionally, IRC WASH conducted national advocacy related to governance and sustainability, and Netcentric Campaigns conducted community-level campaigns on willingness to pay for services.

Together with local partners, World Vision:

- Formed and trained 124 WSMTs to improve sustainable management of WASH facilities.
- Supported 110 WSMTs to open bank accounts where they deposit revenue obtained from water sales. The remaining 14 WSMTs are completing the necessary processes to obtain bank accounts.
- Conducted four radio programs on the Anapua Radio Station on the role of WSMTs, WASH in schools and HCFs, and the importance of paying



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for water service. The radio programs were transmitted to 12 information centers in Asutifi North, reaching an estimated 50,000 people across the district and beyond.

- Trained water vendors for sustainable financial management of water points through systematic collection of water-user fees. The vendors were supported with kiosks to sell WASH products for additional income. A total of 40 water kiosks are operating and serving as livelihood opportunities for 40 vendors.
- Conducted community behavior-change campaigns on paying for water service, reaching 5,363 people.

**Objective 2: Provide improved water sources for communities, schools, and healthcare facilities.** As needed, World Vision constructed solar-powered mechanized water systems for larger communities and connected schools and healthcare facilities to the mechanized water systems for continuous water flow. We provided wells with hand pumps in small communities with no existing water service. Rehabilitations were carried out on boreholes that needed significant repairs and replacement of parts, along with training to ensure sustained management of the wells. At the end of the project, the proportion of people in the district that had access to potentially safely managed water services increased from 5% at baseline to 15% at endline.

Key WASH access achievements are as follows:

- Constructed 226 water points in 85 communities, 30 schools, and seven HCFs, serving 53,754 people with safe water
- Mechanized 12 solar-powered systems with 134 taps and 28 household connections and rehabilitated 41 boreholes, renewing access to clean water for thousands of families



A schoolgirl in the project area washes her hands during the COVID-19 pandemic.

**Objective 3: Promote improved sanitation and hygiene behaviors and practices.** World Vision constructed 15 gender-separated and disability-accessible latrines with handwashing facilities at 12 schools and three health centers, while IRC WASH worked on national advocacy for ongoing operation and maintenance funding. The project implemented School Health Education Programs and built the capacity of school management committees for maintenance of school WASH facilities. We also worked with district health management teams to manage WASH facilities in health centers.

The project used Designing for Behavior Change and scaled up the Nurturing Care Groups approach to promote essential WASH behaviors. Behavior-change promotion for sanitation was conducted using Community-Led Total Sanitation to create demand, along with Sanitation Marketing to facilitate the supply of sanitation materials. Overall, the proportion of the population with safely managed sanitation services increased from 12% at baseline to 32.3% at endline.

Key sanitation and hygiene activities completed include:

- Organized and inaugurated the Regional Interagency Coordinating Committee (RICC) on sanitation to support Open Defecation Free (ODF) certification with the Ahafo Regional Coordinating Council and the Ministry of Sanitation and Water Resources. The RICCS verified and certified 56 communities as ODF.
- Trained 120 faith leaders (pastors/priests and Muslim leaders) to promote healthy WASH practices. The faith leaders carried out congregational meetings and radio discussions to teach improved WASH practices.

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- Collaborated with the Ghana Education Service and ANDA to implement the Sesame Street WASH UP! program in five schools. To promote positive WASH attitudes and behavior among children, 120 schoolchildren participated in nine training lessons focused on WASH and health promotion.

## Lessons Learned

The leadership and commitment of the Asutifi North District Assembly and its goal to achieve district-wide universal WASH coverage has been a strong driving force for the project. Overall, the “Pay as You Fetch” approach in the district helped solve the problem of nonfunctioning water points and improved water service delivery and sustainability.

According to the Asutifi North Health Directorate, there has been a reduction in water-related diseases since the Universal WASH in Asutifi North District project began in the district. Between 2017 and mid-2022, typhoid cases reduced from 2,024 cases to 499—a 75% reduction, and diarrheal cases reduced from 7,135 to 2,487—a 65% reduction.

Monitoring the use of prepaid meters has shown a 75% increase in water revenue, reduction of water losses from 30% to 2%, and a 60% increase in vendor allowances, as they were able to increase monthly water sales. The prepaid meters also ensured accountability in revenue collection as prepaid meters issue monthly statements, which are shared with community members.

Training and technical support for the preparation of facility management plans in HCFs and schools will contribute to safeguarding sustainable management practices. Ensuring the long-term functionality of water facilities, strengthening management systems, and building the capacity of vendors with ANDA partners will generate adequate revenue to rehabilitate nonfunctioning water supply systems and to strengthen local capacity for willingness to pay for water.

## ENDLINE EVALUATION

A 2022 CDC endline evaluation of the project found the following:

- An improvement from **14%** at baseline to **50%** at endline of HCFs gaining access to basic sanitation services
- An increase in the proportion of HCFs with basic hygiene service from **0%** at baseline to **75%** at endline
- An increase from **34%** to **55%** of schools with access to basic sanitation services between baseline and endline
- An increase from **38%** of schools with a handwashing facility available at baseline to **66%** at endline