

Program Powered by GWAM



ANNUAL REPORT 2024

Transforming Communities with Love



PEOPLE SERVED

In 2024, with your help, Water for West Africa (WFWA) made remarkable strides in transforming communities across Northern Ghana.



35,000

People
provided with
safe water



12,800

Individuals
served
with
sanitation



12,800

Lives
impacted by
sustainable
energy



2024 FINANCIALS



● CONTRIBUTIONS ● IN-KIND



● PROGRAM SERVICES ● FUNDRAISING
● MANAGEMENT & GENERAL



At WFWA, we prioritize the responsible stewardship of financial resources, ensuring that every dollar is used effectively to maximize impact and advance our mission of providing clean water and sustainable development in West Africa.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY



**RICKY
MCWHORTER**
Executive Director

In 2024, Water for West Africa (WFWA) made tremendous strides in delivering vital services to communities across Northern Ghana, transforming lives through practical solutions and meaningful partnerships. Guided by a mission to serve others, WFWA impacted 44,000 people by providing clean water, improved sanitation, and sustainable energy solutions.

These accomplishments were made possible through collaboration with diverse strategic partners. By blending innovation with service, WFWA addressed urgent regional challenges while promoting community resilience. Participation in the UNCOP16 Convention to Combat Desertification highlighted WFWA's dedication to environmental stewardship and sustainable development in West Africa at the highest level.

Whether through faith-inspired service or collaborative development efforts, WFWA's work in 2024 exemplified a commitment to advancing health, sustainability, and hope in Northern Ghana. This holistic approach continues to empower individuals and fosters lasting transformation in the region.

We sincerely thank our generous donors and dedicated partners who made these achievements possible. Your support has empowered us to bring hope, health, and transformation to countless lives across Northern Ghana. As we look toward 2025, we are filled with anticipation for the opportunities ahead. Together, we can create lasting changes and brighter futures.

With warm thanks,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Ricky McWhorter".

Ricky McWhorter, Executive Director
WFWA





A BRIEF HISTORY OF OUR IMPACT

Water for West Africa (WFWA), a Ghana West Africa Missions (GWAM) program beginning in 1987, was established to bring sustainable solutions to some of the most underserved communities in West Africa, particularly in regions where access to clean water, sanitation, and renewable energy is scarce. Over the years, WFWA has grown from modest beginnings into a transformative force, improving thousands of lives by fostering health, dignity, and hope.

At the heart of WFWA's mission is the belief that access to clean water is a fundamental right and a catalyst for development. By working closely with local leaders, strategic partners, and donors, WFWA has installed hundreds of wells and safe water systems, providing clean drinking water to tens of thousands across Ghana and neighboring countries. Beyond water access, WFWA has implemented programs that promote improved sanitation practices, reduce the spread of disease, and uplift communities by empowering them with tools for better health and well-being.

OUR IMPACT

WFWA (Water for West Africa) has transformed local communities through its work in the WASH (Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene) sector. At the heart of its mission is providing clean and safe drinking water, significantly improving public health and quality of life. Through installing boreholes, hand pumps, and solar-powered water systems, WFWA reduces the prevalence of waterborne diseases such as cholera and typhoid. These interventions also save time, especially for women and children, who would otherwise spend hours each day collecting water, allowing them more time for education, work, and family care.

By grace, our efforts have led to better health outcomes, including fewer child mortality cases and safer maternal care. WFWA also supports the construction of sanitation infrastructure like latrines and handwashing stations, which promote dignity, especially for women and girls, while reducing the spread of disease. Additionally, WFWA runs culturally relevant hygiene education campaigns, teaching handwashing, safe water storage, and community-led total sanitation (CLTS), all contributing to long-term behavior change.

Central to WFWA's strategy is empowering local leadership by engaging traditional authorities, local governments, and community-based organizations. Water committees are trained to maintain systems, ensuring sustainability and fostering local ownership. These efforts generate economic and educational benefits by reducing health-related expenses and time lost to illness or water collection. As a result, children, especially girls, can remain in school, families can focus on income-generating activities, and communities become more resilient. In many areas, access to clean water also paves the way for further development, including healthcare services, agricultural productivity, and stronger, more cohesive communities - all to the glory of God.



SECTOR IMPACT



HEALTH AND WELLNESS

Clean Water: A Lifeline for Healthcare in Nimaago

For years, the Nimaago Government Community Health Facility struggled without a reliable water source, forcing staff and patients to rely on a nearby pond, shared with animals, for essential water. This lack of clean water severely compromised medical treatments, hygiene, and even safe childbirth.

Without running water, basic healthcare became a challenge. The medical staff lacked the ability to properly sterilize equipment, administer medication safely, or ensure a clean environment for deliveries. Patients, already vulnerable, faced additional risks from waterborne diseases and infections. Expectant mothers endured unsafe birthing conditions, and newborns were exposed to preventable health threats from the moment they entered the world.

But everything changed when Water for West Africa, in partnership with Ghana Health Services and local churches, installed a clean water source at the clinic.

Transforming Healthcare, One Drop at a Time

Betty, the Clinic Operations Manager, has witnessed the transformation firsthand:

"It's changed healthcare for 12,800 people," she says. "Now, we can safely deliver babies, provide clean water for medication, and maintain proper hygiene. It's a blessing beyond words."



12,800

Transformed
healthcare for 12,800
people





HEALTH AND WELLNESS



The impact of clean water doesn't stop at the clinic doors. UNICEF emphasizes that clean water in healthcare settings is essential to reducing infections, preventing disease outbreaks, and saving lives, especially among newborns and mothers.

Additionally, fewer missed school days mean children receive a more consistent education. Women, who previously walked miles to fetch water, can now dedicate time to their families, work, and education. Clean water doesn't just save lives; it transforms them.

At Water for West Africa, we believe access to clean water is more than just a health initiative; it's a foundation for stronger, healthier communities. Each well we drill fosters resilience, opportunity, and hope for future generations.

But many clinics, like the one in Nimaago, still lack safe water. With your support, we can bring life-saving clean water to more healthcare facilities, ensuring that no patient, mother, or child is left without this basic human right.

With access to clean water the facility can now:

- Ensure safe childbirth – Midwives can keep delivery rooms sanitized, protecting both mothers and newborns.**
- Improve medical care – Patients take medications with clean water, ensuring better health outcomes.**
- Prevent infections – Proper hygiene practices help stop the spread of diseases within the clinic.**
- Promote community health – Clean water benefits everyone, reducing waterborne illnesses and missed school days for children.**

EDUCATION

Clean Water, Brighter Futures: Transforming Education in Northern Ghana

In rural Northern Ghana, where education and opportunity are often hindered by a lack of resources, clean water and technology are paving the way for a brighter future. Water for West Africa (WFWA), in partnership with Healing Hands International, Harding University, COSTECH, and local churches, has launched initiatives in communities like Kuni and Yendi, reshaping education by addressing two critical challenges: access to clean water and digital literacy.

In Kuni, near the Togo border, students at Kuni Primary and Junior High School once spent hours each day fetching water from the Oti River. The long trek left them exhausted and, for young girls, often put them at risk. Without clean water, children arrived at school tired, distracted, and frequently ill.

Now, thanks to a newly installed well at the school, students have clean water at their fingertips. This life-changing resource means healthier children, improved focus in class, and more time for learning.

"It's a fantastic blessing," says a teacher at Kuni. "Now, students don't have to choose between water and education."





**Northern Colledge of
SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY
(NCOSTECH)**

NCOSTECH empowers Sahel communities by setting the standard through innovation, education, sustainable farming, and faith. It nurtures local talent, restores ecosystems, builds food security, and inspires hope. It fosters resilience, dignity, and purpose, guided by knowledge, compassion, and a belief in growth.

EDUCATION



Zuera's Story of Hope

Zuera, 11 (pictured above), once walked miles for water. Now, thanks to a new well with hand and electric pumps, clean water flows to her school, Nimaago Basic. She smiles as she washes her hands before class, her dreams no longer delayed by thirst.

Hope for Generations to Come

The impact of clean water extends far beyond education. It empowers students, promotes gender equality, and strengthens entire communities. With every well dug and every connection made, WFWA and its partners are allowing children to dream bigger, learn better, and build a future full of possibilities. Together, we can continue transforming lives—one school, one student, and one drop of clean water at a time.

JOB CREATION



Clean Water, Sustainable Jobs: Empowering Communities in West Africa

Access to clean water is more than just a basic necessity; it is a catalyst for economic growth and empowerment. Across Northern Ghana, Water for West Africa, in partnership with RWDP-GH and UNICEF Ghana, ensures that clean water solutions improve health and sanitation and create dignified jobs and long-term opportunities for local communities. Creating Jobs, Building Skills

Through WASH (Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene) programs, WFWA equips individuals with the skills to sustain critical water infrastructure. Local workers are trained as drilling technicians, pump repair specialists, and hygiene educators, ensuring that knowledge remains within the community. This approach fosters self-reliance, allowing communities to maintain their water systems rather than relying on external support.

For many, this training is life-changing. A young technician in the program shared, *"Before, I struggled to find work, but now, I have a stable job that also benefits my community."* By turning clean water access into a source of employment, WFWA is breaking cycles of poverty and fostering economic stability.





JOB CREATION

Opportunities for Women

A key focus of WFWA's efforts is providing opportunities for women in the WASH sector. Traditionally, water collection has been a responsibility placed on women and girls, but now, women are leading the installation and maintenance of water systems. By taking on leadership roles, they are improving their economic prospects and ensuring that clean water remains accessible for future generations.

Educating women and providing job opportunities equips them with skills, confidence, and financial independence. This reduces vulnerability to exploitation and illegal trafficking, offering safer, dignified alternatives to illicit businesses and empowering them to shape better futures for themselves and their communities.

One participant, now a community water coordinator, says, ***"I never imagined I would be managing a water project. This opportunity has given me confidence and the ability to support my family."*** The impact extends beyond individuals; women leaders serve as role models, inspiring young girls to pursue education and careers in fields that glorify God.

Thanks to WFWA's work and its partners, up to 94 women and girls may avoid being trafficked to large cities annually, gaining safer, more hopeful futures instead.



SUSTAINABLE ENERGY SOLUTIONS

Building Resilience in Climate Vulnerable Communities

The Sahel region of West Africa faces some of the harshest water challenges in the world. Rising temperatures, unpredictable rainfall, and dwindling water sources place millions at risk. In Northern Ghana, where temperatures are increasing 1.5 times faster than the global average, prolonged dry spells and erratic rainfall patterns disrupt daily life-threatening agriculture, food security, and access to clean water.

At Water for West Africa, we believe no one should walk miles for water or risk their health due to unsafe water sources. By implementing innovative, sustainable solutions, we are working alongside communities to provide lasting access to clean water, one of the most critical building blocks for health, education, and economic stability.

Expanding Access Through Solar-Powered Water Systems

This year, WFWA expanded its clean water initiatives by introducing solar-powered water systems in rural communities across Northern Ghana. These systems harness the region's abundant sunlight to provide a reliable and renewable water supply, ensuring a consistent flow of clean water without reliance on expensive and unsustainable fuel sources.

By integrating solar technology with boreholes and hand pumps, we have significantly reduced the burden on women and children, who previously spent hours fetching water each day. Now, children can focus on their education, families can prioritize their well-being, and entire communities can build healthier, more resilient futures.





TEACHING GOD'S LOVE



9,400

People served
directly through
teaching



75

Church
communities
directly served



8

Bible training
workshops

In **Acts 6**, the early church faced a challenge in serving widows equitably, leading the apostles to appoint seven faithful people to oversee food distribution. This act of service ensured that physical needs were met, allowing the apostles to focus more on teaching the message of God's love.

This model reflects the heart of "Teaching God's Love"—demonstrating Christ's compassion through tangible acts of service that remove barriers to faith and create opportunities for spiritual growth. Just as the early church recognized the necessity of addressing basic human needs to advance the gospel, Water for West Africa (WFWA) follows this biblical principle by bringing clean water to communities in need.

By providing reliable access to safe drinking water, **WFWA embodies God's love in action**, serving the most vulnerable and affirming their dignity. Clean water transforms health and livelihoods and opens doors for deeper engagement with the gospel. When communities experience love in the form of service—children no longer suffering from waterborne diseases, mothers freed from the burden of walking miles for water—they see a reflection of Christ's care. Just as in Acts 6, where service strengthened the church's legitimacy, WFWA's mission ensures that physical restoration leads to spiritual renewal, paving the way for hearts to be receptive to the message of Christ's love.

STRATEGIC PARTNERS



Water for West Africa (WFWA) **thrives through the strength of its strategic partnerships**, each contributing unique expertise and sectoral reach to amplify our impact. Global leaders in water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH) enhance our ability to implement sustainable clean water solutions, particularly for vulnerable communities. Environmental organizations elevate awareness and mobilize support for our initiatives through extensive networks and media outreach. Humanitarian groups bring hands-on expertise in drilling, training, and equipping communities with the skills needed for long-term water sustainability. Meanwhile, partnerships within economic sectors connect WASH initiatives with livelihood development, ensuring that access to clean water strengthens industries and promotes sustainability.



CONTACT US

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waterforwestafrica.org