

MPINTSIN, GHANA
Rotary Water Project
Rotary Club of Accra Airport East, Ghana
Rotary Club of Meridian, Idaho US
Ghana Water Limited

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Abstract

This report presents the outcomes of a field visit and community assessment conducted by the Rotary Clubs of Meridian (USA) and Accra Airport East in Mpintsin, Ghana located within the Sekondi-Takoradi area of the Western Region. The community assessment is a component of a proposed Rotary International Water Project and a Global Grant application to provide access to safe, consistent, and affordable potable water for low-income households in Mpintsin.

The Chief of Mpintsin, his councilmen, and community leaders invited Rotarians and Ghana Water to learn more about the severe impact of the water crisis, including health risks, safety hazards, high water costs, and the socio-economic burden on women and children. The field visit revealed dilapidated infrastructure, overreliance on unsafe water sources, and extremely limited and unsafe water access points.

The community assessment confirmed the community need, with subsequent planning developed to move forward.

1.0 Introduction

Access to safe water continues to be a major challenge for the rural and urban poor, particularly within the Sekondi-Takoradi area of the Ghana Western Region. Available data suggests that 69.7% of residents, especially in poor communities in Sekondi-Takoradi, lack access to safe water and often rely on unsafe sources for their daily water needs. The Sekondi-Takoradi area suffered a cholera outbreak where a total of number 14 persons lost their lives out of 789 cholera cases reported in the Western Region, with several others hospitalized across various healthcare facilities according to myjoyonline.com, a private media organization in Ghana¹. These avoidable deaths could have been prevented with provision of safe drinking water for residents in the region.

In response to this unfortunate situation, Rotary members are seeking to extend the piped water distribution network from a local water treatment plant to the village of Mpintsin, within the Western Region. This project will provide two hundred (200) standpipe household connections for residents of the community in Mpintsin as well as the local school. The targeted beneficiaries for this planned intervention are women, aged, and children of school-going age in the community. Women and children spend more time in search of water for domestic chores and drinking. This affects the economic prospects of women as the valuable time that could be channelled into economic productivity is spent looking for clean, potable water. Many children abandon school in search of clean water to assist their parents and guardians in their daily activities.

2.0 Meeting with Chief and Opinion Leaders

The combined teams from both Rotary clubs, Ghana Water Limited, and Mandela Washington Fellows arrived in Mpintsin at approximately 10:45 a.m on 6 November 2025. The team was invited and received by the Chief of the Mpintsin community, Nana Yadea Kojo IV, and his elders. The Chief explained how the current water crisis has impacted the community and conveyed his request for assistance and commitment to support this project to make it a success. Due to the huge importance the Chief has attached to this community need, he assembled his elders and opinion leaders to participate in the meeting. The table below shows the attendance at the meeting held at the Chief's Palace.

S/N	Name	Designation
1	Nana Yadea Kojo IV	Chief of Mpintsin
2	Samuel Ansah	Community Elder
3	Daniel Agbanyo	Community Elder
4	John Nkrumah	Community Elder

¹ [Cholera outbreak in Western region claims 14 lives, over 800 cases recorded - MyJoyOnline](#)

5	Amo Wilson	Community Elder
6	Kwame Asante	Community Elder
7	Christopher K. Bissue	Community Elder
8	Eric Donkor	Community Elder
9	Joseph Bonku	Community Elder
10	John Cobbinah	Unit Committee Chairman
11	Hon. John Johnson	Assembly Member
12	Ing. Richard Esuon	GWL Regional Chief Manager
13	Ing. Patrick Awotwe	GWL Tech. and Innovation Manager
14	Ing. Habib Mohammed	GWL District Manager, Sekondi
15	Edward Nii Bortey	GWL District Distribution Officer
16	Obed Ainooson	GWL District Commercial Officer
17	Augustine Yeboah	GWL Regional LICSU Officer
18	Janice Fulkerson	Past District Governor, District 5400; Service Chairperson, Rotary Club of Meridian
19	David Fulkerson	Husband of Janice Fulkerson
20	Godfried Oyiadzo	Membership Chairman, Rotary Club of Accra Airport East
21	Lois Nana Adjoa Aubyn	Mandela Washington Fellow, 2024
22	Sitso Sitso	Rotarian, Rotary Club of Accra Airport East

3.0 Field Visit

After the initial meeting, the team embarked on a field visit to walk through a section of the Mpintsin community to gain a deeper understanding of the current conditions on the ground and how a sustainable Rotary water project intervention could transform the lives of community members.

The team walked through the streets and inner lanes of the community. The team inspected the dilapidated water infrastructure, existing community standpipes, and possible routes for installing new pipelines to ensure clean, uninterrupted water supply to households in Mpintsin.

The team witnessed firsthand the daily struggles residents face in accessing safe water. The team were informed that some community members had lost their lives, while others sustained injuries while attempting to cross the highway to fetch water from a fuel station during periods of acute water shortage. The field walk lasted over two hours and showed that the entire community, including the basic school, fetch water from only two (2) available water vendors at an exorbitant price using the vendor's provided receptacle, that

is often contaminated due to the multiple usage. There are only a few private connections in individual households where the residents have the resources to drill a bore hole for their own private use.

After the field visit, the team conducted a debrief and began to develop a project plan. The plan recognizes how community members currently approach water behaviors, particularly attitudes and beliefs concerning safe water management, and hygiene. This understanding provides context on behavior changes and how to incorporate training and education required for successful adoption of the solutions proposed.

Consistent, clean water infrastructure does not extend to the Mpintsin community. This compels residents to depend largely on a nearby stream and hand-dug wells which are perceived within the community as “natural” and therefore safe sources of water. While some households attempt to reduce health risks by boiling water before consumption, this practice is inconsistent and shaped by beliefs that clear-looking water is safe. The cost and effort associated with fuel for boiling water can also be a challenge in low-income residences. These prevailing attitudes toward water safety and hygiene contribute to persistent exposure to waterborne diseases.

A few households, particularly during periods of acute scarcity, pool their limited resources to purchase water from private tanker services; however, the high cost and uncertainty surrounding the quality of tanker-supplied water limit sustained use. In response to chronic water shortages, residents have adopted strict water-saving practices that prioritize quantity over hygiene, often reducing handwashing, safe storage, and cleaning practices, thereby reinforcing pathways for disease transmission.

Successful adoption of the proposed water solution will therefore require not only improved access to safe, consistent water, it will also require targeted education and training by experts and local leaders (formal leaders and opinion leaders) that focus on behavior change interventions to shift community attitudes and beliefs toward consistent safe water handling, hygienic storage, regular handwashing, and recognition of the health risks associated with untreated water sources. Without addressing these behavioral dimensions of WASH, infrastructural improvements alone are unlikely to deliver sustained public health benefits. Significant training and education are a critical component of the water project’s success in sustainability.

4.0 Conclusion and Recommendation

The team has outlined the following recommendations based upon local resources, cultural and opportunities:

1. Connect Mpintsin to the nearest water treatment facility that treats water from the Pra River.
2. Trench and bury HDPE pipe 6 feet deep
3. Connect 200 vulnerable residences to the water system through the buried pipe
4. Use standpipe and a smart metering technology at each standpipe location to monitor appropriate water usage by household
5. Connect the local school to the water system
6. Provide significant training to community residents to include initial, intermediate, and long-term education to ensure sustainability
7. Establish a Water Users Association
8. Deliver ongoing continuing education focused on clean water and hygiene
9. Measure successes, conduct reporting, and replicate as possible.

Water testing for Sustainability: The frequency at which Ghana Water Limited test the water they produced. The water from the water treatment plant is tested every hour to ensure compliance with standards set by the World Health Organization (WHO), the Public Utilities Regulatory Commission (PURC), the Water Resources Commission, and the Food and Drugs Authority (FDA) of Ghana. These tests ensure that the water produced and supplied is safe for consumption. Additionally, GWL randomly samples water from customers' homes and from the distribution network and tests it to ensure that it conforms with the quality of water produced at the treatment plants.

Appendix

Appendix 1: Gallery of Field Trip



Figure 1: Group Picture of GWL and Rotary Club Representatives from Meridian, ID US and Accra, Ghana



Figure 2: PDG Janice with Rotarian Godfried collecting water in Mpintsin.



Figure 3: Meeting of GWL and Rotary Clubs



Figure 4: Reconnaissance and Field Visit in Mpintsin, Ghana



Figure 5: Picture with the Chief of Mpintsin in Middle, Rotarians from Meridian Idaho and Accra, Ghana



Figure 6: Mpintsin Market



Figure 7: One of the non-working bore holes.



Figure 8 a and b: Mpintsin school

Appendix 2. The cholera was widely published by several media outlets in Ghana.

- [Cholera outbreak in Western region claims 14 lives, over 800 cases recorded - MyJoyOnline](#)
- [Cholera outbreak claims 14 lives in Western Region, as daily cases exceed 60](#)
- [14 lives lost in Western Region cholera outbreak as cases surpass 800 | Pulse Ghana](#)
- [Cholera causes havoc in W/R, 16 casualties recorded - Graphic Online](#)