BEYOND THE PIPE: PUBLIC-PRIVATE PARTNERSHIPS FOR COMMUNITY WATER SOLUTIONS

WELCOME AND SESSION DESCRIPTIONS

MARCH 16, 2016, 9 AM - 2 PM | HOLIDAY INN, AIRPORT CITY, ACCRA

FORUM SPONSORS:
A MESSAGE FROM CHARLES NIMAKO,
SAFE WATER NETWORK COUNTRY DIRECTOR—GHANA

Dear Participants:

I am pleased to welcome you to the 2016 Beyond the Pipe forum, the fourth in Ghana and ninth in the global series, which is held annually to spur action in overcoming barriers to scale for sustainable community water solutions. This year’s forum focuses on financing and partnerships to support our long-term objective of taking off-grid community water systems to scale.

Our main discussion topic is the Ghana Water Enterprise Trust, a proposed funding mechanism to address the financing gap for off-grid community water systems and improve financial stewardship for a portfolio of water Stations. I trust you will bring a welcome perspective as we discuss the proposition, including the proposed fund’s governance, legal and regulatory framework, and risk mitigation.

We also bring the discussions to life with the design for a Public-Private Partnership (PPP) pilot project, for which we have secured funding commitments from a private sector entity and the local government authority. This effort builds on the recommendations put forth by the PPP Working Group, led by Ghana’s Ministry of Finance, to promote private sector engagement. The next step is to complete signing of agreements and securing permits for the project to kick off in Q3 of 2016.

I’d like to extend my appreciation to all our partners and funders – it is with their support that the Beyond the Pipe forum series continues to attract sector needs to meet national targets. It is estimated that USD $297m per year is required for water supply in Ghana, with an additional $66m per year for OPEX (AMCOW, 2011). Progress in scaling up off-grid community water systems is significantly hindered by a lack of financing, good governance and financial accountability. To address the financing gap and improve financial stewardship and accountability, Safe Water Network is proposing a ‘Water Enterprise Trust’ for market-based community water solutions in Ghana, as part of its long-term objective to catalyze off-grid community water systems to scale. In the short-term, Safe Water Network will initiate improved financial stewardship of current assets, which will potentially be turned into a separate entity with financial oversight and control of the water Stations. The model for a larger facility with $60m potential could provide safe water to 3m people living in ~1,000 communities. We are in the early stages of working with Ghana’s Ministry of Finance and partners to develop a funding structure. This builds on our successful implementation of off-grid community water systems over the past seven years, which now provide safe water to 50+ communities in Ghana on an economically sustainable basis.

Sincerely,

Charles Nimako
About Safe Water Network

Safe Water Network develops market-based, community-level solutions that deliver safe, affordable and reliable water to populations in need. We engage the diverse capabilities of our public- and private-sector partners to advance our model for broad replication, and document and share our insights through forums, workshops, and reports. Our operating footprint of over 150 safe water systems, providing safe water access to 600,000 people in Ghana and India, forms the basis for research and innovation to systematically address the challenges of local sustainability. Safe Water Network was co-founded in 2006 by actor and philanthropist Paul Newman, along with prominent civic and business leaders.

Ghana Team

Led by Charles Nimako, former CEO of Pepsi Bottler in Ghana and Franchise Operations Manager for East Africa, the Ghana team has a diverse mix of expertise in policy, finance, operations, engineering and consumer engagement and is focused on developing and standardising a market based model for broad scale replication in Ghana and across other geographies in Africa.

For More Information

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