



SAHA GLOBAL · Q2 2023

Quarterly Highlights Report

Reliable water service for
last-mile communities in
rural Ghana.

August 2023

sahaglobal.org

2023 is the first of a three-year transformative journey for Saha Global as we focus on scaling our impact by dramatically increasing the consumption of safe water in last-mile, rural communities. We are grateful to all of our funding partners for the support and trust that they have continue to show as we deliver on promised targets for this year and beyond. This report details our operational and organization activities and progress made as at the second quarter of 2023.

Operational updates

New Water Treatment Centers

From January 1st – June 30th, Saha expanded safe water access to 7,075 people living in 48 last-mile villages in rural Ghana. The water treatment centers in these villages are run by 115 Saha-trained, women water entrepreneurs. We are 65% of the way to our goal of reaching 75 new communities in 2023 and are confident that we will reach this goal by the end of this year.

RWU Transition

As mentioned in our previous report, Saha has achieved our goal of transitioning 20 of our water treatment centers to our new Rural Water Utility service model. As of early June, the average increase in consumption in these 20 villages is over 600%, when compared to our baseline of this time last year (Q1 & Q2 of 2022), much higher than we saw during the Emergency Water Fund when water was free (~200% increase). These early results are very encouraging as we prepare to scale the RWU to 80 communities in 2024 and all Saha communities (400+) in 2025. 55 entrepreneurs are now earning monthly salary from Saha for running the water treatment centers and providing affordable, safe water to 6,968 people.

As mentioned last quarter, one of the biggest challenges of this transition has been paying the entrepreneurs via mobile money as registering each of our entrepreneurs for mobile money accounts was more difficult than anticipated. From March to June 2023, we made 44% of entrepreneur payments in cash, missing our goal of 90% cashless payments each month. We have since partnered with MTN, a mobile money operator, to provide pre-registered SIM cards for swift and secure mobile money transactions. In July, we achieved our goal making 100% of our entrepreneur payments via mobile money.

Water Transportation

After the success of the Water Transportation project in 13 of our partner communities, Saha is planning to include this new feature as part of our planned RWU transition. As mentioned in previous reports, introducing a water transportation component to our water treatment centers reduces the physical and time burden of water collection for both our entrepreneurs and customers, leading to significant increases in clean water availability and consumption. In the two communities where we combined water transportation with our planned price reductions and entrepreneur stipends, Saha achieved a long-time goal and exciting milestone for Q2 of 2023: exclusive clean water consumption. We are excited not only by the impact this will have on health, but also how this increase in convenience helps to reduce water collection time, an important metric for government partnership. Furthermore, renting Saha-owned motorized vehicles to drivers in our partner communities creates new businesses opportunities for the drivers who are able to earn an income providing other greatly needed transportation services to community members (e.g. transporting people to market, moving supplies for construction, etc). Our planned 2024 RWU expansion will now include water transportation.

Government and Stakeholder Collaboration

Saha continues to engage with municipal and district assemblies as well as stakeholders in the water and sanitation sector to work toward our goal of government partnership/adoption at scale. In Q2 of 2023 we achieved the following:

We now have signed MOUs with 18 out of 25 Municipal and District Assemblies where we work, a significant step toward establishing partnerships with local authorities. The MOU further solidifies Saha's government relationship building efforts and advances our goal of collaborating with the GoG in achieving national WASH targets.

In June, Saha arranged field visits for representatives from the Planning, Environmental, and Works Department of the Krachi Nchumuru and Krachi West Districts. The visits strengthened the coordination between Saha and the District Assemblies and fostered a deeper understanding of the challenges and opportunities in providing clean water solutions to the communities. Saha had fruitful discussions with the department heads and staff, exchanging valuable insights and perspectives on community development and sustainable water initiatives. We also explored potential areas of collaboration to enhance the effectiveness and impact of our interventions.

In July, we also hosted the District Chief Executive of the Mion District Assembly at our Water Center in Kpachaa where he learned about our water treatment process and the impact that a simple system can have in the hardest-to-reach villages.



The District Chief Executive of Mion District Assembly at the Saha Water Center in Kpachaa.

Other updates

New Partnerships

We are excited to announce 3 new partnerships with the Evelyn S. and K.E. Barrett Foundation, the Conrad N. Hilton Foundation, and VOx Impuls. These new partnerships will support several key activities in our five-year strategic plan, including increasing affordable, safe water access in last-mile communities in the Krachi East District and expanding our work to include villages with accessible groundwater, with a specific focus on districts in Ghana undergoing the WASH master planning process. We eagerly anticipate sharing updates on our progress as our work unfolds.