



SAHA GLOBAL · Q2 2026

Quarterly Highlights Report

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

August 2026

sahaglobal.org

Q1 was focused on what our upgraded utility model could produce. Q2 showed what it could unlock. This quarter Saha secured a major new funding partnership with the Trafigura Foundation, signed a memorandum of understanding with Well Constructed that will more than double the number of communities we serve, and took our professionalised service model to the regional policy table in Tamale. Alongside that, our True Cost Report, quantifying the financing gap for last-mile water service in Ghana, is nearing completion. This report covers the second quarter of 2026, along with the most recent operational developments through August.

SERVICE AT A GLANCE · AUGUST 2026

136,788

People served daily

488

Water Service Points

1,238Women Water
Service Operators**100%**Samples free of E.
coli over the last 6
months (n=1,294)**A New Partnership
with the
Trafigura Foundation**

Saha entered into an exciting new two-year partnership with the Trafigura Foundation, powering Saha's Climate Strategy, expanding water sources in 15 last-mile communities, and supporting the launch of the District Last-Mile Water Trust.

**Doubling Our Impact**

In June, Saha signed a memorandum of understanding with NGO Well Constructed. More than 500 working boreholes with handpumps, drilled and previously managed by Well Constructed, will join Saha's borehole maintenance portfolio by the end of 2026. These water points serve more than 140,000 people, doubling our footprint by the end of the year.

**Regional Learning
Alliances**

Across two regional convenings, in the Savannah and Northern Regions, Saha brought together Regional Coordinating Councils, CWSA, and District Assemblies to advance the professionalised model for community boreholes, and set out how to finance it.

Financing the Last Mile

A New Partnership with the Trafigura Foundation

This quarter, Saha was pleased to welcome the Trafigura Foundation as a new partner in addressing the impacts of climate change on last-mile water service. The two-year, \$2.1M grant runs to mid-2028 and supports our Climate Strategy across three connected components: the expansion and rehabilitation of dugouts in Saha partner communities, the integration of climate resilience into Saha's operations and planning, and the design work needed to move the District Last-Mile Water Trust toward capitalization and pilot launch.

Quantifying the Financing Gap

Saha's True Cost Project, initiated to establish the full operations, maintenance, and management cost of last-mile water supply in Ghana, is almost complete. As mentioned in previous reports, Saha partnered with [Nat Paynter](#) and [Philip Deal](#), who led the financial analysis and authored the white paper. Saha is one of two last-mile water service providers in Ghana that participated in the study, alongside Easy Water for Everyone. The study is now in its final stages and will be published in the coming weeks.

Saha plans to share the findings widely, beginning with a webinar in Q4 2026 and continuing through a twelve-month programme of sector convenings and international conferences. At a high level, the study finds:

- Ghana's last-mile market includes roughly 4.3 million people across almost 19,500 communities, 13% of the Ghanaian population, requiring some 31,000 water points. Market sizing was contributed by Aquaya's Project W.
- Serving that market fully would generate US\$0.8 million a year in revenue from water sales against US\$28.1 million in operating expenses, leaving an annual financing requirement of US\$27.3 million. The per-person annual figures behind that gap vary sharply by service type: about \$2.69 for borehole maintenance, \$7.35 for surface water treatment, and \$12.51 for public piped supply.

While the authors highlight several opportunities to reduce cost, the structural problem underneath these figures will remain: the communities that are hardest and most expensive to serve are also least able to pay. Tariffs alone cannot cover the cost of keeping professional, last-mile water service running. That is the gap the District Last-Mile Water Trust is designed to close. As mentioned in previous reports, Saha worked closely with Instiglio, the East Gonja

District Assembly, the Ministry of Works, Housing and Water Resources, and CWSA to create the initial design blueprint for this innovative financing mechanism. Saha is currently in conversations with potential anchor funders to capitalize the East Gonja pilot.

Groundwater Service

Well Constructed Partnership

In June, Saha signed a memorandum of understanding with the nonprofit Well Constructed. More than 500 working boreholes with handpumps, drilled and previously managed by Well Constructed, will move into Saha's borehole maintenance portfolio by the end of 2026. Those water points serve more than 140,000 people, doubling Saha's footprint by the end of the year, marking the single largest expansion in our organization's history.

More than just increasing the number of people that we serve, this expansion also solidifies Saha's professional water service. Groundwater moves from a pilot line of work to a core part of our portfolio, allowing Saha to serve any last-mile community in Ghana, regardless of water source.

Three of Well Constructed's field officers have joined our team, easing the transition. All three are from the Upper East Region where the water points are located and have served these communities directly, bringing valuable institutional knowledge with them. They began onboarding in July and have spent the past month training with Saha in Tamale.

Learning Visit to BASEflow, Malawi

To prepare for that scale of groundwater expansion, five members of Saha's Expansion and Research and Development teams undertook a five-day learning visit to [BASEflow](#) in Malawi in July 2026. The visit covered borehole forensics, automated groundwater monitoring, flood-resilient borehole infrastructure, and BASEflow's borehole insurance scheme. The lessons are being codified into updated standard operating procedures for Saha's groundwater management framework as it takes on the Well Constructed portfolio.

Sector Leadership

Regional Level Learning Alliance Platform, Tamale

On 13 July 2026, Saha convened a Regional Level Learning Alliance Platform session at the MUM Hotel in Tamale, co-hosted with the Savannah Regional Coordinating Council and RCN Ghana, under the theme "Professionalising Water Service Delivery in Hard-to-Serve

Communities in the Savannah Region of Ghana." The session was chaired by the Savannah Regional Minister and brought together the CWSA Regional Director, District Assembly coordinating and planning officers from throughout the region, and a representative of the Coalition of NGOs in Water and Sanitation (CONIWAS).

Saha presented the evidence behind our transition from a volunteer-led model to a professionalised, paid-operator model. The model rests on four pillars: pricing, formal contracts, training and accountability, and reliable supply with technical backstopping. Independent water quality data from CSIR-Water Research Institute testing was presented alongside it. The discussion then turned to how the same approach can be extended to community boreholes, which face widespread breakdown and weak maintenance across the region, and to the financing mechanisms that would make that possible.

The context is stark. The 2021 Ghana Statistical Service Census Report found that 94.1% of households in the Savannah Region still rely on unimproved sources for drinking water. The gap is not primarily a technology problem; it is a management and incentive problem.



Participants at the Regional Level Learning Alliance Platform session, MUM Hotel, Tamale, 13 July 2026.

FROM THE SESSION



Hon. Salifu Be-Awuribe, Savannah Regional Minister, chaired the session.

"When we provide water, we provide life."

"I have led a team into hard-to-reach areas in search of a viable source of water, work that literally saves lives. And I can say with conviction: any development organization that touches people's access to clean water is an organization that gives life."

"Savannah Region presents a genuinely difficult environment — in some districts, finding a high-yielding well is close to impossible. But we must find a way to change lives regardless."

Stakeholders Meeting, Northern Region

On 12 August 2026, Saha convened a second session under the theme "Professionalising Water Service Delivery in Hard-to-Serve Communities: Northern Region." It drew 89 participants, including 13 District Chief Executives and planning officers from the Northern Regional Coordinating Council and all 15 District Assemblies where we operate in this region. The meeting was chaired by Prof. Issahaku Abdul-Rahaman, Associate Professor of Wastewater Management at the University for Development Studies and Chief of Gbanyamli. The keynote was delivered on behalf of Hon. Ali John Adolf, Northern Regional Minister, by the Metropolitan Chief Executive of Tamale; the Minister later joined in person, confirming that the Regional Coordinating Council stands ready to support our work and that it complements Government's existing water strategy rather than duplicating it.

The discussion at this gathering centred on how to keep rural water systems functional over time. The Gushegu District Chief Executive offered the most concrete opening: the district holds a maintenance budget that, while insufficient to cover every borehole, could be committed to borehole rehabilitation in partnership with Saha. That is a co-financing pathway worth testing with other District Assemblies.



Cross-section of MMDCEs, traditional authorities, and WASH partners at the Stakeholders Meeting, Mum Hotel, Tamale, 12 August 2026.



Prof. Issahaku Abdul-Rahman, Chairman of the occasion, addressing participants.



Hon. Ali John Adolf, Northern Regional Minister, addressing participants.

Ministry Task Team on Hard-to-Serve Communities

Saha continues to serve as a technical member of the Ministry of Works, Housing and Water Resources' task team on hard-to-serve communities. The task team sits under the sector's technical working group, which brings together government WASH institutions, development

partners including the World Bank, UNICEF and WaterAid, and implementers.

The sector currently treats rural communities as a single group, when in practice the cost and difficulty of serving them varies widely. The task team is giving government a systematic method for identifying the communities that are hardest to serve. Ranking communities by how hard they are to serve would allow the Government of Ghana to then decide how to deploy their limited budget to increase impact. It would also allow subsidies to be set in proportion to the cost of service, so that providers working in the most difficult communities receive support that reflects what those communities actually cost to serve.

Technical Input into the National WASH Compact

The Ministry has also asked Saha to provide technical input into the new WASH compact. Saha is putting forward three positions. First, that financing for last-mile service must come from government, stated explicitly, and that donor funding cannot be the basis on which the last mile is sustained. Second, that the sector needs standing financing mechanisms guaranteeing the last mile a reliable source of funds, with the District Last-Mile Water Trust, to be piloted in East Gonja, offered as one such mechanism. Third, that the District Assemblies Common Fund needs to be reengineered: as currently structured it is geared toward building new systems, and the policy should be rewritten to support ongoing service provision rather than infrastructure provision alone.

Evidence and Advocacy

Saha Systems on CWSA's Monitoring System

Of the 320 surface water communities Saha operates across the Northern, Savannah and North East Regions, 75 have now been captured on CWSA's Direct Monitoring and Evaluation System. Saha is working actively with CWSA to capture the remaining communities and to address the classification of Saha's service model and the accurate recording of community details.

CWSA is coordinating closely with Saha on both issues, and we are grateful for the partnership.

Climate Resilience

District Assemblies Co-Financing Dugout Rehabilitation

The East Gonja and North-East Gonja District Assemblies have both committed to financially supporting dugout expansion, pledging to cover 10% of the cost of Saha's dugout rehabilitations in their districts. This will be the largest direct financial contribution to our work we have ever received from government or a government agency. We are excited by these Assemblies' dedication to building climate resilience in their communities. The scale of the Trafigura Foundation's grant is what put this on the table. Where Saha has previously been able to rehabilitate one or two dugouts a year, the grant funds 15 over two years, and that gave the Assemblies a programme substantial enough to invest in rather than a single project to fund outright.

Looking Ahead

Priorities for the Coming Months

The months ahead bring several things we have been building toward for some time. After almost a year of work with Mighty Ally, Saha's new branding and website will launch! We can't wait for you all to see what we have been working on! Over the next two weeks, our team will be attending both the Africa Water & Sanitation Systems Leadership Symposium in Kigali and SIWI in Stockholm, with District and Ministry partners joining us at both. We'd love to connect if you'll be at either. Finally, integrating Well Constructed's water points will extend Saha's reliable water service to more than 140,000 additional people in the Upper East.

We are grateful, as always, for the partnerships that make this work possible.
Thank you!

Making every sip safe every day.