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EXTENSION OF PIPE BORNE WATER TO ADALEKPOE COMMUNITY

Adalekpoe is a small village in North Tongu District of Ghana's Volta Region with a population of 270 people, all belonging to the Ewe tribe. The population are farmers, cassava and maize are the main crops. Mafi-Kumase, 7 km from Adalekpoe, is the closest place with facilities like electricity, telephone and shops.

In 2004, AMURT assisted Adalekpoe to open a small community clinic. The clinic offers first aid, primary health care and a maternity ward with an experienced midwife.

During a visit in 2006 Mauricio Albani, a board member of AMURT Italy and ScanCad employee, saw first hand the dire water situation at Adalekpoe. The women and girls have to trek twenty minutes to the nearest water source; the water was blackish and clearly unsafe. The Adalekpoe people requested assistance to connect them to the Mafi-Kumase water project.

Mafi-Kumase Water Project serves 15 communities. As ground water is very scarce in the area, the source of water is a small dam constructed on a seasonal river. The water is treated by rapid sand filtration and pumped to a reservoir on the top of a hill from where the water flowed by gravity to the communities.

AMURT, with the help of engineers, analyzed the data and determined that it would be feasible to connect Adalekpoe to the pipe network at Tsati village. The Mafi-Kumase Water Project granted permission and we were finally ready to start the work at the beginning of the year.

We started by gathering the community to explain their role and responsibility. Both men and women joined enthusiastically in the communal labor as the digging of the pipe trenches started in the last week of January. Adalekpoe has good leadership, and the project leader, Billy, made sure that the trenches were completed according to instructions: four feet deep, straight and neat.

On the 18th of February disaster struck Adalekpoe. At noon a fire broke out, and spread from house to house by the dry thatch roofs on the mud block huts. Fourteen houses, home to close to half of Adalekpoe's population were destroyed. AMURT was able to give some financial assistance to each of the affected families. For the next weeks the communities had to turn their attention to repairing their houses before the rains started in March. In spite of this setback, the community were able to continue the work on the pipe trench.

Finally the trench of 1.85 kilometers was completed. The pipes were installed, and the community again stepped in to do the backfilling. After the final testing of the pipes, the construction of the standpipe and platform started. On the April 25th the standpipe at Adalekpoe village was officially opened with a traditional ceremony. The headman poured libation and invoked the deities to bless and protect the village and the water project.

The population of Adalekpoe will be forever grateful to ScanCad International for making possible something that they never thought would be never be able to enjoy: clean and safe pipe borne water!

Sincerely yours,
Dada Daneshananda
Director AMURT Ghana
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