



# Nyarkoa Foundation

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<Nyarkoa.org>

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## INTRODUCTION

Welcome to the 12<sup>th</sup> annual newsletter of the Nyarkoa Foundation, a non-profit corporation whose mission is to help bring sustainable supplies of clean water to rural villages in Ghana. We work by funding projects through the Rural Education and Development Programme (REDEP), a non-profit non-government organization, and AMEFS Eng. Ltd., a Ghanaian firm that repairs and installs hand pumps. We teach people in rural villages how to maintain hand pumps and improve sanitation practices in their communities. There are about 5000 people in the communities we work with.

The symbol in the banner above is an "Adinkra" symbol. It is one of many ideographs (pictures that represent ideas) that are used by the Akan, the largest ethnic group in Ghana, in their art and everyday items. Its name in the Akan language means "chain" or "link of a chain." It symbolizes brotherhood and cooperation between people. We have adopted this symbol as the logo of the Nyarkoa Foundation because those ideas represent our views and objectives.

## WHAT WE DO

We believe that since women are responsible for the family water supply, they should have the knowledge to maintain the pumps in their villages and the authority to help set the rules for the operation of the pump. Also, they should

be prepared to help establish a culture of paying for water with the money to be saved to make future pump repairs.

To work toward those goals, we held 3-day workshops in 2013 and again in 2018 mainly to train two women from each village we work with to maintain the pumps in their villages. We also gave them information on the costs involved in repairing hand pumps when they break down (which they all do eventually). That allows them to teach about the need for people in their communities to pay for water from the pumps and to save the money for future repairs. The details and methods used in the training program are explained in our Newsletters 7, 8 and 11 which can be downloaded from our web page (Nyarkoa.org).

Following the first workshop, REDEP began making quarterly visits to the villages to check on the conditions of the pumps, verify that the communities were saving for future pump repairs, and to offer additional training on maintaining the pumps. Training is a continuing process because there is often turnover among the women who trained at the workshops, so replacements are needed.

## RESULTS THIS YEAR

We added two new villages to our water program this year, which brings the current total to twenty.

Sixteen of the villages in the program are now saving regularly, and we expect the new ones to do the same. There are two villages that are not saving and seem uninterested in doing so. REDEP is still visiting them in hopes of that they can be encouraged to take more interest in caring for their pumps. However, if they do not change, REDEP may stop visiting them.

The fraction of villages that are saving for pump maintenance and repair is probably the highest it has been since we began the program. We think this is the result of the combination of the training program and the continuing series of quarterly visits to the villages. We have also found that most of the people in the villages like the visits and we hope to be able to continue them.

### **A GOOD RESULT**

In August 2017, we replaced a broken hand pump in a small village that had been without a source of good water for an extended time. I visited that village for the first time during a trip to Ghana in September 2017, one month after the pump was replaced. I also attended a



**The new pump on display**

meeting of the community along with REDEP staff. I was impressed with the

enthusiasm and optimism of the people that had apparently resulted from the simple fact that they had a good water supply again. They also asked to be included in our sanitation program, which we plan to do.



**Community meeting in progress**

REDEP visited the community again during the tours of the villages in 2018 and 2019, and found that the enthusiasm I saw during my visit was still in evidence. But REDEP's report of its most recent visit described some important changes in the community that can be attributed to the new water pump. The report noted that some of the older buildings in the village were being repaired, and some people who had previously left had come back to live there and resume farming. In addition people who live in the surrounding area were coming to draw water from the well and were helping by paying for it. In short, the community is experiencing a revival because of the availability of good water from the new pump. This has likely happened in other villages where we have repaired broken pumps, but this case is well documented.

## REPLACING A PUMP

The pumps in both of the villages added this year had been broken for some time and we took care of them when we took the villages into our program. The pump in one village was repairable, but the pipe that brings water to the surface in the second village had broken apart leaving a section of the pipe stuck in the well. The pump on that well also needed to be replaced, but first the broken section had to be removed from the well. REDEP took a series of photographs of the entire process, and, since we have not had the opportunity to show the work involved in replacing a pump, some of the pictures are shown here.

The first step was to remove the broken pipe from the borehole. The picture below shows the top of the pipe being lifted from the borehole after a device has been attached to it so that it can be secured as it is lifted. Note that the work is all done by hand.



**Broken pipe being lifted**

Next, the rest of the pipe from the old pump needed to be pulled from the well as shown in the next scene. The pipe is flexible and heavy and not easy to lift.



**Old flexible pipe being removed**

Next, the pipes for the new pump are lowered into the well after the base for the new pump was in place.



**Installing pipe for the new pump**

The new pump is then assembled.



**Assembling the new pump**

Finally, REDEP's Executive Director, James Addo, shows that the system works.



**Producing water**

Replacing a pump requires the efforts of several people, and also shows why the expertise and experience of the staff of AMEFS Eng. is a major asset to our program.

### **ANOTHER GOOD RESULT**

We have written in earlier newsletters about a village in which the chief was a good friend of ours. He worked hard to get water for his people and over time wells were drilled in the village, but none were productive. We tried to help, but by 2017 we were out of options. Since that time another organization drilled a borehole in the village which seems to be productive but the pump provided for the well does not work. The people contacted REDEP and AMEFS who will shortly replace the bad pump with one that we had previously repaired for them. As a result, the community will have a water supply that we think will meet their needs.

We are relieved and glad that this will finally happen.

## **COMMUNITY SANITATION PROGRAM**

Our program to improve community sanitation is described in newsletter 11 which can be downloaded from our web site (Nyarkoa.org). It consists mainly of encouraging the construction of family latrines to replace the practice of open defecation.

Recently, the local government began a similar program that was funded by UNICEF (the United Nations Children's Fund) and an officer from the environmental department now joins REDEP's staff in visiting the communities in the program.

Progress is slow because the people in these communities are subsistence farmers, and farming takes most of their time. Still, there is enthusiasm for the program, and we will continue to conduct it as long as we can.

### **CONCLUSION**

The Foundation's work depends on the generous contributions of our donors, and all donated funds go to projects in Ghana. The Directors pay all travel and administrative costs. Donations can be sent to the Nyarkoa Foundation:

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