

## How the bore holes have helped Ghana

The need for clean water locally has never been so important as this year with COVID-19 knocking on the door of many villages in Northern Ghana, with very limited health care and very few vaccinations . (Of the few vaccinations that have been sent to Ghana through COVAX , none have been wasted and they have been speedily injected into willing arms in the south )

In rural Northern Ghana most people live in small villages, in the open air, (excellent ventilation ), in large family groups (few large gatherings) with travel being restricted from the south ( limiting transmission from crowded cities ) and they have an innate fear of Pandemics. The massive Ebola outbreak in Sierra Leone in 2013 shocked the world but Ghana was a frightening close neighbour and closed their borders to keep the disease out . Ghanaians remember with fear. But clean water to keep washing your hands is a luxury in many villages. **Wulugu Project** has been overwhelmed by the generosity of donors , big and small which has enabled us to build 38 boreholes to date , and protect thousands of lives and livelihoods

Each borehole is different with different problems (location, electricity supply, geology, weather conditions during construction) but the results are always the same . A delighted village.

A village, chosen for strategic reasons, with large population, where we have useful contacts having already built a school, with a helpful Chief, and electricity in the village, may not be able to receive a bore hole because the water table is too low .

So a survey is the first stage . When the site has been chosen, the drillers move in with their Drill , mounted on the back of a heavy truck also carrying the pipes to line the bore hole and a shiny stainless steel pump . They can bore, line and install a pump in about 3 days . **Wulugu Project** builders accompany them to ease their visit to very remote villages and to build the superstructure above ground. A 10,000 litre black poly tank is mounted on a block to store the water and simple pipework leads off it to a row of 5 taps fitted to a tiled wall. The whole area has a concrete base to stop spills making the area muddy and unhygienic.

Before the bore hole can be declared ‘open’ the water quality has to be tested The women are delighted by the arrival of the bore hole , as main carriers of water , it makes their life much easier and confident that the water they are taking home is clean and safe. The arrival of the pump will change many lives , post pandemic . Collection of clean water locally will allow the women and girls more time to work and go to school. The clean water will reduce the threat of Diarrhoea , , the main preventable cause of childhood deaths and other waterbourne diseases like Typhoid and Cholera and Malaria , whose mosquitos flourish in the open water ‘scraps’ previously used for drinking water.