Hungry for Water
Joining forces for sustainable urban water access in Ghana

The Struggles of Sharing a Water Connection:

In the community where Amina and Florence live, a compound is connected to a water tap that provides water to all families there. This means they own a water tap that provides water to all families there. However, the water connection is shared by several households, and they need to split the water bill. This can be a challenge, especially when neighbors have different perceptions towards the GWCL, their willingness and ability to pay for water, and understanding of the barriers people face to develop responsible behaviors.

Goal-Setting for Sustainable Water Access

For the community and the Ghana Red Cross, the goal is to provide sustainable water access. To achieve this, they are working together to implement policies and interventions that foster inclusion of the urban poor. They aim to support poor and vulnerable households and increase their access to safe and reliable water services. This includes ensuring affordability through subsidies for the connection fee and addressing behavioral changes to promote responsible water use.

Bringing it Together

So far, we have discussed the goals, barriers, motivations, and perceptions towards water access in the community. We have also identified influencers such as friends, family, and neighbors who can shape opinions about water connections. As one of the goals is to bring the community and drive behavior change, the Ghana Red Cross and the Ghana Water Company will develop and implement a behavioral campaign based on carefully crafted messages. This campaign will focus on educational campaigns, such as prompt messaging and relevant activities, to encourage new practices and behaviors that promote sustainable water access.

Water Scarcity during Dry Season

Water is very expensive in this community. A gallon of water sometimes costs up to three times a monthly income. In addition, people sometimes do not have access to clean and safe water. Women and their daughters can also be at risk when fetching water, especially when there is scarcity during the dry season.

Main Sources of Drinking Water

The main sources of drinking water in this community are well, unconnected, and unfiltered. People also rely on sachet water, which is popular among the urban poor. However, this water can be expensive and does not ensure the safety of the water.

Inclusive understanding and good relations among water consumers can help ensure the water bill is paid. In addition, water consumers need to organize themselves in a fair and effective way to ensure the water bill is paid. Landlords also often have a say in whether tenants can be given a water connection.

Fear of ejection, resistance from the landlord, and other perceptions on how water meter and billing work with rumors of meters overestimating usage can also affect water access.

We believe that universal urban access to safe and reliable water services is not possible without well-functioning, user-focused, and financially healthy water companies. The power of community engagement from Red Cross is crucial in this partnership. They are committed to achieving Sustainable Development Goal 6 of the United Nations: sustainable water and sanitation for everyone with special emphasis in implementing policies and interventions that foster inclusion of the urban poor.

The Ghana Red Cross and Ghana Water Company have a unique partnership in this community. They are working together to bring water connections to Ghana's urban poor. This partnership includes reducing water access costs, promoting responsible behaviors, and increasing the capacity to manage water resources. They are committed to making progress in providing water connections to Ghana's urban poor.