

Video transcript

Ghana – The value of water

Ibrahim Musah, Head of Policy and Partnership, WaterAid Ghana:

In 2010, Ghana was pronounced as a striving middle income, an emerging middle-income country. We currently have figures that point to the fact that our per capita income is a little over 1,200, which means that people are better off. Unfortunately there are some dark spots behind the figures. If we take water, we have the huge challenge of access. So for instance, if you take rural and small-town water supply, the coverage given by the National Community Water and Sanitation Agency put the figure, as at 2011, at almost 63 per cent, which means that a little over 24 million Ghanaians, only 63 per have access to potable water.

Joyce Aning, student at Ntronang School :

My name is Joyce, I am 18 years old. I wake up at 4.30am and I have to go to a far place to fetch the water. After fetching the water I sweep. I finish sweeping and I bike to school.

Ibrahim Musah:

In the five districts that the HSBC Water Programme is funding in Ghana, we look forward to reaching out to a little over 120,000 people for water and then a little over 80,000 people to have access to basic sanitation by the next five years.

Sabrin Rahman, Corporate Sustainability, HSBC:

One of the ladies that we met today was a small entrepreneur. She had a small food shop through which she sells food to the community and especially school children.

Faustina Ohengwah, rice seller, Noyem:

School children buy the rice from me in the morning from 50 pesewas onwards, others are able to buy sometimes three or two cedis, but mostly the school children buy 50, 60 and 70 pesewas worth. I sell in addition to the rice, meat, eggs and macaroni.

Sabrin Rahman:

Having access to fresh uncontaminated water has vastly improved her efficiency, and obviously her productivity and profitability because she doesn't have to walk for miles to fetch fresh water. She can cook much faster and she can replenish her stock.

Ibrahim Musah:

We do not deliver water as an end in itself, but how water is connected to the livelihoods of the people and so we look forward to seeing how water will expand the economic activities of the people. We look forward to an era where the community will tell us: "Look, because of this water facility we are able to make savings and these savings have helped educate this child by paying the child's school fees."