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## GHANA: MAKING CHOLERA OUTBREAKS A THING OF THE PAST

### **WASH for Health**

**Duration: 2015–2020**

#### **Challenge**

Despite recent sanitation successes and the introduction of promising technologies, roughly 85 percent of Ghanaians still lack access to improved sanitation. This gap in coverage has led to recurring cholera outbreaks in recent years. Ghana is now tackling its sanitation challenges with renewed vigor, and intensifying efforts to scale up sanitation improvements nationwide with the help of the USAID-funded WASH for Health initiative.

#### **Opportunity**

WASH for Health works in coordination with local partners across the country to educate the public about the benefits of eliminating open defecation, fostering community involvement in identifying and implementing sustainable sanitation solutions, and promoting mutual accountability for maintaining sanitation-related behavior change. To prevent the spread of disease, WASH for Health intensified the distribution of point-of-use water treatment tablets (Aquatabs).

In collaboration with the Ministry of Local Government and Rural Development and the National Disaster Management Organization, USAID also supported Health Keeper's

*“Natural leaders” have played a pivotal role in fostering community-based sanitation improvements in Ghana and elsewhere across West Africa. Photo credit: USAID/Ghana*

Network, a local organization, to distribute 260,400 water purification tablets enabling purification of more than 5.2 million liters of water.

Health Keeper's Network also educated communities on regular handwashing with soap and water to prevent illness. USAID/Ghana continues to work with local and international development partners Coca-Cola and Rotary International, who together have contributed \$2.6 million to WASH for Health.

Engaging with the private sector has played a significant role in strengthening the project, allowing staff and beneficiaries to leverage considerable financial and technological resources to more effectively address the country's chronic sanitation challenges.

*“This is very important because the ultimate goal is to improve the health status of the people we serve,” said Nora Maresh, USAID/Ghana's family health team leader, “and in our most recent analysis, this is being achieved.”*