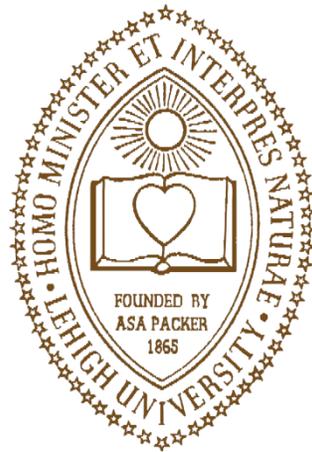


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# FUNDING PROPOSAL FOR THE WATER PURIFICATION IN AFRICA PROJECT

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LEHIGH IDEAS IN GHANA



## Abstract

Researching and comparing the ways in which NGOs and private water purification organizations in Ghana provide clean water for their communities. From this research, I will observe, analyze the data collected and develop a sustainable plan to explain how these communities can evolve, continue to grow and prosper independently from these organizations. The research project will begin the summer of 2016. In depth information about the research, detailed planning, funding, and organization support is also included.

## Proposal

### Objective

As an IDEAS student with a multitude of concentrations pertaining to the health and wellness of people globally, with passion for traveling the world and learning about new cultures and countries, having the opportunity to visit Ghana and conducting research there will impact my career and academic endeavors incredibly. Ghana in particular has been faced with a tremendous water crises that they have not been able to solve alone. Besides government initiatives Ghana has made great strides through collaboration with multiple private organizations and NGOs to improve the lives of its citizens. We must now ask: What have organizations done to help alleviate this pressing issue? How has each community dealt with these changes and improvements? What can these communities do to move forward and provide for themselves independent of the organization?

### Approach

The goal of this research project is to thoroughly observe and analyze how water purification organizations have helped to alleviate Ghana's water crisis, with a special focus on how Ghanaians have reacted to these organizations; which organizations have lasted and have been sustainable?; how much it has this changes affected the population that it seeks to help; how they have successfully integrated the community with their work; and how these communities have developed different schemes to gain independence from these organizations and provide for themselves. My research will be conducted by interviewing locals, as well as NGO and organization leaders to fully understand the effect that the organizations have made upon their communities. Questions that will drive my research would derive from: how does each organization run? Does each organization include the community while working to alleviate the problem? How prominent is the community when they are dealing with these issues? Do community members feel as if it is their own project they are creating to help solve the problem or are they being handed solutions without their input? What projects have been the most sustainable? What communities have flourished because of this? And how can the community break ties with the organizations and provide for themselves? I would also like to receive

feedback from both the community members and the organizations on what they believe will make these projects easier and their community ties to the projects stronger. As well as asking if these communities can envision future separation from these organizations.

## Academic Benefit

Many people often believe that America is the most intellectual, developed and sustainable country. While that may have some facets of truth, we also have much to learn from the rest of the world. Ghana in particular, one of the fastest developing countries in Africa, can teach us many lessons about community development and innovation. I am fascinated by the amazing breakthroughs that countries around the world have made to better their own communities in ways that America has never attempted. This out-of-the-classroom learning experience will help me further develop my passions and put them into action by analyzing the day to day interactions with organizations and the communities that they help sustain.

I intend to share my findings by sharing this invaluable experience with the Lehigh community. In doing so I will be presenting a showcase for both students and faculty of the Lehigh community. This will give the campus an opportunity to observe the impact that an IDEAS student can make when given the chance to flourish and prosper while learning and growing in another country; as well as see the world in which they could never imagine stepping foot in.

## Logistical Timeline

I propose that my research will be conducted in the summer of 2016. I envision that the research itself will prove to be completed in about four weeks' time. The research will begin halfway through the month of June, 2016 and end the second week of July, 2016. I will be conducting most of the research capital city of Accra.

## Budget & Funding Sources

Expense	Cost
Airfaire	\$2000
Transportation in Ghana	\$600
Phone/Internet	\$300
Wire Fees (Ghana's ATM and Well's Fargo)	\$100