

## **WaterHealth Ghana celebrates halfway milestone of setting up WaterHealth Centers (WHCs) in a record time under the Ghana WASH Window program**

***The Company aims to provide clean and safe drinking water access to an estimated one (1) million Ghanaians through the WaterHealth Centers (WHCs).***

**30th November 2016, Accra, Ghana:** WaterHealth Ghana (WHG), a wholly owned subsidiary of WaterHealth International, a pioneer in the Community Water Systems industry (at a major event organized at Kempinski Hotel Gold Coast City, Accra to mark this occasion) announced the completion of the halfway milestone in rolling out the decentralized Community Water Systems called WaterHealth Centers (WHCs) under the Ghana Wash Window (GWW) program, much ahead of schedule. This program will provide clean and safe drinking water at an affordable price to an estimated one million Ghanaians. The GWW program (supported by the Dutch Government through its developmental agency i.e. RVO) awarded the project to set up eighty-five (85) WHCs to WaterHealth Ghana in July 2015. The Company since then has set up over 40 WHCs in various parts of the country and plans to conclude the entire project execution i.e. setting up of 85 WHCs by end of 2017.



However, WaterHealth Ghana is pursuing the vision to (cumulatively) set up over 250 WHCs in Ghana by 2020; the proposed scale will provide access to clean and safe water to about 20 million Ghanaians by 2020. To pursue this audacious goal WaterHealth will partner with Jaldhaara Foundation [a leading global NGO associated with Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH) programs worldwide] to significantly expand its presence in the country. Jaldhaara Foundation was also formally launched in Ghana at the same event.



Speaking on the occasion, Vikas Shah, Chief Operating Officer of WaterHealth International said, “We are chasing an audacious goal of providing safe water access to 20 million people by 2020 in Ghana; support from the Government, partnerships with development agencies and corporates including communities will be the key in making this happen”.

“With Jaldhaara Foundation setting up its operations in Ghana, the WASH [Water, Sanitation and Hygiene] space in Ghana will witness a major thrust; their presence will not only augment the CSR related collaboration but also bring in international best practices into the country”, he added.



Speaking on behalf Jaldhaara Foundation Stephan Arthur said, “Jaldhaara Foundation [JF] has established strategic partnerships with implementation partners who are experts in the WASH solution value chain. For providing clean and safe drinking water, the Foundation has partnered with WaterHealth International globally; JF’s foray into Ghana is therefore in line with supporting and scaling up that partnership”.

WaterHealth Ghana’s business model involves setting up of WHCs in underserved communities through Public Private Community Partnerships (PPCP). WHG runs the Build Operate Transfer (BOT) model wherein the Company partners with local government bodies who provide land, water and an electricity connection for setting up the WHCs. The capital expenditure for constructing the WHCs is raised by WHG from various sources including corporate grants (under their Corporate Social Responsibility programs), international development agencies and trusts/foundations. After building the plant WaterHealth Ghana operates and maintains these for the concession term (as agreed with the Community/local government body), the Company sells the water at an affordable price to the community under the brand **dr. water**, which also ensures the sustainability of the plant. As part of the BOT model, at the end of the concession term the WHC is transferred to the Community.

WHG aims to not just provide access to clean drinking water but also drive social marketing programs such as “NOKOSUO” to transform the habits and mindsets of the target communities through awareness programs that highlight the advantages of safe drinking water. WaterHealth Ghana also prides itself for being the only FDA certified Community Water Systems player in Ghana, the Company maintains the highest quality and hygiene standards in its purification process as well as in the operation and maintenance of the plants.

WHCs have positively affected lives of households consuming WaterHealth branded **dr. water** by reducing morbidity and drudgery (time spent mainly by women and children in fetching water), increasing the number of workdays (earlier lost to sickness or in fetching water from distant sources), increase in annual income and savings.

### **About WaterHealth International**

**WaterHealth International** (WHI) is a private, US based corporation headquartered in Irvine, California. The Company runs a social enterprise by providing clean and safe drinking water to underserved communities globally. WaterHealth International runs operations worldwide including Ghana, Nigeria and India through its subsidiaries WaterHealth Ghana (WHG), WaterHealth Liberia (WHL), WaterHealth Nigeria (WHN) and WaterHealth India (WHIN).

For more information visit: [www.waterhealth.com](http://www.waterhealth.com)

### **About Jaldhaara**

Jaldhaara Foundation [JF] is a not for profit organization that pursues the goal of ‘quenching a bigger thirst’ through concerted actions (which is not only limited to providing clean and safe water but also WASH initiatives) to bring about a positive change in the lives of underserved. Jaldhaara Foundation

designs and implements social marketing programs to transform water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) practices in rural and urban communities to eradicate water borne diseases and provide underserved communities access to safe drinking water.

JF has a global footprint and runs operations in India, Nigeria and Ghana and plans to shortly launch its services in East Africa i.e. Kenya and Uganda.

For more information visit: <http://jaldhaara.org>