From Open Defecation to Hygienic Public Toilets in Northern Region, Ghana

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5 million Ghanaians (19%) defecate in the open. Ghana has one of the worst records of access to sanitation in the world.
This is the site of the Pure Home Water factory in Taha, Northern Region, Ghana.

This is the village school.

It has no toilet facility, and children practice open defecation in the area around the school.
Taha Primary School, Ghana – 280 kids neighboring to Pure Home Water factory all practice open defecation

Try to find girls in these pictures... it seems that few girls in Taha are going to school at all
In January 2012, we held a workshop with the school children of Taha. We asked their help in planning a toilet block for the school.

In this picture, we are discussing the siting of the future sanitation block.
Susan talking to the Gbalahi pottery women about their lives and daily practices. Translation is through Abraham, a respected Pure Home Water staff person.
Taha low flow, pour flush, squat toilet
Awal, John Michael, Shani & other men of Taha
Septic Tank
Shani (mason) and John
The plan for the Taha Public Toilet: 6 seater toilet block – 3 female, 3 male. Of 3 female, 2 are free for school kids, 1 is pay-per-use by adult female. Same for male – 2 for male school kids for free, 1 is pay-per-use by adult male.
Pour Flush Squat Plate Inside 1 Stall
Wooden doors with dividing wall between female and male sides
Taha Toilet Block – back view showing septic tank
Peter & Jhanel paint the dedication plaque
Everyone from the Taha gathers
Opening Ceremony Festivities
Speeches by Baba Issa, Metro Assemblyman, Alfa Yahaya, Taha Iman, and Michael Anyekase, Mgr. Pure Home Water
Jhanel and the Elders at Opening Ceremony
Dori demonstrates how to use a pour-flush toilet
Toilet Use Demonstration & Hand-washing
Pour Flush Toilet Instructions for Males

PROPER USE OF POUR FLUSH TOILET

- SQUAT & AIM AT HOLE
- WASH BOTTOM OVER SQUAT HOLE OR DEPOSIT PAPER IN WASTE BIN
- POUR WATER TO FLUSH TOILET
- WASH HANDS WITH SOAP AND WATER
Pour Flush Toilet Instructions for Females

PROPER USE OF POUR FLUSH TOILET

SQUAT & AIM AT HOLE

WASH BOTTOM OVER HOLE. DEPOSIT ALL PAPER OR CLOTH IN WASTE BIN.

POUR WATER TO FLUSH TOILET

WASH HANDS WITH SOAP AND WATER
Awal demos hand-washing using Tippy Tap
Taha’s New Public Water Supply & Elevated PolyTank (left) is conveniently located about 100 paces from the new Public Toilet
School (left) and water point under construction (center)
Dear People of Taha,

Ladies and Gentlemen, Friends and Community Members. Pure Home Water is proud to greet you today and know you not only as excellent workers in the Pure Home Water factory, where we make filters to help bring safe drinking water to every home in Ghana. But we are also honored to have you as friends and neighbors. Because of this friendship, we wanted to extend our support to help the children of Taha, the boys and girls, but especially the girls, many of whom have not been able to attend school. Naturally, if Mary Kay and I and my woman students had not been given the opportunity to attend pre-school and primary school, we would not have learned the language, writing and math skills that have prepared us for the leadership roles that we perform today. My own leadership role has involved helping to conceive of and build the Pure Home Water factory in order to provide clean water to all and to provide good jobs that are guaranteed to our workers. Now, with the help of my student, John Maher and the men of Taha, we have built a hygienic and beautiful toilet block!

By this gift of the Taha Toilet Block, we hope that we can help to encourage everyone to go to school. In so doing, we look forward to knowing the future generations of Taha students who will be leaders in their community bringing peace and prosperity to Taha and to the wider world.

I pray for the success of this Grand Opening Ceremony. Please treat this toilet block as a gift.

Susan Murcott, on behalf of the Board of Directors of Pure Home Water
Taha Chief
Inspecting the
New Toilet Block
GIFT FROM PURE HOME
WATER TO TAHAY
ELY DESIGNED AND
ED BY COMMUNITY AND
JOHN EDWARD MAHER
ED BY PUBLIC SERVICE
TER OF MASSACHUSETTS
STITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY
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