

TRAVEL TEAM REPORT

The latest news and updates from the travel team in Ghana



Production of shea butter

UPDATES

SOIL SAMPLES TAKEN

VISIT TO NEARBY CLINIC

SHEA BUTTER MAKING

ERNESTINA'S LAST DAY

Sixth and Seventh Day in Ullo

by Michelle Friedmann

Over the past couple of days, the travel team has been busy collecting data and doing assessment work for the upcoming implementations.

On Friday morning they had a planning meeting to layout the schedule for their remaining days in Ullo. They then traveled to the borehole and collected data from the water level sensor installed on the previous day.

There was a funeral on Friday for an important representative for the Ullo community. The travel team attended the visitation that was going on until daybreak. The burial took place the following day and brought a lot of traffic and people to Ullo.

The travel team also learned more about the process of making shea butter, which is a common part of the livelihoods of many people in the community. Shea nuts are grown in the northwest region of Ghana and women use them to make shea butter which they can sell in the local markets. They collect the shea nuts in large piles and make it into butter. The butter is made by removing the green flesh which can be eaten, drying the nuts, shelling them, then rolling and milling the nuts. Then the mash is boiled to separate out the oil and is stirred to get as much out as possible. This is a very labor intensive process that is done manually. The shea butter is traditionally used by the person that makes it and any excess can be sold at market.



Shea nuts used for producing shea butter

On Saturday, the travel team visited the poly clinic in Hain which is about 15 minutes south of Ullo. There, they were able to collect valuable information for the clinic project. The clinic that they visited had running water and electricity. Clare was learning so much that she was not able to collect any photographs on her phone, but David took great pictures and videos of the tour to pass on to the clinic group.

Later in the day, the travel team had a bit of a photo shoot where they reenacted some of the data collection that was done previously on the school campus because they had forgot to take videos of them working. This footage will be helpful to the marketing team in the future. Hakeem, one of the Chief's young grandsons was the dutiful camera man.

After the photo shoot, Ernestina led the team in taking soil samples at the school garden and one of the potential sites for the clinic. There are three sites that the Ullo community has recommended for the location of the clinic. They were also able to visit the recently completed student mosque that was under construction when the last travel team was in Ullo in January.

Sadly, Ernestina must leave the team on Sunday to go to Tamale because her research group for her masters program changed their start date of their summer work. It was wonderful to have her as part of the travel team and she will be missed. I am happy to continue to report that everyone is healthy and doing well!



Potential site for the new clinic where soil samples were taken



Collection of soil samples



The newly completed student mosque



The paparazzi recording the travel team at work



Collection of shea nuts for shea butter production