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“Access to Safe Water in Ghana”

Teaching Water: Global Perspectives on a Resource in Crisis

August 5-8, 2013, Harvard University

Time tag: 02:00-12:00

Basic Challenges to Safe Water Access

Key Content

Narrated photographs of Ghanaians gathering water

Major challenges associated with water gathering from health, economic and environmental perspectives

Viewing questions

What are some of the challenges facing Ghanaians that are outlined by the speaker?

How are each of these challenges related to the issue of water access?

What does the speaker mean when he says that, “the people of target countries often get lost”?

How do your perceptions of the challenges facing Ghana change when viewing the images in the video?

Time tag: 12:00-28:30

The Role of NGOs/Outside Actors

Key Content

Speaker’s project on ceramic water filters

Challenges of donated equipment, problems with technology

Social factors behind lack of water filter use, project scalability

Viewing questions

What are some of the reasons why technology projects developed by organizations in developed countries don’t always work on the ground in Ghana?

What does the speaker mean when he says “the poor don’t want to be treated as poor”?

What are your reactions to [this](#) assessment?

How can outside organizations ensure that their technology projects are more attuned to the communities that need them?

Time tag: 28:30-34:00

Obama's New Energy Plan for Africa

Key Content

Video and commentary on Obama's summer 2013 visit to South Africa and newly announced aid proposals.

Viewing questions

What is the connection between energy and water access?

What are the implications of Obama's proposal for water access in Ghanaian villages and other similar areas in Africa?

Time tag: 34:00-42:45

Question and Answer from the Audience

Time tag: 42:45-56:45

Lifestraw Filter Video and Demonstration

Key Content

Lifestraw filter promo video

Lifestraw filter demonstration

Discussion, Question and Answer

Viewing questions

Why does the speaker believe the Lifestraw filter is not a viable option for improving village safe water access?

What are some of the factors necessary to consider for creating more functional solutions?

Time tag: 56:45-59:00

Takeaways

Key Content

Moving forward from water filters

Political uprisings over lack of basic resources

Viewing questions

What, if any, should be the role of developed countries or outside NGOs when it comes to issues such as safe water access in less developed countries? Are outside actors doing more harm than good?

What is the potential that the speaker sees in political uprisings in African nations?

