

Days 10-12

January 7th, 2026

Day 10

Hello from Ullo! This is John again. Today was a busy day working with numerous community contacts and regional partners. We started the day by working on the boys' latrine on the school campus, which our community partners, Paul and Justin, have been working on. Paul and Justin are incredible handymen with immense experience in a wide range of work. As a club, we have been working with Paul and Justin since 2014. Paul is an English teacher at the local high school, and Justin is a farmer in the area. However, through years of experience helping EWB with their projects, both have gained skills that have enabled them to become excellent woodworkers, masons, and plumbers. Without their help and the help of countless others in the community, our organization would not be able to accomplish the work we do.



After we worked at the boy's latrine, Jess, Jenna, Abbey, Angela, and I migrated over to the first girl's latrine that EWB built during the 2023-2024 travel period. Looking at the site, we observed substantial damage over the years from termites and the intense weather experienced during the rainy season. As a team we identified methods for fixing/repairing the structure. Even though I am not a mechanical engineer and have limited construction experience the discussion was incredibly rewarding. It is always awesome to see how students from different fields of engineering can come together and share their own unique ideas to create a solution. Walking back home from the school campus we ran into the school's headmaster who was meeting with the engineers/representatives from the regional government. The representatives wanted to have a tour of the clinic site, so I walked over to the clinic to give them a quick tour of the clinic site. The site tour was very exciting, and the representatives were incredibly impressed by the work that we have accomplished so far. Once we finished the meeting at the clinic site it was time to break for lunch. At lunch we were joined by numerous representatives from our partners at Self-Help international. For those unfamiliar with the work of Self-Help they have been very involved in developing the Ullo community by promoting women in agriculture, providing micro loans, and improving nutrition throughout the community. We wrapped up lunch and spent the rest of the day doing work around the community collecting user data from different boreholes.

January 8th, 2026

Day 11

Hello! This is Jessica Kabat, the team lead of the Borehole Monitoring team in our EWB chapter at Iowa State. This morning, Jenna, the Sanitation team lead, and I worked on testing my team's Wi-Fi transmission on our water level monitoring device. I had Jenna stay at the house and I worked my way to school so we could see the exact distance the device can communicate from. This was fun because I got to say hello to lots of community members as I made my way to and from the house. The others were at the school grounds working on taking surveys around the use of the boreholes and mapping the electrical of the boy's dorm because of the solar panels recently installed.



Installing Pressure Sensor



Testing Wi-Fi Transmission

After lunch, we met with Douda, a borehole technician, and installed a new pressure sensor into the solar borehole located on the school grounds. We had some downtime in between work where our team taught our friends Matthew and Carey how to play tic-tac-toe and our version of hopscotch, and they taught us how to play a game like tic-tac-toe and their version of hopscotch. It was interesting to see the cultural differences in the games we all grew up playing. After this was done I spent the rest of the day organizing photos that were taken on a 360 camera. My favorite part of the day ended with the night playing cards with all the team and our other Ullo friends.

January 9th, 2026

Day 12

Ullo, Ghana

Hey everyone! This is Abbey from the EWB Water Distribution team. It was another great day in Ullo, and it started off with finishing the installation of the new head work (pictured below) for the Solar Borehole, complete with a much-needed pressure sensor so the pump will stop automatically when the receiving tanks are full. As Jess mentioned, this was installed by a borehole technician named Dauda and his team. To help test the new system, John and I walked around campus closing the valves on all of the tanks except the boys' dorm tanks, so we could use that as our "control" for testing.



I think my favorite part of the day was right before lunch, when Angela, Jess, Jenna and I picked up our handmade clothing from the seamstress in town, Diana. She did such an awesome job, and we could not wait to get back to Ina's and try them on! Even better, we got to have yam fries for lunch, which have become a personal favorite food of mine.

When we headed back out, we first swung by the clinic to place a new post, where our friends Kerry and Mathew helped us extensively with digging the hole and making the cement. Then, John, Angela and I hiked over to the EWB Borehole to take a measurement of the water table.

We weren't able to measure the EWB borehole itself because it's sealed off, but we got an approximate measurement from an unused borehole that's very close by since the water table should be similar. After measuring the water table and depth of many of the boreholes throughout the community, I've gained a lot of great experience using the borehole tape, which has a probe on the end that causes the device to beep when it touches water.



To end the afternoon, John and I went back to the Solar Borehole to prepare for my drawdown test tomorrow. A drawdown test is used to evaluate the performance of the pump and the ability of the aquifer to supply water and recover over time. I'll be using the borehole tape and the monitor on the borehole to record the water level, flow rate, voltage, amperage, and wattage at different time intervals for about eight hours total. Jenna will be helping me with the test, and I'm excited to pass the time by hanging out with her! Overall, it was fun doing a variety of things with the team today and I'm looking forward to a productive day tomorrow!