

Hand Sanitization in Gushegu, Ghana

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Background

Annually, 9 million episodes and 84,000 deaths from diarrhea occur in Ghana among children under 5. (1)

Handwashing with soap can help prevent diarrheal disease from fecal-oral transmission (2).

67,813 (54%) of people in the district are without access to potable water (3).



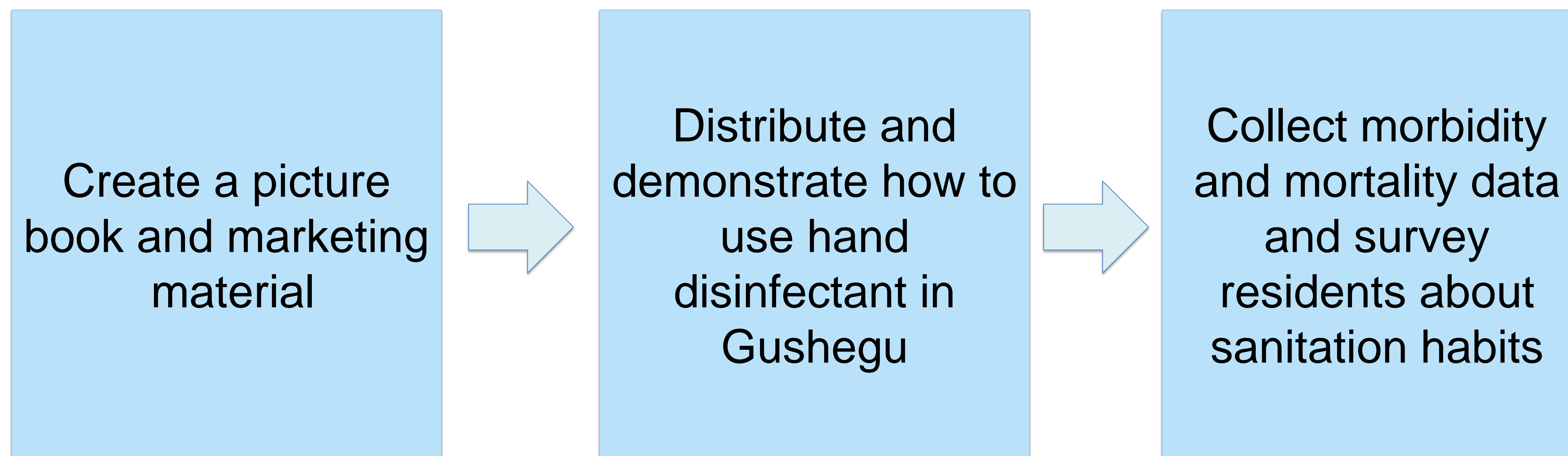
Location Map of Ghana. (2008). Retrieved from URL (https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Ghana_location_map.svg)

Location of Gushegu, Ghana

Need Statement

The frequency of child deaths caused by diarrhea must be reduced in Gushegu, Ghana.

Methods



Approach

Promote the use of hand sanitation techniques through educating citizens and distributing hand disinfectant to members of the Gushegu district.



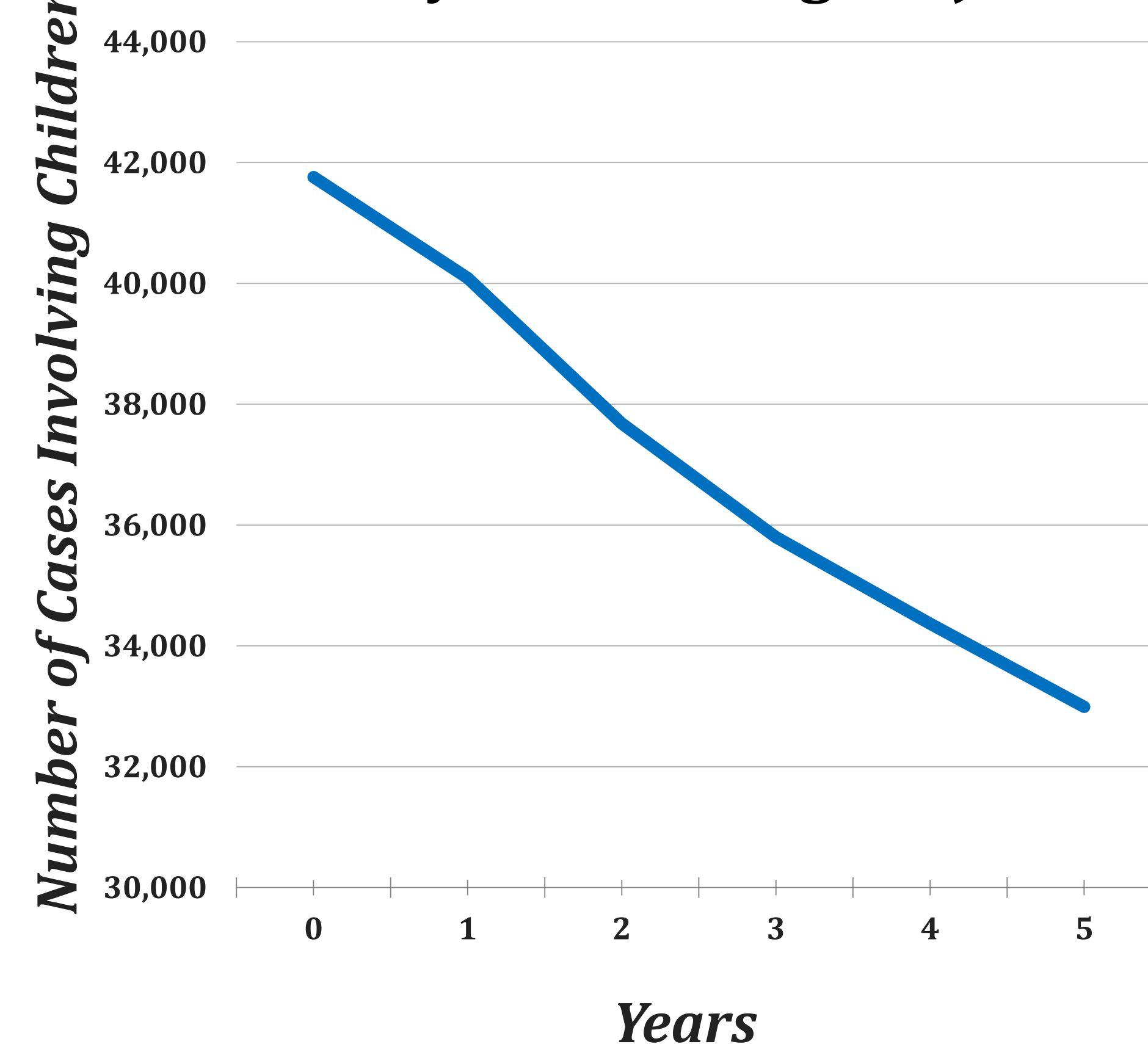
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Bacteria appearing on hands under UV light

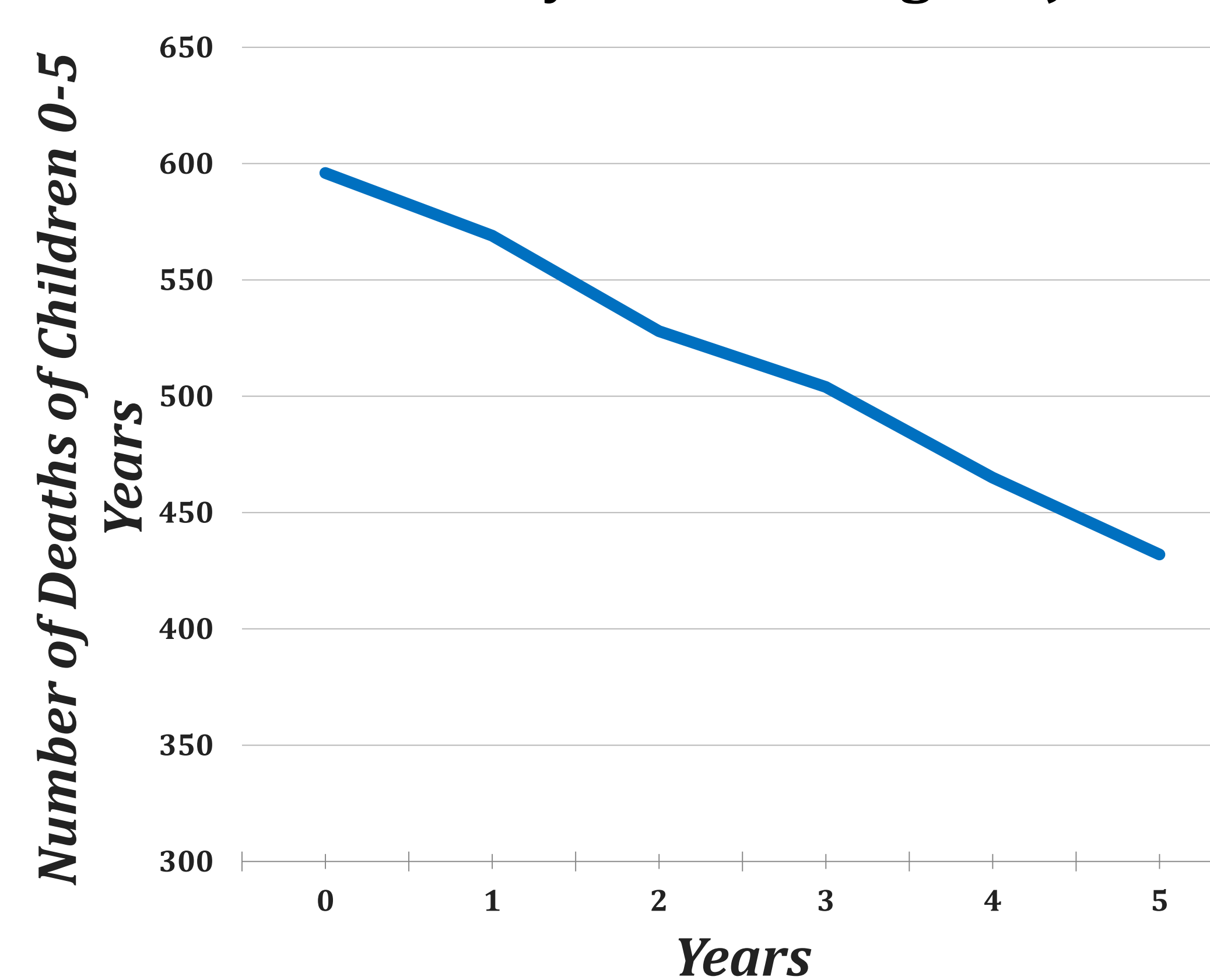
Predicted Results/ Outcomes

Mortality decreased by approximately 30% and morbidity decreased by approximately 21%

Morbidity Rate During Project



Mortality Rate During Project



Conclusions

Implementing these methods in Gushegu, Ghana is an option to reduce the frequency of childhood mortality. This can be adapted to be used in various developing countries world wide.

References

(1) Scott, B., Curtis, V., Rabie, T., Garbrah-Aidoo, N. 2007. Health in our hands, but not in our heads: Understanding hygiene motivation in Ghana. Health Policy Plan. 22, 225-233.
 (2) Handwashing one of most effective ways to prevent disease in Central African Republic. (2012, October 15). Retrieved November 11, 2015.
 (3) "About This District: Water and Sanitation." Gushegu. Gushegu District Assembly, 2006. Web. 2015.