**REPORT ON WATER PURCHASES PROJECT - MONTH 1**

**Introduction:**

I embarked on a mini-project to compare the monthly expenses of purchasing bags of sachet water versus bottled water for a dispenser. The main goal was to learn how to use Google Sheets effectively by analyzing the cost differences between these two packaging options.

**Summary of the Project:**

In the first month of the project, our initial plan was to buy only bottled water and dispenser bottled water. This went on smoothly for the first 3 weeks, However due to water shortages we ended up buying a few bags of sachet water to aid in cooking and other needs like brushing our teeth in the last week.

**Challenges Faced:**

1. Miscommunication: There was one purchase that I feel was not properly tracked due to miscommunication. However, this minor issue did not significantly impact the overall data analysis.

2. Data Recording: I encountered a challenge with recording different brands of bottled water bought on the same day. My naive solution was recording separate purchases on different dates (provided on the next row) to maintain consistency with my pre-planned schedule.

I am opting to record the purchase information on subsequent rows by repeating the date. This method will be applied for the next month. This will ensure that the data remains intact while allowing for proper analysis. I also applied this method in my data clean and monthly expense sheet

3. Pricing Automation: Initially, I tried to automate the prices based on the brand of water. However, since we purchased water from different places with varying prices, I had to remove some of the automation. This adjustment allowed for more accurate data representation.

**Data Analysis:**

After cleaning and analyzing the data, we found that we spent approximately 432 cedis on water during the first month. The breakdown of expenses is as follows:

- Bottled Water: 297 cedis

- Dispenser Water: 91 cedis

- Sachet Water: 44 cedis

Notably, the Belaqua mineral water brand was the one we patronized the most during this period.

**Plan for Next Month:**

For the upcoming month, our plan is to focus solely on purchasing bottled water and sachet water, excluding the use of a dispenser. This will allow us to evaluate the cost difference between the two packaging options more accurately.

**Lessons Learned and Future Steps:**

1. Improved Data Collection: I aim to be more meticulous in collecting the data, ensuring that every purchase is accurately recorded, and avoiding any miscommunication.

2. Consistent Budgeting: Given the varying prices of water from different sources, I will encourage my household members to be intentional about where they buy water. This will help us establish a constant budget for water and potentially cut down on costs.

**Conclusion:**

The first month of the water purchases project has provided valuable insights into our expenses. Despite minor challenges, we have successfully tracked and analyzed our water expenditures. With the upcoming month focusing solely on bottled water and sachet water, we anticipate gaining further understanding of the cost dynamics between these options.

I will continue to update and refine the project's dashboard, ensuring that the data is accurately captured and providing a more comprehensive analysis in the coming months.

**Youtube Tutorials**

[How to Create a Dashboard in Google Sheets (10 steps) - Query Formula](https://youtu.be/1JkvHfzIL0Y)