

## WASH Intervention Increasing student participation, Bagu Community, Sandamu LGA, Katsina

Angwar Sabon-Faggi, Bagu, Sandamu LGA, has about forty-five households, with a population of 321. The village has existed for many years but the Sabon-Faggi community has existed for over ten years, community people depend their livelihood on crops farming and animal rearing.

Miss Nafisat salisu, 22-years an NCE holder, teaching at Sheikh Jafaru Mahmood Adam Nursery and Primary school, Angwar Sabon-Faggi, Bagu, Sandamu LGA, explain the effort made by her and the community through WASHCOM's (Water Sanitation and Hygiene committee) are changing the lives of the students.

She teaches students on how to clean hands and keep themselves clean, during school breaks every child is put on queues, monitor and guide them on hand washing. She trains her student on hygiene practices; this is increasing awareness level among the school students.



She was trained on water sanitation and hygiene organized by WASH unit in the LGA supported by UNICEF under the SHAWN program, the training has turned her lives around to assist her school and community to improve student's awareness on importance of hygiene and sanitation. Aisha love to mobilize her student and community, sensitize them on health implication of open defecation among young and senior community members.

Mallam Usman Yau, 54-year-old, a resident of the same community and a farmer, gives his testimony on how drinking water was a major problem for them. Usman is presently WASHCOM's chairman in the community. He ensures that safe drinking water is always available for all residents. He played a big role in establishment of VLOM system in the community, he ensures that WASHCOMs meets at least once in a month, Naira 20 weekly contributions is collected from all households for the maintenance of the handpump, the facility is maintained properly. Currently all the households are benefiting from the pump with the school which has over 100 students.

Miss Nafisat recalled past experiences in the school and community, how life was difficult for them, the school suffered loss of some of their students due to cholera and malaria, it was not easy for them as teacher and student, Nafisat said "*what will you say about sanitation or hygiene when there is no water*", everybody was coming to school with their drinking water and when the students were thirsty many of them ran to their houses without return. For the teachers, any time there is need to use toilet they must go far to their various homes that may be the end for that day. Lack of water in the school added to low attendance of the students, some students did not even come to school at all and the reason remain the lack of water.



The project team intervention under VL0M project supported by UKAid and UNICEF changed their narratives, the team identified their only handpump that was abandoned for long time, all under ground component were replaced with new one, the pump head assembly was also changed to new one. The community brought cement, sand, blocks and gravels for the construction of the platform, drainage and soak pit. The community also contributed in terms of labor

during the platform construction work. This intervention brought back better life to them. 02 members of the community were trained on management of the water facility, tools were given to them to act as a facility caretaker. They were advised to maintain the pump by coming together to implement the VL0M concept. The community now agreed to contribute money as water user charges without waiting for any one before they can repair their pump. Naira 20 per households every week was agreed and since that period they have been able to maintain the handpump till today.

The students are now staying in the school to learn, teachers have concentration to impart good knowledge to their students, they are regular in the school, no one go far in search of water, clean functional toilets are now available for both teachers and students, water is available to clean their hands after every use of toilet, the community is now ODF certified and there is no more spread of water related diseases.

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## Eradicating water challenges through WASHCOM's intervention, Angwar Alhajo Magaji, Sandamu LGA, Katsina

**Sandamu** is a **Local Government** Area in Katsina State of Nigeria. It has an area of 1418 km<sup>2</sup> and a population of 137,287 as per 2006 census. Sandamu LGA share boundary with Daura LGA, most of the people of Sandamu are farmers and herdsman and some of them are working with federal, state and local government council. They grow crops like maize, millet beans and different types of vegetables. The people are majorly Fulani, friendly and accommodative.

Mallam Aliyu Hussaini is the WASHCOM (water, sanitation and hygiene committee) chairman of Angwar Alhaji Magaji Community of the LGA. He is a native of the village, married with children and a farmer with basic education. He shared his experience on how poor management and negligence of water facility had costed many lives in his community. The WASHCOM was formed six year ago but the committee didn't live up to the expectations as the members were not very serious. As result of this suffering for drinking water continued and increased in the community due to the increase in the population.

Many members of the community suffered in one way or the other way to non-availability safe drinking water, some members of the community lost one or two people of their family due to the outbreak of disease such as cholera, typhoid and malaria. The pregnant women and children were more vulnerable to the crisis. Many children didn't attend their schools regularly due to the search for water for their family. They used to go in search for water in the morning and when they return from the search, time for school was gone. The crisis didn't leave any one behind, even animal was not left out in need for water.



Today their story has changed, they thank god for giving them water, they are more careful and concerned about their rehabilitated water facility. Several trainings were conducted by project team supported by UNICEF, UKAid and LGA WASH Unit to eliminate the water related challenges in the community, some community member were also selected for training as a Local Area Mechanic (LAM), who are available to carry out major repairs in case of any breakdown. Local Trader (LT) is also available for them to supply good quality and affordable pump spare parts. Facility caretakers are also trained to carry out preventive maintenance of the pump in regular intervals.

All these were done under SHAWN project under which the community benefitted with the rehabilitation of their broken-down borehole. the WASHCOM was also strengthened to deliver its responsibility, they are oriented on water facility management, tariff collection, documentation of WASH activities and maintaining sanitation and hygiene in the community.

Today all 04 handpumps within the community are functional, all this are made possible with the community ownership and management of water facility by the WASHCOM. They have monthly meetings at the end of every month to discuss issues related to maintenance of water facilities and improving sanitation and hygiene within their community. Apart from that they organize meetings in case of any emergency.



Water User Fee is now introduced in the community for every households, and each member of the community is fully involved in it, this makes it easier for them, sometime when community have enough money in their account, soft loans were given to other members to assist them to grow in business or farming and since inception the community had never experienced any problem among the members of the village.

Now, all children attend school without any complain and, the WASHCOM made it compulsory for every child to be in school at the appropriate time given by school authority. Issue of cholera and typhoid has become something of the past. *“Even you can go around and see things by yourself Alhamdulillah”* Said Mal. Hussaini, WASHCOM Chairman.

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## Aisha Shehu - Female LAM- helping her community to access drinking water in Batagarawa LGA of Katsina State

Several communities in Batagarawa Local Government Area in North West Nigeria didn't had access to safe drinking water and proper hygiene and sanitation. They lost many of their children due to water borne diseases like cholera, typhoid, diarrhea and malaria which are common among the people. Many families relocated in the need of drinking water and livestock population.

Batagarawa LGA was established in 1991, it has an area of 433 km and a population of 184,575 as per 2006 census. The major tribe populated by hausa people and other tribes that are settled with them. The LGA has 20 wards with 239 communities. The people are traditionally farmer and cattle herder, few of them are also engaged in other occupation.



Aisha Shehu a 23-year old single, student of Federal College of Education, FCE Batagarwa, studying Islamic Education, joined WASH programme supported by UNICEF and UKAid during mid-2018 as a Local Area Mechanic. She intended to contribute her part for her community to resolve the issues related to water scarcity and water quality for the local communities. She had interest to be a Local Area Mechanic (LAM) with local government which made her to meet WASH Unit of the LGA, she was trained in handpump repair works by Tulsu Chanrai Foundation. She feels enjoyed helping women and children to overcome the problems of water scarcity and suffering in her area.

Aisha explained her achievements, before she become LAM everything about handpump was strange to her, now she understands better. Now there is more awareness on water facility maintenance among the community members. She received a toolbox immediately after the training for carrying out major and minor repairs.

Aisha recollects that, there were cases when men divorced their wives for being unhygienic. She further explains that, it all happened due to unavailability of water and poor awareness on hygiene & sanitation. Most of the men were abusing their wives for being dirty, unhygienic and not taking care of the hygiene of their children. The harsh weather condition further increased their difficulty. Female members are generally responsible for washing clothes, utensils, taking care of children and maintaining hygienic environment around house and toilets. School children were also affected, they were going far away to get drinking water for their family, this denied most of them from being regular to the school. Any kind of fault of handpump, she always takes lead and go to repair it as soon as the information reaches to her.

Another challenge for Aisha was the being a female, due to which so many men saw her working with men doing a job meant for men, such is strange in a remote community in Northern parts of Nigeria. Another challenge is managing time with her school, studying Hausa Education at the FCE – Batagarawa which is far from her own community.

She is proud to be a LAM, always try to encourage and motivate other women to join her to help men and their communities to tackle water related problem in the region. Her activeness not only helped women and children but the entire community including the livestock. After her training, she started meeting community members, sensitizing women and children on various hygiene and sanitation issues and importance of safe water alongside the other LAMs. She actively involved and supported VLOM member and handpump caretakers during the rehabilitation of broken-down hand pumps. By initiating and ensuring that she also gets firsthand information (through SMS) from caretakers on any faulty handpump, she actively takes quick action for any repair work so that people don't suffer for long time.



Aisha serves as an inspiration to other girls in her community. She is outstanding, she is the only female LAM in the Batagarawa LGA who is very active. As against the general believe that females are not allowed to take part in such activity; Aisha is an exception. She is an active LAM and every girl wish to be like Aisha.

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## VLOM CONCEPT EMPOWERING YOUTH AS LOCAL AREA MECHANIC, SUPPORTING HIS FAMILY - NDOKWA WEST LGA

Ndokwa West LGA is known as one of the biggest Local Government Area in Nigeria with 13 wards is located in Delta State of Niger Delta region of Nigeria. The region is famous for the production of crude oil. The headquarter of the LGA is situated in the town of Kwale (Utagba-Ogbe). It has an area of 816 km<sup>2</sup> and a population of 149,325 as per the 2006 census.

Omosor Azuka, 26-year old from the Area, had been into minor plumbing work with borehole drilling company for over four years. Azuka's life has changed since the inception of UNICEF and TCF supported VLOM project in Ndokwa West LGA of Delta State. Unlike his earlier hardship of feeding his family, now almost every day he gets handpump repair work from the local communities that helps him to feed his family.



Azuka an indigene living of Kwale, he finished his Senior Secondary Certificate Examination SSCE in 2013, dreamed of becoming a Civil Engineer, was forced to learn some plumbing work due to poverty and support his 76-year old grandmother who has been his back bone right from his little age. His grandmother is planting cassava & yam in little quantity for their consumption.

Omosor Azuka was trained as Local Area Mechanic under EU-UNICEF supported WASH project. He was trained on how to maintain and rehabilitate nonfunctional and abandoned handpumps.

Most of the community in the LGA started requesting the services of the Local Area Mechanic to maintain their water facility. Now it is hard to see any handpump that is not working in the LGA.

Earlier, the communities were recorded some health crisis as a result of drinking unsafe water from streams and people attitude towards sanitation and hygiene. They almost forgotten the importance of hygiene in the community, most boreholes in the community had been abandoned due to lack of regular maintenance. This made access to safe drinking water a big challenge.

Azuka is very friendly and humble with the key community leaders, this makes him easy access to the community and broken-down boreholes. He was trained as a certified LAM on hand pump repair & also retrained to be more efficient in the practical work. In the past he lived and feed under his grandmother, always follow her to farm with no option of surviving. After the training his life has been changed forever; he experiences patronage both from community, private and government on hand pumps repairs. He is also travelling other nearby LGAs like Ndokwa East and Sapele for the repair of broken-down pumps. Due to his skill & determination he received recognition from the Ndokwa West LGA as one of the Certified Local Area Mechanic.

Azuka is grateful to God & the implementers of the project, UNICEF - TCF for the well-organized Training and the Donors who supported the exercise “*God will continue to bless them*” said Azuka.



Azuka is now happy with his engagement in pump repairs, idealness is no longer there with him, he feeds well with his grandmother, she does not have to do farming now, he assist his communities in repairing their pump, this is a big recognition for him and the grandmother. He also has started saving some money for his proposed school, this will make his dream of studying civil engineering come true.

He appreciates the organizer and the sponsors of the project. Now safe and clean water is available in communities, hygiene practices have improved, water borne diseases has also reduced significantly in the communities and children are regular to schools.

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