

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 VLOM 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 VLOM 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.
