

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 (UtagbaOgbe). It has an area of 816 km² 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.
