

## Community Group-WASHCOM lead to Regular Water Quality Testing and Improvement in Public Health

With 182 households and a population of 1208 (2017), Umunevili community in Anambra East LGA of Anambra formed WASHCOM-Water, Sanitation and Hygiene Committee with the implementation of UNICEF supported Water Supply and Sanitation Sector Reform Program-II, Nigeria, funded by EU-European Union. Umunevili-Eziagulu are indigenous *Igbo* tribes those are involved in traditional business of farming Cassava, Yam and Maize.

The MICS 2016-17 finds that the percentage population using improved drinking water in Anambra is 84 against national average of 64. But, 9 out of 10 houses use no water treatment at household level against national average of 8. Six out of ten families in Anambra state use improved latrines and ODF population is in just 10 percent cases. On overall drinking water and sanitation ladder Anambra fairs at 51 percent to Nigeria's average of 27. The survey in the state further finds that in 10 percent cases a separate place for handwashing and soap in 5 percent. The *E.Coli* risk was 53 percent at water source and 76 at household level. The situation across can not be said good.



Angela Nwawuo's an energetic young entrepreneur and trainer now, with her husband are excited with the concept and results of the programme in their community, under which the concept of Water Sanitation Hygiene promotion was propagated in the community and WASHCOM formed, which is now effectively managing a Solar Motorized Borehole. She was also elected as WASHCOM's secretary by Umunevili-Eziagulu community.

She regularly trains and generate awareness among the community members on various aspects of water and sanitation like; drinking water safety, water quality, community & personal hygiene, community sanitation, reducing open defecation practices, water testing with various aspects of child and women health.

Angela, also a petty trader, supports the WASHCOM Chairman in managing and looking after the water facility including regular meetings on every last Sunday of a month and discussing the issues. The committee members will visit each house to check the storage, status of toilets, hygiene condition around community, water management and sanitary aspects. The members also visit health center near to them on quarterly basis to see the health record of community to

observe the difference, which was huge since the programme implementation and availability of safe water in this community.

The concept of VLOM- Village Level Operation & Maintenance was unique to maintain the solar based water pumping facility in Umunevili. A series of training under the project like Water Safety Planning, Operation & Maintenance, Water Quality surveillance, Hygiene and Sanitation etc. were received by Angela, who further helped the

community to get the benefits of the programme. There was precarious situation before the implementation of the programme about availability of safe water, children suffering from diarrhea, jaundice and typhoid, and children not going to their schools and sometime families had to buy drinking water from the market.

Now, each household pays water user fee of Naira 10 each for an average of per 20 liter of drinking water they fetch, and accordingly the WASHCOM members keep the momentum of collection of each household on regular basis leading to a deposit of Naira 150,000 in their account by now. They also have provision of a tap around major community compounds for easy access of water on a rotation basis. The repair work of solar panel, generator and pump was done recently by the trained mechanics from the water user fee account and their dependency on LGA or government funds have reduced substantially.

The practice and facility of regular 'water quality test' started here with the help of Unicef-TCF team, with the provision of H<sub>2</sub>S vial. Here the LGA WASH Unit in coordination with community ascertains the quality of the drinking water, at the source-during transport-point of use and in case of any water quality issue immediate action used to be taken by community members with the help of LGA officials.



“ACCESS TO CLEAN DRINKING WATER ON REGULAR BASIS HAD BEEN A GREAT CONCERN FOR THE COMMUNITY AND DRINKING SAFE WATER REMAINS THE ONLY CURE FOR WATER RELATED DISEASES” ANGELA SAYS .

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## *WASH Interventions lead to Reduced Water Borne Diseases-Mubi South LGA, Adamawa*

Dubudubu, a community under Mubi South Local Government Area of Adamawa State of northern Nigeria, that has population of over 3,000, of which almost half are children. Like in many rural communities in this region, majority had no to very poor access to safe drinking water and sanitation facilities. Open defecation is a common practice, and waterborne diseases like cholera and typhoid, a leading cause of early childhood deaths and maternal mortality. With a dire situation of poor water and sanitation facilities, the LGA was selected for WASH interventions under EU funded, UNICEF programme and TCF as a partner agency.

Adamawa, a northeastern state of Nigeria has Mubi South LGA and ancient town that shares border with Cameroon with predominantly farming community involved in livestock business as key means of livelihood.

*An overall 21 percent population of Adamawa State use improved drinking water source and sanitation together against National Average of 27 percent (MICS-2016-17). The improved drinking water sources are being used by 54 percent population while only 3 percent have safe water source in their premise. Half of the population in Adamawa use improved sanitation facilities and 17 percent population still defecates in open.*

To address the water challenges provision of several handpumps and solar borehole were made around Dububudu and other communities in Mubi South LGA, with a series of hygiene and sanitation training in primary and secondary schools. The council was provided all the necessary support to tackle water problem across LGA that provides access to over 32,000 rural population. Also, many of the handpumps were rehabilitated in different phases across Mubi South LGA by TCF, which provided access to improved water in the region.

Post project interventions, most of the communities were surveyed on ODF-Open Defecation Free community indicators and on various parameters of best hygiene practices. In many of the community's provisions were made on safe sanitation facilities and child friendly hand washing facilities in schools. The toilets were constructed with hand washing facilities, while in schools EHC (Environment Health Clubs) were also formed.



*“There is substantial reduction in the recurrence of water borne diseases during rainy and winter season, as the communities have stopped open defecation and they are also getting regular supply of safe drinking water. The community is now more aware about sanitation and hygiene aspects after project interventions”*

The Local Area Mechanics (LAMs) were trained to repair and maintain the hand pumps and to help community level care takers. Local Trader were also trained and empowered to supplies genuine spare parts to the LGA. Community mobilizer were appointed to mobilize and sensitize them to participate on VLOM. Field workers were appointed at the LGA to generate awareness on sanitation & hygiene issues. Under VLOM, all the handpumps were coded, for which a facility caretaker sends mobile born message (SMS) to the VLOM unit in case of any problem at facility tracking system, and also regularly on 25<sup>th</sup> and 27<sup>th</sup> day of each month. In turn, the VLOM unit inform the LAM (Local Area Mechanic) based on level of problem for further maintenance work and procuring spare parts. In Mubi South LGA, a total of 4 LAMs have been appointed and all are trained by TCF with the provision of a special tools kit under the project.

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## Isoko South Communities- get a Technical Hand – Local Area Mechanic LAM to assist communities in Solar Pump Rehabilitation

Williams Merie, 32-year, a native of Isoko South Local Government Area of South-South Nigeria known as Niger Delta region, is happy using his newly acquired skill as trained VLOM worker. The Village Level Operation and Maintenance-VLOM interventions by UNICEF-TCF helped to repair and maintain the motorized solar boreholes and repair of many Solar based water supply facilities in Isoko South LGA. The TCF team took initiative to train William to repair most of the abandoned solar boreholes by repairing solar panels, batteries, fixing electrical wiring, solar pumps and reinstating the distribution pipelines.

Isoko South is one of the LGA from where the crude oil contributes to the economy of Nigeria, but its mismanagement had led to multiple problems of environmental hazard to contamination of water sources like drinking water supply, aquatic biodiversity, affecting health and livelihood of local people. The pollution coming from crude oil also impacted agricultural productivity of yam and cassava. Addition to it, the nonchalant attitude of people towards water management led to issue like availability of safe drinking water to majority population in Isoko south.

A survey (MICS 2016-17) on water and sanitation facilities found faecal contamination (*E.Coli*) in 80 percent cases of drinking water at household level in Delta state of Nigeria. On improved water and sanitation ladder Delta has just 35 percent population covered. For example, the improved sanitation found in only 60 percent population and 9 out of 10 families don't use any water treatment method from 49 percent tube well or bore holes, as water sources.

Many communities in Isoko local government area (LGA) did not have access to safe drinking water as a result of pollution, poor sanitation, hygiene and community approaches. The child mortality rates were quite high from preventive health issues like typhoid and diarrhea.



Many families relocated to nearby cities in the need of safe drinking water and common preventive disease. They had boreholes as water sources, but lack of technical know-how led to major problems during breakdown of any of them, as the local government functionaries usually take lot of time to reinstate it, addition to the time consumed in getting service parts.

With the repair of abandoned water facilities in many communities in Isoko South, now people get regular water supply. Tommy Tokame, a WASCHCOM Chairman at Ewrokpe community Emede, Isoko South, expresses his gratitude to William and UNICEF-TCF team. Before his training as Certified Solar Motorized Borehole Mechanic (LAM), William was only having little knowledge on theoretical aspects of solar system, electrical fittings and water supply system. Now he is a full-time mechanic, who independently work and help many communities in the region and together earn his livelihood.

TCF team provided training to William and engaged him in the repair work of solar motorized pumps in Emede, Aviara, Urovor-Igbede and Araya communities. The communities in Isoko South LGA are happy with William's work, there has been no instance of longer breakdown more than two days, and it get fixed by William.

Although the community participation in Isoko South is a bit low, but there is increased awareness among communities about water management. Many of them have started collecting water user fee per household for the maintenance of their water facility like tap head, distribution pipe etc. The community also observed high reduction of preventable diseases. In Isoko every household has a functional toilet, and no one can defecate in open.

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*"If organization or donor agency can provide some of the high costs related to solar spare parts in subsidized price for the community to buy, it will be big help for them as many of them do not have such funds." Said William*

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## WASHCOM efforts lead to Access to Safe Water and School Attendance among children in Kwadankin Community- Mubi South LGA of Adamawa

Samaila Ali, a 35 years old father of 3 and a native of Kwadankin, is very happy about his experience in the implementation of Village Level Operation & Maintenance - VLOM concept under UNICEF-TCF programme in Kwadankin community of Mubi LGA in Adamawa state.

He also holds the position of Secretary to WASHCOM and helps the community as Hygiene promoter, trainer and Water Facility Care taker. Samaila trains the community members on various aspects of WASH like; water quality, water safety, hygiene, sanitation and health.

A WASHCOM-Water, Sanitation and Hygiene Committee was also formed in Kwadankin that has a

population of 1,200, Mubi South of Adamawa. A northern state of Nigeria, Adamawa, generally has dry season with regular dust storms and long sunny days with low rainfall adding to hardship

Samaila says *“It was the ignorance of community, that was killing children and jeopardizing the future of many”*.

for rural communities in terms of water availability and agriculture production. Traditionally, Kwadankin community had been in to traditional business of trade, but, many of them are now exploring better livelihood opportunities in farming, cattle rearing and other jobs.

In Kwadinkin, the access to safe drinking water had been a great concern for the community leading to health, economic and social issues. Ali says, *“it was miserable life without water”*. The episodes of diarrhea and cholera were common as people were using a traditional stream as water source for drinking and livestock purposes, that too was far away in the outskirts of the village. The quality of water was always a concern. Due to its distance the children used to go to fetch water and spend most of their time, that prevented them to attend their school also. There were no other options for drinking water for the communities.

The situation was like that if one house was affected from water borne disease, it would spread all over the community as epidemic, and there were many deaths recorded among children less than 3-4 years of age. The open defecation was a common phenomenon in Kwadinkin among adult and children. The only handpump that was present in the community was abandoned due



to lack technical know-how and poor awareness among community. As a result of lack to access to water and sanitation facilities Kwadinkin was known as open defecation (OD) community.



The VLOM and Water Quality interventions in Kwadinkin community by TCF with the support of UNICEF, helped in the repair and rehabilitation of the abandoned handpump. Here, a WASHCOM was formed with five women as members in the community to generate awareness among people on various aspects of drinking water, sanitation and standard hygiene practices in the community. This also led the construction of toilet in each of the houses in Kwadinkin. Samaila, helped to facilitate communities for regular repair and maintenance of handpumps and solar

pumping system. Regular efforts yielded results in the form of collection of user fee and opening a WASHCOM bank account.

With regular collection of user fee, the WASCHCOM was able to provide 24x7 drinking water through preventive maintenance to the community. The community in Kwadinkin have two hand pumps and a Solar powered borehole. A regular contribution is coming from community @ Naira 50 per household per month leading to a deposit of Naira 120,000 in group's account by now. The community members come out on weekly basis for a sanitation drive before going to their farms. The WASHCOM members are allowed to enter houses for the inspection of toilet and kitchen. If there is any major work, the community always come together, and open defecation practice has now stopped completely in Kwadinkin.



The women and children are no long trekking far to get water and this also led to high (95-100%) turnout of children in schools. Now community also ensures that no children is staying off from school and everyone attends it. It was also observed that there is high competition and awareness among married women to display their level of hygiene and sanitation in their home.

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*DEVELOPING ENTERPRISES IN HAND-PUMP SPARE PARTS -SUPPORTING  
LOCAL YOUTH IN BUSINESS;  
A CASE OF MUBI SOUTH LGA IN ADAMAWA STATE*

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Adamawa is northeastern state of Nigeria with four administrative divisions; Adamawa, Michika, Ganye, Mubi and Numan. Jella is the headquarter of Mubi South LGA, and Mubi South an ancient town that shares border with Cameroon with predominantly farming community rearing the livestock as means of livelihood. Once also targeted by insurgency, the town Mubi is now back to normalcy. An overall 21 percent population of Adamawa use improved drinking water source and sanitation together against national average of 27 percent (MICS-2016-17). The improved drinking water sources are being used by 54 percent population while only 3 percent have safe water source in their premise. Half of the population in Adamawa use improved sanitation facilities and 17 percent population still defecate in open.

The accessibility of safe drinking water had been a major challenge among the rural communities in Mubi South due to frequent breakdown of boreholes and handpumps. The major reasons were poor availability of genuine spare parts and technical know-how among the community members. Many communities abandoned their hand pumps and were fetching water from stream or open well. Any outside hand pump mechanic would seek high charges from the community which generally was not-affordable, and availability of quality spare parts was another issue.

The situation led to hardship to the drinking water availability to the people in Mubi South. The children and women were most affected due to high work load, health issue and school attendance. Preventable disease like diarrhea, cholera and typhoid were quite common among the community. There were instances when young girls and women getting sexually abused by hoodlums on their way to collect water from far away streams. There were cases of cholera epidemic, which was found due to the contamination in the drinking water they were fetching from the stream. Open defecation was a normal practice in Mubi South, and there was negligible awareness among masses on safe water, sanitation and hygiene aspects.

Haruna Saad popularly known as Haruna Jella, a 37-year youth from Jella, Mubi South local government area (LGA) had been selling motor cycle and generator spare parts for over 15 years and added handpumps spare-parts for last three years. Haruna's hand pumps spare parts business has grown well since the commencement of UNICEF and TCF supported Water Sanitation project in Mubi South LGA. Unlike before, now almost every week he gets good customers for handpump spare parts from across Mubi and beyond.

When Mubi South was selected for project intervention by UNICEF-TCF, the team met with Haruna who explained the concerns of community to the team. The LGA WASH team was



involved in the implementation of VLOM-Village level operation and maintenance concept. Community members like Haruna and other were trained on various aspects of VLOM, Sanitation, Hygiene promotion, and Haruna was given fast moving spare parts initially as seed stock under the project. Later, Haruna's cordial relationship with key community leaders, project team, WASHCOM committee and Local Area Mechanic (LAM), helped him to network well with other communities in providing spare parts and technical support in the repair of abandoned handpumps, and promote sanitation around Mubi LGA.

Haruna is a successful Local Trader now, who supplies affordable spare parts and helps communities to reinstate their handpumps and boreholes with the help of WASH unit at the LGA. Other trained LAM-Local Area Mechanic in the project from Mubi South also come to his shop, to buy spare parts and Haruna helps them in all possible ways, as even by giving the material on credit. It helped the communities in two ways; one they get best and reliable quality spare parts and another, easy and timely repair of their handpumps even if they don't have funds immediately. No more rusting, bad taste and water quality problem now in rural communities of Mubi South.

Community members appreciate the project team and connecting Haruna's business with handpump spare parts and sanitary items also. It was mentioned by community members that even the people from the border town of Cameroon come to Haruna's shop for their pump spare parts needs.

In last 2-3 years more toilets were constructed in Mubi South, safe water is easily available to the community and there is substantial improvement in the behavior of community in terms of use of toilets and hygiene practice. The frequent disease episodes have reduced substantially while children and women are spending less time to fetch water and not going to the bushes for defecation. Children are regular to their schools and cases of sexual abuse reduced. Haruna's another shop is almost ready, where he will expand his business with more handpump and sanitaryware spare parts.



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### *Common Efforts led to improved Health Condition of Okpachini Community - Ndokwa West LGA of Delta State*

Mr. Abelle D.U, a retired school head master has been actively involved to change the sanitation scenario of his community at Okpachini in Ndokwa West LGA of Delta state of Nigeria. The WASHCOM-Water, Sanitation and Hygiene Committee was formed in Okpachini with a population of 150, that inhabited here for over 40 years. This Ukwanni tribe community are in to the traditional business of trade and farming; yam, cassava, melon, vegetables and pepper. Okpachini, is about 67 km away from Kwale, the local government headquarter.



The oil spill from petroleum refineries has substantially polluted many of the water sources around Ndokwa west and across Delta state. The area is in Niger Delta region where the activities related to crude oil extraction is very high. During the months of June to November due high rains the spilled crude oil travels around land polluting major water sources and agriculture land.



Several trainings were organized on VLOM concept by UNICEF and TCF Team for the community members to understand various aspects of water management, preventive maintenance of water facility, sanitation facilities and hygiene promotion. The focus of programme was also on construction of individual toilets and hand washing system at their houses. Within project duration many community members built their toilets, which reduced the common practice of open defecation.

#### ***Project interventions >>>***

Under this project the abandoned handpump in the community was rehabilitated, which immediately solved the issue of safe water availability in the community with the help of UNICEF/TCF team. The WASHCOM now takes care of the recurring issues of their handpump. The community members have also started collecting user fee with Naira 200 from each family per month, which they deposit in WASHCOM account. With regular care of handpump, WASHCOM is able to fulfill the needs of community for safe water. Chief Comrade Michael Ado, a native of this village, who was on short visit from city says, *“Now, our people are saved from drinking poisonous water.”*

Another intervention which is yielding huge result was related to training of Local Area Mechanic (LAM) and networking for a Local Trader in the LGA for spare parts in case of any break down.

The LAM attends the major issues of handpump breakdown in no time and will fix it with reasonable price. Okpachini is an Open Defecation Free (ODF) certified community by the government agency and all kids from community are attending school regularly. They are still looking for a nearby health center, for which many community members are optimistic.

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