



THE FINAL REPORT

ON

**AMBASSADOR SMALL GRANTS PROGRAM
FOR PROVISION OF PORTABLE WATER IN AJEBAMIDELE COMMUNITY OF EKITI
STATE, NIGERIA**

SUBMITTED BY

**ENVIRONMENTAL DEVELOPMENT AND FAMILY HEALTH ORGANIZATION
(EDFHO)**

SUBMITTED TO

**AMBASSADOR SELF – HELP PROGRAM DESK
US EMBASSY ABUJA, NIGERIA**

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WITH SUPPORT FROM

**THE UNITED STATES EMBASSY
ABUJA**

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Introduction

In healthy living, a supply of uncontaminated water is very critical, but water quality is even more important than quantity for maintaining human health (WHO 2000). Contaminated water contributes to outbreak of diseases. In the same way, too little water makes it difficult to maintain the sanitary condition that prevent contamination and which are essential for controlling the epidemic disease that contributes so heavily to repeated illness and death of many. In Nigeria, the infant mortality rate stood at 105 per 1000 live births. The under – 5 mortality rate is per 1000 live births with huge disparities within the region and by socio-economic class. Unhygienic practices, unsafe excreta disposal and the use of contaminated water are implicated the high burden of infant and child mortality and morbidity as diarrhoea disease is rated second main causes of infant mortality and third-main cause of under – 5 mortality (UNICEF 2001).

Also, according to the Multi-indicator cluster survey, access to a safe water increased from 39% from 1995 to 1999 while access to a sanitary means excreta solid waste disposal declined from 45% to 44% furthermore, the 1999 knowledge and practices (KAP) study revealed that water shortage was identified as the major problem confronting households 88% while latrines were ranked a lowly 8th. Due to this and unconcerned attitude of people toward better environment, the communities environment continue to deteriorate and development of preventable and preventable disease.

Economically, the impact of water supply shortage can be seen in; the high costs of water to many low income groups when they source from water vendors, high cost of hospital bills incurred through contact with water borne diseases; the pervading physical stress in fetching water especially from a long distance and many others. An estimate by the WHO (1991) shows that the time spent each year by multitudes of women and children in fetching and carrying water is about 10 years.

To reduce the above incidence, the Federal Government of Nigeria set objective in line with MDGs Goal for the provision of sufficient portable water and adequate sanitation to all Nigerian in an affordable and sustainable way through participatory investment by the three tiers of government, the private sector and the beneficiary due to importance attached as basic needs.

Despite the efforts of government water and sanitation is far meeting the need of the people and the MDG target most especially at the rural level and major problem in Sahara and desert region. According to the joint Monitoring programme (JMP) report of 2008. Urban water coverage decreased by 15% from 80% in 1990 to 65% in 2006. The 15% decrease in 16 years is very significant at a time that the proportion of the population living in urban areas increased from 30% to 49% within same space of time. The report also suggested that rural water coverage the proportion of the rural population with access to improved sources of drinking water in Nigeria recorded a decrease of 4% from the 34% in 1990 to 30% in 2006. In Ekiti State and other neighbouring states the decrease is more higher than the national situation.

In terms of sanitation coverage the story is not so different though on a marginal increase with the proportion of the urban population with access to safe sanitation increasing from 33% in 1990 to 35% in 2006 (an increase of 2% in 16 years and an average of 0.125% per year). Similarly the proportion of the population in rural areas with access to basic sanitation increased from 22% in 1990 to 25% in 2006 representing a 3% increase and an average increase of 0.1875% per annum for the 16 years period.

The situation continue to worst in Nigeria and in particular Ekiti State both in urban and rural communities due to attitude of the general population and worsening due to lack of interest and commitment of government at both the state and local government levels of not seeing water and sanitation as priority.

It was in realization of these facts coupled with persistent calls for help from Ajobamide community that EDFHO approached the Self-help desk of the United States Embassy, Abuja for financial support in addressing following identified problems.

- Inadequate response of the government and the communities and other stakeholders (private sector and NGOs) in water, sanitation and hygiene service.

- Lack of adequate knowledge about the roles and responsibilities of the people as regards water provision and maintenance.
- Inadequate access to water and sanitation facilities
- Lack of capacity to contribute meaningfully to provision and maintenance of safe water and sanitary and hygiene facilities by communities.

GOAL AND OBJECTIVES

The overall objective of the project was to improve water supply and reduce the incidence of Water and Sanitation related diseases in the project areas through increase access to safe water supply, and good Sanitations promotion and community participation in Water and Sanitation investment.

Specific objectives

1. To increase community collaboration and participation that enhance enabling environment for an increase response to water and sanitation.
2. To increase awareness, knowledge, skill and risk reduction behavior that reduces access to safe water, sanitation and hygiene services.
3. Build and strengthen the capacity of community members on provision and sustenance of safe water.
4. Increase access to safe water through provision safe water facilities in the community.

PROJECT ACTIVITY PROGRESS CHART

Date Received First Advance of Award			09-11-2014
Date Received Second Advance of Award			05-01-2015
Start Date	Description of Events and/or Activities	Supervisor	Completion Date
15 th September 2014	Meeting held with the community members to discuss the commencement of the project and identify roles and community contributions to the project.	EDFHO Programme Officer	15 th September 2014
18 th September 2014	Meeting with the contractor to discuss and agree on mode of payment formula, including retention fees.	EDFHO Programme Officer	18 th September 2014
26 th September 2014	Signing of agreement with the contracting firm and payment of mobilization fees. (65%).	EDFHO Programme Officer	29 th September 2014
8 th October 2014	Contractor moved to site and start drilling.	EDFHO Programme Officer	8 th October 2014
15 th October 2014	Completion of drilling and pump testing.	EDFHO Programme Officer	18 th October 2014
13 th October 2014	Commencement of construction of stanchion (overhead stand) and water points.	EDFHO Programme Officer	30 th October 2014
14 th November 2014	Handling over of completed borehole water system by the contractor.	EDFHO Programme Officer	14 th November 2014
17 th November 2014	Payment of second tranche (22.63%) to the contractor as agreed.	EDFHO Programme Officer	17 th November 2014
20 th November 2014	Test running of the water system	EDFHO Programme Officer	31 st December 2014
1 st January 2015	Opened for Public Use	EDFHO Programme Officer	Ongoing
14 th January 2015	Payment of retention fee (12.37%) to the contractor	EDFHO Programme Officer	14 th January 2015
7 th January 2015	Training of WASHCOM	EDFHO Programme Officer	9 th January 2015
15 th January 2015	Training of VSHP	EDFHO Programme Officer	16 th January 2015

DESCRIPTION OF ACTION

1. PROJECT MANAGEMENT TEAM (PMT) CONSTITUTION

Within the first month of the project EDFHO in collaboration with Ajobamidele community leaders constituted a five – man project management team including staff of EDFHO and selected community representatives.

The PMT oversaw the day-to-day management of the project from planning to completion. EDFHO was able to provide orientation for the members of the team which enabled them understand the content and expectation of the project while responsibilities were assigned to specific individuals within the community.

2. OPEN COMMUNITY MEETING

In order to raise awareness about the project and situation of Water and Sanitation in the project community, solicit for cooperation and full participation of the community in all actions and activities to achieve the set goals, as well as initiate community ownership of the proposed project, an open community meeting was organized. Participants at the forum include; the community leaders, religious leaders, women leaders, youths representatives and local government Officers.

The participants were able to analyze the situation of Water and Sanitation within the community, problems were discussed and way forward proposed. Issue of community participation, project ownership and sustainability of the project was also discussed and agreed, also commitment and support of the communities members for the project was obtained. At the meeting, volunteer skilled and unskilled workers to work on the project were identified which included a plumber that will be responsible for pipe laying and installation of water points, a electrician who will be responsible for power installation as well as casual workers who will support the skilled workers in achieving their tasks.



Cross section of community members at the community hall during the community meeting

3. PROVISION OF WATER POINT DRILLING OF BOREHOLES

Water is an essential input in livelihood activities, including manufacturing and services. Therefore improved access to water for both urban and rural poor can create livelihood opportunities that can break the cycle of poverty. In rural and semi – urban communities of Ekiti State, lack of access to portable water have been implicated in a number of sanitation related disease outbreak. Within Ajebamidele community, access to water was a challenge due to the topography (most hand dug wells don't have water) and the nearest public water facility to the community is some 7KM to the community. With outcry from the community and support from US embassy self – help desk, EDFHO collaborated with the community stakeholders in Ajebamidele community to provide portable water at a central point within the community.

To make water available, EDFHO first conducted a geophysical survey within the community to determine underground water availability and quantity. The survey which was conducted by JADEKO GEOSCIENCES NIG.LTD – local water supply consultant under the supervision of EDFHO and Ajebamidele community confirmed availability of underground water in adequate quantity and feasibility a public borehole within the community.

With the specifications advised in the geophysical survey report, the project management team call for quotations for the drilling and installation of water points within Ajebamidele Community. A contractor was finally selected after careful analyzes of bids received with a mandate to work with the community in providing portable water. At the end of the project, EDFHO has facilitated the drilling of sustainable borehole within the community, installed overhead storage tanks with a total of holding capacity of 6000 liters, and a three – outlet watering points within Ajebamidele community.



EDFHO ED with the Contractor and Community Leaders during Geophysical survey



Contractors on site during drilling process



EDFHO Program Officer washing as contractors conduct pump testing



Overhead Stanchion construction process



EDFHO ED with the Plumber (a community volunteer) during overhead tank installation



The Plumber finishing installation under the watchful eye of the Executive Director



Tank installation completed with branding



Water point completed with three outlets



EDFHO ED with some community members at the completed project site



Branding Message acknowledging support for the Project



A bigger branding including logos at the back-view of the water point

4. WASCOM TRAINING AND FORMATION WASH COMMITTEE

The roles of Water, Sanitation and Hygiene Committee (WASHCOM) in a community as regards, provision of water, sanitation and hygiene promotion cannot be over emphasized. They are responsible for ensuring community involvement, participation, mobilization, and overseeing water and sanitation facilities and also serves as a links between Government, donors, NGOs etc. on the provision of safe water and good sanitation to the community.

With the successful take off of the project and comprehensive support from Ajebamidele community, a sixteen member WASHCOM committee was selected within the community and training on project and financial management conducted for the committee members to be able to coordinate and manage their community water project. The task of WASHCOM is primarily to mobilize the community members for water and sanitation activities and manage the project water installation within the community. The committee is also expected to take over the responsibility of WASH activities in within the community to ensure the community is clean and that community members adhere to hygiene principles at all times. Members of the committee will meet monthly for the purpose of moving forward water and sanitation activities in the community.

During the training (that adopted participatory learning process) each members of the committees were taken through the following topics and groups activities by two resources persons in each communities who are expert and experienced in WASH activities;

- Understanding Communities
- Community Management of water Sanitation Project
- Decision Making and Conflict Management
- Gender and Poverty Sensitive Approaches
- Community Financial Management
- Problem Identification and Action Planning
- Community Monitoring and Evaluation

At the end of the training, the committee elected its officers; Chairman, Secretary, Financial secretary and Public Relation Officer. It is expected that with the increase in the capacity of the committee members, they will be able to mobilize the community members for WASH, as well as maintain and sustain the project and facilities in the community.



Mr Adebayo of Ekiti State RUWASSA facilitating a session on water supply management during the training



Mr Ogundipe facilitating a session on community engagement during the training



Cross – section of participants listening during the training

5. TRAINING OF VOLUNTEER SANITATION AND HYGIENE PROMOTERS (VSHP)

Building the capacity of the community people in the areas of water and sanitation and hygiene promotion and other related environmental issues is a strategy designed to create enabling environment for successful project implementation, monitoring, sustainability and to empower the community members to play their fundamental roles in the community water, sanitation and hygiene and ensure good project sustainability. Research has revealed that main health problems are caused by poor hygiene due to insufficient water and by the consumption of contaminated water and abnormal sanitation been practiced in the rural communities. The roles of water, sanitation and hygiene promoters in community as regards provision of water, sanitation and hygiene promotion cannot be over emphasize as they ensure good environmental cleanliness, proper sanitation and hygiene practices among community dwellers, involvement in a routine health check and ensure maintenance of sanitation facilities in the community. These in turn will promote good hygiene and sanitation practices in their communities for a healthy standard of living of community people.

For the purpose of promoting sanitation and hygiene practices in the project community, EDFHO selected and trained fifteen community members to serve as volunteers in promoting good sanitation and hygiene behaviors through education and communication. To enable the volunteers perform their function effectively, training for Volunteer Sanitation and Hygiene Promoters (VSHP) was organized for the selected community members. The training equipped the participants with communication skills, use of behavioral change communication materials on issue of safe water, sanitation and hygiene. The community volunteers were trained to continue mobilizing the community for sanitation and hygiene promotion after the end of the project.



Mrs Ayeni of Ekiti State RUWASSA training hygiene promoters



Community volunteers being trained as hygiene promoters

PROJECT COMMISSIONING

With the present political environment in the country, and the peculiarity of the project community it was concluded that no official commissioning will be organized. The tendency to politicize the project for campaign purposes is very high during the period and an official commissioning will only provide added advantage for government agencies and individual politicians to do that, such cases in the past have created undue tension and clashes in some instances among party faithful leading to vandalization of the project. Based on these experiences, the project management team decided to open the project for public use without any official commissioning ceremony.

PROJECT SUSTAINABILITY

In order to sustain the project beyond the funding period, the formation and establishment of Sanitation and Hygiene Committee (WASHCOM) in the community has been a major achievement and indeed a good success story as this will enhance the project sustainability most especially in the areas of engaging in a house-to-house check, supervises water and sanitation facilities in their locality and ensure adequate security of the facilities provided.

Community ownership and supports was also adopted as a strategy for sustaining the project beyond the life of project. This has allowed the community to have a sense of ownership and maintenance of

the water and sanitation facilities at their expense. It is the plan of EDFHO to integrate the project to its larger water and sanitation programme, continue the monitoring of the project, continue to provide oversight advice and make sure that the communities make proper use and maintain the facilities regularly.

CONCLUSION

Limited access to safe water, poor sanitation and hygiene has serious implication. Children particularly girls are often times denied their right to education due to lack of private and decent sanitation facilities at schools. Women are forced to spend large parts of their day fetching water. Poor farmers and wage earners are less productive due to illness, health systems are overwhelmed and national economies suffer. Without water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH), sustainable development is impossible. If EDFHO is to continue supporting rural communities and Local Governments to contribute to the worldwide efforts needed to transform sanitation and water for all resolution into reality, support from donor organization such as the US Embassy self – help program is required.

There is no doubt that the project implementation has been a huge success for Ajebamidele community and it has gone a long way to reduce the challenges faced in the provision of safe drinking water to the rural communities and Ekiti State at large. The project is also an eye opener to the communities that project can be started and completed with their supports; to the government that there are great needs in the communities which requires fulfillments; and to EDFHO, that community involvements and collaboration do motivate and works. While EDFHO is recommending and still looking forward to more years of collaboration (in-case of further project review) we wish to commend the America people and the Ambassador for their dedication to improving livelihood in Nigeria.