



- Nigeria is not on track to meet the water and sanitation MDGs
- Video-Conferencing for Improved Urban Water and Sanitation
- Progress on Community Led Total Sanitation (CLTS) in Nigeria
- State Governments Embrace the Local Development Plan (LDP) Process

## The Millennium Development Goals: Links to water, sanitation and hygiene

<b>MDG 1.</b> <b>Eradicate extreme poverty and hunger</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Household water security is critical to eradicating poverty, especially amongst subsistence farmers and in the increasing number of waterscarce areas.</li> <li>Safe water, good sanitation and safe hygiene behavior is central to combating chronic diarrhoeal and parasite debilitating illnesses which reduce productivity.</li> <li>Water provision close to homes saves time and energy spent in fetching water from long distances and contributes to improved nutrition and productivity.</li> <li>Adequate and convenient water supply is critical to small-scale backyard gardening, livestock keeping, micro-enterprise etc which are important for household food-security and income generation, especially for impoverished families and women</li> </ul>
<b>MDG 2.</b> <b>Achieve universal primary education</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Safe, private sanitation and washing facilities in schools increase girls' enrolment and attendance, and reduces dropout rates, especially for girls of menstruation age.</li> <li>Safe water, good sanitation facilities attract girls and female teachers in school, increase enrolment levels, and contribute to educational achievement and the quality of education learning environment.</li> </ul>
<b>MDG 3.</b> <b>Promote gender equality and empower women</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Women and girls health, privacy and security benefits greatly when private sanitation facilities are provided in both communities and schools.</li> <li>Women and girls benefit when water services are provided close to homes thus reducing their burden in fetching water from distant sources.</li> <li>Household food security is increased when sufficient and convenient water supplies are made available to women for small-scale food production.</li> <li>Involving women in water and sanitation decision-making and building their capacity to manage and sustain these services, equips and empowers women with new skills to address other development needs, especially their own strategic and practical needs.</li> </ul>
<b>MDG 4.</b> <b>Reduce child mortality</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Improved hygiene, good sanitation and safe water prevents the primary cause of diarrhea which kills between 1.6 million and 2.5 million children under five years of age, every year- more than any other illness.</li> <li>Improving hygiene, sanitation and water is the only way to reduce the burden of chronic diarrhea morbidity in young children.</li> <li>Water for household food security provides access to micronutrients and protein from home grown vegetables and household livestock leading to improved nutritional status of children.</li> </ul>
<b>MDG 5.</b> <b>Improve maternal health</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Available water and good hygiene and sanitation are critical to good birth hygiene and safe delivery environments.</li> <li>Hygiene education, knowledge and safe practices are critical to birth hygiene</li> </ul>
<b>MDG 6.</b> <b>Combat HIV/AIDS, malaria and other diseases</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Adequate and easy access to safe water, good sanitation facilities and hygienic behaviours are critical to combating chronic diarrhea and opportunistic infections among those with HIV/AIDS</li> <li>Clean water and safe hygiene practices for preparing infant formula are critically important where HIV-positive mothers choose to stop exclusive breastfeeding.</li> </ul>
<b>MDG 7.</b> <b>Ensure environmental sustainability</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Safe management and disposal of faeces and other household waste is key to environmental sustainability.</li> <li>The equitable management of water resources is critical to environmental sustainability.</li> </ul>
<b>MDG 8.</b> <b>Develop a global partnership for development</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A broad partnership (such as among civil society, international institutions and the public and private sectors) greatly contributes to improving service delivery, knowledge and safe behaviors, local management and sustainability of water and sanitation services while ensuring equity.</li> <li>A holistic approach through partnerships enables greater potential for synergy and sustainability in sector development.</li> </ul>

SOURCE: UNICEF



### WaterAid - Water for life

The International NGO dedicated exclusively to the provision of safe domestic water, sanitation and hygiene education to the world's poorest people.

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Mai Ruwa is supported by UN-Habitat and the European Union





▲ Jonathan Burton (right) with Chief Stephen Lawani, Deputy Governor, Benue State during a visit to Benue State recently

## “Nigeria is not on track to meet the water and sanitation MDGs” says Burton

**C**ecilia Ologunagba of News Agency of Nigeria (NAN) spoke with Jonathan Burton, Country Representative, WaterAid Nigeria on the organisations activities and salient issues in the water and sanitation sector in Nigeria. Excerpts:

**NAN: What is your scope of activities and programmes for 2007?**

**Burton:** Our main activity is to support local partner organisations to improve their service delivery of water supply, sanitation and hygiene promotion. We build their capacity and provide some funding for them to provide these services in the hope that they will also generate their own funding. Most of our partners are local government agencies and we encourage them to allocate more and more of their own statutory budget to provide these services.

To do that we have an advocacy programme and this tries to influence policies and the adoption of best practices in the sector. So we do three things, service delivery, capacity building and advocacy. We are working with 40 partner organisations this year. We'll be supporting them through capacity building training. We'll be providing about N500 million investments into the sector ourselves this year and we would be undertaking a programme on advocacy and looking specifically on sanitation. Next year

2008 is the International Year of Sanitation and I think we all recognise that sanitation is the most neglected area in every country in the world including Nigeria and we want to make quite a push here with our campaign called **End Water Poverty**. Though the title doesn't mention sanitation but it is central to the campaign. With the new government we have to strengthen our efforts in sensitising the new politicians to the challenges that lie ahead.

**NAN: How many states are you working in at the moment and what are your criteria for selecting these states?**

**Burton:** We work in six states-Jigawa, Bauchi, Plateau, Benue, Enugu and Ekiti. The selection is to some extent historic. We were invited by one of the key donors, the Department for International Development (DFID), a UK government donor and they provided the initial funding to work in Benue. And from there we expanded to Plateau and Bauchi States based on an analysis of their needs. We looked at water and sanitation coverage rates across the country and these two states had the lowest in terms of the access that people had to water and sanitation. About three years ago, we were invited by UNICEF to participate in a programme in four states which included Benue where we were already working. The other states are Jigawa,

Enugu and Ekiti. So to some extent our work is directed by our own estimate of where the needs are great in Nigeria and to some extent our donors' preferences. Their preferences are also based on similar criteria of need.

**NAN: What impact has WaterAid made so far in the provision of safe water and sanitation in Nigeria?**

**Burton:** Through our work, approximately 200,000 people gain access to water and sanitation services each year. So they can access safe drinking water within 250 metres of their homes and have improved sanitation where excreta are disposed of safely. We encourage other people to invest more in the sector. So we have indirect levered investment and again many more people are gaining access through our capacity building and influencing work. So that is about the most direct tangible impact of our work in the last years. In addition, we have been advocating for best practices to be replicated by other agencies. For instance the Community Led Total Sanitation (CLTS) is a much more effective approach to sanitation than the previous approaches used by government and other agencies. CLTS is an approach that relies on behaviour change methodology and we have found it to be very effective. It is one example of an area of best practices that we try to advocate. We have also been working hard on trying to build

local institutions, especially partner organisations that we work with. We give direct funding to our partner organizations to support water and sanitation programmes but more importantly we try to strengthen them in terms of organisation systems, policies and skills. And we have developed the tools for identifying their capacity needs and measuring progress that they made from being quite young, nascent organisations to matured self sufficient organisations.

There are so many agencies working in the sector and they work in isolation without any knowledge of what the others are doing and the way they work. So we are trying to strengthen the coordination and harmonise the practices across the sector. So we made quite a useful contribution last year in terms of sector coordination and now we see the Federal Ministry of Agriculture and Water Resources leading in that area. Another area we worked on last year and will continue to work on is governance in the sector. There are lots of resources available for water and sanitation in the country but they are not really reaching the ground, the investments are not getting through to the local government and certainly not through to communities. So we are looking at ways to galvanize the funding mechanism and one approach we have been using is called Citizens' Action and it's a methodology that raises the awareness of the consumer and the service provider on their entitlements, rights and responsibilities. This involves running a workshop with consumers and service providers to develop a mechanism for assessing the level of service that has been provided. Each year there are scorecards for these services and the report is generated by the service provider and also by the consumer. The reports are exchanged between the consumers and service provider and they dialogue about the differences so that the consumers can get their needs heard by the service providers and the service providers can state very clearly what their expectations are of the consumers. That is another example of the work that we have been doing to promote better governance in the water sector.

**NAN:** *Is Nigeria in anyway near meeting the MDG in water and sanitation? If not what are the problems?*

**Burton:** The Millennium Development Goal on water is that by 2015 half of the

people that did not have access to water in the year 2000 should gain access to water. In Nigeria access to water in 2000 was about 50 percent, nobody really knows the exact figure because the measurements are very inaccurate.

So we have to provide water for half of that 50 percent. If we say the population of Nigeria is 140 million, in 2000 half of that will be 70 million. So 35 million new water and sanitation 'users' will gain access to these services by 2015 to meet the MDG target. So the big challenge is how we can get access to water for 35 million people in the next eight years. That is about 5 million people per year. WaterAid itself is only providing access to 200,000 a year, which leaves a huge gap. It is government's responsibility to provide water. Other actors like UNICEF, DFID, and European Union among others will support but our combined contributions are less than one percent of the requirement. How can we support government to reach the target? At the moment we are way off track if we look at the current level of investment; there is no hope of attaining the MDGs by 2015. So we really have to speed up.

To answer your question, we are not on track to meet the water MDGs. The resources are available nationally but they are really not been used effectively.

**NAN:** *Are you satisfied with your work so far and what are the specific achievements of WaterAid in Nigeria?*

**Burton:** Our vision is of a world where everyone has access to safe water and sanitation. With the situation in Nigeria

we can't stand back and say we are really satisfied with our work. But we also recognise the reality that progress is made slowly, step by step and at least we are going in the right direction.

We focus our programme only on six states. We are not trying to kid ourselves that we can provide water and sanitation to a significant proportion of the population. We are not trying to do it all; it is not our job to do that. What we do is to create 'islands of success' in a few local governments. We help the local governments to establish a water and sanitation unit that is effective. We work with the unit to provide water and sanitation to a number of communities. For the moment we are only working with 23 local governments out of 774 local governments in Nigeria. So we have established quite effective water and sanitation units in each of the local governments we work with as models that can be copied by other local governments. I think that is our major achievement. We very much believe that the local government is the key unit of intervention. If every local government can establish a unit like this we are surely on the way to meeting the MDGs and providing water and sanitation to all the people in Nigeria.

We are trying to advocate for other agencies to follow this model for supporting local governments to provide services to the communities. Other external agencies should not try to do it themselves. They should be supporting government to do it. That is the way it is enshrined in the national policy and that is the only effective and sustainable way of achieving the MDG for water and sanitation.

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▶ Members of WASH core-group in Nigeria, a subgroup of the National Sanitation Task Group.

# Video-Conferencing for Improved Urban Water and Sanitation

By Ifeoma Charles-Monwuba

The World Bank and WaterAid facilitated a five series video conference on urban water and sanitation sector reform. Participants were drawn from government, utilities, private sector, CSO, International financing Institutions and academic institutions in eight countries. The countries were: Bangladesh, Uganda, Ghana, Nigeria, Pakistan, Tunisia, Netherlands, UK and USA. WaterAid Nigeria and Ghana. The discussion took the following format; presentations were made from Washington or UK, issues emanating were discussed followed by in-country specific discussions. Each session treated a slightly different theme. Summary of the sessions are as follows:

**Session 1 - Service Provider Reforms:** This session focused on service providers (both public and private) and the reforms necessary to improve their performance. The theme highlighted the characteristics of well functioning water utilities as a basis for reform. The characteristics include autonomy, accountability, customer orientation and market orientation. The session

also reviewed the recent trends in private sector participation and their implications; key ingredients of successful performance, turnaround of a public water utility; and the role of small-scale independent service providers and how best to integrate them in the supply chain.

**Session 2 Government's Role in Urban Water Supply and Sanitation Reform:** This session focused on the changing roles of central and local governments within the context of decentralized service delivery. In particular, discussions centred on the following issues: separation of functions (policy making, regulation, ownership, service provision) and what it means for governments; tools and approaches for governments to drive reforms and fulfil their policy making, regulation, ownership and oversight functions; and the ways in which central governments can maximize the chances of success, particularly in fostering good governance among their agencies and local government units. It was concluded that utilities need to diversify their

funding base to decrease government interference in their operations.

**Session 3 - Consumer Voice and Social Accountability:** It focused on the demand-side of reforms - the consumers. Discussions drew from WaterAid experiences in Uganda, Ghana and countries where WaterAid is studying CSO engagement in reform. There was a general call at the end of this session for international financial institutions to institute CSO involvement in the reform process as a condition for granting loans as a way to force government and utilities to create the space for CSO involvement.

**Session 4 - The Reform Process:** This session pulled together all the previous discussions and focused on the question of how to approach reform in the urban WSS sector, including the issue of mainstreaming pro-poor strategies within sector reforms.

**Session 5 -** This session was a recap of all the previous sessions with in-country discussions on how to step down the learning to wider stakeholders.

The video conference sessions were followed by e-discussions. Resource materials were posted on the e-discussion sites.

# WaterAid

is supported in Nigeria by



# Progress on Community Led Total Sanitation (CLTS) in Nigeria

By Bankole Ebisemiju

Since establishing a programme in Nigeria in 1995, WaterAid Nigeria and partners have tried several approaches to sanitation including subsidies, promotion through sanitisation centres, as well as in some communities making the construction of latrines a pre-condition for gaining access to water supply. However, to date WaterAid Nigeria (WANG) and partners have faced many challenges in terms of achieving sustainable changes in the behaviour of local communities, or even the sustained use of latrines after the withdrawal of project support. But the story is changing with the successful implementation of the Community Led Total Sanitation (CLTS) in some selected communities where WaterAid works in Nigeria.

## What is CLTS?

CLTS is an approach which facilitates a process of empowering local communities to stop open defecation and to build and use latrines without the support of any hardware subsidy. Through participatory approaches, community members analyse their own sanitation profile including the extent of open defecation and the spread of faecal-oral contamination that detrimentally affects every one of them. The CLTS approach aims to create a sense of 'disgust' and 'shame' amongst community members as they collectively realize the impact of their behaviours. It is this realization that then mobilises them into initiating collective local action to improve their sanitation situation within their community.

## Implementation

The impact assessment of the WaterAid Nigeria Oju project (2003) showed that the project was not sustainable once the subsidies for latrine construction were removed. The outcomes of the impact assessment led WaterAid to seek a more sustainable sanitation project model. In October 2004, WaterAid sent two staff members and a sanitation promotion volunteer to Bangladesh to understudy the CLTS project being implemented there with a view of replicating it here in Nigeria. On return, a decision was taken to pilot the CLTS in two communities in Logo and Vandeikya, Benue State. Inception training was conducted for the Water and Sanitation Units (WASU) officials in the two Local Government

Areas (LGAs). This was followed by a community training in the selected communities, in June 2005. The pilot projects have been facilitated by the Water and Sanitation Units (WASU) at the local government levels with support from WaterAid.

In February 2006, the West Africa learning team organised 'learning reflection days' in Nigeria which brought together 30 participants including WaterAid colleagues, partner staff (both local government and NGOs) and key stakeholders from West Africa in order



to reflect and learn from the pilot experience in Nigeria. The reflection days provided the forum for a peer review and critique, or rapid evaluation of WaterAid Nigeria's (WANG) pilot phase which will feed into the next steps for WANG.

After the reflection, WaterAid Nigeria evaluated the pilot project in November 2006. From the outcome of the evaluation, it was decided that CLTS should be scaled-up to more communities in Benue state and three other states under the UNICEF PCA. So far, the second pilot of the CLTS is being implemented in 25 communities in Benue state; three communities in Ekiti state; six communities in Jigawa state and three communities in Enugu state.

## Evaluation

Recently the second pilot of the CLTS project was evaluated in some project communities in Benue and Jigawa states with the following results:

- No open defecation in compound
- General health improvements

- Reduced incidence of diarrhoea and vomiting
- Reduced incidence of skin infections especially amongst children
- Reduced body stench easier to be next to each other
- Clean and tidy environment
- Girls' and women's dignity has increased
- Less snake bites, Less flies
- Improved water supply no more fighting near water point
- Community members feel empowered
- Community members feel it is their own programme
- "We can roll out the mat anywhere and lie down and be happy"
- "Neighbouring communities want to be like us"

## Findings:

- There is an overall common willingness to change from open defecation to the adoption of safe disposal of excreta methods such as 'dig-and-bury' and latrine construction in all communities
- Very high level of community involvement in CLTS approach in the majority of communities
- In situations where women and children were involved in the CLTS facilitation they were key motivators
- Some communities have taken over the ownership of the process to the extent that they have established enforcement rules and sanctions for non-compliance
- Communities using innovative methods to secure funds to purchase construction materials e.g. rotational savings
- One community plans to organise cooperative action to aid latrine construction for elderly, widows etc

# Demystify the myth of CLTS: The case of Ubegba Community in Okpokwu LGA of Benue State, Nigeria

By Olatubosun Abass, Mimi Ishan and Ogwuche Rogers



Elizabeth Adah washing her hands with water and ash after using her latrine.

## Background

WaterAid Nigeria and its partner, Okpokwu Local Government WES unit piloted the Community Led Total Sanitation in Ubegba community of Okpokwu LGA of Benue State. Two hundred people were targeted. The culture of the community forbids women from using the same toilet with their husband. Even when there are four latrines in the community, they are exclusively for the use of men. Women defecate in the bush.

## Ubegba Community at inception

Baseline studies conducted in the community show that there are 25 houses owned by poor peasant farmers. Only four traditional latrines without hand washing facilities were observed used by the men while the women defecate in the bush. One seasonal hand dug well serves the entire community.

Starting with hygiene promotion, the Ubegba community is focusing on four areas with high impact of meeting the Millennium Development Goals for the

next two years. These are: safe excreta disposal through the construction of household latrines, hand washing before eating and after defecation, safe child stool management and safe water handling and storage.

## Progress recorded so far in Ubegba community

The support provided from January to May 2007 included hygiene education, campaign against open defecation, the effect of open defecation and indiscriminate disposal of human faeces, establishment of a sani-centre and training on latrine construction. The community started a micro-credit group to enable them to meet the objective of all houses having latrines. The entire community now has their own latrine and hand washing facility. They have recorded 100% coverage of a sanitized environment from May 2007 starting from a 0% in January 2007 with even more latrines planned for construction particularly for the use of women. According to them, the cases of diarrhea has reduced to one sixth of the pre-intervention level,

signposting increased impact of safe sanitation, improved health and enhanced savings from previous expenditure of treating diarrhea at the closest health post which is about one hour drive from the community.

In the words of Mrs. Elizabeth Ikpebe (30): *"I did not know how good it is to use a latrine before now, we used to defecate in the bush, the surrounding smells with flies everywhere and our children were always sick with stomach problems. When we had one latrine in our house I can not use it because our culture prevented me from using the same latrine with my husband but now that I have my own latrine I feel happy and honoured to use it at any time of the day and wash my hands with ash and water. Our environment is now clean and I spend less money on treating my children of stomach problems. All women in the community have met to appeal to our husbands to build our own latrines for us. The men agreed to that and will do it."*

In the area of community participation, the community have appointed people into a committee on sanitation and hygiene as well as agreeing on how to meet regularly on how to achieve objectives set after the initial meetings. They agreed to support old men and women who could not procure latrine construction materials and also to dig latrine pits. Households agreed to support one another in clusters so that all the houses in the community own and use latrine. A sani-centre, where essential sanitation materials are being procured for the construction of latrines, was also established in the community.

Elizabeth is a proud owner of a Ventilated Improved Latrine (VIP) she said.... *"the issue of not using latrines with my husband will not come up again since I have my own. It has saved my time and prevented me from going to the bush and hiding under tree"*.

## Conclusion

It is important to note that when this project started nobody thought that the major impact would be to abolish the myth that prevents women from using latrines. Ubegba women are now happy that they also have the benefit of using latrines and promised that all women in the community will have their own latrine.

# Photorama



Daniel Plas of European Union and Jonathan Burton of WaterAid Nigeria offers a congratulatory handshakes to Engr. Kamilu Abubakar, Managing Director, Small Town Water Supply and Sanitation Agency, Jigawa State at the signing ceremony of the ACP-EU Water Facility Actions In Nigeria contract



WaterAid Team led by Jonathan Burton, Country Representative in a group photograph after a courtesy visit to Mr. John Ugbede, Commissioner for Water Resources, Benue state recently.



A consumer making a point during the town hall meeting of the Citizens' Action project for Naka Small Town, Gwer West LGA, Banue State recently.



Mrs. Deborah Kogi of Women In Nigeria Bauchi Chapter collecting documents of the vehicle donated to the organisation



Governor Sule Lamido of Jigawa state being presented with some publications by Mrs. Ada Oko-Williams, Zonal Coordinator, WaterAid Nigeria Zone 1 during a courtesy visit recently.



Participants at the Citizens' Action training for State Programme Officers and NGO partners in Otukpo, Benue state recently.



A transect walk session during Total Sanitation (CLTS) project in Gwaransok, Plateau State.



Local Development Plan training for field surveyor in Tafawa Balewa LGA of Bauchi State recently



WaterAid Nigeria exhibition stand at the National Conference of Community Development held recently



Desmond Elliot, popular actor in a group photograph with school children during his hygiene promotion campaign for WaterAid recently



Community Scorecard display at the Citizens' Action Interface Meeting in Langtang North LGA, Plateau State recently.



A water point in Nkanu East LGA in Enugu state

# CLTS : The Story of Dhuhuwa

By Ismaila Hudu

*"I am physically challenged. It was not easy for me to go far into the field every morning, so I had to wake up very early. So many things have now changed in this community. There used to be faeces all round houses. Not now. This is the best thing that happened to us and it is our own project".*

**D**huhuwa is one of several agricultural and herder communities in Gumel LGA of Jigawa. The land is primarily desert and farming is possible only during four months of the year in which occasional rain showers are expected. During this period the community has to grow and store all the food we and our livestock need for the whole year.

Dhuhuwa's population is 1398 and we live in 128 households (each household contains a group of houses). The project started about seven months ago when Lawan from the LGA WASH Unit came to the community and informed us of the project. The community had a dormant Community Development Association (CDA). The Water and Sanitation Committee (WASCOM) that Lawan required us to establish was drawn from the members of the CDA. It was clear that WASCOM would be a voluntary body. Volunteer Hygiene Promoters were also selected.

On the first day Lawan Mohammed and the other members of the WASH Unit

took us on a walk around our community. We could not walk from here to there without stepping on our own faeces. There was rampant defecation everywhere. We thought "if someone else from outside comes and show us this, why not we do it ourselves". We like our visitors to come and see what a beautiful community we have now (not what it was like at that time). We were embarrassed that we were shown all the faeces. Previously there was no dish washing. Lawan and his team explained to us the benefits of hygiene and sanitation and how open defecation made our children ill.

The WASH Unit trained the WASCOM members. One of us was trained to make latrine platforms. Four people were supported to build latrines with demonstration slabs. We chose

households that cannot afford. We meet regularly to decide on what needs to be done. WASCOM members take care of water points. We have two and both are in good condition, protected from animals. With the Sani-Centre here in the community it is very easy.

When the project was started we did not have any latrines, not even a traditional latrine. Look at us now. We have 128 latrines, one for each household. You will not see any open defecation now. Children use potties. Even the farmers, who go out to the field, dig and bury if they have to use the field.

Lawan and his team visit us regularly (once every two weeks). Our environment is now clean. We buried the wastewater pond. We wash our plates and hands. So much has changed. Skin rash has reduced, we have less mosquitoes now, cough and diarrhoea has reduced. We feel happy.



Ismaila Hudu

## European Union and WaterAid launch Water Facility Development in Nigeria

**T**he European Union is providing the sum of Euro 2,925,000 to support the provision of clean water and sanitation for the inhabitants of 12 small towns in Jigawa and Enugu states through WaterAid, an international non-governmental organisation. WaterAid will add a further Euro 958,000, bringing the total project budget to Euro 3.9 million (about 686 Million Naira). The contract was signed on Thursday 20 September 2007 in Abuja.

The overall objective of the project titled: Closing the Gap: Improving Water Supply and Sanitation Provision for Small Towns in Nigeria is to contribute to the achievement of the

Millennium Development Goal targets for water and sanitation in 12 small towns in six Local Government Areas in Enugu and Jigawa States. The project being implemented through WaterAid will address the water and sanitation needs of these communities through the construction of water and sanitation facilities, leading to improved standards of health and environmental cleanliness. WaterAid's local partners for the action will be the six Local Government Authorities (LGAs) and the two State Water Agencies responsible for water and sanitation in small towns and the Civil Society Organisation. The action will build the capacity of the State Water Agencies to respond to and cooperate with the strengthened civil society that

the action will also facilitate.

The Project Partners are Udenu LGA, Igbo-Etiti LGA, Nkanu East LGA, Enugu State Ministry of Public Utilities (now Ministry of Water Resources) in Enugu State; Sule Tankarkar LGA, Gumel LGA, Maigatari LGA and Jigawa State Small Towns Water Agency-Jigawa State

The Project Target Groups will include the inhabitants of 12 small towns with an estimated population of 410,000, of which, some 30,000 are vulnerable people. 120 members of the Water Consumer Association (WCAs) in the 12 small towns; 120 hygiene volunteers; 120 water and sanitation mechanics and artisans and six Local Non Governmental Organisations.

# State Governments Embrace the Local Development Plan (LDP) Process

By Bankole Ebisemiju

The state governments of Plateau, Jigawa, and Benue States have embraced the Local Development Plan (LDP) process. The LDP process involves development of local plans for water and sanitation where key local authorities and personnel come together to formulate a long-term work plan, including projects, objectives, targets, outputs, budget as well as resources mobilisation and monitoring plans.

After the completion and presentation of LDP process in these states the Governors declared their support and requested that it be replicated in the remaining local government areas of the states. For instance, the government of Plateau State made funds available for the conduct of LDP process in other local government areas of the state; the Jigawa Governor Alhaji Sule Lamido requested WaterAid Nigeria (WANG) to work with the State Rural Water Supply and Sanitation Agency to draw up a plan of action for LDP process to be carried out in all the local government areas of the State. The plan will be presented to the State Executive Council in October 2007 for approval. In Benue State the Governor, Gabriel Suswan pledged his full commitment to WANG on counterpart funding and requested all sectors to develop their plans in accordance to the MDGs.

So far WaterAid Nigeria has supported 25 LGAs in its six focal states (Benue, Bauchi, Plateau, Ekiti, Enugu and Jigawa) to develop their LDPs. Taking the process forward recently the Benue and Ekiti State offices organised the dissemination of the outcome of the LDP to key stakeholders. The objective of the dissemination was to enlighten and sensitize stakeholders, sector actors, as well as the general public about the process, progress and prospects of the Localising the MDG Initiative in Nigeria.

The LMDGI aims to provide local authorities with the capacities and means of leading the processes of expected change in terms of access to drinking water and sanitation.

## Benue State:

The event had the Executive Governor Gabriel Suswan in attendance along with key members of his cabinet. Chairmen and traditional rulers from the ten local government councils where WaterAid works also graced the occasion. The Governor in his speech promised that the state will always pay its counterpart funds on water and sanitation as and when due. He stated that Benue state stakeholders will endeavour to always provide an enabling environment to enable WaterAid carry on with its good work.

The immediate outcome of the event was the setting up of a Water Investment Mobilisation and Application Guidelines (WIMAG) Committee by the state government to work on sector investment plan for the state.

## Ekiti State

The event witnessed participation by representatives of Secretary to the State Government, Head of Service, representatives of LGAs Chairmen of Ikole, Ilejemeje and Ekiti South West, State Planning Commission, Ministry of Water Resources and other key stakeholders.

In his opening remarks, the representative of Head of Service, Engr. G.A.M. Olowofila, highlighted the poor accessibility of the rural people in the state to safe water supply and effective sanitation. He stressed the impor-

tance of the development of the investment plans in the water and sanitation sector as done by Ikole, Ilejemeje and Ekiti South West LGAs. These investment plans according to him should serve as a challenge to the LGC authorities in their yearly budgetary activities to boost production of water, sanitation and hygiene in their LGAs. He therefore called on the donor agencies to assist the LGAs in financing the investment plan towards the actualization of MDGs in the state.

## Highlights of Recommendations

- The current drive in the creation of WASH Departments in the LGA structure should be implemented with vigour and urgency.
- Trained WASH staff should not be transferred from their LGAs. But if necessary, they should be transferred to LGAs where there are WASH Units/Departments, to avoid loss of human resources to the sector.
- The LGA will dedicate a minimum of N500, 000:00 (five hundred thousand naira) monthly to the implementation of WASH projects as a starting point and demonstration of commitment. A bye law should be passed to achieve this.
- It is recommended that attention should be paid to sanitation aspect of WASH. Consequently, sanitation issues should be managed in a sustainable way most especially through the Community Led Total Sanitation (CLTS) methodology. LGA WASH Departments should partner with NGO and CBOs to achieve this.



▲ Governor Gabriel Suswan of Benue State (left) and Mr. John Ogbede the State Commissioner for Water Resources (middle) and Olatubosun Abbas Zonal coordinator, WaterAid Zone 2, at the LDP dissemination workshop in Makurdi recently

# WaterAid Scaling up Citizens' Action project in Nigeria

In continuation of its citizens' engagement with service providers in water and sanitation, WaterAid through its NGO and CBO partners, OSA Foundation and BOLDA implemented the Citizens' Action project in Naka, Gwer West LGA of Benue state and Langtang North LGA of Plateau State recently.

Citizen Action Project (CAP) is developed to empower communities to engage in constructive dialogue and

Gwer West Local Government secretariat in May 2007. The meeting was attended by representatives of the Benue State Planning Commission, Local Government Service Commission, Ministry of Water Resources, Small Town Unit, Water Board, Water Consumers Association and the media. The event witnessed a healthy discussion of the following issues:

## Water Supply:

- It is limited and not evenly distrib-

facilitated by DBOLDA, a CBO operating within the LGA. Community selection, first and foremost was tailored towards representation of the four Districts: Bwarat, Gazum, Kuffen and Gani in Langtang North LGA and secondly the centralization of the communities to serve as a nerve centre for other communities in terms of social facilities, particularly water supply. On the basis of the criteria, DBOLDA and Langtang North LGA Water and Sanitation Unit (WASU) selected four communities for the Pilot project as follows: Kensong (Bwarat), Gazum (Gazum), Zakbai (Gani) and Batkilang (Kuffen).

Through Focus Group Discussion key problems of the communities as they relate to water supply and sanitation, especially quality of services in terms of availability, accessibility, volume, time, odour, taste, colour and technology were identified at the community level while the local government scored itself on the services promised to the communities during the year. At the end of the scoring exercise an interface meeting of the four communities' representatives with the local government top officials was held and a committee was set up to develop an action plan for addressing the problems



▲ A scoring session during the Citizens' Action project in Ondo community of Okpokwu LGA in Benue State

negotiation with service providers and government by holding them to account for provision (or lack of it) of water and sanitation services. The purpose is to increase accountability and collaboration in water and sanitation.

## **Naka, Gwer West LGA Benue State**

The project is a pilot of the Citizens' Report Card methodology. Naka is a semi-urban area in Gwer West local government area. The project aimed at promoting constructive dialogues among the citizens of Naka and service delivery organizations (Water Board, Water and Sanitation Unit, Small Town Unit, Water Consumers Association) in understanding each others problems and prospects.

Osa Foundation, WaterAid's NGO partner implemented the project after an initial training on the processes. The NGO collected data through random sampling to generate responses from individuals on the water and sanitation situation within the town. The data collected were analysed and a report developed for discussion among the various stakeholders at a town hall meeting held at the

uted within the community. Water scarcity could promote infection in

and NGO partners from Benue, Ekiti, Jigawa and Enugu States.

# A DATE WITH THE GOVERNMENT: A working partnership for WASH

By Ada Oko-Williams

In recognition of its roles as an international non governmental organisation and development partner, WaterAid actively seeks opportunities to work with governments and to contribute to the development of the country, state and local government in all its areas of intervention. Working with government as an approach to our programme delivery is very clear in our strategy and our practice is to bring in our expertise and experience from other parts of the world to shape Water, Sanitation and Hygiene education programmes in our intervention areas.

With this background it is imperative that the governments of the states we support are made aware of our programmes in their domains. In July WaterAid deliberately created spaces for interaction with the new governments in two states of intervention; Plateau and Bauchi states. Below are results of the advocacy efforts:

## PLATEAU:

- The state government has released the sum of 17 million Naira to the Plateau State Water Board to effect changes at the Yakubu Gowon Water Treatment

Plant, consequently the water supply situation in Jos has improved and is better compared to April 2007 when most households in Jos reportedly depended solely on packed sachet water for domestic use posing a lot of hardship to the poor living in slum areas in the metropolis.

- The State government has also released 15 million naira to the Plateau State Rural Water Supply and Sanitation Agency to support the development of Local Development Plans for the remaining 13 LGAs in Plateau after WaterAid had supported the process in four LGA out of the 17 LGAs in Plateau State.
- The Speaker of the Plateau State House of Assembly, Honourable Emmanuel Goar has invited WaterAid to make a presentation to members of the House of Assembly on resumption from their recess in October 2007. The Speaker who spoke during the launch of Phase Two of the UN-Habitat Water for African Cities programme in Jos said the invitation was necessitated by the good work the organisation has been carrying out in the state in the last seven years. He commended

WaterAid and Partners on the work they have been doing in Plateau State and reiterated the governments resolve to make good all its promises and to respond to all of its responsibilities to the people of the state.

## BAUCHI

Altai Garba Mohammed Gardi, Deputy Governor Bauchi State has commended the volume and quality of WaterAid activities in the state. The Deputy Governor who spoke at the inauguration of the State Steering Committee on Water and Sanitation pledged the state government's support to WaterAid with regards to the completion of the Dass Urban Project and Kafi Madaki urban Project both of which the state government had promised to contribute 20 million and 5 million naira respectively.

He directed that new memos be raised on the issues from the Water Board through the Ministry of Water Resources to the State Government for processing. The Deputy Governor assured that he will personally act on it with Governor Isa Yuguda and see that the funds are released for the projects to be completed.

The Governor, Alhaji Yuguda in September 2007 approved the release of the counterpart funding for the two projects.

## Promoting Hygiene Education in Ladin Kani



Bilki Ibrahim

**B**ilki Ibrahim, (35) mother of four is the female hygiene promoter in Ladin Kani, Gumel Local Government Area of Jigawa State. The community is one of three best practice projects in Jigawa state run jointly by WaterAid and the local government WASH unit. The project is funded by UNICEF with money from the UK Department for International Development (DfID). With a population of 4,300 people, the community has been served with clean water for 15 years. WaterAid is working with the local Water Environment and Sanitation (WES)

unit to improve sanitary conditions and hygiene education. The project work started in March 2005. Ladin Kani is a Muslim community which means that male and female hygiene sessions are conducted separately. There are two hygiene promoters in the community, one male, and one female. Bilki is the female hygiene promoters in the community. Here she speaks on her experience:

"My job is to talk to the women and teach them how to wash clothes and eating bowls and their hands and faces and their children's hands and faces. I talk to them and show them how to keep their environment clean and how to bath their babies and themselves. I teach them the importance of washing hands always after defecating and before eating and also their children's hands. I tell them how important personal hygiene is."

"Women in the village cannot have meetings, so I go from house to house and I also talk to them in groups at weddings and naming ceremonies. These are the only times all the women are together so I take advantage of this. I enjoy taking part in the

programme because I can see the benefits and this makes me proud. The children are healthier now."

"My children used to be sick all the time, they used to get the fever and are always vomiting. I would have to take them to the hospital many kilometres away. The medicine cost 600 naira and we could not afford it, so we had to borrow money. It would take three months to pay back and then we had to borrow more. We were always in debt."

"We used to use just water for our hands. Now we know to use soap, too. We buy it in the village. It costs 20 to 40 naira. At first a few women said this was an extra expense they could not afford, but of course now they see it is so much cheaper than buying medicine all the time. And they are happy that their children are healthier. I am happy about this, too."

"I do make a little money for doing this job. Most of it goes to the family, but this is the first time I have ever had any money all my own, so it has allowed me to buy a few new pieces of clothing and that also makes me happy."

# END WATER POVERTY



## The End Water Poverty Campaign

**W**aterAid and partners across the globe launched the End Water Poverty campaign on 22 March as part of the World Water Day celebration. The multi-year campaign addresses several issues out of which **more and better financing for water and sanitation**, the theme of the launch on World Water Day was one. WaterAid organised several high profile activities in Benue, Plateau, Enugu and Ekiti states to draw attention of governments to the imperatives of more and better financing for the sector.

The call to action of the campaign is for government to continue to improve fiscal responsibility for managing resources from the 2005 debt deal so that the 20% of the Debt Relief gains which have been allocated to water and sanitation at the national level results in increased access to services for the poorest. That State governments should give local governments' access to all funds allocated to them from the federation account so that the

latter can properly finance water and sanitation responsibilities and set up water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) departments. And that Federal and state governments should facilitate realistic strategies for meeting the expanding urban water and sanitation target. Below are reports from the various states:

### **Bankole Ebisemiju, reporting from Makurdi, Benue State**

The End Water Poverty campaign launch was preceded by a live radio programme on Radio Benue on March 18. The State Commissioner for Water Resources along with representatives of WaterAid and Benue State Network of NGOs (BENGONET) fielded questions from the general public on the status of water and sanitation in the state.

A promotional jingle was also produced for the debate and aired on Radio Benue a week to the event. The objective of the jingle is to heighten interest in the debate.

Activities on the launch date commenced with a walk along a designated route in the state capital. The walk witnessed a good turn out of civil society organizations, youth, women, civil servants, teachers, cleric and the media. The walk took the crowd from Wurukum roundabout to Aminu Isah Kontagora Centre where a public debate with governorship candidates of various political parties in the state discussed water and sanitation, their understanding of the issues and how they plan to address them when they come into office. The debate featured presentations by Mrs. Patricia Aondakaa of the Nigeria Democratic Party (NDP), Major-General John Gbor of the Democratic Peoples Party (DPP) and Gabriel Suswan of the Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) represented by Samuel Daka. Other governorship candidates represented at the debate included the Alliance for Democracy (AD) and the Action Congress (AC). They candidates were engaged in useful discussions on their plans for water



▲ Benue State Gubernatorial candidate at the debate





▲ Popular Actor, Desmond Elliot and others during the walk in Jos, Plateau State.

and sanitation if they are elected into office.

The Benue State Office of WaterAid used the opportunity of the launch to present working materials like computers and motorcycles to LGA and NGO partners.

**Ada Oko-Williams, reporting from Jos, Plateau State**

We had a very successful outing in Jos. We planned to have a Walk for Water and an evening affair where we intended to make presentations of photographs of very dire water situations from the areas where we work as well as an investiture of water ambassadors in Plateau State.

The walk held from about 8:30am, the Commissioner for Water Resources and Rural Development in Plateau and his team; the Chairman of State House of Assembly Committee Chairman on Water Resources, and other house members; other commissioners in the state, representative of the Secretary to the State Government, the state utilities and agencies, the UNHabitat team, our partners in Plateau and Bauchi states and other CSO allies and the press were in attendance. They walked from the old Airport Junction to the Government house.

We also had in attendance DESMOND ELLIOTT and JEREMIAH GYANG, two Nigerian artistes who joined in the walk to the Government House. We were received by the Deputy Governor of Plateau State, Chief Jethro Akun. We made presentations on the End Water Poverty campaign and the call for more and better funding for WASH. The

government was also very happy that we were enlisting the support of all as represented by the engagement with the entertainment industry in Nigeria. He also remarked that we should have also taken this campaign to the local government level and pledged that within the short time the administration had they will do all to meet the counterpart funds required. He thanked WaterAid for all of the support to the state government so far.

After the walk, the Commissioner for Water Resources and Rural Development addressed the press on efforts of the state government in providing water and sanitation services to the people.

We rounded up the event with a gala night where Desmond Elliot made a committal speech of engaging in the water and sanitation sector in Nigeria to create awareness on the huge need that exists in the sector as well as mobilise resources to support the work of our partners in this regard. This is particularly a key achievement for the zone in the area of fundraising. The plan is to support our partners in Plateau and Bauchi to diversify and broaden their funding base.

As a follow-up to the End Water Poverty launch, Elliot had a meeting with our NGO partners from Bauchi and Plateau state. The partners presented their works to him and he shared his thoughts on what programmes they can begin to do together so as to achieve funding for communities within the two states.

**John Ochi, reporting from Ikole Ekiti, Ekiti State**

Our plan in Ekiti was to do the campaign in a Local Government Area and prepare the Chairmanship aspirants for better interaction and good relationship before they assume office. It was intended that whoever wins the election in Ikole Ekiti LGA will have a better understanding of the challenges in the sector and the need to put more resources into the activities of the WES unit. It was also an avenue for introducing WaterAid and making our advocacy easier when he/she assumes office.

On the World Water Day, we recorded a fairly large turnout of participants cutting across the state Ministry of Health, UNICEF, politicians and several party members, NYSC members, local government functionaries and students from one of the secondary schools in Ikole Ekiti.

Activities of the day included a march around the town, presentations by various stakeholders, debate by students, reading of addresses by youth corpers and a film show.

**Clement Chigbo, reporting from Enugu, Enugu State**

The End Water Poverty campaign was launched at an event where all key stakeholders in the water and sanitation sector were in attendance. The Executive Governor, Dr. Chimaroke Nnamani was represented by the Commissioner for Public Utilities, Mr. Hillary Chinede Onu. In his speech, the Governor commended WaterAid for the giant stride it has made in water supply, sanitation and hygiene in the country in general and Enugu State in particular. He added that the state government is being supported by DFID to produce a State Water Policy and particularly acknowledged the role being played by WaterAid in the process.

Participants at the event which witnessed handing over of 16 motor bikes, four computers and accessories, three digital cameras to LGA and NGO partners in the state through the support of UNICEF called on government at all levels especially in the Local Government Councils to prioritize Water and Sanitation by making funds available for effective and efficient service delivery. They passionately called on members of the media, Civil Society Organizations and Consumers to join WaterAid in the vanguard to End Water Poverty in Nigeria.



## Sanitation An international campaign

- ◆ Mobilise public support
- ◆ Coordinate actions on specific issues at specific times
- ◆ Create a broad-based civil society movement

### A programme of action - international

- ◆ Governments and donors must immediately

revise the decline in spending on the water and sanitation sector. They must prioritise these fundamental services in an internationally recognised global action plan.

- ◆ A global action plan and task force
- ◆ 70% of aid to be targeted at the lowest-income countries
- ◆ Water resources to be protected, managed effectively and shared equitably

### Programme of action - national

Within developing countries, national governments working with domestic stakeholders should own the policy design, implementation and monitoring process for all improvements to sanitation and water services. The donor community must support the building of country-led reform and coordination efforts.

National frameworks to plan, coordinate and monitor the delivery of services

A government led extraordinary effort on sanitation

Donor technical assistance to build and strengthen policy communities in-country



**National Call: One plan, One budget, One body**  
**Launch date: Monday November 19, 2007**  
**Watch Out!!**