

Lessons from Nigeria: WASH in peri-urban schools

Babatunmbalobi
Breast Life Dev. Foundation,
Lagos, Nigeria
blfnigeria@yahoo.com

- *Bread of Life* between 2003-2007 implemented a WASH campaign in selected schools in Lagos State, Nigeria involving teaching school pupils basic hygiene and sanitation practices particularly handwashing with Soap



Strategy

- WASH clubs comprising schools of ages 6-12 formed in the schools. Average membership is 25 students.
- Delivery of WASH information to WASH club members through classroom lectures and CDs
- Schools management encouraged to construct gender sensitive toilets, and allocate sanitary duties to both genders.



Model Sanitation facility

- \$1000 grant from Japan Water Fund in 2006 used to construct a model toilet in a rural school in peri urban Lagos- a Pour Flush toilet fitted with water harvesting facility; and produce WASH IEC materials
- School management provided counterpart funding of about \$300 used to purchase detergents and disinfectants.



Scale Up

- Train the Trainers Workshop organised for two Teachers in 20 other schools.



Findings

- Most public and private schools in Lagos State, Nigeria lack sanitation facilities.
- Teachers and Students defecate in nearby bush, and incidents of snake bites are common.
- Absence of official policy for mandatory construction of sanitation facilities in Schools.
- A pour flush toilet could be constructed with about \$1000.



Findings

- The model gender sensitive pour flush toilet constructed is under utilized because of absence of water supply.
- VIP toilets a better option because of lack of water supply in most schools.
- Most Schools management lack knowledge of WASH
- School management willing to finance construction of sanitation facilities if encouraged b government.
- WASH campaign yet to be launched on a large scale by government agencies



Recommendations

- Civil Society groups need to conduct advocacy for launch of WASH at national, state and local levels by government agencies.
- Provision of sanitation facilities should be a condition for the registration and approval of Private primary schools.
- Schools management and Parent Teachers Association should be mobilized to part finance construction of sanitation facilities.
- WASH curriculum should be produced in hard copy and CDs format and distributed to schools freely.



Thank you

