

Monthly Update from Ghana

November 2009

Gozakope constructs its first latrines in over 100 years

Residents of Gozakope, a rural community in the Dangme West District, have constructed household latrines for the first time in over a century. This happened through the introduction of the Community Led Total Sanitation (CLTS) by Pronet Accra, a WaterAid Ghana NGO partner.

According to the Headman of Gozakope, Togbui John Goza, his great grand fathers settle in the community in 1914, to engage in farming and until late last year when ProNet Accra, introduced them to CLTS, nobody has ever owned a latrine in the community, the community members therefore defecated in the open.

Upon entry, ProNet officials took the community through pre-triggering (getting to know the community), triggering (mapping defecation routes) and the walk of shame (leading the community members to the defecation site and holding discussions at the scene). These created the awareness in the community on the unpleasant results of defecating in the open prompting them to take action

Togbui Goza said “when we drew the defecation map of Gozakope, and we were embarrassed. We didn’t know how awful the situation was. You can see from the map that very household was defecating in the open .So we decided to stop the open defecation and build our own latrines”.



Residents of Gozakope showing their defecation map

The construction of the latrines was undertaken by the community members themselves, using locally available materials such as clay and grass for roofing the latrines. Some community members estimated the cost of constructing the latrines between GH¢70 and GH¢100 (US\$ 49-70).

Togbui Goza happily announces, "every household is building their own latrine. In fact right now (October 2009), 18 out of the 39 households have constructed their latrines, mine is ready for use".



Residents with completed latrine including Chief Togbui Goza's newly constructed household latrine showing by hand
Goza (first from the right on the front row)



Owning a latrine means proximity/easy access and privacy, anytime nature calls"

Raymond Kotoka Losu, Chairman, Water and sanitation (WATSAN) Committee of Gozakope

The residents of Gozakope proudly showed off their completed latrines to members of the Ghana Watsan Journalist Network (GWJN), when they paid a working visit to the village recently to acquaint themselves with state of water, sanitation and hygiene issues.

For more information on CLTS in Gozakope please contact:

RoseDoe@wateraid.org