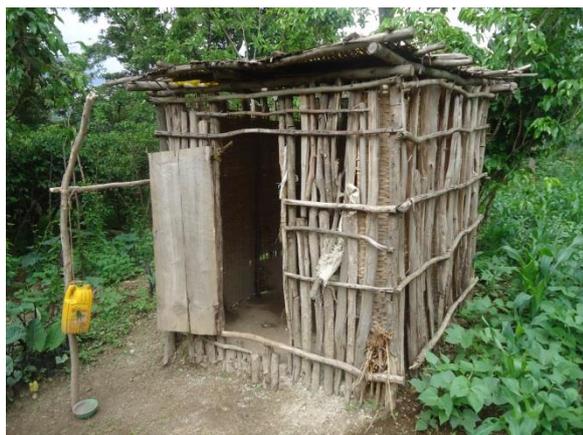


## CLTS links with MUS, VSLA and Nutrition: An Experience of Plan International Ethiopia

Improving sanitation and hygiene practices and expanding access to sustainable WASH facilities; and supporting the development of social and economic opportunities for women and other home-based health caregivers are among the PIE core areas of development.

Promotion of sanitation and hygiene, using CLTSH approaches, has been carried out in since 2007. Each area in the country has also acquired unique experiences because of the nature of the project, geographical and topographical differences, cultural & social norms, socio-economic status of the community, and etc. to share to others within and outside of the country.

The project “Water, the key to a better future”- WASH-FNS is an integrated project on water, sanitation and food security which is under implementation since October 2013. The planned objective is to reduce morbidity, mortality and malnutrition of children, caused by waterborne diseases and malnutrition in two districts (Bahir Dar Zuria & Dara) in Ethiopia.



**Toilet constructed by a VSL member in Teraj Changito Kebele**

To achieve this objective, the major activities of the project are Multiple Use Water Services, Sanitation & Hygiene promotion (through CLTS approach), Economic Empowerment (through VSL groups) and Nutrition.

The project is addressing multiple challenges of sanitation and hygiene including the reuse of nutrients from toilet wastes and recycling of water for agricultural production to improve nutritional status of the communities.

Income generating activities like growing vegetables, production of slabs and supply of hand washing facilities helped communities to improve more durable and high standard latrines. Plan supports VSL groups in providing skill training for income generating activities.

Besides, VSL group members can also take loan from the savings for construction and maintenance of latrines which in turn have the potential to have a real positive effect on rural communities climbing the sanitation ladder.

In the project, VSL groups are playing important roles in creating awareness on sanitation and hygiene. The Village Saving and Loan facilitators took standard training on CLTS. These facilitators work closely with School teachers, Health Extension Workers, Kebele Administrators, and Village Sanitation Committees.

The CLTS/VSL/WASH-FNS facilitators who are member of the VSL groups are organized to engage in slab production, and supply of hand washing facilities to the communities (though at early stage of establishment). Pilot shops for selling/ conducting Sanitation Marketing are under construction by the project.

What has been learned in the project so far is that using women development units (government structure of 1 to 30 female HHs) and VSL facilitators on CLTSH improves quality of triggering and verification. The local loans obtained from the VSL groups and selling of vegetables also enabled communities to build improved latrines.



**VSL members growing seeds by using compost in Ayer Tena Kebele**

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