Progress and Achievements on Sanitation and Hygiene promotion

Creating community facilitation skill, instilling sanitation and hygiene awareness in the minds of villagers and ascertaining community success are the three major steps/tasks that sanitation and hygiene promotion work demands.

What did PIE then do on sanitation and hygiene promotion for the last six months?

Through UNICEF, NLNO and USNO funded CLTS projects; PIE has been promoting sanitation and hygiene in four regions of the country.

The UNICEF funded CLTS project, the biggest in terms of coverage, has been implemented in 55 districts of four regions (Amhara, Oromia, SNNPR and Tigray Regions) in Ethiopia. In the last six months (July 2014- Dec.2014) alone, PIE through this project enabled 81 Kebeles to achieve open defecation free status. The status helped over 97,320 people (about 58,320 or 60% are children) access to sanitation and hygiene facilities directly.

Communal latrines, built in all 81 Kebeles serve to passengers who pass through these Kebeles. Thus, the number of beneficiaries would be more than the figure indicated above.

Many other Kebeles were verified and were ready for certification. These community achievements will increase the number of beneficiaries and health impacts of communities.

In order to sharpen/improve community facilitation skill of facilitators, CLTSH refresher training was given to 84 facilitators, 13 of them were females. The
Trainings combined both theoretical and field practices/community triggering.

Similarly monitoring and planning workshop was organized for 195 participants. As a result, district level sanitation and hygiene promotion action plan was developed for implementation.

Project Cooperation Agreement (PCA), which combined work plan, addendum, budget and long frame, was revised and consensus was reached between the parties (PIE and UNICEF). UNICEF and PIE joint visit to target districts of Amhara and Tigray regions was also another event that took place in the period stated.

What has been learned in the UNICEF funded CLTS project was that the contribution of Women Development Army (WDA) networks and students was very central to promote sanitation and hygiene,
mainly to enable communities to attain ODF level. Use of Kebele steering committee, schools, religious leaders, Woreda WaSH Team has also been found useful to mobilize communities.

The NLNO funded CLTS project is the second largest CLTS project of PIE. It covers 12 districts/210 Kebeles, from which 204 Kebeles achieved ODF status in the previous years. In the last six months, a review meeting in five districts, post triggering and post ODF follow ups in nine districts and verification in one district, were conducted.

Besides sanitation and hygiene promotion, PIE has been conducting sanitation research in order to scale up the business in the country. Testing CLTS Approaches for Scalability Project, funded by Bill and Melinda Gate Foundation, began in Oct.2011, has been devoted for this objective. What have been done, therefore, in the last six months, in this project?

Program Managers Meeting

Program Managers Meeting was a regional meeting comprised of Plan International Ethiopia, Ghana and Plan Kenya which promote similar sanitation research projects and have had the same donor. PIE organized the regional Program Managers Meeting, PMM, in Addis Ababa on August 25-27, 2014.

The objective of the meeting was to ensure one of the objectives of the research project: documentation of project lessons, challenges and achievements, for future sharing.

Thus, implementation lessons, challenges and achievements of the three research implementing countries were shared. Teachers and Health Extension workers, who facilitated communities in Plan Ethiopia, shared their experiences too. Documentation was carried out by USNO Team, who facilitated the workshop. Through the University of North Carolina, responsible for the research, the status of the research for the three implementing countries was presented for discussion.
Implementation narrative: A project implementation narrative was prepared and presented during the PMM for discussion. Based on the comments given during and after the meeting, the narrative has been further polished and it is going to be published as part of the project research report. The narrative comprises all major events/ project activity implementations, challenges, lessons, achievements, enabling factors and conclusion.

Project end line survey: The project end line survey was facilitated from September to October 2014 in 6 districts of the research project. PIE research project coordinators translated questionnaires to local languages (from English to Oromipha and Sidama), facilitated data collectors’ recruitment and training, monitored the process of data collection and conducted survey auditing for quality check.

Case story production: To reinforce documentation, a case story has been produced by a consultant, hired by USNO. PIE facilitated focus group discussions, interviews with local government officials and logistics.

Proposal development: based on the lessons, achievements and challenges gained from the research project, the research project coordinators produced a proposal on an integrated water, sanitation, hygiene and income improvement interventions, with the objective of addressing multiple challenges of sanitation and hygiene promotion. Moreover, an abstract was developed on the research project with the objective of developing it into proposal. Both the proposal and the abstract have been submitted to Head of Business and Communication in order to look for funding opportunities.

ODF sustainability: the case of Kecha Koshimo Kebele

Kecha Koshimo is one of the three Kebeles, where the sanitation research project of PIE has been implemented in Diksis District, Oromia PA. This was a control Kebele where community facilitation was carried out by HEWs. In the rest two Kebeles, control ones, teachers were responsible for community mobilization.

In Kecha Koshimo Kebele, the coordination between HEWs and Kebele administration was very strong. This helped the Kebele to declare ODF status in July 2013, one year ahead of other two Kebeles (June 2014).

ODF status is the first level of community achievement which is expected to lead to the improvement of latrines and hygiene issues. For further sanitation and hygiene improvement, ODF status sustainability is a must.
But the question is: Are ODF Kebeles sustaining their status?

In January 2015, Kecha Kochimo Kebele was monitored in order to check community progress. During the monitoring visit, it was observed that one out of five households, was slipping back-started to defecate in the open again due to either a latrine was full or collapsed; two out of five households had latrines that had no privacy; three out of five households had no hand washing facilities or two households had hand washing facilities out of five.

Though the observation was not thorough, systematic and did not have enough samples, we can confidently say that our ODF Kebeles are slipping back as they go away from ODF time. This implies that if communities are monitored after three or four years from ODF declaration time, perhaps all ODF Kebeles might go back to OD, which would be a disaster to the nation. Currently sustainability is a national issue.

Focus only on demand creation has been one of the challenges for ODF sustainability, where ODF declaration has been considered as an end goal. This misled sanitation actors from acting on other complementary interventions that promote sustainability: sanitation marketing, faecal sludge management, etc.

To prevent slippage, PIE, has been organizing post ODF review meetings, re-triggering and re-verification of ODF Kebeles, on other non-research CLTS projects. Post an ODF study was also conducted to know the status of ODF Kebeles. However, the magnitude of the problem requires the need to conduct more ODF sustainability studies and come up with sound solutions that can be applied by all sanitation actors. At this moment, it would be also important to emphasis on existing CLTS structures, located in each ODF community and District, to continue their roles.

What is up with water projects of PIE?

The Integrated Water, Sanitation and Food Security Project of PIE is a unique project that has been trying to address multiple community challenges through integrated interventions. What has been learned from the past separate water and sanitation projects is the need to integrate complementary interventions for maximum community benefit.

When sanitation is promoted alone, communities could not ensure sanitation without access to potable water and vice-versa; even with access to water and sanitation, villagers with low level of household income could not make use of water and sanitation opportunities fully.

The integrated project has been implemented in 40 Kebeles (33 rural and 7 urban) of Darra District, SNNPR Program Area. In the last six months, on spot springs, cattle troughs, washing basins and water points were constructed.

In three Kebees: Setamo, Home Agrie and Buna Tebaba, three on spot spring development with cattle trough and washing basin were constructed. Two water schemes with 25m3 capacities, on spot spring, and a washing basin were
similarly constructed in Buba Tebaba Kebele.

In the primary schools of Loya, Shishicho and Setamo, two six faceted water points and one VIP latrine were constructed. From the three primary schools located in Setamo Kebele, a total of 1,302 (733M and 569F) students benefited from potable water and VIP latrine. From the spot spring developments of Home Agree, Buna Tebaba and Setamo Kebeles, 234 households or a total of 1,392 (682M and 710F) people have got access to potable water.

During the construction of water schemes, communities, Kebele administration and WASHCOs have played important roles. Villagers contributed in kind: excavation works and transportation of sand from feeder roads to construction site.
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Buna Twaba cattle trough and washing basing

Setamo Kebele spring capping, children enjoying potable water

Buna Tewaba spring capping

Teferie Kela water point