Impact of CLTS in Reducing incidence of Cholera and Diarrhoea: the story of Nyando District in Kenya

CLTS (Community Led Total Sanitation) was first introduced in Kenya back in the year 2000 through two major hand-on training workshops held in Nairobi, organized by PLAN Kenya in collaboration with UNICEF and other agencies. It was in early 2002 when CLTS was first initiated in the Nyando District (Kakuma sub-county) of the Western Province of Kenya by the Ministry of Public Health and Sanitation (MoPHS). In 2002, CLTS coverage was around 65% in Kakuma sub-county of the Nyando District. Nyando District is located in the western part of Kenya, bordering Uganda and Rwanda. It is a mainly rural district, with about 80% of the population living in rural areas. The district has a population of about 560,000 people, with a population density of about 67 people per square kilometer. The district is divided into three sub-counties: Kakuma, Kitale, and Kakumere. The district is characterized by a tropical climate with a mean annual temperature of 26°C and mean annual rainfall of about 1,000 mm.

Nyando District was selected as one of the pilot districts for CLTS due to the high prevalence of diarrhoea and cholera. The district has a history of cholera outbreaks, with outbreaks reported in 1992, 1993, and 1994. The CLTS program was implemented in Kakuma sub-county, which is the largest sub-county in the district, with a population of about 280,000 people.

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