REPORT OF THE SECOND NATIONAL ROUNDTABLE CONFERENCE ON COMMUNITY LED TOTAL SANITATION IN NIGERIA

MONTY SUITES
CALABAR, CROSS RIVER STATE
NIGERIA
5TH TO 9TH OCTOBER, 2010
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<th>Abbreviation</th>
<th>Full Form</th>
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<tr>
<td>CBOs</td>
<td>Community Based Organizations</td>
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<td>CLTS</td>
<td>Community Led Total Sanitation</td>
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<td>CSOs</td>
<td>Civil Society Organizations</td>
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<tr>
<td>DFID</td>
<td>Department for International Development, United Kingdom</td>
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<td>FMWR</td>
<td>Federal Ministry of Water Resources</td>
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<td>FMEd</td>
<td>Federal Ministry of Education</td>
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<td>FMEnv</td>
<td>Federal Ministry of Environment</td>
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<td>EHO</td>
<td>Environmental Health Officer</td>
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<td>LGA</td>
<td>Local Government Area</td>
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<td>MDG</td>
<td>Millennium Development Goals</td>
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<td>NGOs</td>
<td>Non-Governmental Organizations</td>
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<td>NTGS</td>
<td>National Task Group on Sanitation</td>
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<td>NYSC</td>
<td>National Youth Service Corps</td>
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<td>NWRI</td>
<td>National Water Resources Institute</td>
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<td>OD</td>
<td>Open Defecation</td>
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<td>ODF</td>
<td>Open Defecation Free</td>
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<tr>
<td>RUWASSA /RUWASA</td>
<td>Rural Water Supply and Sanitation Agency</td>
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<tr>
<td>TOT</td>
<td>Training of Trainers</td>
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<td>UNICEF</td>
<td>United Nations Children’s Fund</td>
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<td>VHPs</td>
<td>Voluntary Hygiene Promoters</td>
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<td>WASH</td>
<td>Water, Sanitation and Hygiene</td>
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1.0 Background

The Community Led Total Sanitation (CLTS) is presently being implemented in 2,654 communities of 30 states and over 425 communities have attained open defecation free status in the country. There have been a steady progress in CLTS implementation in the country since its introduction and more states are making frantic efforts at mobilizing the required financial and human resources for scaling up the approach. However, seven states in the country have not effectively commenced implementation of CLTS while the progress in some of the states implementing CLTS is not encouraging. Generally, CLTS has been accepted by governments at national and sub-national levels as an appropriate and effective approach for scaling up sanitation in the country.

The National Task Group on Sanitation (NTGS) with support from UNICEF, WaterAid and other stakeholders have been providing the required leadership in scaling up of CLTS in the country through capacity development to enhance the skills of practitioners; monitoring and advocacy to states; coordination; and knowledge management. As part of the efforts of promoting experience sharing and documentation of CLTS implementation in Nigeria, NTGS organized the first Roundtable Conference on CLTS in October 2009. Based on the active participation of relevant stakeholders and success recorded, it was resolved that the conference should be organized annually as a viable platform for bringing together CLTS practitioners for experience sharing and advocacy to support sanitation development.

In line with the resolutions of the first CLTS Conference, the second Roundtable Conference on CLTS was held in Calabar, Cross River State from October 5th to 9th, 2010. The conference was funded by Federal Ministry of Water Resources, Cross River State government, UNICEF, EU and DFID.

2.0 Conference objectives

The objectives were:

- Review the level of CLTS implementation in the country.
- Share and document experiences and best practices on CLTS.
- Identify and reward CLTS Champions in the country.
- Sensitize policy makers and other relevant stakeholders on scaling up of CLTS.
3.0. Methodology

The methodology employed for the proceedings at the Conference included:

a. Plenary sessions which had four technical sessions involving presentations and discussions on achievement, challenges and way forward. The following four technical papers were presented to share information on the latest development in CLTS implementation in the country;
   - Situation assessment of sanitation situation in Nigeria by Dr. Comfort Olayiwole (Resource Person);
   - Progress report on CLTS implementation in Nigeria by Bisi Agberemi (WASH Specialist, UNICEF Nigeria);
   - Presentation of findings on CLTS monitoring to selected states by Lonis Salihu (Federal Ministry of Water Resources);
   - Expanding Scope of CLTS Implementation in Small Town - Case study of Yakkur LGA, Cross River State by Raphael Nwozor (Cross River State WASH Consultant)

Apart from the above technical papers, there were progress reports and experience sharing on CLTS implementation from states, communities, media and NGO.

b. Group work for further discussions on the presentations and some identified areas of CLTS implementation. The participants were divided into four groups as follows;
   - Group 1 - Innovative ideas for scaling up CLTS
   - Group 2 - Strengthening mechanism for certification of ODF Communities
   - Group 3 - Strengthening Partnership, Networking and Coordination
   - Group 4 - Monitoring & Documentation of CLTS

The groups presented their recommendations at plenary sessions for further discussions by all the participants.

c. Field visits to five selected CLTS communities in Yakkur LGA. The communities visited were Ekpeti, Inyima, Kedangha, Lewong and Kotani and the participants were divided into five groups for the field visit.

d. Presentation of award to CLTS champions. 28 different awards were presented to individuals and organizations that have excelled in CLTS implementation as part of the efforts of encouraging scaling up of CLTS in the country.

A communiqué was issued at the end of the conference.
4.0. Opening Ceremony

The conference was declared open by the Governor of Cross River State ably represented by the Deputy Governor, Barrister Effiok Cobham while the keynote address was delivered by the Honourable Minister of Water Resources represented by the Director, Water Quality Control and Sanitation, Mr. O.A. Agada. There were goodwill messages from UNICEF, WaterAid and WASH Ambassador, Engr. Ebele Okeke. The opening ceremony provided the opportunity of getting political and financial commitments from governments to support sanitation development.

The Cross River state Sanitation Ambassadors comprising of influential and senior citizens of the state were inaugurated during the opening ceremony and their terms of reference clearly spelt out.

5.0 Participation

The conference was attended by over 160 participants made up of the Deputy Governor of Cross River State; the Director, Water Quality Control and Sanitation Department of the Federal Ministry of Water Resources; River State Commissioner of Water Resources, Director-General, Cross River State Rural Development Agency; Permanent Secretary, Jigawa State Ministry of Rural Development, Sanitation Desk Officers from the Federal Ministries of Water Resources, Education, Health, Environment, Women Affairs, and Land Housing & Urban Development; National Orientation Agency, National Planning Commission; Members of National Task Group on Sanitation; Programme Managers of State Rural Water Supply and Sanitation Agencies, State Sanitation and Hygiene Education Officers, Local Government WASH Officers; UNICEF WASH Specialists and Officers, WaterAid Nigeria Programme
6.0 Key Findings on CLTS in Nigeria

The following are some of the key findings emanating from the various presentations and discussions held at the conference:

6.1 Review of CLTS Implementation

- There has been steady but slow progress in CLTS implementation in most of the states and a wide gap still exists between triggered and communities achieving ODF.

- Some states like Cross River, Osun, Zamfara and Jigawa have introduced a lot of innovative ways of promoting CLTS. Cross River State is now promoting ward-wide approach to CLTS promotion with active involvement of NGO and CBOs (women groups) while Osun State is working with NYSC and traditional leaders in mobilizing communities for CLTS. Through the ward-wide approach of promoting CLTS in...
Cross River state, all communities in Yakkur LGA have been triggered and the whole LGA is at the verge of achieving ODF. Natural leaders from ODF communities in Zamfara state are providing support to neighbouring communities to implement CLTS while children from ODF communities in Jigawa state are playing prominent roles in enforcing open defecation free status of their communities.

• There have been high subscription for CLTS in most of the states and the level of acceptability as an appropriate approach for scaling up sanitation is quite high among the practitioners.

• Due to weak monitoring and reporting system, there are a lot of inconsistencies in number of CLTS and ODF communities from some states.

• Some states like Abia, Oyo and Taraba have been implementing CLTS for almost a year without recording any ODF community primarily due to inadequate funding for effective follow up.

• Readily available local materials are being used for household latrine construction which is supporting collective action of communities to stop open defecation. In some states, separate pit latrines are being provided for children as a way of ensuring total compliance to stop open defecation in communities.

• Moving up the sanitation ladder in existing ODF communities is quite slow primarily due to inadequate follow up activities after the communities have attained ODF.

• Some states are promoting Volunteer Hygiene Promoters to observe and promote sanitation and hygiene practices in communities. This is one of the mechanisms of supporting communities to achieve and sustain ODF as well as adoption of hygienic practices.

• Major challenges in scaling up CLTS include;
  o Difficult terrain for low cost latrine construction in some parts of the country e.g. riverine areas, rocky terrains and areas with loose soil formation.
  o Inadequate funding from some states and LGAs for effective facilitation and follow up.
  o Limited capacity in some states for effective CLTS implementation.
  o Weak monitoring and reporting systems.
  o Poor documentation and dissemination of best practices on CLTS implementation.
  o Limited participation of CSOs in CLTS promotion.

6.2 Experience Sharing

The whole activities of the conference were planned to facilitate sharing of experiences among participants who have been selected to represent a large cross section of CLTS practitioners in the country. In order to achieve this, the participants for the conference included; policy makers, technocrats at national, state and LGA levels; natural leaders
from CLTS communities; representatives of NGOs implementing CLTS; and media. There were active interactions among the participants which provided favorable environments for exchange of notes and ideas on CLTS implementation in the country.

6.3 Sensitization of Policy makers

The conference provided the opportunity of sensitizing the policy makers on CLTS in particular and sanitation development in general. Considering the high level participation of policy makers from the states, the conference provided the unique opportunity of raising the profile of sanitation towards mobilizing the required political and financial supports for the ongoing scaling up of CLTS. The event was well covered by media both print and electronic for further sensitization of the general public on CLTS and sanitation development in the country.

6.4 Presentation of awards to CLTS Champions

As part of the efforts of motivating individuals and national organizations promoting CLTS in the country, an award ceremony was organized on the last day of the conference. The award ceremony took place during the gala night organized and funded by Cross River state government in honour of the participants for the conference. The gala night was well attended by senior government officials from Cross River state. The Secretary to Cross River State government representing the Governor led the state government delegation to the event.

27 different awards were presented to individuals and organizations that have excelled in CLTS implementation in the country as indicated in table 1 below;
Table 1: Award to CLTS Champions

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category of Award</th>
<th>North East</th>
<th>North West</th>
<th>North Central</th>
<th>South East</th>
<th>South West</th>
<th>South-South</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Best Performing State from each Political zone</td>
<td>Yobe</td>
<td>Jigawa</td>
<td>Benue</td>
<td>Anambra</td>
<td>Osun</td>
<td>Cross River</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Best Performing Community from each Political zone</td>
<td>Nguru,</td>
<td>Maru,</td>
<td>Gwer East,</td>
<td>Idemili South,</td>
<td>Odo-Otin,</td>
<td>Yakkur,</td>
</tr>
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</table>

Presentation of awards to CLTS Champions during the Gala night

| Best Performing Community from each Political zone            | Majagwa-Karu, Yobe State | Kadadaba, Zamfara State | Onambazer, Benue State | Umunemelum Nnobi, Anambra State | Igilla, Osun State | Ekpeti, Cross River State |
| Best Overall Performing State in Nigeria                      |                          |                          |                           |                               |                        |                          |
| Best Overall Performing LGA in Nigeria                        |                          |                          |                           |                               |                        | Cross River              |
| Best Overall Performing Community in Nigeria                  |                          |                          |                           |                               |                        | Yakkur, Cross River State |
| Best Performing Natural Leaders                               |                          |                          |                           |                               |                        | Ekpeti, Cross River State |
| Best Performing Media Organization                            | Daily Trust              | News Agency of Nigeria   | NTA Abuja                 | Plateau State Radio &Television |                         |                          |

7.0 Recommendations

The recommendations of the conference are summed up under four headings: Innovative Ideas for scaling up CLTS; Strengthening Mechanism for Certification of...
1. INNOVATIVE IDEAS FOR SCALING UP CLTS

The following recommendations were made:

• Expansion of partnership to all relevant stakeholders such as NYSC, media, traditional/religious leaders, private sector, School Environmental Health Clubs, Environmental Health Officers and NGOs/CBOs for leveraging of both financial and human resources required for scaling up of CLTS. This will also enhance effective networking and experience sharing among implementers.
• Engagement of Natural Leaders from ODF communities as Community Consultants to implement CLTS in neighbouring open defecation communities.
• Focus on ward/district and LGA wide CLTS implementation.
• Support exchange learning visits of open defecation communities to successful open defecation free communities and adoption of some ODF communities as an informal ‘University of Learning for CLTS’.
• Support celebration of ODF communities as an incentive for achieving ODF and encouraging neighbouring OD communities to adopt CLTS.
• Establishment and inauguration of State Sanitation ambassadors to provide additional support in the sensitization and advocacy of policy makers and other stakeholders towards mobilizing financial and human resources for scaling up CLTS.
• Establishment of State, LGA and Ward level sanitation task groups for effective coordination of CLTS activities.

2. STRENGTHENING MECHANISM FOR CERTIFICATION OF ODF

• Need for wider circulation and popularization of the existing guidelines for certification of ODF communities.
• Simplify the existing ODF guidelines and development of simple tools and checklists for monitoring of CLTS activities.
• Streamlining the levels and processes for certification and sensitization of all relevant stakeholders of basic requirements for certification. The present process of certification involves; community self declaration; verification by LGA WASH Unit; verification by State RUWASSA and eventual certification of the community as ODF. In some instances, there is zonal level verification and certification.

3. STRENGTHENING PARTNERSHIP, NETWORKING AND COORDINATION

• Need for identification and extension of partnership to all relevant stakeholders based on their mandate and areas of specialization. Such partners might include;
government agencies; NGOs/CBOs; media; private sector; professional associations; traditional/religious leaders; donor agencies; youth organizations; and international development partners.

- Conduct capacity development on CLTS and other sanitation and hygiene activities for the identified partners.
- Support active involvement and participation of partners in programme planning, implementation, monitoring and evaluation.
- Promote collaboration among partners for experience sharing and networking through active participation of partners in review meetings, conferences and exchange learning visits.
- Support establishment/strengthening of State Sanitation Task Group and similar Task Group at LGA level for effective coordination of sanitation and hygiene activities.
- Creation of website on Sanitation and Hygiene for information effective information sharing.
- Create e-mail user group for partners for dissemination of information.
- Support documentation and dissemination of best practices among partners.

4. MONITORING AND DOCUMENTATION OF CLTS

- Sensitization of stakeholders at all level of programme implementation on the importance of monitoring and documentation.
- Develop and disseminate simple tools and checklist for monitoring and documentation.
- Develop capacity of implementers on monitoring and documentation.
- Embark on sustained advocacy of policy makers to solicit political and financial supports for monitoring and documentation.
- Make adequate budgetary provision and follow up with release of funds for monitoring and documentation.
- Strengthen existing structures of WASH programme to incorporate monitoring and documentation in their activities.

8.0 Conclusion

The Second Roundtable Conference was a huge success in terms of the number of delegates and the achievement of the conference objectives. This year’s conference was unique considering the high level of participation of senior government officials especially from the states and for the first time, the hosting state funded some aspects of the conference. The gala night was fully funded by Cross River state government while Federal Ministry of Water Resources sponsored the awards for CLTS champions.
UNICEF, EU and DFID provided the balance of funds for organizing the conference. With this trend, the sustainability of the conference is guaranteed as more government resources will be mobilized for subsequent editions until the conference is fully funded by governments.

The conference provided a further insight into what is ultimately required for the scaling up of the CLTS approach in Nigeria and concluded that the basic requirements for scaling up CLTS in the country have to do with increased awareness of the benefits of sanitation and hygiene to social economic well being of the populace; networking and collaboration among implementers at various levels; increased budgetary provision; and, an in-built monitoring and documentation mechanism in the CLTS intervention. There must be sustained efforts to ensure that sanitation and hygiene issues are kept on the front burner of governments’ policies and programme all year round.

Based on agreed criteria and in line with resolution to institutionalize the roundtable conference, Katsina state was selected as the next host of the 2011 conference. A communiqué was issued at the end of the conference (see annex).
COMMUNIQUE

The Second National Roundtable Conference on Community Led Total Sanitation (CLTS), held at Monty Suites Calabar, Cross River State between 05 and 09 October, 2010

The second Roundtable Conference on Community Led Total Sanitation in Nigeria which was held at Monty Suites Calabar, Cross River State, on 5th to 9th October, 2010 was convened by the Federal Ministry of Water Resources in conjunction with Cross River State Government and UNICEF. The Conference was attended by over 160 participants from the Federal Ministries of Water Resources, Education, Health, Environment, Women Affairs, and Land Housing & Urban Development; National Orientation Agency, National Planning Commission; State Rural Water Supply and Sanitation Agencies, UNICEF, WaterAid, World Bank, European Union, NYSC, the Media, Civil Society Organizations, Local Government Authorities and Communities. A total number of 15 states were represented at the conference.

The conference was declared open by the Governor of Cross River State, Senator Liyel Imoke, who was ably represented by the Deputy Governor of the State Barrister Effok Cobham. The Governor welcomed participants to Calabar and reiterated Cross River State Government’s commitment to the improvement of sanitation in the State because it is seen as a major denominator for the attainment of national developmental aspirations. The Keynote address by the Honourable Minister, Federal Ministry of Water Resources, delivered by the Director, Water Quality Control and Sanitation Department, emphasized that the proper implementation of the CLTS approach will greatly assist community members to get rid of water and sanitation-related diseases. He implored participants to deliberate on the challenges ahead and review the present levels of CLTS implementation in their respective states.

Papers were presented on the sanitation situation in Nigeria, progress report on CLTS implementation and findings of the monitoring exercise carried out by National Task Group on Sanitation (NTGS) in 28 states on CLTS. Different states, LGAs, communities, the media and NGOs/CBOs also presented reports on their interventions on CLTS. All these presentations were followed by interesting, enlightening and educative interactive sessions which highlighted several pertinent issues.

The Conference recognized that:

- There is a decline in access to improved sanitation from 37% in 1990 to 32% in 2008;
- There is a marked improvement in the overall sanitation & hygiene uptake in communities where CLTS has been effectively implemented;
- The high incidence of diarrhea and cholera in the country is as a result of the negligence of hygiene and sanitation practices;
- There is inadequate funding of sanitation and hygiene programmes for scaling up successful models as a result of low political will.
- Most of the CLTS intervention activities are still mainly funded by external support agencies;
- There is a steady but slow progress in the implementation of the CLTS approach in the country;
• There is a wide gap between the triggered communities and the ODF communities as a result of inadequate facilitation, monitoring and follow up activities;

• Difficult terrain and challenging environments in some parts of the country adversely affect the scaling up efforts of the CLTS approach;

• Despite the various attempts at enhancing the skills of implementers of CLTS, there is still a low level of response to emerging needs and demands in its implementation;

• There is low participation of CBOs, NGOs, the media and the private sector in sanitation and hygiene promotion in the country;

• The CLTS certification guidelines, though available, are not being used in some states of the federation; and

• There is a weak monitoring and documentation system for planning, mobilization and knowledge sharing of CLTS activities and achievements.

The Conference therefore recommends that:

• NTGS should facilitate a wide and sustained awareness and sensitization on hygiene and sanitation among various categories of key players across the country;

• NTGS and the state implementing agencies are to carry out sustained evidence-based advocacy for increased political will and commitment to support the on-going scaling up efforts for CLTS. This will include providing funding for hygiene and sanitation programmes in the country;

• States should develop specific and budgeted action plans for scaling up CLTS;

• States and LGs should engage and empower Community Natural Leaders (CNLs), NGOs, CBOs and WASHCOMs towards ensuring that at least 75% of the triggered communities achieve ODF within 3 months of triggering;

• NTGS should simplify and disseminate the guidelines for ODF certification;

• NTGS should intensify research and development efforts on appropriate sanitation technology options for difficult terrain and challenging environments and disseminate the same;

• Federal Ministry of Water Resources and NTGS Secretariat should publish periodic newsletters on sanitation and hygiene.

• NTGS and states should institutionalize training for CLTS practitioners at all levels in collaboration with NWRI and other relevant institutions;

• State RUWASSAs should ensure increased partnership with identified potential collaborators (LGAs, CNLs, NGOs, NYSC, CBOs, FBOs, EHOs, the Media, CDOs, etc.) for leveraging resources and experience for effective hygiene and sanitation implementation;
• NTGS to institutionalize periodic CLTS monitoring to states to ensure strict compliance to guidelines for implementation;

• NTGS in collaboration with the WASH Ambassador to organize quarterly advocacy visits to states to mobilize financial and human resources required for scaling up sanitation and hygiene programmes;

• States should be encouraged to emulate Cross River State’s innovation by establishing their own sanitation ambassadors for advocacy, sensitization and mobilization of resources towards successful sanitation and hygiene programme implementation;

• State RUWASSAs should ensure that all certified ODF communities without access to improved sources of water be assisted for improved and sustained hygiene practices;

• NTGS and states should encourage and facilitate exchange visits between states, LGAs and communities for knowledge and experience sharing where CLTS has been successful;

• NTGS should follow up on the establishment, inauguration and strengthening of state task group on sanitation for effective coordination of sanitation and hygiene service delivery; and

• NTGS should organize and support at least quarterly meetings with state sanitation task group to forge partnership and linkages between state and the federal governments for effective coordination.

• In furtherance to the institutionalization of the National Roundtable Conference, Katsina State was selected and agreed to host the 2011 3rd National Roundtable Conference.

Appreciation

The participants expressed their gratitude to the Federal Ministry of Water Resources, Cross River State Government, UNICEF and other members of the National Task Group on Sanitation for convening the 2nd Roundtable Conference.

Signed:

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