

## **RURAL EDUCATION AND DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM (REDEP)**

### **WHO WE ARE**

The Rural Education and Development Program (REDEP) is an all-volunteer non-governmental, non-profit organization based in the Ajumako Enyan Essiam District in the Central Region of Ghana where it works. The organization was granted NGO status by the Department of Social Welfare in April, 2001. REDEP is engaged in activities that bring hope to the people it serves through community development program that help fill the needs of the people for Health, Education, Environment and Livelihood (hence the acronym 'HEEL'). Our HEEL programs have the goals of (1) improving the level of health care available in the district (including education in HIV/AIDS), (2) providing instruction and assistance in developing good environmental practices, (3) assisting in the public education process by helping students to stay in school as long as possible, and encouraging those that can to become teachers in the district, and (4) helping people to develop marketable skills and become productive members of their communities.

### **COMMUNITY-LED TOTAL SANITATION (CLTS)**

REDEP under its Environmental and Sanitation activities funded by American Jewish World Service (AJWS) is promoting Community Led Total Sanitation (CLTS) in three communities. It will be replicated. This is a method whereby communities are mobilized to eliminate open defecation. Communities are assisted to assess and analyse their open defecation status and thereby initiate action to become open defecation free (ODF)

The initial activities undertaken included data collection and compilation of community profile. These data will eventually serve as an indicator to evaluate the success of the programme.

Below is the **community profile** of the three communities:

#### **❖ BREMAN DENKYENDUA:**

- Population: About 400
- No. Of school: no school. Nearest school is at Enyan Fawomanye
- Source of water: one borehole and pond
- Latrine: one male pit latrine
- Refuse dump: one approved dumping site
- Access road to the village is quite good
- Occupation: small scale farming and petty trading
- No chieftaincy dispute
- Health facility: no facility in the village. Nearest facility is at Nkwatanum which is three miles away.
- Religion: Christianity and Islam
- Common disease: malaria
- Ethnic group: Fantes
- Self-initiated project: cocoa shed and one public pit latrine.

#### ❖ **ENYAN EDUAKROM**

- Population: about 300
- Source of water: one borehole
- Refuse dump: one approved dumping site
- Latrine: one male and one female pit latrines
- Electricity: connected to electricity
- Access road to the village is quite good
- School: no school available. Nearest school is at Enyan Nsawadze
- Occupation: small scale farming and petty trading
- Religion: Christianity and Islam
- Ethnic group: Fantes
- No chieftaincy dispute
- Common disease: malaria
- Health facility: no health facility . Nearest health facility is at Enyan Abaasa health centre which is about two miles away.
- Self-initiated project: two public latrines and community centre under construction.

#### ❖ **MBOFRA MFA ADWEN**

- Population: about 350
- School: no school. Nearest school is at Obrawogum, which is two and half miles away
- Access road to the village is deplorable
- Source of water: one hand dug well fitted with pump and one open hand dug well
- Electricity: no electricity
- Occupation: small scale farming and petty trading
- No chieftaincy dispute
- Self-initiated project: construction of two public latrines
- Religion: Christianity
- Refuse dump: one approved site
- Latrine: two public pit latrine
- Common disease: malaria
- Ethnic group: Fantes

▪ **COMMUNITY TRIGGERING:**

REDEP organised a Community-led Total Sanitation triggering program for the people of Eduakrom, Denkyendua and Mbofra Nfa Adwen on the 9<sup>th</sup> March, 24<sup>th</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup> May, 2011 respectively. The team members for this exercise were Mr. James K. Addo (Executive Director-REDEP), Mr. Bob Ebo- Cudjoe (Program Director-REDEP), Mr. Enoch Cudjoe (Office Assistant-REDEP), Mr. Ignatius Gyesei (Resource Person/District Environmental Officer), Ms. Jennifer Bentsil (Resource Person/District Community Development Officer), and Ms. Beatrice T. Torto (Nyarkoa Foundation) as an observer.

Event went on in the three communities as follows;

**Eduakrom**

The team arrived at this village at exactly 6.15am. The chief, elders and the community members assembled at the village centre for the commencement of the programme. Immediately after the exchange of greetings there was a heavy downpour which lasted about one hour.

The programme started after the heavy downpour. Volunteers were asked to draw a makeshift community map on the ground with indications of major important areas of the village. Such as chief's palace, churches, mosques, water sources, latrines, refuse dumps etc.

After this exercise, each member of the community present was asked to place a card on any side of the makeshift map to show where they go to toilet and dump refuse in the day and night (especially in the middle of the night). Though majority of them placed their cards at the designated place made for toilet in the village, others especially the women raised the issue that they have no proper toilet in the village so they use the refuse dump for that purpose.

To ascertain the truth for ourselves we decided to tour the whole community to inspect sanitation practices in the community. Our findings were;

- The village has no proper toilet facility
- The two available are not good
- The women and children defecate on the refuse dump as well as other available places
- The refuse dump was untidy and dump refuse indiscriminately

Having assessed and analysed their sanitation status some of the members volunteered to help the village to reach open defecation free.

Then nine (9) member committee was established and invited for further training at Abaasa on the 15<sup>th</sup> of June 2011

**Denkyendua**

The team arrived at the community around 7:30 am despite a heavy downpour of rain. The community and their chief were ready at the town square to receive us. After pleasantries the exercise began. Almost all the community members were present and the chief was the chairman for the event.

Volunteers among the people were asked to draw a makeshift map of the community on the ground indicating the chief palace, community centre, churches, mosque, water sources, toilets facilities etc.



A makeshift map indicating where the people go to toilet

After this exercise, each member of the community present was asked to place a card on any side of the makeshift map to show where they go to toilet in the day and night (especially in the middle of the night). Though majority of them placed their cards at the designated place made for toilet in the village, others especially the women raised the issue that they have no toilet in the village so they use the refuse damp for that purpose.

To ascertain the truth for ourselves we decided to tour the whole community to inspect sanitation practices in the community. Our findings were;

- The village has no proper toilet facility
- The one available is for the men only
- The women and children defecate on the refuse damp which is also scattered around the community (they have about four).
- There is a refuse damp right next to their pump filled with human toilets.
- The whole community has an unpleasant smell/odour
- The whole village lacks proper sanitation practices.



The male toilet



The refuse dump the people go to toilet



Another refuse dump which serves as a toilet close to water pump

After the general inspection, we met again to deliberate on the findings. The people appealed for help to construct a proper toilet for the community. However, in the mean time, the chief agreed to organise the youth to build a female toilet facility and to work on sanitation issues in the community.

Ms. Bentil carried across a message from the government on the sale of children for domestic services by some unscrupulous people from the cities who come to the villages to entice parents with promises of money in exchange of their young ones to work in the big cities. They were made aware that, some of these children are forced into prostitution, dangerous labours and deprived of education.

A ten member committee was established and invited for further training at Abaasa on the 15<sup>th</sup> of June 2011.

### **Mbofra Nfa Adwen**

The exercise began at 6:30 am and followed the same process like the one at Eduakrom and Denkyendua.

The whole community including their chief were present. Here, the community has two separate toilet facilities for male and females at different locations. They were all well kept except some little weeding around the area for safety that needed to be attended to.



Male toilet facility at Mbofra Nfa Adwen

One challenge in this community is that the children defecate on the refuse damp very close to houses. There is also some sort of erosion gutters that transport rain water from the refuse damp to a well downstream.



Refuse damp where the children go to toilet

A thorough inspection indicates that, the community is doing quiet well on sanitation as compare to other places the team have visited so far, they were further encouraged to keep their surroundings neat, clean and disease free.

**COMMUNITY LED TOTAL SANITATION (CLTS) NATURAL LEADERS**  
**WORKSHOP HELD AT ENYAN ABAASA COMMUNITY CENTRE**  
**ON THE 14<sup>TH</sup> JUNE, 2011**

The major objective of the training workshop is to build and strengthen the capability of the rural communities and small towns improve sanitation and stop open defecations. This will enable the natural leaders to effectively assist the communities embrace the Community Led Total Sanitation concept.

The workshop started at 10.00 am with 10 participants each from Mbofora Mfa Adwen, Denkyendua and Eduakrom communities as well as officials of REDEP and 3 resource persons. After the self introduction, the Executive Director of REDEP stressed on the need to embrace the CLTS and advised the youth to stop open defecation. He said every individual must have a latrine in his/her household to ensure total cleanliness in their communities without waiting for the NGO's ,District Assembly or other people. As natural leaders from various communities , they must take the workshop serious and make it a point to stop open defecation. It was made known to the people that REDEP in collaboration with AJWS were undertaking the project.

### **Training session**

The first resource person began by taking the members of the committee (Natural leaders) through the general responsibilities of the committee as natural leaders. The committee members are designated as Natural leaders because they are self initiators who were not delegated but rather owned up to be members of the committee voluntarily. He touched on the membership of the committee as- Chairman, Secretary, Treasurer, Hygiene Educators and Organizer and their duties.

He said the committee members should involve women in the community activities. He went on to say that women are the primary managers, source of information. They have triple responsibilities, ie for production, for reproduction at the household level and management of activities at the community level. They should be made to regularly participate in community meetings and involve them in decision making.

He stressed on some of the barriers in women involvement as:

- High illiteracy among women
- Shyness and inferiority complex
- Lack of self confidence
- Fear
- Marriage control
- Parental care
- women are their own enemies/Gossiping.

He sensitized them to help women to do away with these barriers.

The resource person continued with the topic of Sanitation Ladder. i.e types of latrines. Some of these types are: open , dug and bury, pit, V.I.P, Mozambique, KVIP, Compost ( not common in Ghana and Water closet. He went further with the qualities of latrine as :

- Not accessible to any domestic animal
- Free from rodent
- Not produce too much offensive odour
- It should be safe to use
- Privacy
- Not far away from the user
- Not close to river/water source
- Not serve as flies breeding ground
- The faecal matter should not be handled by human

He insisted on the use of local materials in latrine construction. Available local materials such as :

- Wood
- Bamboo
- Mud
- Rope
- Stick
- Palm branches
- Raffia/coconut tree

Another resource person touched on the need to organize meetings as a committee. He said it was essential that the committee meets regularly to discuss issues like how to become open defecation free community as well as any other activities related to sanitation. He introduced them to the two types of meeting that will be required of them.

- Committee meeting and
- Community meeting.

She said before they call a meeting with the community, they as a committee must first meet as group to agree on the issue or problem at stake. In the same vein, they must identify an issue for discussing before calling for a meeting as committee members. Once they have identified the purpose of the meeting they need to set a date, time and venue and communicate such information to all concerned in good time. She said this whole process of convening a meeting was largely dependent on the collaboration of the chairman, the secretary and an organizer. However, any member who identifies a problem believes it is a matter that needs to be discussed should inform the chairman and his/her secretary for the appropriate process to be followed.

The other resource person touched on hygiene and sanitation. She sensitized the participants to keep their environment clean, keep their kitchen and cooking utensils clean. She also touched on how to transport and store water safely. She said to avoid contamination of otherwise clean water, they were advised to take clean water containers to fetch water and also use covered containers in fetching water- e.g Jeri Cans or covered buckets. Also to ensure storage, containers should always be clean and continue to keep stored water covered to prevent dust and foreign materials from getting in.

**Action Plan:**

Participants were taught how to prepare Action Plans to facilitate their work. They were assisted to generate draft plan which include frequency of meeting times by the committee members, meeting times with the community, communal labour activities and hygiene education among others.

**Conclusion**

The Programme Director-REDEP appealed to the participants to take active part in the programme and also advised them to impress on their people to register with the National Health Insurance Scheme (NHIS). Finally the Executive Director-REDEP asked the committee members to lead by example. Leadership by example also meant that, they would keep their surrounding clean in order to be able to caution others against dirty surroundings etc. They can only have the right and positive impact on the community if they practiced what they preached.



CLTS VOLUNTEERS WORKSHOP AT ENYAN ABAASA