The Centre of Excellence in conjunction with WASTE - Netherlands is presenting a 3-day action-learning workshop on rural sanitation marketing. The workshop will be held at Mzuzu University Campus from July 23rd to July 25th. The closing date for submission of applications is July 20th. See page 2 for details.

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Productive School Sanitation Alive and Well
By: Lieza du Preez (earthcare@africa.online.net)
Mzuzu Education Sector, in cooperation with WASTE and with support from the Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries sectors, has recently opened the first ecosanitation toilets at two schools in the Mzuzu Urban. The urinals and dry composting toilets aim to promote low cost, productive sanitation in school communities, whether through government sectors or private, and by looking at the wider use and implication of sanitation at schools – remedying the ailing school landscapes and environments.

Gardens are designed around the urine infiltration and hand wash runoff areas and fruit trees are planted – carefully designed landscapes promote sustainable land use through practises such as mulching, permanent pathways, bottle fed drip irrigation and more...

To bring about meaningful change to toilets and the surroundings at schools, schools are now working on ways to keep their structures well maintained, keep the user environment clean and by doing so keep the ecological environment clean and safe, and with the added benefit from useful nutrients being soaked up by the roots of nearby fruit trees and plants.

Productive School Sanitation is alive and vibrant in Mzuzu City!

For more information, contact Ms. Anna Sichinga of Mzuzu Urban (0888 879 207, demmzu@gmail.com), Mr. Laurent Mwasikakata of Mzimba North (0888 393 887, demmzn@yahoo.com) or Lieze du Preez (0995 752 830, earthcare@africa.online.net).

We want your feedback!
We are looking for your feedback to help improve the S.H.i.T.S. newsletter. The survey can be accessed online at: www.surveymonkey.com/s/SHiTS

Teaching Toilets
A video about school sanitation called “Teaching Toilets” by Africa Interactive can be downloaded from: https://vimeo.com/4201916

S.H.i.T.S.
Sharing Highlights in Total Sanitation
MALAWI ISSUE 14 APRIL/MAY/JUNE 2012

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OTHER NEWS:
The Centre of Excellence in conjunction with WASTE-Netherlands is presenting a 3-day action-learning workshop on rural sanitation marketing. The workshop will be held at Mzuzu University Campus from July 23rd to July 25th. The closing date for submission of applications is July 20th.

See page 2 for details.

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Producing Sanitation Alive and Well
By: Lieza du Preez (earthcare@africa.online.net)
Besides the myriad strengths of Community Lead Total Sanitation (CLTS) strategy, it fails to address ODF sustainability clearly. CLTS assumes that once people are triggered and adopt latrine use, they will maintain the new practice for the rest of their lives. However, it does not go like that in practice. Sustainability of latrine use does not only depend on behaviour change, but goes beyond behaviour to habit. This is evidenced in so many cases of communities that once achieved ODF status, but later reverted to habits of defecating in the open. Follow ups have revealed that disgust and embarrassment induce temporary behaviour change instantly, but as time goes by, the fire that was ignited during triggering fades away and people easily revert to their usual habits (Open Defecation).

To sustain Open Defecation free status, behaviours (actions or reactions under specified circumstances) that are induced by disgust and embarrassment ought to be turned into habits (an established custom). Once that is achieved, it is hard to go back to open defecation practice because latrine use will now be incorporated in the usual way of doing things as a custom. In other words, latrine use will be a habit.

Behaviour and habits are psychology issues, and according to psychology, habits may be acquired through frequent repetition. Thus, ODF status can be sustained when people are reminded to use a latrine repeatedly. They gradually get used to the practice and eventually it becomes a normal practice.

So, who can be responsible for reminding the communities about latrine use at regular intervals? The answer is community members themselves. In Malawi, there are community-based development structures such as Village Health Committees (VHCs) that can be empowered to conduct household follow ups on monthly basis in their respective villages and keep influencing people to use latrines.

Unfortunately, VHCs are not fully utilized in most cases. It is these VHCs that can mount pressure on their communities to retract open defecation and turn latrine use into a habit over time through persistent reminders during monthly follow ups.

CLTS facilitation by outsiders also defeats the idea of ‘community-led’ because it is intruders who go to the villages and lead the process in the name of ‘facilitating’. Although natural leaders are identified to take over the leading/facilitating role later, it is very difficult to identify people with influence and genuine leadership talents since identification of natural leaders is done within hours of CLTS facilitation. As such, entrusting the role of triggering and follow ups in the hands of VHC members will improve the strategy because VHCs are community-based and well established. That way, the idea of ‘Community-Led’ can be realised and ODF status can be sustained.

### Addressing Sustainability of ODF status

Written by: Chrispin Dambula, World Vision (chrispindambula@yahoo.com)

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**ARE YOU IMPLEMENTING A RURAL SANITATION MARKETING PROGRAM AND WANT TO LEARN**

IF YOU ARE KNODDING YOUR HEAD, THEN THIS COURSE IS FOR YOU!

The Centre of Excellence in conjunction with WASTE-Netherlands is presenting a 3-day action-learning workshop on rural sanitation marketing. The workshop has been specifically designed to provide you with practical skills to implement the first phases of a rural sanitation marketing program.

What new skills will I gain?
The workshop will combine practical knowledge with hands-on skills through:
- Field trips to villages to conduct and analyse market research on the sanitation market
- Brainstorming with your peers to identify new sanitation designs that match the expectations and needs of your target audience
- Hands-on prototyping sessions with local masons to design, review and critique innovative sanitation designs

Who will benefit?
All field practitioners of sanitation programs (CLTS or sanitation marketing) working for government or non-government organisations.

Where and when will it be held?

What are the fees?
MK55,000.00 which includes lunch and refreshments

Note: The Short Course is non-residential; however, participants can make arrangements with the University for boarding facilities.

How do I sign up?
Please contact the Acting Centre Manager, Centre of Excellence in Water and Sanitation on (265) 888 890 390, (265) 1 320 722, or e-mail to smatamula@yahoo.com
Introducing: EWB Sanitation Staff!

Ashley Meek is the Sanitation Coordinator for Engineers without Borders. Originally from Edmonton, Canada, she has been working on WASH in Malawi in Nkhotakota district for the past year. While completing a Masters in Environmental Engineering, Ashley specialized in Water and Sanitation Management for development. She spent several years designing Environmental Management Systems for medium and large corporations in Canada and Europe working with water treatment, energy supply, and management information systems (MIS).

Ashley looks forward to working with partners here in Malawi on activities including the National ODF Strategy, WASH M&E, and District CLTS and sanitation program operational activities.

Michael Kennedy hails from Vancouver, Canada. After completing his Human Geography degree he spent three years working as a project management consultant. During this time Michael managed infrastructure implementation and change management projects that contributed to the development of a distributed medical education program.

In Malawi, Michael is working alongside the District Environmental Health Offices in Salima and Zomba to assess management structures supporting CLTS implementation. He is working with both districts to develop systems that better enable the utilization of HSAs to conduct CLTS activities and that account for resource con-

Zomba Drama Group Educates and Entertains

Zomba made its S.H.i.T.S debut in April of 2011 when it became the first district to internally fund Community Lead Total Sanitation. Since that time, Zomba hasn’t stopped improving and refining its sanitation program. Among other initiatives, Zomba’s District Health Office (DHO) is in the process of finding the most effective communication method to improve CLTS. One of these creative methods is their district level drama group and a more recent creative change is the integration of a Health Center (HC) level drama group at the Matawale HC.

The 18 member drama group goes by the name Tipewe (Prevention) and showcases local talent. Bryan Kandulu is the acting director leading this dedicated and talented group. Duncan Keffas, who was part of the district level drama group, is now applying his showmanship and communication skills through the weekly triggerings and follow-ups as an HSA at the Matawale HC. Mr. Keffas was introduced to the local drama group at one of their plays and has worked hand in hand with the group ever since.

Transportation remains one of the group’s limiting factors as they use their own means to travel across the large catchment area of Matawale. Still, the players offer their skills voluntarily – merely wanting to satisfy their craving for the roar of the crowd. The group works together with HC employees with notable performances at CLTS triggerings, drawing people out of their homes to watch the performances which highlight the importance of sanitation.

Mr. Keffas meets with the group every Thursday to offer feedback on new plays and gives weekly learning assignments. The learning assignments include researching cultural differences in villages and general observations on people’s reactions to health related issues. Ultimately, Tipewe’s performance educates and entertains the people of Matawale and acts as an alternate method to communicate health issues. Currently, the group is creating a sanitation video which is to be aired on the HCs OPD screens, so stay tuned!

Written by: Will Patterson, Junior Fellow, EWB Canada, Zomba
Mphale Village: Rising from Disease

By: Emmanuel Chikweza, InterAid (echikweza@gmail.com)

Having been established just a decade ago, Phalombe District has been faced with many challenges, one of which being environmental health.

One village in particular had very low water and sanitation coverage. The community members of Mphale Village under Phalombe Health Centre, experienced unfortunate events as the 2007 cholera outbreak struck their community.

Several fatalities resulted from the epidemic, causing greater need for support from the responsible Health Surveillance Assistant, Mwayi Kapiye.

This unfortunate event created a motivation in these community members to listen to the health advice given by Mwayi. They were driven to do what it took to create a healthier living environment for themselves. With this motivation and fire in their hearts, it was no surprise when the community of Mphale Village responded with strong commitment to improve their sanitation and hygiene during the CLTS triggering.

Alongside Mwayi, the village headman and natural leaders joined hands to continue “triggering” the community. Interestingly, the village decided to use a multi-sectored approach in igniting one another about stopping open defecation. All meetings organized in Mphale, even those unrelated to sanitation such as Under 5 Clinic meetings, include extension staff from various government departments. Agriculture extension workers, religious leaders, and Village Health Committee members, work together to emphasize the importance of teamwork in achieving Open Defecation Free status.

Role definition when collectively trying to reach a goal is very important. Women and children have been taking active roles through disseminating sanitation and hygiene messages in the village and taking part in the construction of sanitary facilities. The children are using a peer-to-peer education approach by spreading information through word of mouth. The village headman has created sanctions and penalties for those who are caught open defecating. Finally, other community members have cleared up areas that were previously Open Defecation sites and are keeping a look out for people practicing ODF in those areas.

The community-led efforts have paid off for the people of Mphale Village. Now all the village members are living in ODF status. The Phalombe DCT has verified the village and certified the village’s status. The people organized the celebration together with the nearby villages and managed to install a signpost showing their status.

When reminded of the horrible outbreak a few years ago, these village members now hold their heads high and show their dedication to achieving improved sanitation and hygiene through action – they are one example of a struggling village that mobilized together and took on a change one latrine at a time.

EWB’S WORK on SANITATION & HYGIENE

In Malawi, EWB collaborates with government, donor and NGO partners to enhance the sustained adoption of sanitation and hygiene behaviours. Currently EWB’s focus involves providing technical assistance to the Malawi sanitation & hygiene sub-sector for local government “Community Led Total Sanitation” programmes. The EWB sanitation team is collaborating with District Coordinating Teams from multiple Districts in Malawi on their Sanitation programmes. They are facilitating learning exchange between all CLTS stakeholders in Malawi, developing monitoring & evaluation tools, coaching district sanitation leaders to help them refine their programmes for maximum community impact, and providing district experiences to policy discussions at the central level.

The Water and Environmental Sanitation Network (WES Network) is a membership based Civil Society network that coordinates the work of NGOs working in the water, sanitation and hygiene subsector in Malawi. It recognizes the role of Water and Sanitation in economic development and poverty reduction. WES Network’s head office is in Lilongwe with representation across the country by its member organizations. To date, the WES Network has a membership of over 50 local and international NGOs across Malawi. WES Network envisions sustainable access to safe water and improved sanitation for all in Malawi. Its mission is enhanced coordination, advocacy and knowledge sharing among Network membership for provision of high quality standards and sustainable water and environmental sanitation services in Malawi.

S.H.i.T.S. NEWSLETTER

This newsletter, coordinated by EWB and WES-Network, reviews learning and experiences of Malawi local government CLTS implementation and their collaborating NGO partners. It includes many contributions from district and central-level leaders within the sanitation & hygiene sub-sector.