Do you know what happened after triggering?

To investigate the above question Ashley Raeside joined the Natural Leaders (NLs) pictured below on July 11th to understand their approach. Now Mchinji CLTS managers are considering a reorientation session for extension staff from those villages to help them develop better plans for supporting NLs. This is learning at work!

Think of the natural leaders you know for villages triggered in your district. Perhaps a day or two after triggering, they returned to present action plans and ODF goals to your DCT and newly-trained extension staff. But do you know what happened afterwards?

What happens after triggering?
How active were those NLs when they returned to their villages? How are the extension staff assigned to those communities supporting the NLs? What changes are being tracked? What different methods do NLs use to encourage the elimination of OD and the building and use of new latrines?

What are incentives / barriers?
What are the incentives to work hard as a NL? What are the main challenges that prevent some NLs from meeting our expectations? What prevents ext. staff from following-up effectively, or at all?

For any real change to follow triggering, immediate and on-going follow-ups by natural leaders and extension staff are essential.

Programme managers who understand what happens at the community level will be able to influence faster ODF achievement. They will be equipped to provide more relevant follow-up training to ext. staff. In return these managers will receive more and better monitoring information to understand CLTS accomplishments in their district!

Natural Leaders Timothy & Jeremiah from Kondoole Village, Mchinji. Every Saturday these NLs go house to house, supervising new latrine construction, providing advice, and recording the sanitation changes in their village.

NOW AVAILABLE: Chichewa CLTS Facilitator’s Guide

“Ndodomeka ya CLTS imakhudza dongsolo lolimbikitsa ndi kuwapatso mphamvu an thu a ku mudzi kuti asiyi kunyera paliponse ndi kumanga komanso kugwiritsa nthchito zimbudzi posalandira thandizo lilironse la zipangizo kapena ndalama…” (from Guide)

A 19-page guide for CLTS is now available in Chichewa (see photo). It describes the CLTS concept, and reviews how to make appointments, trigger a community, follow-up with the same community, and verify if that community has become ODF.

Many district programme leaders say it can be challenging to quickly develop strong CLTS facilitators from among extension staff.

Providing ext. staff with this brief, but comprehensive summary resource during/after training can help them improve their knowledge, skills, and attitudes for good CLTS facilitation. Request a soft copy from Ashley today! ashleyraeside@ewb.ca
MWANZA HOLDS 1st CLTS TRAINING SESSION!

Mwanza DCT held three consecutive weeks of CLTS training between July 27th and Aug. 14th. After Week One, Ashley debriefed with the main training organizers (DWO Edgar Phiri, DEHO Alfred Phiri & Martin Chilonga from Community Development):

Ashley: Your CLTS learning experience in Salima was more than a year ago! How did you become prepared to train new facilitators?

Team: We met one week in advance to review CLTS concepts with one another, and divided up responsibilities for all parts of the upcoming training at that time to be ready.

Ashley: How does CLTS in Mwanza compare with your own training experience in Salima?

Team: Many of us being trained in Salima were managers who were already familiar with ‘participatory methods’. Whereas our extension staff are used to acting as health experts in their communities. It will take time for them to develop attitudes of ‘learning facilitators’.

Ashley: What future challenges may arise?

Team: Of four teams of extension workers, two are strong, but two may be a bit weak. We must be sure to provide more support to the weaker teams, and attend any new triggering meetings they have planned between now and October.

Ashley: What have you learned and what will you do differently next time you train ext. workers?

Team: More practical experience! We will demonstrate the different triggering tools in class before going out to the field. And we will make sure that the trainees do the ‘Walk of Shame’ during practica.

S.H.I.T.S. Sharing Highlights In Total Sanitation (maLawi)
CHITIPPA DEHO: “Is CLTS here to stay?”

On Tuesday August 25th in Chitipa District, the DEHO Kondwani Mamba shared his thoughts on the CLTS approach with Ashley Raeside from Engineers Without Borders.

“When I attended the classroom part of the national training in Salima, I wondered if CLTS could really work. I wasn’t very excited about it,” said Kondwani Mamba. He continued, “But then we went out to the villages to do our CLTS practicals and I was surprised by how positively the village people responded to our questions about shitting in the bush.”

Ashley asked Mamba what happened after the Chitipa team returned home from Salima.

“We organised for CLTS training in Chitipa before we even received funds from UNICEF. We sourced funds from the DHO to begin CLTS immediately. Some villages triggered during CLTS training in Chitipa are now ODF. I can see that the CLTS approach really works here in Malawi.”

Mamba added:

“CLTS cannot be rolled out by trainings alone. We want all villages in Chitipa to be triggered, and for them all to become ODF, the true measure of CLTS success. But this will take a programme mindset. It will require the district to develop structures that make it clear whose responsibility it is to conduct new triggerings, follow-up, ODF verification and data monitoring.”

Mamba’s words provide serious food for thought for all Malawi district CLTS leaders.

Feel free to contact him to continue discussing this issue! nyangakulaiti@yahoo.com or at 0888 307 670.

FOLLOW-UP SECRETS: What’s needed for ODF achievement?

Through the UNICEF-supported CLTS Programme in Malawi, approximately 320 villages in 11 districts have been triggered. This is a commendable start for the first year of district-implemented CLTS!

However, so far only 68 have been verified ODF. This means that only 22% of triggered villages are known to have become ODF.

The low rate of ODF communities is possibly a symptom of poor, late, or absent follow-up activity after triggering.

Many districts admit that they are much stronger at organizing triggerings than at coordinating and monitoring follow-ups.

This is understandable, because only a little emphasis was placed on learning follow-up methodology at the national training in Salima, and none of the participants were able to follow-up with those villages they triggered in Salima. In Kamal Kar’s Handbook on CLTS, there is less emphasis on follow-up methods and tools as compared with triggering. And, fewer resources are generally budgeted for follow-ups.

Three main kinds of follow-up activity can be conducted to keep the village’s enthusiasm and OD-elimination efforts strong, and to monitor changes that take place:

1. Immediate and on-going follow-up support by natural leaders who emerged during the triggering.
2. Immediate and then occasional (1-2 times weekly) follow-up support by local ext. workers, and sometimes DCT members.
3. Official visits by teams of neighboring extension workers and/or DCT members around the date the community pledged to become ODF by.

When asked what other reasons might explain poor, late, or absent follow-up, district programme leaders mentioned the following scenarios:

- Local extension workers may not have observed or been involved in the triggerings for their village and therefore did not have a personal experience to equip/inspire them to follow-up on triggering.
- Some local extension workers are not active in their village in general and unlikely to do follow-up, reporting or anything else (i.e. it’s not CLTS-specific) without allowances.
- Natural leaders were not well chosen and they faded away after triggering. So, there was no one driving the process from inside the community.
- District CLTS leaders may not have set clear expectations with local extension workers for when to follow-up, how, and to collect and report which information.
- DCT members became busy and forgot or were unable to conduct official follow-up visits around the date the community said they would become ODF by.

We can’t say that there is a “most effective follow-up methodology” established yet in Malawi. Most programme leaders are learning-through-experimenting. Practice makes perfect, and there is opportunity to share ideas between districts.

(article continues on page 4…)
**EWB’S WORK ON CLTS**

EWB has a team of 4 staff working alongside partner agencies who are implementing Community-Led Total Sanitation (CLTS) in Malawi and Zambia. This issue of the newsletter reviews learning and experiences of Malawi district government implementation (which receive their financial support from UNICEF Malawi).

**UNICEF-SUPPORTED WASHE DISTRICTS IN MALAWI**

Ashley Raeside is collaborating with District Coordinating Teams (DCTs) in the 12 UNICEF-supported WASHE Districts in Malawi on their CLTS programmes: Chitipa, Nkhata Bay, Likoma Island, Mzimba, Kasungu, Dowa, Salima, Mchinji, Lilongwe, Mwanza, Mangochi, and Blantyre. She is facilitating the exchange of learning between all stakeholders, helping programme leaders refine their approach to increase impact.

**EWB’S OTHER CLTS PARTNERSHIPS**

Alynne Iversen is working with PLAN Malawi and local government extension staff in Lilongwe District to facilitate improvements to their collaborative CLTS implementation. In partnership with Africare Zambia, Mike Klassen is supporting the Mazabuka District field programme manager to refine their team’s CLTS approach. Colleen Steele is working full-time with the Mzimba District Water Office to document CLTS learning and support extension workers who are new to CLTS facilitation.

**FOLLOW-UP SECRETS REVEALED!**

But, most district CLTS leaders have already begun moving from challenge to solution! Some District CLTS leaders recommended a few best practices for post-triggering follow-ups and I share them with you below:

- **Devote at least a half-day during CLTS training weeks** to discussing follow-up methodology. Provide training participants with time to make ‘Action Plans’ for what they will choose to do in the 1-3 months following the training.

  - During training, warmly **invite extension staff to share challenges** they think might hinder their follow-up. Address their concerns. Facilitate discussion among the group.
  - **Proactively provide extension staff with forms** to help them track change in the community during each follow-up (Household Register; see picture below) and second form to summarise and report the village-level changes to your team in the District (for a template, contact Ashley).

  - **Be very clear with extension staff what your expectations are** for them for follow-up. Explain that triggering is only the first step on the road to ODF and that CLTS team has a crucial role to play supporting the community to reach their ODF destination.
  - **Call extension staff on the phone during the weeks following triggering** and ask them how their follow-up is going. As the community’s goal ODF date approaches, ask the extension workers if it is time for an ODF Verification Visit by DCT members.

**HOUSEHOLD REGISTER**

For Document Progress in a CLTS Triggered Village

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Follow-Up Visit #</th>
<th>Date(s) of Follow-Up:</th>
<th>Name of Village:</th>
<th>Date of CLTS Triggering:</th>
<th>Name of GVH:</th>
<th>Name of Extension Worker:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>#</td>
<td>Household Name</td>
<td>A latrine is in the process of being constructed</td>
<td>A new latrine has now been constructed</td>
<td>Household had a latrine before CLTS</td>
<td>The latrine (new or old) has a drop hole cover</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Marvel Nakanga</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
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<td>4</td>
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</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**A HOUSEHOLD REGISTER**

for use by district ext. staff.
Contact Ashley for soft copy:
ashleyraeside@ewb.ca
0999 142 333