**NEW:**

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**NEWS:**

- Because district CLTS leaders have expressed a desire for more support from central level, central stakeholders from Unicef, MoIWD, MoH, MLGRD, Plan and DAPP participated in a “Coaching Skills Workshop”, facilitated by EWB Canada on May 21.

- At the Mzuzu CLTS Learning Workshop, Mr. Mpasa, the Director of Sanitation at MoIWD gave a presentation on his department as well as the National Sanitation Policy. Please contact him with questions or for more information on either: mgmpasa@live.com

- Dowa is now developing a district-wide sanitation database, particularly for CLTS. The idea is to make data management easier, more consistent, and to provide quick and direct access. It should also be possible for Dowa to represent this data on a map for the district, showing distribution by health centre and Traditional Authority catchment areas. Read the next S.H.i.T.S. newsletter for a story from Dowa on their creation process!

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**Blessing in Disguise, for Pre-triggering**

**Written By:** B. Mizek (Sr. HSA Dowa District) & Stanley Moll (EWB Intern)

The engine of the Yamaha dirt bike sputtered and died as it climbed the last hill into Nyemba village. “Uh oh, I think we are out of fuel,” said Mizek, the Senior HSA for the BOMA of Dowa District.

Nyemba is a small village of just over 30 households, about 10km outside of Dowa BOMA. It was scheduled to be triggered today but Mizek and Stan were running short of time and facilitators. So instead of triggering, they were just stopping in for a short visit to reschedule. But since they ran out of fuel, it looked like they’d be there for a while after all.

Rather than just sit there and wait, Mizek decided to put the time to use, to train Patrick, the HSA for Nyemba Village. “Ah, now that we have some time, let’s pre-trigger this village, and then I will train you, Patrick, to trigger it.”

Pre-triggering, the first step in CLTS, is sometimes neglected, because of time or resource constraints, or because it is not prioritised. But, pre-triggering is extremely valuable to the rest of the CLTS process.

For example, the data gathered in advance helps facilitators arrive for triggering prepared: number of families, people, children under 5, the number of latrines and their respective conditions and level of completeness. With this data, the facilitator now has an up-to-date picture of the community’s sanitation situation and knows how to focus their efforts at triggering.

In the case of Nyemba, there was 61% coverage in terms of latrines built, but none of them had drop hole covers, rendering them less effective in the fight against cholera and other diarrheal diseases.

Armed with this pre-triggering knowledge, Mizek was able to orient the local HAS Patrick for triggering that village and finished this impromptu training just as the emergency fuel arrived.

Thus, an empty fuel tank was a blessing in disguise! It was a great opportunity to gather critical information, and now Nyemba Village is one step closer to being ODF!

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**What actually results from triggering?**

**What kind of latrines actually get built when a village is ignited to do CLTS?**

How do the latrines compare to National Sanitation Policy standards for “basic” and “improved” latrines?

How long-lasting are these structures, and do they help the initial ODF behaviour last permanently?

These are questions being asked by all concerned people involved in CLTS, from extension workers all the way up to national ministries, and UNICEF internationally. We are all seeking to better understand the quality of facilities being constructed after CLTS, and whether they are used sustainably.

If the majority of latrines built after CLTS last through several rainy seasons, have the squatting hole covered, and have a hand-wash facility conveniently located nearby, then we can rest assured that our CLTS triggering is accomplishing almost the whole job!

On the other hand, if the majority of latrines are quite temporary, and have no “extra” hygienic features, we may wish to adapt our triggering style for more impact.

(...continues on p. 3)
My enthusiasm to visit Likoma Island was realized in 2007, and the ILALA FERRY was going to take me there. As usual, with my hydrophic nature I went to first class where at that time Kuche Kuche, a half litre lager, would help strengthen my courage to proceed with the trip. “Courage my master,” Kuche Kuche seemed to say to me.

An adventure! I stood and took out my camera to take a few photos. Apart from taking photos of tractors bringing firewood and drums of diesel into the ship, the clear blue water captured my interest. Down below, I could see a shoal of beautiful fish with various outstanding colorfull species.

For one who appreciates beauty, this was a perfect scene. But only for someone who understands that fish seek nutritional enrichment for their bodies, it could be noticed that the attraction for fish to come to the ship was actually because of SHIT!

The Ilala Ferry was open defecating, right into water! This was at the shoreline of Nkhata Bay town, and the time was around 3pm. I had just finished eating a nice charcoal-roasted Chambo fish, which is why the Kuche Kuche was a good idea.

While the ship was docked, people walked in and out. Some just came into the ship to enjoy a cold one, since ‘man shall not live on bread alone’! After a few drinks and some delicious meals on board the ship, patrons were accorded a rare privilege to participate in urination and defecation on the biggest and most prestigious ship on the clean water of the beautiful lake Malawi.

Puh!! Puh!! went the horn at 7pm beaconing any remaining patrons to board the ship and prepare to depart. New members on ship were getting anxious to experience the lake. We took off. By now, probably 300 people had visited the zimbuzi and flushed their waste into Lake Malawi.

Four hours later, we were docked at Chizumulu Island where we spent another 3-4 hours before leaving for Likoma Island. At Likoma, the ship took four more hours before leaving again, this time for Mozambique. On it’s way to Monkey Bay, the Ilala kept on SHITTING into the water.

I was on board with the then Chief Water Resources Officer. We discussed what kind of special permit could have been given to this ship to allow it to open defecate?

There you have it. The largest passenger ship on the lake is feeding people and fish every day on its shit. This has been revealed by a visit to some of the places where this ship stops to pick up and drop off customers.

Is the Illala Ferry licensed to shit in this beautiful water?
What actually results from our triggering? (cont. from page 1…)

SITUATION IN ZAMBIA:
In Choma District, Zambia, CLTS spread like bushfire in 2008 with over 517 villages triggered. Overall latrine coverage in these communities increased from 38 to 93% during a period of roughly 6 mos. At least 78% of the villages are Open Defecation Free.

Despite this success, CLTS coordinators in Zambia still asked the question, “Even though coverage has increased dramatically, how hygienic and well-built are these structures?” They surveyed latrines in a sub-sample of the triggered communities to better understand the situation.

The graph on the right shows some of their results. Apparently 99% of latrines were in use, 90% had superstructures, 90% had drop-hole covers (85% covered at the time of survey), 88% had a smooth clean floor, and 76% had hand-washing facilities, and 85% had soap or ash beside the hand-washing facility.

SITUATION IN MALAWI???
What do you think of these latrine-quality results from the Zambia study? How would triggered villages in Malawi compare if we had the same data available?

To have such kind of data available in Malawi for each and every latrine constructed may not be feasible or even necessary to understand the “quality” situation.

Instead, we may wish to conduct our own survey, sampling some triggered villages in Malawi. This could tell us how we are succeeding and failing with facilitating community analysis and action planning.

For example if a large number of latrines have drop-hole covers in use, then we are probably doing a good job of facilitating to build this understanding among community members. If most latrines lack hand-washing facilities, then we are probably failing to facilitate impactful conversations on this during triggering. If we choose long-ago triggered villages and the latrines are still standing and in use, the behavior change is likely sustainable. There is so much to be learnt!

NOW AVAILABLE: CLTS Follow-Up Guidelines!

If you ask any Malawian district who is implementing CLTS, what their key challenges are, most will certainly say that their “Follow-Ups” need improvement. Some CLTS facilitators might see triggering as the most important part. After all, if the community really understands that they are eating their own shit, and comes up with goals and a certain date by which OD should stop, then definitely they are going to achieve their goals, right? This is community-led total sanitation after all, so are follow-ups really necessary?

Many district CLTS leaders have actually said YES, follow-ups ARE important. We cannot expect the community to change age-old habits without regular encouragement and assistance, no matter how excited they are on Triggering Day. The consensus now among CLTS leaders is that follow-ups are as much a part of CLTS as triggering is.

To help extension staff, or even district CLTS leaders think through how to approach a follow-up visit, some brief (2-page) guidelines have been prepared. This is thanks to the input of 9 different district CLTS leaders from across Malawi, and 1 from Zambia. Providing guidelines alone though, will not do the job. They can only help boost a person’s knowledge and skill for follow-up visits. There are still the issues of attitude and time management which need to be addressed in order to improve the frequency of follow-ups. As district CLTS leaders, it is your responsibility to test solutions to these complicated and challenging issues!

Your district CLTS coordinators should have already received the Follow-Up Guidelines by email, but if you have not accessed them, just email ashleyraeside@ewb.ca to request and they can be sent to you.

A picture of the 2-page Follow-Up Guidelines

Research from Zambia

This graph shows quality indicators for a sampling of CLTS latrines in Zambia. (Harvey & Mukosha; WEDC 2009)

EWB might conduct research on this issue in July or August.

If it also interests you, contact Mike Kang (0999 034 067; mikekang@ewb.ca) & Shilalah Phiri (0995 138 679; anitakafodya@yahoo.com) with questions/input.
More Shit Stories...

Written by participants at the CLTS Learning Workshop in Mzuzu (March 2010)

Gumboots & A Scale
Written By: Mr. James Bennie, Asst. EHO, Mwanza District

It was during triggering process in one of the villages in Mwanza District known as Gulumba/Tulonkhondo in TA Kanduko. The pre-triggering awareness or publicity was done and the gathering was a good size. Everything including introductions of the team members was done. Village mapping was done and the whole village was identified.

When it came time to conduct a Walk of Shame, community members demanded for gumboots to enable them to go to the bush where they use for shitting.

On shit calculation the community requested for weighing scales to easily calculate of their shit.

All this was an indication that the village didn't want to be triggered as most members who were present left the venue before the process was finished and the team was asked not to come again for similar activity.

WHERE DID WE GO WRONG?!

What a Wonderful ODF Celebration
A Story By: F.M.B. Katole, Sr. HSA, Mkanda Health Centre, Mchinji District

It was on January 17th 2010 when community members of TA Mkanda celebrated their ODF event, which took place across three GVHs. I cannot explain much on what happened in all GVHs, but only where I fully attended which was GVH Mwase at Lumbanga village.

What impressed me much is the way the community members welcomed the function. Despite the heavy rains people were jumping, and moving around, the whole village scattered like ants. The people prepared sweet beer, and nsima with chickens as a sign of joy. There were so many performing groups which were disseminating CLTS messages through different activities.

I was very much interested because everybody (extension workers, village heads, natural leaders and community members) were free to mention shit, “MANYI,” in the presence of the whole gathering.

I cannot even forget Chigumula Choir. It is a group of men from the same family who spent the whole day entertaining people with their good songs. I was told that 10 years ago before they actually started attending functions (either religious or health related), they spent some months being trained by a certain group which was entertaining people during the reign of the former president and founder of the Republic of Malawi, Dr. H. Kamuzu.

It was indeed a Walk of Pride since no shit was found in the bushes around Lumbanga.

The verification/recognition celebrations that were conducted in TA Mkanda, Mchinji District verified the people assured that they have really played an important role in improving sanitation coverage in the area and hence have reduced the prevalence of diarrhoea diseases. In the year 2008-2009 15 cases of cholera and 1 death were reported and during this rainy season after CLTS there have been ZERO.

S.H.i.T.S. NEWSLETTER
The Sharing Highlights in Total Sanitation newsletter, coordinated by EWB, reviews learning and experiences of Malawi local government CLTS implementation and their collaborating NGO partners. It includes many contributions from district and other leaders within the sanitation sector.

EWB’S WORK on SANITATION & HYGIENE
In Malawi and Zambia, 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. Ashley Raeside and Jolly Ann Maulit from EWB are collaborating with District Coordinating Teams from 12 Unicef-supported WASH Districts in Malawi on their CLTS programmes: Chitipa, Nkhata Bay, Likoma Island, Mzimba, Kasungu, Dowa, Salima, Mchinji, Lilongwe, Mwanza, Mangochi, and Blantyre. They are facilitating learning exchange between all CLTS stakeholders in Malawi, developing monitoring & evaluation tools, and coaching district CLTS leaders to help them refine their unique CLTS programmes for maximum community impact.