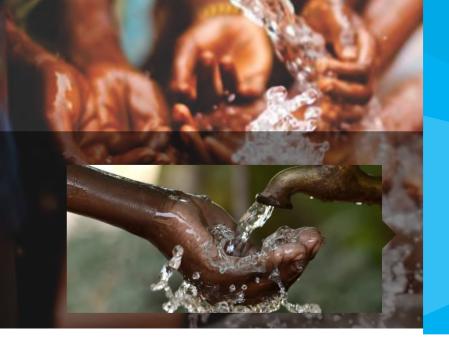






CLEAN WATER INITIATIVE REPORT



EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

According to UNICEF, about 2.4 billion people worldwide lack access to improved sanitation while over 663 million do not have access to improved water sources. In Nigeria, 63 million people lack access to safe water while over 46 million Nigerians still practice open defecation, making Nigeria one of the countries with the highest number of people still practicing open defecation. Many schools in Nigeria lack safe, private toilets and hand-washing facilities. The lack of hygienic sanitation and safe water has grave effects on people especially children. It leads to infant mortality most especially in children under 5 and it affects productivity in school children, especially girls who start to miss school when they reach puberty and may eventually drop out due to missed classes.

The Clean Water Initiative is a partnership between HACEY Health Initiative and ACT Foundation focused on improving access to potable water in rural and underserved communities. The initiative aims to increase access to clean water through installation of boreholes in some selected communities in south-west Nigeria and capacity building on WASH for women,

children and community leaders. The clean water initiative is committed to providing sustainable solutions that will reduce water- borne diseases like diarrhoea, cholera, dysentery and typhoid fever.

The Clean Water Initiative intervention in 15 communities in Lagos and Ogun States Nigeria sought prevention and management information on Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH) to vulnerable and underserved communities and also mobilize communities to take action towards reducing the incidences and prevalence of water borne diseases. This document reports the successes, challenges and outcomes of this intervention. Major activities of the intervention included community advocacy and mobilization, community awareness program, capacity building of key influencers within communities and installation of boreholes and entertainment education.





Boreholes Installed: 15

Focus Group Discussions Held: 15





Participants in focus group discussions: 435

Sessions Held With Community Leaders: 30



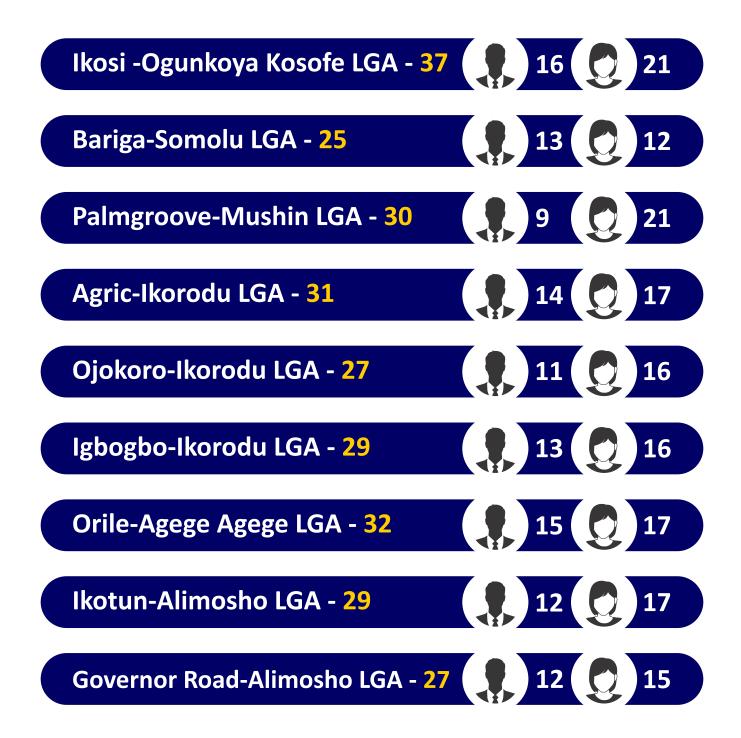


Households reached with WASH information: 6125

Community
Groups Engaged: 95



LAGOS STATE: 267 Focus Group Participants 9 Boreholes, 9 Communities



OGUN STATE: 168 Focus Group Participants 6 Boreholes, 6 Communities

Arepo-Obafemi Owode - 23

Alfa Village-Odeda LGA - 35

Ago Iwoye-Ago Iwoye LGA - 26

Ishashi-Ifo LGA - 31

Denro-Ifo LGA - 25

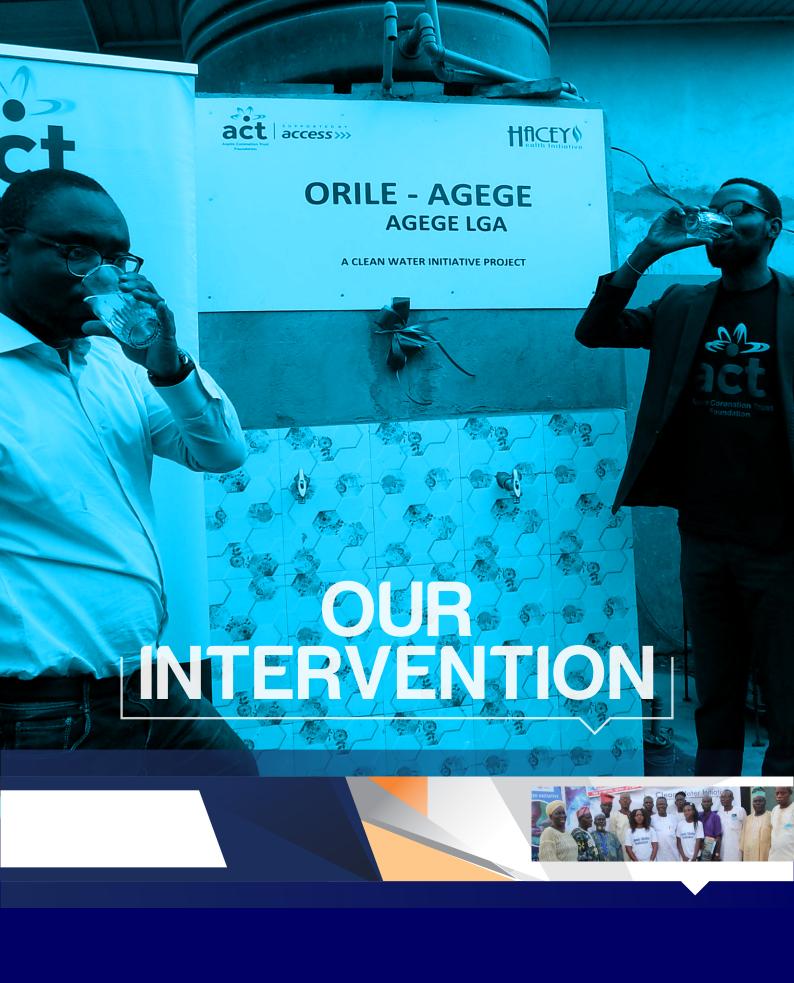
Ilu Oba - Abule-Oba LGA - 28

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19

Community Groups Engaged: 95





PROJECT GOAL & OBJECTIVES

- Increase access to improved water and sanitation facilities and hygiene knowledge and practice for communities and school pupils in project implementation sites.
- Educate community women on how to ensure water is safe for drinking in their households.
- Construct boreholes in the selected project implementation sites.
- Conduct advocacy with community influencers and stakeholders to put an end to indiscriminate and open defecation and to protect the integrity of the sources of drinking water in their communities.
- Educate community members in all the selected implementation sites especially nursing mothers on prevention of diarrhoea.
- Educate school pupils especially girls on proper sanitation and hygiene during menstruation.
- Conduct advocacy with policy makers and government on increased investment on safe water initiatives.

COMMUNITY SELECTION CRITERIA

Communities for this intervention were selected based on the following criteria

- · Water scarcity
- · Population density
- · Socio-Economic status
- · Recommendations from the State Ministries of Health



The Clean Water Initiatives community intervention seeks to create sustainable solutions to improving WASH conditions in underserved communities across Nigeria. The huge role stakeholders, community gatekeepers and proper water messaging play in behavioural change and community mobilization towards WASH was recognized and considered in designing the Clean Water Initiative approach.

We employed the following strategies in achieving the vision of the initiative:

COMMUNITY CAPACITY BUILDING

In many local communities in Nigeria especially those characterized by low literacy rate, poor socio-economic status and inadequate access to quality health services, there exist poor health seeking behavior coupled with low knowledge of disease prevention and transmission. The Clean Water initiative built the capacity of the community on the importance of WASH, sources of clean water and methods of purifying water, handwashing and best practices regarding sanitation through focus group discussions, stakeholders meeting, training of community leaders and different groups. These activities were carried out in all the 15 communities across Lagos and Ogun states.

ADVOCACY

We recognize the pivotal role community gatekeepers and groups play in community mobilization and development. We actively engaged these stakeholders in the design, implementation and monitoring of activities of the initiative in every community. This is important for the sustainability of the initiative in these communities; this action helped build and strengthen collective community action towards improving WASH conditions in all project sites.

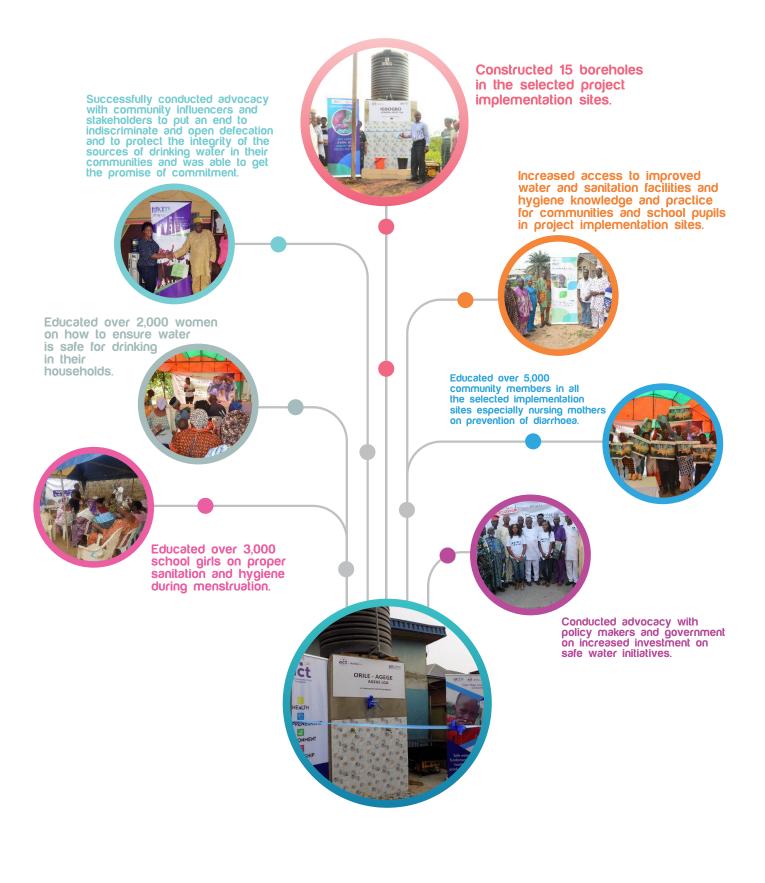
In the 15 communities that we worked, we carried out advocacy visits to heads of communities, community groups and traditional leaders within these communities to seek their support towards the achievement of the set goals and objectives of this project and ensure sustainability of the intervention

EDUCATION

An important element of Water Sanitation and Hygiene programs is the provision of relevant prevention and care messages in easy to read and understand. We designed information, education and communication (IEC) materials to educate the communities on water treatment, water source protection, water borne diseases, vector control, benefits of correct and consistent hand washing. The initiative also trained breastfeeding and nursing mothers on hygiene and healthy practices.



The project has achieved the following;





The CLEAN WATER INITIATIVE was also developed to educate community dwellers in places where the project was implemented on the connection between water and diarrhoea. People especially women were made to understand water is very essential for hygiene but contaminated water is also a major cause of diarrhoea. Water, when contaminated with human faeces for example from municipal sewage, septic tanks and latrines is of special concern. Animal faeces also contain microorganisms that can cause diarrhoea therefore women were taught practical ways of preventing diarrhoea. There were live demonstrations of two ways of preventing diarrhoea; hand washing and point of use water treatment centres.

Also, men groups were organized and taken through the importance of siting septic tanks faraway from wells and boreholes. Center for Disease Control recommends distance of 50 feets between septic tanks and water wells.





WOMEN LEADER, ORILE AGEGE

With this borehole in our community, we are now rest assured that we will stop experiencing water scarcity. We have suffered for too long.



OLAOYE, ILU-OBA COMMUNITY

I remember how my second born died from cholera, now I know the cause. I have to change the location of our septic tank.



HEADMISTRESS, IKOSI PRIMARY SCHOOL

Our pupils have greatly learnt from this training. We are glad you chose us. God bless your work.



CDA CHAIRMAN, AREPO

No one should die from Diarrhoea again in this community, now we know better.



FOLASHADE, IGBOGBO IKORODU

With all these training, I am sure our hygiene conditions will improve because we have high prevalence of diarrhoea especially among children.



ADEYORIJU, OJOKORO IKORODU

I am very delighted about the borehole, it is going to increase the accessibility of water in our community.





SAIDAT, ABULE ALFA

The installation of the borehole is going to enable me get to school early without having to queue for water.



TAIWO, OSHOLONGE COMMUNITY

I have always had to treat typhoid because I did not have access to clean water so this borehole will help my get clean water always.



TAIWO AND KEHINDE, BARIGA

We were really excited about the borehole as accessibility of water will improve our hygiene as we always had to ration the use of water.



THE BAALE OF ILU-OBA

I really appreciate the borehole stating that the people of this community have suffered too much from poor health, bad hygiene due to inaccessibility of water.



AREWA, FOOD VENDOR AT ABULE ALFA COMMUNITY

I was very excited about the borehole as It would improve access to water, increase hygiene and save the cost of water purchase.



MRS DAUDA, MATRON AT THE PUBLIC HEALTH CENTRE, ALIMOSHO

She spoke of the importance of the borehole as it would help reduce the occurrence of water related diseases as it was a menace affecting the people of the community.

GALLERY















GALLERY















