

Existing¹ Good Practice Case 3: SANITATION CAMPAIGNS

BACKGROUND

Itula Sub-County is in Moyo district, West Nile, Uganda. It is predominantly a fishing community. In 2004 the sanitation coverage was 30.8%. This motivated the Health Assistant to organize the first sanitation campaign between August 2004 and June 2005. As a result the sanitation coverage was raised to 50% in 2006. However, the sanitation coverage fell back to 45.2% in 2007. This decreasing trend is being attributed to the loose soils and invasion by termites, which led to collapse of latrines.

Sanitation campaigns

Sanitation campaigns are held twice a year. They resulted in an increase in latrine coverage in the whole Sub-county. In 2009, Paloriny parish has the highest sanitation coverage, 90.2%, while Legu parish has the lowest, 52.1%. The overall sanitation coverage of Itula Sub-county is about 74%.

For comparison: the safe water coverage in the Sub-county is estimated to be 52% with a total number of 114 functional boreholes.

Sanitation campaigns are designed to carry out activities in a specific area to promote sanitation in both the construction of facilities and change in behaviour. CERFORD, one of the NGOs working in West Nile, has set up two sanitation centres in Moyo district, in Itula and Moyo Sub-county. The target groups for the sanitation campaigns include the local community members, institutions like schools, and public places like markets and trading centres.

Planning a sanitation campaign

When Sub-counties identify a community with sanitation and hygiene problems they cannot solve, they forward these issues to the district. The district then prioritises these issues and addresses them in a campaign approach.

Activities in a campaign

1. The community is sensitized about the problem e.g. low coverage of sanitation, and the solutions that include the need to have toilets and the dangers of not having one.
2. Assessment methods like transect walks or walks of shame are used to map out the households that have a latrine, and the ones that do not.
3. The community is engaged in making bylaws that govern sanitation improvement campaign. An example of such a bylaw: *every household without a latrine is given an agreed upon time period, for instance two weeks, in which they have to construct a latrine; fines or punishments are also set and agreed upon by the community*.
4. Home visits are conducted after the agreed period. In the visits the newly constructed

latrines are listed. Those found defying the bylaws are handed over to 'law enforcement officers' to take legal action or to be fined as agreed upon earlier.

Resources required for the campaigns

Logistics needed for mobilization are motorcycles, vehicles and fuel, and allowances.

Awards are given to the best performers in form of pangas, hoes, rakes, slashers, watering cans and soap.

Success factors

- Motivation given to best performers
- Competing attitudes of the communities
- Involvement of other stakeholders in the sanitation campaigns e.g. local councils members and opinion leaders.

Lessons learnt

There is a need for appropriate technologies to be shared with district and Sub-county staff and with households. These technologies should address how latrines can be constructed on sandy soil and what supporting means for the latrine floors exist that are termite resistant.

Challenges that remain

- Poverty level is high among the communities
- Poor soil texture
- Termite invasion

Contacts and information

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¹ Existing means that it was reported a good case in the first Dialogue by the participants