

COMMUNITY LED TOTAL SANITATION (CLTS) IN GABA COMMUNITY, BWARI AREA

COUNCIL, ABUJA, NIGERIA

The Women in Engineering Committee in their relentless work towards the achievement of their 2017 declaration as approved by WFEO General Assembly in Rome, commenced a project in January, 2018 on Sanitation and Hygiene (SDG 6) in Bwari Area Council as part of their activities for the year. The specific focus of the project is SDG 6, target 6.2 eradicating Open Defecation (OD), using the Community Lead Total Sanitation (CLTS) approach which focuses on the Community behavioral change rather than merely toilet construction. This process involves, pre-triggering, triggering and post-triggering of a community.

The first two stages of the project which is the Pre-triggering and triggering activities has been successfully carried out. WASHCOM members of the community have been intensively trained for the grass root follow up (post triggering) and sustainability of the Community Led Total Sanitation to ensure the community is declared Open Defecation Free (ODF).

The project follow-up team, comprising of members of the Women in Engineering Committee, Bwari Area Council and WASH members from the Federal Ministry of Water Resources embarked on monthly visits to the community to check on the community's compliance level.

Also the committee, as a way to complement the CLTS activities organized a sanitation and hygiene programme on October 6th, 2018 for Secondary Schools in Bwari Area Council. This was to encourage the students to become Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH) Ambassadors of their Community. The event which took place at the Auditorium of Joint Admission and Matriculation Board (JAMB) had about 123 students from 9 different schools in attendance including Gaba secondary school.

The opening remark was given by Honorable **(Dr.) Musa Dikko**, Chairman, Bwari Area Council who was the Special Guest of Honour. The programme had representatives from Joint Admission and Matriculation Board (JAMB), Water and Sanitation department of the Federal Ministry of Water Resources, Chief Head of Gaba Community and Association of Professional Women Engineers of Nigeria (APWEN) in attendance.

Presentations were made by members of the Federal Ministry of Water Resources and Women Engineers on Hygiene. Hands on activities were also carried out to introduce the students to some simple engineering practicals. These were part of programmes to encourage the Girl- Child to take up the sciences with a view to

pursuing a career in engineering. A Hygiene club was formed in the various schools present with their teachers as advisers.

The students were given a puzzle to test their understanding of the different fields of engineering by filling correctly the engineer description of a particular field where winners were awarded prizes. The first, second and third positions went with 50,000, 30,000 and 20,000 Naira respectively for their next session school fees. The students went back happily with various prizes.

The last phase of the project which is the monthly visit to by the follow-up team is still ongoing and the committee is making efforts to ensure Gaba Community is open defecation free by July, 2019.

PHOTO SPEAKS



Photo 1: A cross section of Trainees at the First WASHCOM training



Photo 2: A cross section of Trainees during the Hygiene and Sanitation Marketing training.



Fig. 3.0 Winners of the Competition with the Bwari Area Council Chairman and WIE members.



Fig. 4.0 First Student to fix the Helmet Received Award