

National WASH Learning forum 2009



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NEWS UPDATE DAY-2: 13 OCT 09

About learning:

Government, NGOs and private operators met on the 13th October 2009, the second day for learning and sharing on sanitation at households and schools. This second day was different as the focus was on low cost technologies and use of manure, PHAST and Community Health Club approaches.



What we did:

The forum on day 2 was blessed with words of wisdom from Mr. Otai Justin (Min of Health); he noted that "sanitation is a political orphan" and he supported this statement that no sector has really taken ownership of sanitation.

PHAST AND COMMUNITY AND SCHOOL HEALTH CLUBS, AND HYGIENE GAMES AND TEACHING AIDS

We had very interesting cases on PHAST experience, Community Health Clubs, total sanitation approach, sanitation marketing, ecological sanitation and cost optimization, school hygiene teaching aids, girls urinals, child-friendly school sanitation options and an overview of UNICEF experiences.

WEDA shared their successful experience on PHAST, which has been a success through working in cluster groups

with the communities. Sanitation marketing seems to come at stage with a promising

Mr Otai Justin (Min of Health): The CHC initiative has got a competitive element of wanting to do better than the others in the community. There is a pulling/ magnetic force of peer pressure by attracting others to join. Also due to existing benefits like exchange visits-shirts, buying of household facilities like saucepans, jerry cans in a circle form people have embraced the CHC clubs.

approach being developed in Tororo by PLAN. This "is an intervention to sanitation that is market and commercial driven".

The Community Health Clubs and PHAST Groups (mostly women!) appear to be promising approaches; very genuinely community-based approaches although with support from health office

And we also discussed the School Health Clubs as a factor for success at primary schools. Students take leadership and responsibilities on school sanitation and hygiene practices and maintenance. The peer learning and pressure at horizontal level (within the class/age groups) helps them to change behaviour and practice. And again they appear to take it home and change for-ever.



Very interesting and effective is the child friendly approach developing and using games and plays in prompting better hygiene at schools.

Stimulating creativity is a good way to get pupils engaged. The children will even take the messages back home; two birds with one 'creative' stone!

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PRESENTATION OF CASES ON ECOSAN AND OTHER TECHNOLOGIES, AND MARKETING

We had several cases shared on different technologies being implemented in Uganda. Success factors considered were cost, innovativeness, appreciation by users, ease of maintenance, affordability, and other lessons learnt.

Ecosan promotion by DED in Arua Municipal Council started as top-down approach at the district with too expensive options for scaling-up. Now the project offers more affordable options and approaches, a bottom-up approach for community ownership. Also JESE did a review of design of urine diversion latrines and managed to bring the cost down to a range of UG shilling 200,000-800,000 per unit. Definitely more affordable now!



The combination of the teaming up of social marketing by government staff and NGOs and the commercial marketing by masons seems to be a promising direction. PLAN in their HIP activities has been developing an innovative approach.

INTERVIEWS ON ECOSAN AND OTHER TECHNOLOGIES

Draburu Michael a local expert on Ecosan (DED-Arua municipality): In brief, urine-diversion technology is not a pit latrine and does not

involve sinking of pits. Instead vaults are constructed above the ground level. Urine does not mix with faeces and ash is used for neutralization of waste and prevents smell and flies. The community change of attitude and cultural beliefs is not a one-day's event, thus it involved combined effort to achieve behavioural change in Oli Division, Arua Municipality. Jasper Okello (Joy Drilling): The child friendly water and sanitation technology which is a pour-flush toilet through use of available materials like the vehicle differentials and a Mary-go round which is mounted on the vehicle differential using the cylinder that takes water into the tank as seen in the picture below..



Obviously the innovation on girls' urinals at schools created a lot of discussion. Pros and cons were

seriously debated, laws versus space for innovations. It was clear that urinals give a substantial cost reduction in school sanitation facilities as less latrines are required. Urinals are cheaper per unit. Oops what about the issue raised: do many kids defecate at school? To be continued!



Overall, the participants said that this first National WASH Learning Forum was a success. Mr. Sam Mutono closed it by saying, we have

done something very innovative in Uganda, others will follow this learning initiative. To be continued! Thanks all participants for making it a success.

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