

GOVERNMENT ENGAGEMENT: THE PAPHyR EXPERIENCE - BENIN



The mayor of Copargo visiting a target PAPHyR community

BACKGROUND

PAPHyR (Programme d'Amélioration de l'Accès à l'Assainissement et des Pratiques d'Hygiène en milieu Rural) is a sanitation and hygiene project in Benin funded by the Global Sanitation Fund operated by the Water Supply & Sanitation Collaborative Council. Led by Medical Care Development International (MCDI), the goal of PAPHyR is to eliminate the practice of open defecation throughout rural Benin using Community-Led Total Sanitation (CLTS), which “triggers” communities into building latrines and practicing safe sanitary practices such as handwashing.

In Benin, MCDI trains 14 Non-Governmental Organizations, called Agence de Mise en Oeuvre (AMOd), to be able to implement PAPHyR. To support the AMOd on the ground and to ensure ownership and sustainability of PAPHyR, MCDI involves local communal governments in the implementation and supervision of program activities. These local governments bear the responsibility for improving sanitation for all according to national policies.

METHODOLOGY

The methodology adopted to facilitate the ownership of sanitation by local government is participatory, collaborative and consists of the following main activities:

- Institutional triggering of elected communal (local) officials to create a feeling of disgust towards open defecation to enhance their commitment to ending it;
- Planning AMOd activities under the direction of the commune's Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene Officers;
- Monitoring and advisory support of AMOd activities by the communal authorities;
- Participation of local elected officials in workshops and technical meetings;
- Local government support for the pre-certification of Open Defecation Free (ODF) localities;
- Their participation in communication campaigns on local radios for behavior change.

MAIN ACTORS

- The elected municipal officials and Decentralized Administration Agents;
- Deconcentrated State Agents;
- The Executing Agency (MCDI);
- Local NGOs acting as Implementation Agencies or Agence de Mise en Oeuvre (AMOd) ;
- The target communities.



ODF locality with a clean latrine environment

RESULTS TO DATE

- 11 governors triggered about the need to prioritize basic sanitation and hygiene;
- 62 Decentralized Service Agents trained on Community-Led Total Sanitation (CLTS) implementation and PAPHyR monitoring and evaluation mechanisms;
- 5,849 local elected officials trained to monitor and advise the AMOd to enhance program implementation and improve results;
- Two new effective CLTS triggering tools created by the Mayors;
- Four communes committed to including sanitation in their next budget;
- Multiple localities triggered by local officials through radio channels;
- Many communities rapidly attaining ODF status;
- Local governments develop and monitor ODF sustainability plans with communities.

Testimony of Toucountouna Mayor during Institutional Triggering of the Commune Council of Boukoumbé

“... I was skeptical about the PAPHyR project, I was even close to stopping it because I did not want jokes in my commune, and I was serious about it. When they described their intervention system, nothing was able to convince me and I wanted to send them back ... but when they started, I said that I'm going to accompany them to fail together so that they do not say later on that it is because of the Mayor that the project did not succeed. When I went with them, I realized that change was possible. Here is a project that advocates for latrines construction without adding any money. It is up to the population to build the latrines... that's why our involvement is very important. In the end, we were really satisfied; the latrines were well maintained with ash and there was no smell or flies inside.”



Mayor of Dassa-Zoumè visiting the target PAPHyR areas



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