Progressive Sanitation Action by Communities

The WASH in Health project supported by WAG/HSBC in this April 2018 received significant attention. The Project which focused on Improved Hygiene and Sanitation for 5 communities has since been closely monitored by ProNet North. The Community Led Total Sanitation (CLTS) approach was adopted to getting these communities Open Defecation Free (ODF) Status. It is a passionate call on ProNet North as we work Day and Night to achieve this target. So far three (3) communities, Kadoli, Kpankole and Mojong currently have latrines in every household. Handwashing facilities are critically considered by households after participating in Hand Washing Promotion sessions. Members are happily constructing Tippy Taps close to the toilet facilities to enable them reduce/eliminate faecal contamination right after the use of the latrine. Members are excited about their own actions and are working hard to attain ODF status. We are definite that these communities will soon follow the process for verification.

GROW Completes CMF

Under the Greater Rural Opportunities for Women (GROW) project, Client Monitoring Form (CMF) which is geared towards tracking yields of soya and measuring the value chain impact of soya on GROW clients has finished in April. In the CMF data collection, ProNet North became the champion out of 5 key facilitating partners (KPF), which proved that ProNet North was capable of accurately and promptly performing such complicated task that requires an interaction with community members and dealing with figures.

While handling CMF, ProNet North field officers worked on assisting GROW clients in preparing their crop budgets for the farming season. The support could be a great help for the clients to make more economical decision in opting for best farming practices.
ProNet North continued with the community outreach programme, where facilitation and activities of VSLAs are monitored under the sanitation marketing (SANMARK) programme. The field facilitators recruited by the various District Assemblies and trained by ProNet North on the VSLA concept, reached out to form VSLAs groups in various communities. A total of 66 VSLAs groups were formed across 42 communities in 3 districts (Wa East, DBI and Sissala West Districts).

Among the issues discussed during this outreach programme was the cost of VSLA toolkits. Majority of the groups expressed concern about the difficulty in mobilizing money to pay for the toolkit upfront. As a measure to addressing this concern, groups were allowed to suggest the mode of payment to ensure flexibility. A number of these groups agreed to levy each member an amount depending on the group size. They also agreed to collect these contributions over a period of 3 months. Contributions and payments are expected to be paid back to ProNet North/UNICEF. Also, a few of the groups suggested that the cost of toolkit should be deducted from the total saving during ‘share out’. ProNet north is mindful of the groups’ core mandate and will not like to suppress that but to also maintain the interest of these groups for VSLA in Sanitation. Groups were reminded to ensure that funds are used for the intended purpose only by focusing on the groups’ constitution. This also mandates the group members to jointly supervise the use of accessed sanitation fund.

Community Action Day (CAD) is a community durbar, where awareness and advocacy are generated for parents and the entire communities, through the programme organized by International Citizen Service (ICS) volunteers and community leaders, to be responsible and take part in development process especially with regards to girls education. CAD organized in the project communities have successfully ended, resulting in cooperation and enthusiasm of pupils and community people included in the event. ICS volunteers and pupils carried out various programmes during the CAD, such as drama, games or songs related to adolescent health and education. All the programmes involved parents and pupils who participated in the event to comprehend the importance of education for children, enlightening them about the dangers of teenage pregnancy and expanded opportunity from a good education. ProNet North is convinced that the positive impact generated by the programme will last and contribute to the community development going forward.
Alhassan Muniratu from Tabiese in the Daffiama-Bussie-Issa (DBI) District is one of the lead farmers on the GROW project. After project intervention, she could expand her farm to one acre and earn more income. She said, “Before I became a part of GROW clients, I had supported my husband to construct a small garden during the dry season for family consumption. But GROW has offered me various kinds of trainings, including, nursery preparation, types of beds raising, compost preparation and types of vegetables. That made it possible for me to cultivate different types of vegetables, such as okra, alefu, pumpkins and so on, which enables me to make GHC 50-100 per week.” The increase in income would have positive influences both on her person and her family, making it possible for them to save money and use it for broadened options.