The WASH in Health Project, funded by HSBC, is counting its benefits within six months within the period of implementation in WA Municipality. Working through Natural leaders at the community level is clearly the way to go and so ProNet North has since adopted this strategy of working through such leaders. We have since adopted innovative ways of engaging these Natural Leaders to achieve the optimum benefit. In line with this ProNet north uses the media to engaging such leaders for them to enumerate the benefits of their own action for sanitation. Women in particular are still counting the benefits with diarrheal cases on reduction among children, and reduction in visits to the health care centre at Kpankole. They also added that owning toilets does not only make the household comfortable, but also makes it more convenient particularly when they receive visitors. What this also means is that household confidence level has increased due to the general sanitary improvements in homes. Do standby for updates of sanitation benefits in our newsletter as we move to other project communities.

The GROW project is about improving household food and nutrition security. In line with this the orange fleshed Sweet Potato (OFSP) which is high in vitamin A has also being introduced to supplement nutrition. Currently, the GROW team together with MEDA and CID is monitoring Orange Flesched Sweet Potato (OFSP) fields to check the propagation method and its performance. Officers are also monitoring soya fields to assess the growth of the crops and assist farmers with pre-harvest services.
SANMARK Follow Up on VSLA Session

During the month under review, the monitoring team shifted their attention to communities which are slow in adopting the SanMark interventions. Among the communities visited were Nandomeeyiri, Banu, Viisee Kambale. Probing to know the challenges, it was revealed that all VSLA activities has come to a halt due to farming activities. Community members have channelled all their resources into farming, hence, the difficulty in raising weekly savings. Moreover, they leave to their farms very earlier before the meeting time resulting in very poor attendance rate. Considering these challenges, there is consensus to suspend the VSLA activities until crops are harvested. Upon the advice by the monitoring team, two groups in Viisee-Kambale agreed to re-converge and start saving on September 9, 2018 and September 12, 2018. Components of VSLA toolkits were handed over to the two groups to aid them start the sanitation fund contribution. Being an old VSLA which is being adopted, parts of the VSLA toolkit are owned by the groups. At Nandomeeyiri, specific date could not be agreed on, but the team was assured of the first week of October. The monitoring team have since been following up to ascertain the level of preparation.

VSLA toolkit handed to Viisee-Kambale group

Donors Engagement With Beneficiaries

Donors of the Bee-keeping for Sustainable Livelihood (BSL) visited some selected beneficiary communities (Goli, Jang and Zukpiri) of the project. The visit was the first time community level verification visit. They interacted with the beneficiaries on the following concerns: How well ProNet North has engaged communities. Communities understanding of the projects in terms of responsibilities of both communities and implementing partners and deliverables. Anticipated challenges with the project and how best they can resolve them. How communities intend to sustain the project after the exit of implementing partners. A baseline was conducted in all beneficiary communities to gather data to measure the impact at the end of the project. The questionnaire was divided into three parts, namely, community level focusing on the community level information on population, vegetation cover and leadership. Group level data on the various grouping within the community, the group membership, group dynamics and sustainability was also collected. This information was important in selecting beneficiaries. Individual level data was also collected after beneficiaries selected to get information on individual livelihoods, incomes and demographic information.
Voice from Beneficiary

Lawaah Damina is 55 years old woman with a family of six. She is subsistence farmer in Bosouyiri. Before the CLTS project, her household and the whole community practiced open defecation without knowing the consequences. “I used to spend at least GHC40.00 to GHC50.00 for hospital bills for my children almost every other month. This has changed. I haven’t sent these children to the hospital in the past 5 months because we have learned to wash our hands regularly.”