WASH in Health Goes Into Next Phase

The extended Programme (WASH in Health) commenced in May with continuous support from Hong Kong Shanghai Banking Corporation (HSBC) and partnership with WaterAid Ghana. The project aims at supporting Health Care Facilities with appropriate, affordable, safe and sustainable access to water and sanitation by March 2019. The project had successfully gone through various stages and intermittently monitored by Natural Leaders, field officers and the M&E management Unit. Several changes and practices were observed in the communities. Household latrines were spotted around the communities, a few hand-washing facilities were also seen near latrines. One positive change was very impressive to the team. When a baby defecated, the mother was seen digging a hole to dump the shit collected. Our enquiries shows that madam Grace Beturo participated in a session and listened to officers of ProNet North about food contamination and how the whole family can be affected. She is trying to prevent disease from spreading, she explained. Grace behavior attracted attention as the monitoring them encourage her to move around from house to house to talk to every woman about her just ended good practice including hand washing.

SANMARK Latrine Construction in Progress

The Sanmark program largely depends on the community outreach program. This outreach allows field officers to provide technical support for household and latrine artisans. Our visit in this May showed that 5 VSLA groups from DBI and WA East were able to share out. Members were, therefore, able to generate income from their savings to buy cement and vent pipes for latrine construction. A total of 28 households also started constructing new latrines whiles 41 members got opportunity to upgrade or maintained collapsed latrines. Indeed some of the group members are still awaiting their turn to buy materials for their latrine construction. It is also important to note that some households are working very hard to complete their latrines where as others are quite slow due to the raining season. This is because some individuals prefer to pay more attention to farm work as against sanitation issues. Field officers are, therefore, constantly working hard to dialogue with members to persuade them to do better.
CBR Training Conducted

As part of SWEB project, there was two days Community Based Rehabilitation (CBR) training for ProNet North field officers and all stakeholders in the Jirapa Municipal Assembly. The objective of the workshop/training was to achieve a sustainable CBR programme for all persons with disabilities. CBR is a strategy with general development for the rehabilitation, equalization of opportunities and social inclusion of all people with disabilities. Also, CBR ensures that people with disabilities are able to maximize their physical and mental abilities to access regular services and opportunities to become active contributors to the community and society at large. It is implemented through the combined efforts of people with disabilities themselves, their families, organizations and communities, and the relevant governmental and non-governmental health, education, vocational, social and other services.

As part of the programme, all stakeholders presented on their activities that have been happening as far as disability issues are concerned. They identified their strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, and threats available and how to exploit the opportunities, minimize the threats, eliminate the weaknesses and build on their strengths as far as this programme is concerned.

The programme ended with new committee members from Social welfare, Ghana Health service, Ghana Education service, Community Development Department and ProNet North to steer the affairs of this newly launched programme.

ICS Final Debriefing Held

The volunteers of International Citizen Service (ICS) completed all the activities in the communities in Jirapa and had final debriefing on 11th May. Through the ICS programme, all the communities had experiences of various improvements in a light of education. Despite shortage of the time caused by holidays, volunteers had realized a raft of achievements. Some volunteers organized school clubs and tried to motivate students to attend the school. Others established the school library, so that more students could have an opportunity for reading and self-studying during their break or other free time. Such dedication and efforts made by ICS volunteers had positive effects on teachers and other members in the communities and contributed to amelioration of educational environment for the students. On the other hand, volunteers also learned many things from the programme, such as teamwork, cross-cultural communication and so on. Although the programme, ICS, has finished all the cycle, positive impacts both on communities and ICS volunteers will hopefully last in their mind.
Madam Paula is one of the members of Disable People’s Organization (DPO) in Jirapa. She shared her experience in the training: “When I was pregnant, I attended antenatal clinic regularly till delivery at the ninth month. 3 days after delivery, the child was sick, so I went back to the hospital and was admitted for 2 weeks. The doctor referred us to physiotherapy department for assistance. I used to back my child, but because of the suffering from his spinal cord his neck was always hanging and people used to insult me that I don’t back him well. Family members had a mystical believe that he was not human and should be killed, but I threatened especially my father who insisted from day 1 to kill my son that I will report him to the police. I attended the DPOs meeting had a lot of counseling and encouragement from the association. Now my boy is in class six and can walk properly. All hope is still not lost.”

“DPOs meeting improved my child life”