FGD with Women Group at Gulmare Community

Greetings.

**Interviewer**: My name xx. I came to discuss with you regarding your way of life before joining washcom and before getting this borehole and after getting it. I am conducting the research as part of my studies. We want to understand the impact of projects like this on your life and I want to hear it from you.

**Rabi**: you mean the borehole that was built for us?

**Interviewer**: Yes. you are a washcom member, I guess?

**Rabi**: yes.

**Interviewer**: what about you?

**Hadiza**: I am a member of wash-com!

**Interviewer**: but before we go deep, let me start by knowing your names.

**Rabi**: my name is Hajiya Rabi.

**Interviewer**: are you a washcom member?

**Rabi**: I am a women leader in this town.

**Interviewer**: and you Hajiya, what is your name?

**Hadiza**: Hadiza.

**Interviewer**: are you also a wash-com member?

**Nasir (GHI staff)**: yes! There is another one coming. Let her come and explain herself.

**Interviewer**: Hajiya Rabi, do you have anything doing for a living?

**Rabi**: I sell local groundnut cake (kuli-kuli)

**Interviewer**: where are you selling it?

**Rabi**: in this town.

**Interviewer**: what about you Hajiya Hadiza?

**Hadiza**: I sell salt…

**Interviewer**: salt, and what?

**Hadiza**: and other ingredients.

**Interviewer**: so now, are your houses near the newly constructed borehole?

**Group**: we are not near, but we were the ones who supervised all the construction right from the beginning up till now that you people have forgotten us and don’t visit us any longer, we are still looking after the project. Because we believe that we have to take the ownership of whatever is built for us.

**Interviewer**: do you fetch water from it?

**Rabi**: we do not fetch water from it because it is far from our houses; we fetch water from this one (points to a handpump). But we regularly visit it for supervision.

**Interviewer**: which one are you fetching water from?

**Group**: this very one.

**Interviewer**: you mean this hand-pump?

**Rabi**: yes.

**Interviewer**: it is the one repaired as part of I-WASH as well?

**Group**: yes.

**Interviewer**: so before it was repaired, where have you been fetching water from?

**Rabi**: it was from the local wells because that area is far from us.

**Interviewer**: do you fetch water by yourselves?

**Rabi**: yes, we also ask our children to fetch it for us.

**Interviewer**: how was the issue of getting water by then?

**Group**: it was easier for those having a local fetcher, but it must be filtered afterwards.

**Interviewer**: Hajiya Hadiza, how many times have you been fetching water by then?

**Hadiza**: I use to fetch it like for 7 times a day!

**Interviewer**: was it consecutively?

**Hadiza**: yes.

**Rabi**: we even fetch it more than that because we use it to water our livestock and other personal needs.

**Hadiza**: we ask our children to fetch it for us, we also fetch it ourselves.

**Interviewer**: now that this hand-pump was made, do you still fetch it yourselves?

**Rabi**: we now send our children.

**Interviewer**: why do you send your children now?

**Rabi**: we occasionally visit to see how things go. We also visit that area too to monitor how it has been. We always meet Faruku (the LGA WASH coordinator) there.

**Interviewer**: as for you Malama Hadiza, you said that you don’t use to go there because of the crowd…

**Rabi**: you know the place was dominated by men so we send our children. We normally go there early morning before people started their daily activities. If not we that are aged no any young lady will come here to fetch water, no one will allow their wife to come out like this. We also don’t have water-sellers here, so we have to send our wards to fetch it for us.

**Interviewer**: so you are not fetching it yourselves just because it is so easier now, right?

**Hadiza**: exactly.

**Rabi**: we fetch it so easily in the dawn…

**Hadiza**: before these people come out from here we have already finish our business, which is how we do.

**Interviewer**: and you have already ceased from that right? You only send children?

**Hadiza**: yes, because children use to dominate the area that is why everyone is sending their child.

**Rabi**: but we also take good care of them…

**Nasir (GHI staff)**: Children don’t have to suffer…

**Group**: yes.

**Rabi**: and the children are easy going also, because whenever an elder reaches them there they use to fetch it for them. You know it has to do with energetic ones.

**Interviewer**: which method is more complex one between using hand-pump and fetching it from the well?

**Rabi**: fetching from the well is more difficult.

**Interviewer**: and even pumping it with hand is difficult too.

**Hadiza**: it might be difficult however using fetcher is more complex.

**Interviewer**: do you have children who use to go to school?

**Rabi**: indeed

**Interviewer**: in your houses?

**Rabi**: yes.

**Interviewer**: are they going to primary or secondary?

**Rabi**: as far as I am concern, I don’t have children going to school by now, because my children have passed the primary level.

**Interviewer**: are they in secondary?

**Rabi**: yes.

**Interviewer**: are they in day school?

**Rabi**: my child has graduated from both primary and secondary, I am currently looking for higher school to enroll him.

**Interviewer**: do you have anyone going to school for now?

**Rabi**: only one.

**Interviewer**: that school in the outskirt of the town right?

**Rabi**: no, I told you I have only one child and he graduated from these schools.

**Interviewer**: but Hajiya Hadiza you have someone going to that school right?

**Hadiza**: yes.

**Interviewer**: did he use you to go every day?

**Hadiza**: he graduated from these two schools; we are now trying to send him to Aliero or Jega.

**Interviewer**: so he doesn’t go anywhere for now, right?

**Hadiza**: yes.

**Interviewer**: so now, the time you started participating in washcom activities how have you been coping with your businesses?

**Rabi**: all we are looking now is capital to boost our businesses.

**Interviewer**: what I mean here is that, those two years you have been working with washcom.

**Hadiza**: we do not relent in our effort, I even worn out my Hijab.

**Interviewer**: what I want to know is that, why do you participated into wash-com? Do you put yourself voluntarily or someone put you in?

**Rabi**: I have a reason for that.

**Interviewer**: so tell me your reason.

**Rabi**: well, my reason is that we were the ones to be contacted on whatever issue comes up in this area, because we put ourselves into activities like this with or without payment, as you may know some people do not work for free while we do it no matter what.

**Interviewer**: is that because you are wealthy?

**Rabi**: it is just dedication and determination.

**Interviewer**: so what if you do not have food?

**Rabi**: we occasionally get some reward from those people.

**Interviewer**: what about you Hajiya Hadiza, how do you enter into wash-com?

**Hadiza**: we were living in that hospital always…

**Interviewer**: is it in this town?

**Hadiza**: yes.

**Interviewer**: is it PHC?

**Group**: yes.

**Hadiza**: it is we women that use to live there and that was why Hajiya Rabi and I were called into this organization…

**Interviewer**: why do you live there in the hospital?

**Hadiza**: we supervise nursing mothers and others…

**Interviewer**: okay, you have something doing there…

**Hadiza**: yes

**Rabi**: we sensitize women regarding their health condition; we encourage them to visit hospital.

**Interviewer**: from which hospital to where?

**Rabi**: we refer them to this our hospital and if it is beyond their capacity they then be referred to general hospital…

**Hadiza**: as we were doing that job, we were called to join this washcom. We encourage people to be building toilet and others.

**Rabi**: we recorded so much success from that.

**Interviewer**: how was your acceptance from the people when you start encouraging them to avoid open defecation?

**Hadiza**: it was impressive, they gave us maximum cooperation.

**Interviewer**: why do you think they heed to your advices? Do you work in the same area?

**Rabi**: we were going together or sometimes me alone, and before I recorded that success I had to hire a police officer to escort me.

**Interviewer**: wow! A policeman?

**Rabi**: you know the nature of our people when you scare them they take it serious. That was why I use to go with police officer, to tell people that a borehole was about to be built for your own use, so I explained to them that I assigned the police officer to be manning the area and if anyone dumps refuse there he/she will be dealt with. And anyone caught will pay five thousand naira levy.

**Interviewer**: so you made them scared right?

**Hadiza**: yes, I then gain their cooperation.

**Interviewer**: now, how was the situation in the town regarding open defecation?

**Rabi**: as you stay here, you may want to caution people against a particular bad practice and they don’t want to listen, don’t you feel encouraged whenever you get someone to back you?

**Interviewer**: of course!

**Rabi**: they have been dumping all the traces there and no one has the audacity to caution them because they don’t want to be accused of something.

**Hadiza**: they also use to defecate anywhere they wish…

**Rabi**: yes, and there is a Mosque in the area.

**Interviewer**: is the policeman working here or you brought him from somewhere else?

**Rabi**: he is in the town, their office is here around.

**Hadiza**: but they now relocated to the hospital.

**Rabi**: they were here when we’re doing the work.

**Interviewer**: do people stop observing open defecation?

**Rabi**: yes.

**Interviewer**: I want us to go there and see, do you believe that we will not see any traces there?

**Rabi**: of course. The place is now clean.

**Interviewer**: do you still go there to monitor things?

**Rabi**: I told you we are still going, and anyone here can testify to the fact that I am dedicated to that I do it no matter what.

**Nasir (GHI staff)**: it is in our documentaries for GHI Wash and she is Hajiya Rabi you have seen in it.

**Interviewer**: you mean that for Jikan Babi?

**Nasir (GHI staff)**: she was part of Jikan Babi and the other ones.

**Rabi**: If I say yes, I mean yes. And if I say no, I mean no.

**Interviewer**: but why can’t you say no?

**Rabi**: if I say no, even if you lobby me to be patient I won’t. But if that person whose enroll me in this organization asks me to be patient, I will. I can spend the whole day there without getting a penny, I don’t care.

**Interviewer**: we cannot commit that mistake.

**Rabi**: I cannot even communicate with my Suwaiba due to the closure of my sim card…

**Nasir (GHI staff)**: you mean Rashida?

**Rabi**: yes, Rashida.

**Nasir (GHI staff)**: she will call you.

**Rabi:** alright. She is very humble girl. May God bless her.

**Interviewer**: Amin. Do you have any additional information?

**Rabi**: such as?

**Interviewer**: anything you might want to add…

**Rabi**: what I want to add here is very much; I might even give you my phone number…

**Interviewer**: briefly

**Rabi**: firstly, I don’t know what type of information you may need from me.

**Interviewer**: regarding this washcom activity was it easy or hard, or do you have any suggestion you may like to add?

**Rabi**: my work is very simple, all I want is, you now give us water and we are so grateful may God bless you abundantly, including those behind your coming, we shall continue to pray for you…

**Rabi**: so we have been praying daily that anyone behind this important project may He be blessed abundantly.

**Nasir (GHI staff)**: and if anything might come up, let them not forget with Hajiya…

**Rabi**: and even if I die, I urge you to extend the same gesture you did to me to this my one and only Aminu, he can read, write and all of that.

**Nasir (GHI staff)**: what is that your name?

**Rabi**: hajiya Rabi.

**Interviewer**: thank you so much, Hajiya Hadiza from your end, what additional information do you like to add? Such as how you cooperate with people, do you need anything to be changed?

**Hadiza**: you mean change regarding how I was mingling with people?

**Interviewer**: how you relate with them…

**Hadiza**: we do not encounter any problem with the community, we did it successfully. We went there with them and see the project; we even drank from that borehole’s water.

**Interviewer**: Hajiya Rabi, do you said that you married off your child?

**Rabi**: yes, and those people we worked with regarding that borehole have help me a lot with food, and it was all due to that borehole and how I have been looking after it. There was a time when I asked people to contribute at least 100 naira so we can fix the borehole whenever it collapses and they agreed on that, I then asked them to implement a halt until I go with record book. I just did that to see if they can cooperate with me whenever issue like that comes up.