FGD with Male Community Members at Dalijan Community and the Gwandu LGA WASH Coordinator

31st May 2024

**Interviewer**: My name is Interviewer Abubakar Gulma. I am a PhD student of xx University in xx. I am here to investigate on how this solar-powered borehole made an impact in this community. I want to hear it from you regarding the way of living in terms of water and hygiene before the intervention and after getting this gesture of this organization.

And I would like to start by knowing your situation in this community regarding water, sanitation and hygiene prior to having this borehole. And anyone can say his mind.

**Speaker 20**: Assalamu Alaikum! Frankly speaking, before getting this gesture from GHI many people were bedeviled with lack of water especially deep inside these neighboring villages, because their water is salty. Even if they dig a well the water turns out to be no good, and GHI came into their help when they were in dire need of it. However, GHI has presented some kind of conditions to be met before executing the project such as environmental hygiene, open defecation which very dangerous to human beings, and the entire concept of hygiene. To meet with the requirements, the GHI has established a community-based association, WASHCOM, its members were trained which enable them to be going round the community with the aim of enlightening and empowering people to take action against lack of hygiene which by extension led to diseases outbreaks among children and elderly, this was from the women wing among us. And for the males, we gathered the entire community for a discussion and we portrayed some way forward regarding environmental hygiene.

Later on, GHI intervened and provided this borehole. Honestly speaking, now, people are so much happy with this intervention more than one can imagine. Because, people are trooping to this borehole for their water needs up till 12 midnight, and during Ramadan it was till dawn basis. So this is very welcome development to us.

**Interviewer**: now, before this borehole, where did the people use to fetch water for their daily needs?

**Speaker 20**: it was from the local wells constructed within the houses.

**Interviewer**: And now, do you still fetch water from your well?

**Speaker 20**: not at all.

**Interviewer**: why?

**Speaker 20**: because, the water is not clean and pure compared to this.

**Interviewer**: may I know your name?

**Speaker 20**: Aliyu Magaji.

**Interviewer**: what about you Sir?

**Speaker 21**: Engineer Dan Bello.

**Interviewer**: are you also a member in WASHCOMM?

**Speaker 21**: Yes, I am the chairman.

**Speaker 20**: I am the secretary.

**Interviewer**: alright! Can you please Sir, tell me your name?

**Speaker 22**: Basiru Umar Dalijan.

**Interviewer**: so, where have you people used to fetch water before getting this borehole?

**Speaker 21**: we use to fetch water from the local well, until GHI was sent to us by God to help us with this borehole. Initially, people were thinking that the project is of no use, but now they realized that they were just deceiving themselves.

Some were even asking us, where do we beg for this project? We replied to them that it was just from the God, unexpectedly. This is a kind of project that we could not execute with our money; very fortunately, GHI has done it for us. You can see that everybody in the community is coming there, including those preparing for building and those washing their vehicles.

Some houses have since refrained from using local wells; they were even saying that water from wells is not as good as those from the borehole. Some even use to wash their clothes there. Some farmers used to stop on transit on their way to farming and take the water there. There was a time when people from other communities visited us here purposely to fetch this water for their daily consumption.

The project has been very impactful, and we hoped for its expansion to other places. Our people requested us to thank you on their behalf. We are therefore soliciting for other mechanisms to be used in calling the attention of people to this organization, so that everyone will be carried along. You know that some people do not understand until other mechanisms were used for them.

As stakeholders in GHI, we have been enlightening our people on those basic concepts of this project, and due to that, open defecation is very low because people have been constructing toilets in their homes and they are now used to it.

**Interviewer**: so, do you have toilet in your home before this campaign started?

**Speaker 21**: surely. I have it but not functioning as expected, until the arrival of WASHCOM, we were then taught on how to make it very functional.

**Interviewer**: Mr Basiru, do you have toilet in your house prior to this campaign?

**Speaker 22**: yes I have it, but the local one. However, upon the arrival of GHI, we then converted to…

**Interviewer**: you mean another one has been constructed?

**Speaker 22**: yes. We were taught on how to construct new ones using plastic and other things.

**Interviewer**: what about you secretary, do you have a toilet before?

**Speaker 20**: actually speaking we have it. But it was as good as nothing. Now, when the WASHCOM arrived there were toilet but not well organized because it cannot protect us against contacting any disease. But GHI trained us before moving from house to house to show people how to construct a safe toilet.

Before, it’s hardly for you to have as much as three people with toilets each, it was therefore not safe to have only three out of fifty people having toilets.

**Speaker 21**: up till now, there are places with the issue of toilets, because when a toilet was constructed it sometimes collapses due to the sandy nature of our community. Even if a well or toilet was built it may end of collapsing. We even reached to the firm conclusion that if a soak-away was not built to complement them neither toilet nor well can last long. Most especially in this area, even if a well was constructed you have to back it with cement and concrete otherwise it will collapse.

**Interviewer**: now are you saying that there are still some houses in Dallijan without toilet?

**Group**: of course!

**Speaker 21**: precisely those areas with sandy nature of soil.

**Speaker 20**: but honestly the menace has been reduced due to an intervention from WASHCOM. Before, there are places observing an open defecation, but now the menace have been reduced.

And if we encountered some adamant people, we report them to district head, and he summoned them, warned them and they eventually agreed.

**Interviewer**: Basiru, are you also part of WASHCOM?

**Speaker 22**: yes. I am the secretary.

**Interviewer**: but I heard that this is the secretary!

**Speaker 22**: we are from two different locations.

**WASH Coordinator**: there is Nufawa and Nizzamiyya. If you can recall, we rehabilitated the overhead tank in Nufawa, and in this Nizzamiyya we constructed the new one because they don’t have any.

**Interviewer**: so this place is called Nufawa?

**WASH Coordinator**: yes. That place where we rehabilitated is called Nizzamiyya.

**Interviewer**: so, are you the chairman of this community?

**Speaker 21**: no, the chairman of that community. Basiru is the chairman of this place. And you Dan Bello are the secretary for Nizzamiyya.

**Speaker 20**: but we actually come together in many instances to execute a given task. We are in fact, working together as one team. We are indeed very much in this WASH-COM, but some were like complaining of not having anything as reward they then made themselves not available.

**Interviewer**: now tell me, how do you enter the WASH-COM?

**Speaker 20**: I became a member in WASH-COM because I am actually a brother to district head, and He use to inform me whenever something like this comes directing me to accompany them and conducted them round the community. So, when GHI introduced WASH-COM, the district head called and directed me to represent him there, I did so and eventually a son of mine called Abu Sufyan who happens to me an M&E of this area recruited me into the organization and I was very happy for that.

**Interviewer**: chairman sir, from your own end, how do you find yourself into WASH-COM?

**Speaker 21**: the reason why I registered myself in WASH-COM was that, I was part of people whom were reached in the community regarding the intention of this organization on the reforming and re-strategizing the community especially at Hospital, Mosque and Kan-Wuri among others. I was contacted to design a map.

**Interviewer**: why do you think is the reason they contacted you?

**Speaker 21**: because I am an engineer. And I know how to design. After I presented my work, people there were impressed; they then ask me to hold it myself.

**WASH Coordinator**: there was a time when a seminar was convened. When we reached a point for mapping out, he was called and he did the job. We eventually reached a point where people will be asked to present their representative. He was pointed out by his people during that seminar. We thereafter created sub-committees. At that time, we even put the process on voice vote, and they unanimously endorsed Dan Bello.

Since it was the people of that particular area that appointed them, they will do better, and we informed them that it is going to be a voluntary work, that’s why many of them are still into this movement.

**Interviewer**: Malam Basiru how do you find yourself in WASH-COM?

**Speaker 22**: as highlighted by them, it was during the seminar, I was endorsed as secretary WASHCOM Dalijan Kofar Nufawa.

**Interviewer**: why do you think they endorsed you?

**Speaker 22**: because they were optimistic that I can represent them well, and I can actually deliver in terms of personal and environmental hygiene.

**Interviewer**: now I understand the rationale behind finding yourselves in this organization, precisely Engineer here, which has knowledge about mapping. I just want to know why people mention your name.

**Speaker 22**: because of their optimism in my capacity. And they knew that wherever I speak about hygiene or something like that, people will agree.

**Interviewer**: alright! They believe in you.

**Speaker 22**: yes.

**Interviewer**: now, are you telling me that you were all endorsed by your people and none of you voluntarily get registered himself in this organization?

**WASH Coordinator**: it was actually like a voting; people consider charisma and capacity of individuals there.

**Speaker 21**: especially they consider who have the ability of following-up things and making sure that an assignment has been delivered successfully.

**Speaker 20**: in anything there is need for a person with good heart and very tolerant. Because if you are not tolerant enough you can simply get rid yourself of anything even if you are been paid for it.

**Speaker 21**: exactly, because if you put it to yourself that you can do the job voluntarily, nobody will expect you to get tired of it.

**Interviewer**: but, as for the women, are they also nominated or voted?

**WASH Coordinator**: as done to the men, the first program we hosted before forming a WASH-COM, it was like a form of introduction and familiarization, it was then we talked about gender equality, and people understood that the project has to do with going round the houses which is exceptionally for women. We also asked people to point out those women, who can do the work, because at that time we were intending of assessing the level of toilet compliance within our communities, which can only be done by women. And that necessitated people to nominate those women.

We thereafter voiced out the nominees names to people for confirmation, and they were eventually recruited into the process.

**Interviewer**: secretary, I want to know your source of living.

**Speaker 20**: I was not having anything as my source of income, but now I am a veterinary doctor. But when I was recruited into this organization it was time I just finished my HND, it was the year which I concluded my national service the GHI came into being, they solicited me to be part of their team and I agreed.

**Interviewer**: you are now a veterinarian?

**Speaker 20**: yes.

**Interviewer**: are you working in this community or somewhere else?

**Speaker 20**: people used to call me from nooks and crannies of this community to look after their livestock’s health, but I am not employed by government.

**Interviewer**: what about you chairman?

**Speaker 21**: I am an electronic engineer.

**Interviewer**: do you own your business center?

**Speaker 21**: yes I have. I repair electronic gadgets such as fan, TV and others.

**Interviewer**: were you doing the same job when you were introduced to this WASHCOM?

**Speaker 21**: yes.

**Interviewer**: and you are still doing it?

**Speaker 21**: yes.

**Interviewer**: what about you Basiru?

**Speaker 22**: I am a farmer.

**Interviewer**: do you use to farm?

**Speaker 22**: yes.

**Interviewer**: since then?

**Speaker 22**: yes.

**Interviewer**: how about now?

**Speaker 22**: I am still a farmer merging farming with textiles selling during Sallah/Eid festivities.

**Interviewer**: so, I now want to hear it from each of you, starting by you chairman, since you have something doing by then didn’t you think that this work has carried your attention away from your initial job?

**Speaker 21**: not at all. Because the activities of WASH-COM do not even at once, cripple my own personal dealings.

**Interviewer**: but you may not have an enough time needed.

**Speaker 21**: I know how to organize things.

**Interviewer**: so you do not feel like you are losing something due to this work?

**Speaker 21**: yes. I have time for everything.

**Interviewer**: if I understand you well Mr Basiru, you use to farm even before this program?

**Speaker 22**: yes.

**Interviewer**: what is the major thing you plant?

**Speaker 22**: I plant sugarcane and rice.

**Interviewer:** where is the location of your farm?

**Speaker 22**: Fadama.

**Interviewer**: is it near to this place?

**Speaker 22**: yes. But the farms are from different locations. I have one near the town and another far from the town.

**Interviewer**: do you ever find this job difficult and maybe crippling your farming activities?

**Speaker 22**: whenever I was informed about these activities I use to attend even if I was in my farm.

**Interviewer**: you mean you can even leave your work from the farm just to attend these activities?

**Speaker 22**: yes. There was a time when I was called from the farm and I was informed that the activities meant for the following day has been rescheduled to that very day, and I attended after I informed my co-workers about the situation.

**Interviewer**: so you were working with other people by then, and you feel that you can leave your work and attend to this? What if you were only one working in the farm?

**Speaker 22**: even if I was only one working I can do well to attend.

**Interviewer**: but why? Because you are confusing me, I knew that you depend on that farming as your source of income while you are not earning anything from this work.

**Speaker 22**: I am of course gaining, because I represent my people. And it is like a responsibility shouldered on me by many, and that may not hinder my farming at all.

**Interviewer**: Malam Aminu I learnt that you just graduated from your studies by then, don’t you feel like spending your time on your veterinary career or starting something else?

**Speaker 20**: you know I told you that my nature of work is like based on demand; I use to attend to people’s needs when they called me, and since I started this WASH-COM, I have never for once, got it clashing with my career job. Ideally, I use to visit some communities regarding my veterinary career on Saturday.

**WASH Coordinator**: I want to add something. I all heard and understand your opinions. But it seems there is some information you are hidden. I am always with you and I know about your nature of work. Dan Bello here for example can call me more than 10 times a month, soliciting if there is something there. And I use to tell him look Dan Bello, this job is so, so and so, and you have to be patient. When I get tired of complains; I even wrote a letter to the WASH office and the chairman there looked and told me about the nature of work. And I instantly informed him that my problem was not on WASHCOM; all I need was for you to be giving them something no matter little it is. Although, I recommended your efforts; but one may get tired of anything if he/she is not getting any incentives from it.

You Dan Bello and other man from Kambaza have been calling me and I asked you to exercise more patience, and the problem was that the payment started by GHI is only for Security and Operator, and when they handed over the project to local government, the council supposed to be paying you at least 5000, you can do it, especially you, the reason why you were recruited was due to your proximity to this place, it benefitted you and your environment, but still you will be more productive if you are earning something from this job.

The same thing with that of Kambaza and other places, that center located at the school has been stopped and it was due to these problems. I called the then principal before the recent one and informed him that these project is yours. And even when the new principal was appointed he started buying fuel for the usage of that tank while there is one that can be used without fuel, but he failed to maintain it. He even wrote a letter to the local government, and the time we went for assessment we found out that one solar panel has fallen, eventually the chairman could not do anything about it, but thank God the lawmaker of the area has promised to do something about it.

Now, the principal, upon seeing a kind of money invested for its maintenance, he decided to repair that solar-powered one, they are currently lacking water in the school. That is the problem they are facing.

And that is the same problem I am facing with you, because people are working, I even appointed from the WASH-COM members an Operator and Security, but still if you do not get any incentive you may get tired.

We even solicited for people to do something, but still our effort fails, so you are still bearing with the situation.

Last two months I called Ashahabu and complained to him, he promised to intervene, and I told him to pay a courtesy visit to the Ministry of local government because whenever a borehole like this has been constructed we informed ministry of water resources to write a letter to the ministry of local government so that Security can be employed. So I explained to him that other arrangements can be made in that regard, let them be paid as low as 5000 Naira as incentive is better than none.

And Ashahabu informed me that he talked to permanent secretary and up till now I get no good reply from him, that is why I do not utter a word to you, I did all I can within my power all in vain. So, I disclosed this before my leaders here so that for you to know that many things I have doing are from my pocket.

**Interviewer**: thank you for your hard work.

**WASH Coordinator**: thank you very much! I hope you understand me.

**Interviewer**: I very much appreciate this clarification from you. So based on this, what are the challenges you have been facing regarding the activities of WASHCOM? For instance, you made mention that you have never spent anything from your pocket to repair this gadgets?

**Speaker 21**: we use to repair it. We even intend to repair the taps of this borehole but we found it difficult to execute it. Our minds get into chaos whenever something bad happened to this project we feel very bad.

**Interviewer**: who is now responsible for repairing it?

**Speaker 22**: we bought it ourselves.

**Interviewer**: with your own money?

**Speaker 22**: yes.

**Interviewer**: but why can’t you ask people to contribute?

**Speaker 21**: most a times, if you ask people to contribute they challenge you that where is the money you are collecting. There is someone who said that I was given money and you know it is something that you cannot tell the actual happenings.

**Speaker 22**: we bought two taps during Ramadan, one of which scrapped before morning.

**Interviewer**: so it means there are vandalizers?

**Speaker 21**: of course. But some are just work of ignorant children.

**Interviewer**: but you made mention that some people argued that you are been given money, so does that means there are people who do not believe in your work?

**Speaker 21**: there are some who do not believe that we are doing this job voluntarily.

**Speaker 22**: they think we are been paid monthly.

**Interviewer**: so, here in the mosque, don’t you collect donations from worshippers?

**Speaker 22**: they use to collect but for the Mosque’s upkeep.

**Interviewer**: they do not invest the money into people’s needs?

**Speaker 22**: not at all.

**Speaker 21**: yes. We collect donations in the mosque, but if something very urgent came up or someone solicited for a help, but we in particular, refer to gather money from ourselves and repair whatever problem encountered.

**Interviewer**: but why you do not solicit for help in the mosque?

**Speaker 20**: you know the situation people are in currently.

**Speaker 20**: nevertheless, but maybe during such time that things do not worsen like today, why you did not solicit for a help in the mosque by then?

**Speaker 20**: we do not consider that actually. We do it on our own.

**Speaker 21**: if you look at the borehole itself, it started leaking.

**WASH Coordinator**: but initially, the borehole has been constructed in such a way that even it get full it will not overflow.

**Speaker 21**: yes. But if I on it for pumping in the morning, even if I went to farm I use to come back, and before I get back the water may over-flow, that is why I developed a minor drainage for the water…

**WASH Coordinator**: that is why I said that do you have to OFF it when it was built?

**Speaker 21**: yes.

**WASH Coordinator**: I mean is it leaking by then?

**Speaker 21**: yes.

**WASH Coordinator**: I can recall that the time when it was constructed we did not install that automatic switcher for it, but the rest I know have it.

**Interviewer**: so, secretary you are the operator of this?

**Speaker 20**: yes.

**Interviewer**: are you here always?

**Speaker 20**: yes.

**Interviewer**: okay. Another thing I need clarification about is, you spend your time on this which if you consider spending the same into your normal activities you may have something to feed your family, and you use to repair this borehole from your pocket and you are not earning anything. Don’t you think that you are losing a lot in this work?

**Speaker 22**: we do it to help our people, because if we deal with the people base on their behavior we may not do it.

**Interviewer**: what do you think Magaji?

**Speaker 21**: there is no loss in it, because if you promise to do something just do it to the best of your ability and do not allow people’s interests to influence you. And if you feel that it is beyond your capacity you may solicit for people’s help.

**Speaker 22**: when the tank starts leaking, we solicited for help, and we hardly get our demand of 15,000 Naira.

**Interviewer**: how do you gather the money?

**Group**: we contribute.

**Speaker 21**: because at that time the borehole was closed and nobody can fetch water from it, that was what necessitate people to contribute as they don’t have any other option. Even now, if the water is to be closed, people will definitely give out the money for repairing.

**Interviewer**: now, my last question is for you if you have any additional information to disclose. Let me start with you chairman.

**Speaker 21**: as said by Engineer, we need additional information about his statement, because if we secured that payment we take good care of this project with or without people’s support.

**Interviewer**: what about you secretary?

**Speaker 20**: from my own end, I am facing two to three problems, first the issue of leakage it is threatening this borehole; secondly, water has been weakening the pillars of this borehole.

**WASH Coordinator**: are you saying that there is no concrete on its pillars?

**Speaker 20**: yes. And the tank is almost forty drums capacity; it may develop another problem due to this heavy load.

**Interviewer**: now, do you think people can contribute so that the borehole can be concreted?

**Speaker 20**: it may be difficult considering the current economic hardship.

**Interviewer**: but this concrete may not require much money.

**Speaker 22**: it may require huge amount of money if the work will be done diligently.

**Interviewer**: but you said that you never seek for contribution from the Mosque why can’t you consider it for this issue? Even if you may take at least two months contributing for the money, now the rainy season is fast approaching, so you have to take measure now.

**Speaker 22**: we will discuss it with district head and other stakeholders.

**Interviewer**: and those stationed water can contaminate the well of this borehole.

**Speaker 21**: when it was rain yesterday, the water reached up to this place.

**Interviewer**: then you have to do something about it, because your water can be contaminated. You have to organize a self-help project to construct drainages for the water to be flowing through. What about you secretary?

**Speaker 20**: my closing remarks are calling on GHI to consider ways on how to help the members of WASHCOM or even the government so that we feel the courage in executing this work. So that even if a plan is to be introducing you can call the WASHCOM members to execute the contract for them to get something. And for GHI, we solicit them to consider paying us some incentive on monthly basis or give us capital to start some business for us to be self-reliant.