FGD with JSS Dangoma Students and Principal and WASH Coordinator

3rd June 2024

**Interviewer**: what is your name?

**Pupil 12**: Hadiza Ibrahim.

**Interviewer**: from which class?

**Pupil 12**: SS 2

**Interviewer**: and you?

**Pupil 13**: Fatima Buhari.

**Interviewer**: from which class?

**Pupil 13**: SS 2

**Interviewer**: what about you?

**Pupil 14**: Aisha Faruk

**Interviewer**: which class are you?

**Pupil 14**: JSS 1.

**Interviewer**: good.

**Pupil 15**: Aliyu Shehu.

**Interviewer**: what class?

**Pupil 15**: SS 1.

**Pupil 16**: Junaidu Adamu

**Interviewer**: what class?

**Pupil 16**: SS 2.

**Pupil 17**: Naziru Abubakar

**Interviewer**: what class?

**Pupil 17**: SS 2.

**Interviewer**: principal sir, can you tell us how many years have you been in this school?

**Principal**: I have been here since 2021.

**Interviewer**: were you been posted here as principal?

**Principal**: yes

**Interviewer**: alright. Those of you from SS 2, have you started here from JSS?

**Pupil 16&7**: yes.

**Interviewer**: so, you have been here for long. So, let me start by asking you principal, how was the issue of water and hygiene before getting this block of toilets and borehole?

**Principal**: well, my name is Nasiru Alhaji Garba I am the principal GDSS Danko. When I assumed office we were having issues of lack of water and toilets it was like part of challenges I faced in my early days, the school was handed over to me at a time when students do not want to attend, more especially girls, so i had to collaborate with SBMC. Major challenges I faced by then were lack of toilets and water, I can recall by then we have local well but the water were not safe and clean, and that necessitate our girls students to be roaming around the neighboring communities whenever the need arise. But when the GHI came and construct these projects for us we really recorded so much progress in that regard, because the issue of water has become a thing of the fast we even help our neighboring communities, we also get additional enrollment of girls in the school because the ones we had at that time were very much relaxed and calmed. At that time also we had members of the NYSC who were complaining to us about the issue of water, luckily enough we now have enough water, toilets and even electricity, and due to that we now have about 11 corps members with us, because the environment has been made so much convenience for them. And all these achievements were recorded due to an intervention from GHI.

**Interviewer**: how many teachers do you have?

**Principal**: we have 22 teachers, corps members excluded. We also have 3 supporting staff

**Interviewer**: how many are women?

**Principal**: only one.

**Interviewer**: one alone?

**Principal**: yes.

**Interviewer**: what about the supporting staff?

**Principal**: two of them are women, those taking care of our kitchen.

**Interviewer**: but the school is not boarding, right?

**Principal**: yes. It is day school.

**Interviewer**: let me get back to you Junaidu, you have been to the school right from JSS 1, where were you getting water before?

**Pupil 16**: it was from the local well behind this place.

**Interviewer**: do you use to drink that water?

**Pupil 16**: yes. We drink and we cook. But the water is not safe, we just manage.

**Interviewer**: what made them unsafe?

**Pupil 16**: because we use to encounter so much dirt and insects in them, we must sometimes use local filter to reduce the dirty.

**Interviewer**: do you use to boil them?

**Pupil 16**: uhmm…

**Interviewer**: or do you use them like that?

**Pupil 16**: we use them like that in cooking.

**Interviewer**: I mean do you boil the water before usage.

**Pupil 16**: no, we only filter them.

**Interviewer**: what about the water’s taste?

**Pupil 16**: the taste was not good because the water is not even clean.

**Interviewer**: tell me about the toilets, where were you using as rest rooms?

**Pupil 16**: we went far in the bush.

**Interviewer**: but when we came here we saw one toilet around, what happened to it?

**Principal**: the toilet is new model, it requires water for flushing and we don’t have enough water for that, which was why we encouraged them to go inside the bush.

**Interviewer**: how many rooms were there in the toilet?

**Principal**: two rooms.

**Interviewer**: and they all require water for flushing. Which means only staff make use of them.

**Principal**: is for only staff because they are matured they know how to manage them.

**Interviewer**: so now, who is making use of the new ones?

**Principal**: we divided them into two, one for boys and other for girls; we also excluded one specifically for staff. The first apartment is for girls and that one female staffer, and other is for boys and the remaining male staff members. However, some of our male staff members use the old ones.

**Interviewer**: the one toilet we found, it is here or there?

**Principal**: it was here.

**Interviewer**: do you make use of the new toilets?

**Pupil 16**: yes.

**Interviewer**: were you in this school when it was built?

**Group**: yes.

**Interviewer**: let me ask you Hadiza, where were you using as a toilet before this one was built?

**Pupil 12**: I had to…

**Interviewer**: you had to go back home, huh?

**Pupil 12**: I use to go to our neighborhoods.

**Interviewer**: do you seek for their permission? Do you know them?

**Pupil 13**: we know them sir, because we are all indigenes of this town.

**Interviewer**: what were they saying?

**Pupil 13**: they permitted us to use their toilets.

**Interviewer**: principal, how many students do you have?

**Principal**: the total number of students we have is 609.

**Interviewer**: and they all use to go to the neighborhood before getting access to toilets?

**Principal**: you mean before?

**Interviewer:** yes.

**Principal**: well. You know how girls and women are in terms of menstruation. However, some of them were used to going to the neighborhood which is worrisome. And that toilet was purposely for the staff, the boys usually go to the bush but girls are very shy so they go to the neighborhood. Additionally, we had law turn out of girls at that time; perhaps it was due to in-conducive atmosphere.

**Interviewer**: you Aisha, tell me when did you start coming to this school?

**Pupil 14**: not so long ago.

**Interviewer**: do you make use of this toilet?

**Pupil 14**: yes.

**Interviewer**: does it have water?

**Pupil 14**: yes.

**Interviewer**: always?

**Pupil 14**: yes.

**Interviewer**: what about you Fatima, when did you start coming to this school?

**Pupil 13**: I started here right from JSS1.

**Interviewer**: where have you been using as toilet when you were in JSS?

**Pupil 13**: we use to go to the neighborhoods and we felt like we were disturbing them.

**Interviewer**: but coordinator, what types of toilets do those houses has?

**WASH Coordinator**: *[inaudible]*

**Interviewer**: so that means they do not benefit from CLTS and you do not ask them to build toilets?

**WASH Coordinator**: they have benefitted, since the inception of GHI.

**Interviewer**: but from that time many of the houses have toilets, right?

**WASH Coordinator**: yes. Like 30 percent of them. We even had a complaint from this hospital that some of the students use to defecate there.

**Interviewer**: so they use to go to the hospital too?

**WASH Coordinator**: yes. And at that time IN-CHARGE of the hospital was complaining that students have been defecated openly around the environment. Thank god, the hospital was part of areas we demarcated for this project, and there was someone who voluntarily constructed a toilet there and he is a WASHCOM member, an opportunity he used to enlighten people against the dangers of open defecation and gradually people understand. But the main challenge there was there are no GHI there, and no enough toilets.

If you go round some schools in this town you may find out that majority of students are boys, the girls are so much law due to that issue of toilets. Some people use to even justify their refusal from sending their wards to school on the lack of toilets.

You can find out more than 30 girls students coming to this town from Unguwar Jeji because they now have enough toilet facilities compared to previous time.

**Interviewer**: let me ask you Fatima, why do you allow your parent to enroll into this school knowing that they do not have toilets before?

**Pupil 13**: it was because the school is the only one we have.

**Interviewer**: you mean it is the only school in this town?

**Pupil 13**: yes.

**Interviewer**: where did you attend your JSS, Hadiza?

**Pupil 12**: Gagi.

**Interviewer**: do they have toilet?

**Pupil 12**: no.

**Interviewer**: so, why do you get transferred to this school?

**Pupil 12**: because I graduated from that one.

**Interviewer**: you only attended JSS there?

**Pupil 12**: yes.

**Interviewer**: so now, is the toilet you have at home similar to this one in school?

**Group:** no.

**Interviewer**: which one do you have at home?

**Pupil 15**: traditional one. Squat toilets.

**Interviewer**: do you have it since? Or you have it from CLTS?

**Pupil 15**: some did it recently and some…

**Interviewer**: but you in your houses, when did you have it?

**Pupil 15**: it was long ago.

**Interviewer**: what about you Junaidu?

**Pupil 16**: yes.

**Interviewer**: who teach you how to make use of this toilet?

**Pupil 16**: we learned from the people.

**Interviewer**: but do you find it so easy to use?

**Pupil 15**: the one with water is so easier in terms of usage.

**Interviewer**: why?

**Pupil 16**: because you don’t have to come with water.

**Interviewer**: but some don’t know how to flush, how do you go about that issue?

**Pupil 16**: indeed, some do not know how to use it, that is why we regularly wash it.

**Interviewer**: do you dedicate some student for washing the toilet?

**Pupil 15**: yes.

**Interviewer**: who are they?

**Pupil 15**: they are not here.

**Interviewer**: which class are they?

**Pupil 15**: they are from different categories.

**Interviewer**: are you prefects here?

**Principal**: they are from SS2.

**Interviewer**: okay, and the SS3 are the prefects right?

**Pupil 16**: yes. They have to go before we accept the responsibility.

**Interviewer**: they are now writing WAEC right? So have a roster for washing toilet?

**Principal**: it was after we appointed our staff member as their leader, we then selected from each class a girl and boy, we showed them how to make use of the toilet, and we also mandated them to be taking care of the toilets before and after the school hours. From those we have selected, there are prefects and there are ordinary students. As for the water, we have water prefect and a teacher saddled with the responsibility of taking care of the borehole. We can now say that any student can handle the toilet diligently except those that are adamants, and that is why we delegated those prefects to be vigilant on that regard.

**Interviewer**: you Aisha that came to the school a little bit late, is there anyone who teaches you how to make use of the toilet?

**Pupil 14**: *[inaudible]*

**Interviewer**: but you make use of it, right?

**Pupil 14**: *yes*

**Interviewer**: how do you know the way it is working? Or do you have it in your house exactly like this one?

**Pupil 14**: *[inaudible]*

**Interviewer**: but are you making use of it?

**Pupil 14**: *[inaudible]*

**Interviewer**: then, how do you learn it?

**Pupil 14**: *[inaudible]*

**Interviewer**: now that you have a borehole, does it develop any problem?

**Principal**: you mean the borehole to stop working?

**Interviewer**: yes, to be nonfunctioning.

**Principal**: we once had a problem with its regulator…

**Pupil 14**: I saw how people are making use of it (the toilet).

**Interviewer**: and you then learn from there?

**Pupil 14**: *yes*

**Interviewer**: alright,

**Principal**: frankly speaking, whenever there is sun light we always make use of it, because we have three tanks, we most a times filled the one for toilet and it may take us up to two to three days. As for the borehole, it has never for once, scrapped.

**Interviewer**: and the pipe taking water to the toilet has never developed any abnormalities?

**Principal**: yes.

**Interviewer**: let me ask you students, do you ever go to the toilet and find out that there is no water?

**Group**: no.

**Interviewer**: there is water always, right?

**Group**: yes.

**Pupil 15**: except if there was no sun light.

**Interviewer**: do you have soap in the toilet?

**Pupil 16**: yes.

**Interviewer**: can we find it now?

**Pupil 13**: yes, but sometimes the teacher takes it to his office.

**Interviewer**: but the toilet for teachers is different from yours right?

**Pupil 13**: yes.

**Pupil 17**: but a day before yesterday, it was taken to the office because we thought whether there won’t be school.

**Pupil 16**: and if it was to be left there, students can misuse it.

**Principal**: apart from that, we also face a challenge from those strangers coming here, even this morning I met water inside the toilet and I asked some students about it, they informed me that they do not know anything about that, which necessitates my decision of locking it up. So I even intend to enquire those workers to find out if they were the ones using the toilet. Because we use to lock the toilet up after closing, and the corps members also have their own toilet, so I wondered how this thing happened.

**Interviewer**: where is the corps members’ accommodation?

**Principal**: we demarcated a class room for them, before they live in the town until when an issue arisen I then relocated them to their current place.

**Interviewer**: do you make use of that hand-sanitizer?

**Group**: no.

**Interviewer**: then what are you using?

**Pupil 12**: a detergent.

**Interviewer**: where do you fetch water for drinking?

**Group**: at the town.

**Interviewer**: do you have a separate borehole beside this one?

**Pupil 16**: we have other boreholes.

**Interviewer**: but why can’t you use the hand-washing kits? Because I went to a school where the student drink from it.

**Pupil 15**: we only wash our hands with it.

**Interviewer**: do you see its importance?

**Group**: indeed. And we are so grateful.

**Interviewer**: but I know there is where you can wash your hands inside the toilet and you have pumps outside, then what is the essence of this hand-washing kit?

**Group**: they are not much, because we are very much in the school.

**Pupil 13**: that of toilet is for hand washing after toilet and this is for hand washing before and after eating.

**Interviewer**: by what time do you go for break?

**Group**: 10am.

**Interviewer**: you resume by what?

**Group**: 10:30am

**Interviewer**: by what time do the school opens?

**Pupil 15**: by 8am

**Interviewer**: and you close by what time?

**Pupil 14**: 1:30pm

**Interviewer**: and you go for break between 10 and 10:30 right?

**Group**: yes.

**Interviewer**: is there any of you who is in the school hygiene club?

**Group**: no.

**Interviewer**: so it is only from SS3 right?

**Group**: yes.

**Interviewer**: okay, they are the one writing exam right?

**Principal**: they don’t have a paper today. Until tomorrow, we have economic and is only for arts students, so those from science will not attend

**Interviewer**: do you know the importance of environmental hygiene?

**Pupil 13**: yes.

**Interviewer**: tell me, what is the importance of environmental hygiene?

**Pupil 13**: to guard ourselves against contacting diseases.

**Interviewer**: but do you ever heard about environmental health club?

**Pupil 16**: you mean environmental hygiene?

**Interviewer**: there is an association established comprising your fellow students who will be educating you about environmental health.

**Pupil 16**: yes.

**Interviewer**: so you never saw them right?

**Pupil 17**: no, we use to see them.

**Interviewer**: but they never talk to you about their activities right?

**Pupil 17**: they only educate us on how to make use of water and toilet.

**Interviewer**: are they the ones who educate you on that?

**Group**: yes.

**Interviewer**: principal, since the current members of environmental health club are about to graduate, when are you planning the appointment of new ones?

**Principal**: immediately after their graduation in this week, and even before they graduated I know the committee has planned everything they will present it to me for approval. We have already selected some classes to participate in the club; I don’t know if the teacher saddled with that responsibility attended today he might shed more light on that. He already presented to me a compiled list.

**Interviewer**: but do you see any extra benefit enjoyed by this school from this project may be apart from water and toilets?

**Principal**: you can even see it yourself from here how trees and other plants are germinating and growing, we don’t have them before, but due to the availability of water we decided to plant those trees and they are now growing. Due to the rocky nature of the school, we never thought of planting any tree but now look at how they are growing nicely, we now wait for rain to start falling so that we improve the movement.

Another thing is that, the children visiting us to fetch water here are now showing interest in studies, there are some I discussed with, and about 6 to 7 children have been enrolled into this school from that, and they just come here to fetch water.

**Interviewer**: what about the negative consequences?

**Principal**: the only challenge we face is i-don’t-care attitude from the community, people have been coming here to fetch water and the school is not fenced, they may sometimes come and destroy our facilities especially on Saturdays and Sundays and they even vandalize our facilities.

**Interviewer**: let me get back to you students, what kind of challenges are you facing in the school?

**Pupil 13**: we face no problem.

**Interviewer**: even in the toilet everything is well?

**Group**: yes.

**Interviewer**: principal, can you comment on your relationship with GHI during all interactions?

**Principal**: the relationship was cordial. When they came to survey we cooperate with them and we always give them the necessary information they require. For instance, this meeting it was the coordinator that called and informed me that officials are coming to visit us; we even cancelled our schedule to attend to their needs, so we have good working relationship with them.

**Interviewer**: was there any time when GHI came for an activity and it clashes with your schedule, may be you have a class to attend or something like that? If yes, how do you manage it?

**Principal**: we use to control our students whenever GHI came for an activity so that they will not be diverted to that.

**Interviewer**: I mean an instance that require the attention of your students, for example the time when health club was formed it might be a time when the students supposed to be in the class, how do you manage situations like such?

**Principal**: we do not encounter such problems, because if things like that arise we select the best among students so that even if a class work was done in their absence they can pick it up very simple. We only recorded that instance for two or three occasions, which has never been a problem.

**Interviewer**: as principal I know you have many engagements, how do you manage your time when GHI comes with other activities that also require your attention?

**Principal**: as a leader, you must be very smart in deciding on what to do and when to do things, as such I use to manage my activities whenever GHI demand my attention.

**Interviewer**: alright, as my last question, let me know if you have any additional information you want to say, let me start by you.

**Pupil 12**: we are much grateful to this organization and we wish them all the best.

**Interviewer**: Amen, apart from this, do you have anything that you want the organization to change or to add?

**Pupil 12**: *[silent]*

**Interviewer**: what about you Fatima?

**Pupil 13**: we say a very big thank you for all that you have been doing; we pray that may God bless you.

**Interviewer**: amen, do you also need something to be added or removed?

**Pupil 13**: we need additional teachers.

**Interviewer**: alright, Aisha, do you have anything you need or something that is becoming challenging to you?

**Pupil 14**: *[silent]*

**Interviewer**: or you need more time to think?

**Pupil 14**: *[silent]*

**Interviewer**: what about you Aliyu?

**Pupil 15**: we thank you so much for the gesture, because the intervention has made others to come back to school including those out of school children. And as requested by my colleague, we need additional teachers.

**Interviewer**: was there any time when you were supposed to be taught on a subject but you couldn’t due to insufficient teachers?

**Pupil 15**: not at all.

**Interviewer**: what about you Junaidu?

**Pupil 16**: we are very grateful for all what was done to us.

**Interviewer**: don’t you have any request?

**Pupil 16**: except for dining,

**Interviewer**: where is your dining?

**Pupil 16**: it was there in the kitchen?

**Interviewer**: where is the kitchen?

**Pupil 16**: it was there.

**Interviewer**: is it in the class or in an open environment?

**Pupil 16**: what I mean is that the food is not sufficient to us, not everyone will get it.

**Interviewer**: do you have a dining hall?

**Pupil 16**: yes…opps, I mean no.

**Interviewer**: so you use to eat in an open right?

**Pupil 16**: yes.

**Interviewer**: and it is serving in an open environment?

**Principal**: we have a temporary dining hall. I think, the boy is requesting for a kitchen because when I assumed office I found that the food was been cook in an open area before I established a temporary site.

**Interviewer**: is that so?

**Pupil 16**: yes.

**Interviewer**: what about you Nazir?

**Pupil 17**: we are very much happy with this project especially this borehole, because before we suffer a lot to fetch water and it was not clean, but now we get water with ease and they are very clean, we thank you so much.

**Interviewer**: so you don’t have any request?

**Pupil 17**: no.

**Interviewer**: so principal from your end, what are your final remarks?

**Principal**: as said by my students I want to emphasize our gratitude to GHI for bringing this important project which inculcate the habit of encouragements into our students. Now we have merged two out of three toilets built for us and they are mainly for female staff and girls students and the other for male staff and boys, now that the toilets are new everybody wants to utilize them they are no longer using the old ones may be due to its nature that require one to go with water inside. We therefore solicited for more toilets so that we can separate our toilets based on the categories I highlighted earlier; boys, girls, male staff and female staff members.

Also, the issue highlighted by this boy that has to do with kitchen, we still in dare need of kitchen, we already had a temporary one but still getting the standard one will be more appropriate. We use to go for break from 10am to 10:30am but due to some minor issues regarding the kitchen we may reach up to 10:40am. But if there is a standard place that anything can be kept on its due place we might not encounter such menace.

**Interviewer**: thank you very much. Coordinator, you are the overall controller of this project. What additional clarification can you give to me on this?

**WASH Coordinator**: Assalamu Alaikum! I say a very big thank you to the GHI chairman here base on the complaints and other information given we really appreciate it. And for the principal, he highlighted some achievements and challenges regarding these facilities, we now seek for more cooperation because I have two concerns; one for them to take the ownership of the projects executed and other is for the Committees to strive hard in their activities let them educate their people on the concept of environmental hygiene. And for the women, they may be ignorant on how to make use of sanitary pads; we still have that gap, although we may look into the possibility of intervening into it. And thirdly, the issue of kitchen, I believe kitchen is one of the ways for diseases outbreaks, all we are after is to have a convenience environment, clean water and safe food. So, we still need to work hard in creating awareness especially among the students, those cooking the food and providing a safer place to serve as a kitchen.

Additionally, I know that it is part of GHI’s vision to see that trees are planted in our environments so that we combat soil erosion and other climate change associated problems, it is therefore very impressive to see how trees are been planted in this school, they have about 13+ trees which the principal singlehandedly planted, and all these achievements were recorded because of this borehole constructed by the GHI, I can recall that prior to it, there is only one tree in this school. So the principal has done well and we hope the tempo will be sustained even after his tenure.

Moreover, after the GHI intervention other organization have been trooping to this school, which led to the construction of these class room blocks and this was as a result of GHI together with an effort from school authorities and community members. Because if a particular project was built without proper maintenance it may likely be in vein. We are very much grateful for all these.

**Interviewer**: so thank you so much.