FGD with Male Group of Sauwa Bayan Saula Community Members

1st June 2024

Greetings

**Interviewer**: my name is Interviewer. I am a university student studying PhD and I am here to talk to you about this support provided by GHI and local government. I want to know your condition has been before and after this project. I came here to hear how you manage your life before this grant came and after receiving the grant, how it has changed your life in terms of getting water and environmental sanitation?

**Speaker 17**: you mean a kind of support we received?

**Interviewer**: yes. Particularly issue of toilet and water sanitation, I know they have supported you in that direction.

**Speaker 17**: yes they did, they even give us some tools. They went there themselves to see how things go. Before getting this borehole, we have been bedeviling with lack of water due to rocky nature of our town; we must therefore dig deep up to the 12 to 13 feet under. We have the deepest wells in the area. But the issue has now become history.

**Interviewer**: where were you getting water prior to this project?

**Speaker 17**: we fetch it from the local wells.

**Interviewer**: Now are these wells available in all the houses or is only outside?

**Speaker 17**: Yes, Some are here while we also have others inside the houses,

**Speaker 18**: we also have one local well, constructed by the government.

**Speaker 17**: but those outside were provided by the government which has been for more than eighty-five years.

**Interviewer**: which type of well is that?

**Speaker 17**: old model one.

**Interviewer**: and it was built by government?

**Group:** yes. None of us here know the time it was built, maybe we were kids.

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

**Speaker 17**: by then, as you can see us here, beside the well behind this place, we do not have anyone in the whole town. We even have to go far place before fetching water for building.

**Interviewer**: so, you people have to trek this far only to fetch water for building?

**Group**: yes.

**Interviewer**: was it because the water from this well does not support building?

**Speaker 17**: no, it was because we only have one well by then

**Interviewer**: was there any law that was enacted?

**Speaker 17**: there was no any law; people just prefer going there than suffering to gather available water here for their buildings.

**Interviewer**: how do you give water to your livestock?

**Speaker 17**: Yes, as for the livestock, by that time we don't have much grazing, most of our livestock are goats; and we use to take them down the river to have water.

**Interviewer**: do you ever benefitted from the solar-powered borehole before this one?

**Speaker 17**: No, it has never been done before; this is the first one.

**Interviewer**: does it ever crashed since it was done?

**Speaker 17**: it has never stopped since it was completed and never had a problem.

**Interviewer**: who is in charge of it? Who is responsible for its operation?

**Speaker 17**: the man goes to the farm.

**Interviewer**: but is it working daily, right?

**Speaker 17**: Yes, every day. As you can see, it is now on and it will continue working till 2pm o’clock.

**Interviewer**: how does the borehole impacted your wellbeing?

**Speaker 17**: Well, all we have to say is to give you a little more information, but the happiness we have due to this project is unquantifiable. You can now see how people are fetching water, which before; one has to buy rope and local fetcher before getting water, contrary to now that all you need is to use a bucket or jerry-can to fetch your water. It’s actually very simple.

**Interviewer**: do you also use the water in your building constructions?

**Speaker 17**: Yes, we do everything with them now.

**Interviewer**: Now, on the issue of toilets, you said that there is no issue of open defecation by now, but before this intervention, where do you excrete?

**Speaker 17**: Yes, before the intervention from this organization, you could even see sh\*t as you are sitting here like this, because people including children use to defecate in the open. As am talking to you, you hardly see children defecate openly due to their awareness to us.

**Interviewer**: Do you mean every house has its toilet unlike before?

**Speaker 17**: actually, there are houses that don't have these modern toilets. We even lodged a complaint that if there is any way they can help us with the sato pans especially for those that do not have it.

**Speaker 19**: How many pieces were brought to you?

**Speaker 17**: At that time, I think it may reach twelve.

**Interviewer**: how many could you actually get in the houses?

**Speaker 18**: in a nutshell, they did not bring enough, we even sought for additional but we did not get it, and some have their own local toilets, some don't have it, and the elders who get it they already have it even before, but they have improved it to clean the environment.

That's why we asked for additional to be given to those who didn't get it because you know for anything that has to do with crowd of people; if a particular portion get, one may consider it worrisome and even think that he was been isolated and discriminated. So, that was why they are calling on the organization to add more on what it did so that larger number of people will benefit. Nevertheless, everyone has played his part in making sure that open defecation has been reduced to minimal level, except in the bush, but here in town you hardly see it. I assure you that if it was before, you will be disturbed by smelling even if it was not raining, let alone if it was.

**Interviewer**: Are you still enlightening the rest of the community?

**Speaker 17**: Yes, we take time, sometimes we still spend about one or two to three weeks, and sometimes a month and we use to discuss with them about this matter to create awareness on such things.

**Interviewer**: But previously, when there was a well, who is responsible in fetching water for the family; children, women or men?

**Speaker 17**: a man who is always eager to go to the farm earlier in the morning, where will he get the time to fetch water? It was women and children actually.

**Interviewer**: Do all these children go to school?

**Speaker 17**: Yes, they are going most of them are either in primary or nursery school. Actually, we now recorded so much improvement in terms of education.

**Interviewer**: now, are you saying that all these children use to go to school?

**Speaker 17**: of course, some in nursery while some in primary.

**Interviewer**: now, all of you here go to the farm?

**Speaker 18**: of course, in fact, we are just coming back from farming.

**Interviewer**: What are you exactly farming?

**Speaker 17**: Rice

**Interviewer**: so, you are rice farmers, right?

**Speaker 18**: no. we farm millet, cone and rice. But our major farm produce is rice.

**Speaker 18**: Our major farm produce in this area are millet and rice because it is difficult to see someone farming millet due to the nature of our soil.

**Interviewer**: how have you been managing activities of washcom and your farming?

**Speaker 18**: Yes, as you may know, we put ourselves into this activity voluntarily, and they explained to us about it we also agreed with their arrangements. Even if some people consider it as time wasting, we don’t care. There was a time when I was in the farm, we were called on phone that visitors were coming; I attended and never get tired.

**Interviewer**: but now, sir, don't you think that you are been overtaken away by these activities from your own personal engagements?

**Speaker 18**: We choose to do this work for the betterment of our people and the community. And we will continue doing it. I planned for everything; I have my children who are fetching water for us, while I go to the farm. And whenever I was called to duty I will be there.

**Interviewer**: are you also a member in the washcom?

**Speaker 19**: he is a member he is even the treasurer.

**Interviewer**: don’t you feel like you were overworking yourself even with knowing that nothing is been given to you?

**Speaker 18**: We understand that it’s a short time activity that is why we cooperate with them to make the project a successful one. Not necessarily benefiting from it in terms of payment.

**Interviewer**: Mallam Idrissu the secretary; You made mention that you agreed on how the GHI and the local government planned all their activities, why do you agree with them while others did not because they have seen similar ones in the past that went this way?

**Speaker 18**: Sincerely speaking the unionists are people that listened to the opinion of the common man on issues that relate to their lives. They don’t feel provoke at all, both the men and women among them. They don’t allow us to deny children coming to the places of meetings or the activities. They used to convince us that we should exercise patience that our hardship will be over.

**Interviewer**: Why those among you refused to accept them?

**Speaker 18**: Like you know, some time when government introduces certain program in this community, people perceived it as deception. Without executing it in the long run. But this people explain to us that they are not from the state or local government. They are non-governmental, nonprofit working to improve the wellbeing of the citizenry. We also convinced our people in that regard.

**Interviewer**: Do you think there is anything that could be done better than this that could solve all the challenges you are facing in this community?

**Speaker 17**: This activity has actually widened our knowledge and experience in such that people from other community used to consult us on how to solve their problems. They pleaded with us to influence water project in their village. Because they witnessed how realistic the WASHCOM has been running its activities in this area. There has never a sustainable and beneficial project in this area like this one. Let me give you an instance, we had about ten water projects in this town but none of them last for at least two years except for this one. They did the work and asked us to take its ownership, we did that.

I can even say that, I am the most person among those that were been disliked due to this project, am I wrong?

**Group**: no.

**Speaker 17**: and I endured all those atrocities no retreat no surrender. There was a time when someone intimidated me here that involved the village head to show his grievances on and I told him not to worry they may one day understand our idea. And you have to endure all these negativities once you are appointed leader. We are indeed doing our best in keeping the community clean.

**Interviewer**: My last question; is there anything that you want to say?

**Speaker 18**: All I want to say is about those complaining on not seeing any meaningful result from projects like this; we have been witnessing similar projects with no any good result for our community, which is the reason why they do not cooperate with this one. But now that they realized its impact they already shield their swords as the project is now working for about two years.

**Interviewer**: secretary, say your final remarks.

**Speaker 19**: regarding the hours of operating the water facility. Our people need at least two hours fetching water. But there is no time while people gathered here to get the water. It finishes even before reaching two hours of operation, the water used to end up until another time.

**Interviewer**: thank you so much.

**Speaker 18**: I also have my final remarks, based on what we discuss here especially regarding some faults recorded. As leaders, we consider these faults as nothing we also directed people to be saying their minds whenever they see something not going well, all we are after is to get the desired result.

Besides, previously when we were collecting contributions from people, some actually stop giving their own share. During the year under review we develop a new plan for that initiative with the aim of letting go those that cannot do it and recruit new contributors, and we recorded success in that direction.

As for the ones, we may a times reach a month without getting at least 7000 naira to send to them which is very worrisome considering that we already signed an agreement with them, and sometimes we may encounter problem that is beyond our capacity and they explained to us that they will be responsible for any technical fault encountered by the facility as soon as we maintain our relationship with them.

**Interviewer**: that all. Thank you so much.