

Heineken Africa Foundation programme – Monthly Update

Country: Nigeria

Reporting period covered: November, 2020

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Contributors to the report are:

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SECTION 1 Key highlights over the last three months – please choose your top 4 programme highlights	Location
<p>1. Advocacies Visits to Stakeholders:</p> <p>First Step’s engagement with key relevant stakeholders for advocacy visits continued in the month of November to demand for stakeholders’ contribution and action for increased access to water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) services and increased awareness about COVID-19 in Benue state. The following stakeholders were engaged and their commitments noted;</p> <p>a. Advocacy meeting with the Chairman, Benue State House of Assembly Committee on Water Resources</p> <p>This meeting was held on Monday 5th November, 2020 at the office of the Chairman, Benue State House of Assembly Committee on Water Resource. During the meeting, the Program Officer of HAF Hygiene Scale-up Project for First Step gave a background of the project while explaining its intended impact among the beneficiaries in the state. He solicited for the Chairman and Committee’s support for increased budgetary provision for WASH service delivery including the transformation of WASH units to WASH Departments in the state.</p> <p>i. Response and Commitment from the Chairman, Benue State House of Assembly Committee on Water Resources</p> <p>The Chairman was very delighted to receive the Team from First Step. He mentioned that he was passionate about issues of WASH because he was aware of the benefits of access to WASH to the people, citing examples of WASH programmes he was aware were implemented in his constituency. He promised to do anything possible within his powers and authority</p>	Benue State

to ensure WASH budgetary provisions receive attention in the 2021 budget of the state. He also advised that he should be copied in the letter First Step planned to submit to the Special Adviser to the Governor of Benue State, Bureau for Local Government and Chieftaincy Affairs concerning the need to transform WASH units to WASH Departments. According to him, this was to let the SA to the Governor be aware that he was supporting this course.

b. Advocacy meeting with the Benue State House of Assembly Committee on Education

The advocacy meeting took place on the 6th November, 2020 at the office of the Chairman of the Committee. Some of the personalities who were at the meeting included; the Chairman of the Committee, Hon. William Iortyom, Hon. Tertsea Tseenyum Gbiseh who is also the Spokesman of the Benue State House of Assembly. The Program Officer on the HAF Hygiene Scale-up project for First Step after giving a brief background of the project requested the support of the committee for budgetary provision for WASH in schools in the state. According to the Program Officer, this would increase access to WASH in schools thereby improving school attendance and academic performance of students, particularly girls who are often the most affected by poor access to WASH in schools.

i. Response and Commitment from the Chairman, of the Committee

The Chairman of the Benue State House of Assembly Committee on Education, Hon. William Iortyom expressed appreciation to WaterAid Nigeria for choosing Benue state as one of the states in the country to implement the project. While commending First Step for its visit to the committee, he assured the team of his support to ensure that WASH receives attention in the state's 2021 budget for the education sector.

c. Advocacy Visits to the Chairman, Benue State House Committee on Local Government, Chieftaincy Affairs and Security

The visit to the committee took place on the 12th November, 2020 at the State House of Assembly complex. During the visit, the Program Officer for First Step's HAF Hygiene Scale-up project solicited the support of the Chairman in the transformation of WASH units to WASH Departments across all LGAs in the state. He also gave a brief background of the project in the state.

● Response and Commitment from the Chairman

The Chairman of the Committee, Rt Hon. Terkaa Dominic Ucha thanked First Step's Team for the visit and promised to look at the brief that justifies the transformation of WASH units to WASH Department which was submitted to him and

encouraged us to follow-up for further engagement on the issue.

d. Advocacy Visit to Chairman, Benue State House of Assembly Committee on Health

The Team carried out advocacy visit to Chairman, Benue State House of Assembly Committee on Health, Hon Joseph Okponya, on the 23rd November, 2020. After the Program Officer for First gave a brief background of the HAF Hygiene Scale-up project in Benue state. He went ahead to link how access to WASH was important to combat preventable diseases with ripple effects on poverty reduction. He therefore solicited the support of the Chairman to contribute to ensuring that WASH budgetary provisions were captured in the 2021 budget of the health sector.

• Response and Commitment from the Chairman of the Committee

In his response, the Chairman of the Hon. Joseph Okponya appreciated First Step’s Team for the visit and promised to pay attention to the demands of the Team to make sure WASH provisions were taken care of in the budget of the health sector of the state.

2. WASH Radio Discussion and Radio Phone-in Programme on Budget

The WASH Radio Discussion for the month of November, 2020 focused on the theme for this year’s Toilet Day, which is “**Sustainable Sanitation and Climate Change**”. The efforts of the Benue state government towards ending open defecation in the state was also highlighted at the programme. Guests on the programme were; Joy Ijuwo, State Coordinator, Society for Water and Sanitation (NEWSAN), Victor Asobo, Managing Director, Viktual Environmental Managers and Matthew Ge, Head of Planning, Monitoring and Evaluation, BERWASSA.

The Radio Phone-In Programme on Budget for the month of November focused on “**Fiscal Responsibility Law and Government Budgeting Process**”. Joseph Gbagyo Esq., CISM, Principal Partner at Shellumi Legals was our guest on the programme. During the programme, he decried lack of effective citizens’ engagement by the government in the budget process which often leads to misplaced priorities in budgetary provisions for communities. He advocated for effective citizen engagement in the process of budgeting so that the yearnings and aspirations of communities would be effectively addressed by the budget of the government. He therefore called for a budget submit just like the youth summit for pertinent issues relating to government budgeting would be addressed.

Callers on the programme also called on the government to improve in the area of transparency in its budgeting processes

including proper description of budget lines to make it easier for budget tracking to happen.

3. Assessment of WASH Provision and Monitoring Functionality of Handwashing Stations

a. Primary Healthcare Center, Gboko

The facility at the primary healthcare center was functional but due to leakage from the point of connecting tap on the over-head tank, usage of the handwashing station has been discontinued pending when this would be rectified. The head of management at the primary healthcare was not available at the facility as at the time of visit. However, a message was left with one of the staff of the facility for the management to rectify the fault so as to continue using the handwashing station. Follow-up on this will be done to ensure the fault is rectified.

b. Primary Healthcare Center, Tyowanye, Buruku LGA

The semi-permanent was fully installed at the healthcare center and functional. The source of water to the facility is a hand pump borehole at the premises of the primary healthcare center.

“We are very delighted to benefit from the handwashing station installed in our Healthcare center. The primary healthcare center, which is strategically located, normally experience influx of people who visit the facility to receive medical services. Before now, we did not have handwashing facility to encourage the practice of proper handwashing. With this intervention, we are sure that over 42 people who visit the primary healthcare center on daily basis will practice effective handwashing with soap and clean running water available at the facility” – Mrs Shimeson Dogoh, Officer In-charge of Primary Healthcare Center, Tyowanye, Buruku LGA, Benue state

c. General Hospital, Buruku in Buruku LGA

The semi-permanent handwashing station was fully installed at the general hospital but connection to the water source at the facility was yet to be completed as at time of visit. However, the second Doctor on call at the general hospital, Dr Benjamin Mkena promised to discuss with the management of the hospital to pump water to the over-head tank that is expected to supply water to the handwashing station for use. While this was to be done, the solar panels which were blown off were expected to be fixed as soon as possible. According to the Doctor, the handwashing station was going to be put to use within a week’s time. Follow-up will be done to ensure the supply of water to the HWS for usage to start.

d. Internally Displaced Persons (IDP) Camp Gbajimba, Guma LGA

Installation of the semi-permanent handwashing station at the Internally Displaced Persons (IDP) Camp in Gbajimba has

been completed but no connection to the water source. The Head of the Camp, Mrs Magdalene Utoryila complained she was not aware the connection was to be done by the management of the camp. She promised to inform the State Emergency Management Agency (SEMA) about the connection of the HWS to a water source.

e. St Anthony Hospital, Zaki-Biam, Ukum LGA

Installation of the semi-permanent handwashing station and connection to the water source within the hospital has been completed. Visitors to the hospital were seen using the facility as at time of visit to the hospital. An average of 200 persons who visit the hospital on daily basis use the HWS.

f. Comprehensive Health Center, Ugba, Logo LGA

Installation of the semi-permanent handwashing station (HWS) and connection to the water source within the hospital has been completed. Visitors to the hospital were seen using the facility as at time of visit to the hospital. An average of 50 persons who visit the health center on daily basis benefit from the HWS.

g. Primary Healthcare Center, Agasha, Guma LGA

Installation of the semi-permanent handwashing station (HWS) has been completed but yet to be connected to the water source. According to Mr Fabian Taki, they were not informed that the connection was to be done by the PHC. He said after evaluating the cost of connection, he found out they needed N20, 000 to do the connection but they could not afford this. He was referred to inform BERWASSA concerning this.

h. Wannune Market, Tarka LGA

Installation of the semi-permanent handwashing station (HWS) has been completed but yet to be connected to the water source. The HWS was installed at the back of the market which affects the visibility of the facility at the market. The management of the market was not on ground as at the time of visit to the market, but when the Acting Chairman of the Market Committee, Mr Alphonsus was reached on phone for more details about the installation and connection of the HWS to water source, he was not aware of the responsibility to connect the HWS to water source. However he promised to do the connection within this week.

i. St Vincent Hospital Aliade, Gwer East LGA

Installation of the semi-permanent handwashing station and connection to the water source within the hospital has been completed and ready for use. An average of 120 persons who visit the hospital on daily basis make use of the HWS.

<p>j. Internally Displaced Persons (IDP) Camp, Abagena, Makurdi LGA Installation of the semi-permanent handwashing station (HWS) has been completed but yet to be connected to the water source. Mr James Iorkyaa, the camp Manager said they were not informed that the connection of the HWS to the water source was their responsibility. He however promised to inform SEMA about the need to connect the HWS to a water source within the camp.</p> <p>4. Follow-up to Advocacy visits to Stakeholders A brief to justify upgrading of WASH units to WASH Departments across the 23 LGAs in Benue state has been developed and sent to all relevant officials of the government.</p> <p>At the Bureau of local government and Chieftaincy Affairs, the letter was undergoing approval processes for the meeting with the Chairmen of all LGAs in the state on the need to upgrade WASH units to WASH Departments. As today, 30th November, 2020, the letter had passed through the office of the SA to the Government, Bureau of Local Government and Chieftaincy Affairs including the office of the Permanent Secretary and was at the office of the Director of Local Government Affairs.</p> <p>At the Local Government Service Commission, the brief on the need to upgrade WASH units to WASH Departments has been approved to be added to the agenda of the next meeting of the Commission for deliberation.</p> <p>The letter submitted to the Office of the Governor for advocacy visit was at the Office of the Chief of Staff to the Governor and yet to be approved.</p> <p>A budget has been drafted by officials of the Ministry of Health and Human Services for funding of a stakeholders’ meeting for the domestication of the national guidelines for WASH sector response to COVID-19 and sent to the office of the Director for approval.</p>	
<p>SECTION 2</p> <p>Challenges – please highlight any challenges faced over the last month and mitigation plans</p>	<p>Location</p>
<p>1. Difficulty to meet with the Governor of Benue State. Engagement with high power interest groups and personalities is on-going to help influence our meeting with the Governor of Benue state</p>	<p>Benue State</p>

SECTION 3

Photos - please include any photos of project activities or infrastructure here, with captions (plus case studies if feasible). Aim for 1-2 per month.

Note that these do not need to be professional quality – photos on smart phones are adequate.

Location



Benue State

First Step Team in a group Photograph after meeting with the Chairman, BSHA

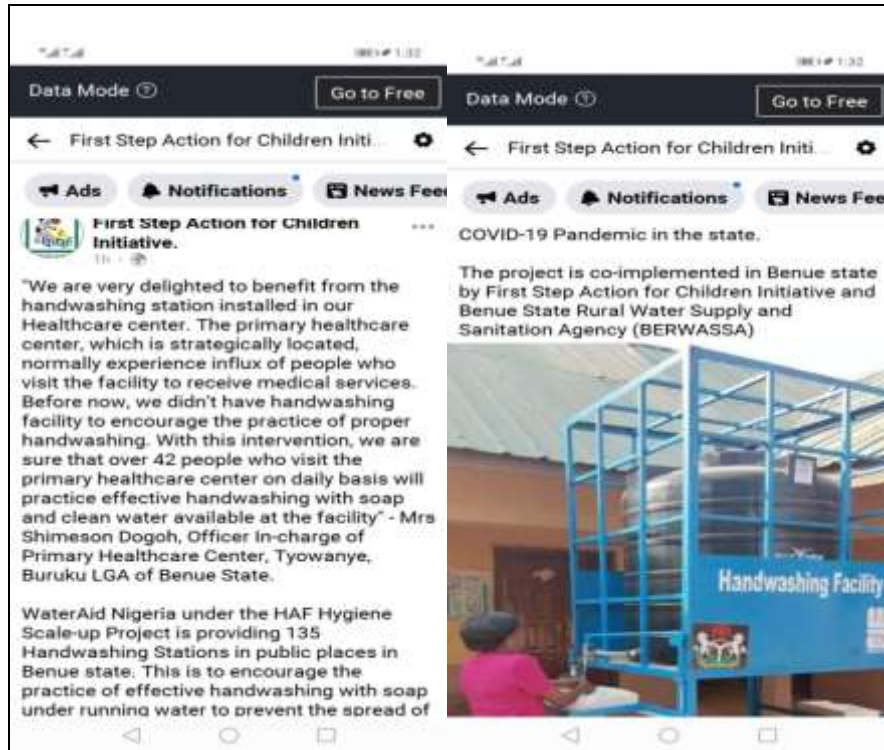
First Step Team in a group Photograph after meeting with the BSHA Committee on Education Committee on Water Resources



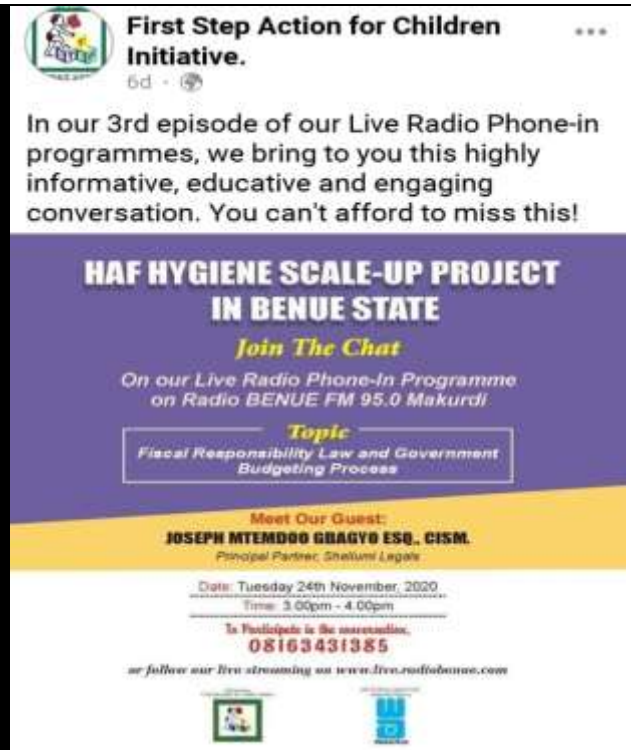
Nanen Gangese (in Red Shirt) in a group photograph with Staff of the General Hospital, Buruku during Assessment of HWS Visit to the facility

SECTION 4

Communications – please provide highlights of press and broadcast coverage, and social media post clippings from the last three months



<https://www.facebook.com/111851594076020/posts/118628873398292/?app=fbl>



<https://111851594076020/posts/120780239849822/?app=fbl>

SECTION 5

Looking ahead – please identify 2-3 key upcoming programmatic activities/communications milestones for the next three months

Location

1. Fourth episodes of WASH radio discussion and radio phone-in programme on budget
2. Follow-up to advocacy visits to stakeholders

Benue State