

## Heineken Africa Foundation programme – Monthly Update

**Country:** Nigeria

**Reporting period covered:** September, 2020

**Report Prepared By:** Nanen Gangese

**Contributors to the report are:**

**Date submitted:** 29<sup>th</sup> September 2020

SECTION 1 Key highlights over the last three months – please choose your top 4 programme highlights	Location
<p>1. <b>Pre-intervention Case Study Gathering:</b> First Step began the implementation of the Heineken Africa Foundation (HAF) Hygiene Scale-up project in Benue state with a pre-intervention case study. This was to help gain insights into hygiene practices predominate among community members in their households and public places such as markets, schools and primary healthcare facilities in the light of COVID-19 pandemic. This also includes the observance of COVID-19 guidelines meant to prevent spread of the pandemic so as to track changes that have occurred due to the intervention.</p> <p>In the light of the above, public places were selected such as markets in Tarka LGA and primary healthcare facilities including a community in Oju LGA of the state where key stakeholders were interviewed. Specific places selected for case study gathering were Wannune and Tior Tyu markets in Tarka LGA, Okpoma AINU Primary healthcare center and Okpoma community in Oju LGA of Benue state. A recce was carried out for stakeholder engagement in the identified locations and this paved way for successful case study gathering. The result of the case study gathering indicated i. Low level of knowledge about best hygiene practices among interviewees ii. Poor hygiene practices among the people and iii. Very low level of compliance to COVID-19 guidelines, particularly in the areas of regular</p>	Benue State

handwashing with soap under running water, wearing of facemasks in public places and maintaining social distancing even as many people across the locations did not believe in the existence of COVID-19 in the country. iv. No provision and access to designated handwashing stations to facilitate effective practice of handwashing under running and soap.

Pull out quotes from the case studies gathered are as follows;

a. **Acting Chairman of Wannune Market in Tarka LGA:**

“This interaction has sensitized me about the importance of practising regular handwashing under running water and soap, and at the same time I am worried that majority of people out of the population of about 3000 people who visit our market on market days have no access to handwashing facilities in the market even in the light of Covid-19.”

b. **Chairman of Tior Tyu Market in Tarka LGA:**

“If I always have access to clean water and soap, it will help me to practice personal hygiene effectively.

I believe that if I do this, it will also improve my health status.”

c. **Head of Okpoma Primary Healthcare Center:**

“The biggest issue for us at the primary healthcare center is the absence of a handwashing facility. Because of this, patients and other visitors to the facility do not practice handwashing, particularly under running water. This a actually a matter of concern to us working at the facility since we do not know who is free or not from Corona virus or any other infectious disease”.

d. **Okpoma Ainu community member:**

“I got to know that the practice of good hygiene keeps us free from germs. I have therefore learnt that practising personal hygiene will improve my health and particularly protect me from diseases caused by germs”.

Detailed documentation of the pre-intervention case studies with pictures has already been shared with WaterAid.

## 2. **Advocacy Visits**

In order to situate and give our advocacies a focus, First Step developed an advocacy strategy framework which is a guiding tool in the engagement of relevant stakeholders towards motivating them to cause the desired change the HAF project seeks to achieve. This tool was shared with the Policy Team of WaterAid and it was approved for use.

After submission of advocacy letters, First Step identified relevant high/low interest groups, engaged and solicited their support during advocacies to relevant stakeholders to help influence advocacy meetings and decision of the stakeholders towards prioritization of WASH in the state economic development plans, immediate budgetary releases for large scale replication of emergency WASH service provision, establishment of WASH Department to improve direct funding for WASH service improvements at local government and community levels as well as increased budgetary allocation to WASH interventions.

Our first advocacy visit was to the Benue State Task Force on COVID-19. This was influenced by the Programme Manager of Eunice Spring of Life Foundation, a non-government organization founded by the Wife of the Governor of Benue state which was one of our high power interest groups which was engaged.

Advocacy visit to the Benue State Task Force Team on COVID-19 was held at the Banquet Hall of Benue state Government House and had the Deputy Governor of the state and Chairman of the Team in attendance. The Program Officer of First Step for HAF Project addressed the state COVID-19 Team concerning the HAF Hygiene Scale-up project in the state and emphasized the need for domestication of the National guidelines for WASH sector response to the pandemic in the state. He explained the aim of the guideline which was to provide a coordinated guidance to the state government towards its response to COVID-19 pandemic in the state, particularly in the WASH sector. Follow-up with the Benue State Task Force Team on COVID-19 is on-going to ensure that the National guideline for WASH

sector response to the pandemic is successfully domesticated in the state.  
Confirmation of dates from other stakeholders for more advocacy meetings are been expected.

**3. Documentation of WASH Projects by Legislators**

Water, Sanitation and Hygiene projects implemented by legislators in Benue state were successfully documented. The objective of the activity was to effectively document various efforts of legislators in the state aimed at ensuring increased access to water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) towards delivery of WASH sector goals in the state.

The template which was developed by First Step developed and used for this activity was approved by WaterAid’s Team at Enugu Field office.

The criteria for selection of the LGAs in the state were based on security reasons, geo-political and cultural spread and coverage. Benue state has a total of 23 LGAs, and is divided into 3 political senatorial districts; Zones A and Zone B comprising 7 LGAs each and Zone C comprising 9 LGAs. For the purpose of the activity, 4 LGAs were selected each from Zones A and B while 5 LGAs were selected from Zone C. The details of these LGAs can be found in the tables below.

**Zone A**

S/No	LGA	LGA Selected for Field Visit
1	Kwande	Kwande
2	Ushongo	Ushongo
3	Konshisha	Konshisha
4	Kastina-Ala	
5	Ukum	
6	Logo	
7	Vandeikya	Vandeikya

**Zone B**

S/No	LGA	LGA Selected for Field Visit
1	Gboko	Gboko
2	Buruku	
3	Tarka	Tarka
4	Guma	
5	Makurdi	Makurdi
6	Gwer East	Gwer East
7	Gwer West	

**Zone C**

S/No	LGA	LGA Selected for Field Visit
1	Otukpo	Otukpo
2	Oju	Oju
3	Obi	
4	Apa	Apa
5	Ado	
6	Ohimini	Ohimini
7	Ogbadibo	
8	Agatu	
9	Okpokwu	Okpokwu

**Methodology used for identification of WASH project locations in LGAs**

Efforts were made to review Benue state government's approved budgets for identification of

constituency budgets which funds have been released and implemented in the WASH sector. Unfortunately, it was discovered that only two constituency projects received funds for implementation in the last 7 years which could be identified in the approved budgets, out of which the specific location of one could not be clearly identified.

Efforts to identify specific WASH projects implemented by legislators from the Benue state House of Assembly, Ministry of Water Resources and Environment, Benue State Rural Water Supply and Sanitation (BERWASSA) and WASH units at the various LGAs proved abortive as there was no records of these WASH project locations implemented by legislators even as the officials in these government institutions confessed no knowledge of the project locations. Local mobilizers from the 13 LGAs were finally identified to assist in identification of specific locations of WASH projects implemented by legislators. This finally yielded positive results.

Field observations during the documentation of WASH projects by legislators showed that;

- i. There were more constituency WASH projects by legislators in Zones A and B than Zone C.
- ii. Most of the WASH projects sponsored by the legislators in all the Zones were Hand pump Boreholes
- iii. The few toilet facilities constructed by the legislators were incorporated into school building projects
- iv. Most of the water supply projects sponsored by the legislators were not functional with little or no community efforts to rehabilitate them

A detailed report of this activity will be shared separated because of its volume.

#### **4. WASH Radio Discussion and Radio Phone-in Programme on Budget**

Stakeholders were carefully selected to participate in radio discussions concerning WASH issues in the state as well as COVID-19 pandemic. The very insightful first episode of WASH radio discussion highlighted HAF Hygiene Scale-up Project in the state, Role of hygiene as the first line of defence in the fight against Covid-19, State Covid-19 response team's activities aimed at increasing awareness among

<p>the public on hygiene in the light of Covid-19 and government plans to sustain public awareness concerning hygiene promotion post Covid-19. Personalities hosted during the WASH radio discussion were Dr Samuel Ngishe, Head of Public Health Emergency Operation Center and Head of Case Management of Benue State Covid-19 response Team and Nanen Gangese, Program Officer, HAF Project for First Step.</p> <p>The first episode of the radio phone-in programme was another very insightful and engaging programme which was centered on budgeting processes and citizens’ participation in budget tracking and monitoring for accountability. There were several calls from the public who participated actively during the programme. They demanded to know how they can participate in government budgeting processes and called for government to make the process more transparent and accountable. The guest on this programme was Barr. Justin Gbagir, Chairman, Nigerian Bar Association, Makurdi and Executive Director, Justice and Rights Initiative.</p>	
<p><b>SECTION 2</b></p> <p><b>Challenges – please highlight any challenges faced over the last month and mitigation plans</b></p>	<p><b>Location</b></p>
<p>1. Some of the challenges faced include lack of confirmation of dates for advocacy meetings with some stakeholders including the Governor of Benue State.</p> <p><b>Mitigation Plan</b></p> <p>We plan to engage more with high power interest groups and influencers to be able to gain confirmation for advocacy meetings with the affected stakeholders.</p> <p>2. Difficulty to meet with Legislators at the Benue State House of Assembly for advocacy meetings. It was learnt that the Legislators have embarked on recess which will last till 27<sup>th</sup> October, 2020.</p>	<p>Benue State</p>
<p><b>SECTION 3</b></p> <p><b>Photos - please include any photos of project activities or infrastructure here, with captions (plus case studies if</b></p>	<p><b>Location</b></p>

feasible). Aim for 1-2 per month.

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

Benue State



Mr Alphonsus Nyor, Acting Chairman of Wannune Market in Tarka LGA, Benue state Nanen Gangese during case study gathering



Nanen Gangese & Mr. Mngosough Ikya, Chairman of Tior Tyu Market in Tarka LGA during case study gathering



Mrs Agness Ikawu, Head of Okpoma PHC during case study gathering



Mr Ogweje Achanma from Okpoma community and Nanen Gangese during case study gathering at the community in Oju LGA, Benue state





Nanen Gangese, First Step's Program Officer HAF Project addressing the Benue State Task Force Team on COVID-19 at the Banquet Hall of Benue state Government House

**SECTION 4**

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

**SECTION 5**

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

1. Second episode of WASH radio discussion and radio phone-in programme

**Location**

Benue State

<p>2. Advocacy Visits to the Benue State Governor and other stakeholders to secure commitments for WASH including follow-up to advocacy visits</p> <p>3. Assessment of WASH provision and Monitoring of functionality of Hand Washing Stations</p>	
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