

INSITUATIONAL TRIGGERING: THE PAPHyR EXPERIENCE - BENIN

Institutional triggering is a vital tool that causes a feeling of disgust towards the practice of open defecation, specifically targeting influential agencies, organizations, and leaders. This type of triggering aims to influence the pride and dignity of decision makers so that they commit to ending open defecation and ensuring the sustainability of Open Defecation Free (ODF) status by implementing different activities such as providing adequate sanitation facilities in public places to motivate communities to sustain behavioral change.

Under the Programme d'amélioration de l'accès à l'Assainissement et des Pratiques d'Hygiène en milieu Rural (PAPHyR) project funded by the Global Sanitation Fund, launched in 2015, MCDI has led several institutional triggering events. The Program implements Benin's National Strategy for the Promotion of Basic Sanitation and Hygiene (SNPHAB) in four departments: Borgou, Hills, Donga and Atacora. PAPHyR aims to eliminate open defecation in 8,181 localities with special emphasis on the promotion of handwashing and practices ensuring hygienic drinking water and food.



Institutional triggering of Government actors in Benin

On November 7 2018, an institutional triggering session on basic sanitation and hygiene was organized by the National Directorate of Public Health in collaboration with MCDI. The meeting was attended by the Mayor of Dassa-Zoumè, the Governors and their Secretaries General, the National Coordinator of the Water Supply and Sanitation Consultation Council, the Director of Health of Colline Department, and the Departmental Coordinators of PAPHyR intervention zones. Additional attendees included the Representative of the Minister of Health, the Director of Health of Hills Department, and the Governor of Zou Department.

In his opening speech, the Representative of the Minister of Health mentioned that triggering of government actors, including the Governors and their Secretaries General, on the subject of Open Defecation is of paramount importance to disease prevention in Benin and to the elimination of open defecation in Benin by 2030.



Participants of institutional triggering session

After the opening speech, issues related to hygiene and sanitation were presented and discussed to make participants aware of the health and socio-economic impacts of open defecation at both the national and community levels. This discussion provoked disgust among the participants and resulted in the commitments of Governors to (i) prioritize basic hygiene and sanitation in communal planning documents, (ii) adopt appropriate measures to promote basic hygiene and sanitation, and (iii) ensure monitoring and reporting of activities aiming to eliminate open defecation.