

# SANITATION AND HYGIENE IN SCHOOLS: THE PAPHyR EXPERIENCE - BENIN



Demonstration of handwashing by the students after a triggering session, ©PAPHyR

## CONTEXT

PAPHyR (Programme d'Amélioration de l'Accès à l'Assainissement et des Pratiques d'Hygiène en milieu Rural) is a sanitation and hygiene project in Benin funded by the Global Sanitation Fund operated by the Water Supply & Sanitation Collaborative Council. Led by Medical Care Development International (MCDI), the goal of PAPHyR is to eliminate the practice of open defecation throughout rural Benin using Community-Led Total Sanitation (CLTS), which "triggers" communities into building latrines and practicing safe sanitary practices such as handwashing. The project aims to reach 2.9 million people across Benin.

According to the baseline study conducted at the beginning of PAPHyR in the four targeted administrative departments of the project (Donga, Les Collines, Atacora and Borgou), only 23 households out of 486 (or 4.7%) had a handwashing facility.

In schools, poor hygiene and sanitation behaviors are difficult to eliminate because of the lack of access to: handwashing devices, drinking water, and education on the importance of hand washing. In addition to the lack of handwashing facilities, the toilets built in schools, high schools and colleges are not clean which results in urogenital infections.

To contribute to the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goal 6.2, PAPHyR aims to end open defecation in all public places and institutions with special attention to the promotion of hygiene and sanitation in schools.

## STRATEGIES FOR IMPROVING SCHOOL SANITATION

- Collaborating with the school principals;
- Pre-triggering and triggering of principals and teachers on good hygiene and sanitation practices and capacity building for the manufacturing of handwashing devices with local materials;
- Triggering students on good hygiene and sanitation practices especially on the need to wash their hands at critical moments;
- Setting up school hygiene and sanitation committees;
- Triggering food vendors at the school on food hygiene and drinking water hygiene;
- Celebrating Global Handwashing Day and World Toilet day, launching awareness campaigns for students and vendors, and advocating with local and communal government officials for the prioritization of hygiene and sanitation activities and budgets.

## INTERVENTION ACTIVITIES AND RESULTS (JAN-SEPT 2018)

- 465 schools were reached by hygiene and sanitation activities;
- 85,000 students, teachers and school vendors were triggered on good hygiene and sanitation practices;
- 102 existing latrines in schools were sanitized (maintenance, use of ash, installation of handwashing facilities);
- 64 latrines were completed in some schools;
- 529 handwashing facilities in schools were made with local materials;
- 438 school committees were established;
- At least twice a week, committees ensure the maintenance of hygiene and sanitation conditions in schools (e.g. checking on the operation of the handwashing facilities in front of latrines and classrooms).



The sanitation committee at a school in Pehunco, Atacora ©SIANSON ONG



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