



WASH SUPPORT IN BLANTYRE AND MCHINJI DISTRICT CBCCs

Submitted by:

Pump Aid

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1.0 Introduction and context

Malawi has 8,917 CBCCs (Action Aid 2013) where children aged between 3-5 years spend at least half their day, yet they often do not have access to water, or user friendly latrines. While there has been a large focus on school WASH in recent years, pre- schools (known as Child Based Community Centre's (CBCCs)), have not received anywhere near the same financial and program focus as primary and secondary schools. Sixty three percent (63%) of CBCCs provide one cornmeal feed a day, however, even this falls seriously short of meeting the nutritional requirement needed by a growing child (AA 2013). Project design meetings with the local District have shown that, out of 374 CBCCs in Blantyre district, only 14 have child friendly latrines and only 2 have potable safe water on site. Many other districts across the country face a plight that is similar or worse. In addition, a similarly low level of capacity to look after the children exists amongst many care givers at CBCCs.

In 2016 2017, Frugi awarded Pump Aid a grant of £19,467.50 to provide clean water, improved sanitation and hygiene behaviour change to 2 CBCCs in Malawi: My Journey CBCC and Chimatiro CBCC. This report gives an overview of the work that has been carried out over the period from May – December 2017 in the process of providing WASH services to the 2 CBCCs.

Table 1: Number of children and caregivers benefitting from Frugi funding

Name of District	CBCC Name	Enrolment			Number of Caregivers
		Boys	Girls	Total	
Blantyre	My Journey	53	59	112	4
Mchinji	Chimatiro	37	43	80	10
	Total	90	102	192	14

1.1 Overall Objective

To improve child health in CBCCs through provision of access to improved WASH and nutrition.

1.2 Specific objectives

The specific objectives of the project are:

- To provide safe and sustainable water supply to the 2 CBCCs
- To promote good hygiene practices and improved sanitation.
- To design and deliver WASH programmes integrated with other related sectors such as nutrition, food security and mitigation of the impact of climate change.
- To reduce the incidence of diarrhoeal cases among the under-five children through installation of WASH facilities.

1.3 Project outputs include;

- 2 water points constructed, 1 at my Journey CBCC, 1 Chimatiro CBCC
- 4 double VIP latrines constructed, 2 at my Journey CBCC, 2 at Chimatiro CBCC
- 14 caregivers oriented and trained in CBCC WASH model.
- 2 Community Maintenance Committees comprising 21 members (10 from My Journey in Blantyre and 11 from Chimatiro in Mchinji) trained in management and maintenance of water points and VIP latrines constructed at CBCCs

2.0 Accomplishments

2.1 Community mobilization and engagement meetings

To get the community on board, community mobilisation and engagement meetings were organised. In Blantyre the meetings were designed to raise awareness of the consequences of poor sanitation and hygiene and understand the need and benefits to be gained by improvement. During the meeting, Pump Aid and the community members shared ideas on proper sanitation and hygiene behaviour. The meetings were aimed at encouraging latrine construction and handwashing practice amongst the targeted community members within My Journey CBCC catchment area. A total number of 173 people (14 men and 159 women) attended the meeting.

On the other hand, mobilisation and awareness-raising meetings in Mchinji focused on creating a proper working relationship between Pump Aid and community members of Chimatiro village where Pump Aid, with support from Frugi, has constructed a water point, 2 double doored child friendly latrines and facilitated training sessions for caregivers and CBCC Management Committee (CMC) members on how to improve sanitation and hygiene practices. . At Chimatiro, the community agreed to mould bricks and provide sand for the construction of the water point and the latrines. Furthermore, the community participated throughout the water point and pit latrine construction processes.

Community empowerment in resource mobilization and participation at Chimatiro CBCC resulted into timely completion of the project (water point and latrines construction). Apart from provision of workmanship and local materials towards the project, communities also provided security for project materials and came up with control systems to ensure all materials were used for the intended purpose. The system also included a well thought out storage and documentation process on deliveries and issuing of project materials. The community led documentation system reduced the risk of losing project materials through theft or damage resulting from poor storage of construction materials.

2.2 Establishment and training of CBCC Management Committees (CMCs)

After a successful community mobilization and engagement meeting, the community was advised to revamp the CMC which was already in existence but not active. There had previously been 10 elected members, however, only 6 of them were active on the ground. Thus, 4 new members were elected by the community to form a new CMC to spearhead the activities around the CMC. The CMC was a focal point between Pump Aid and the community, responsible for mobilizing fellow community members towards the construction of the water-point and the latrines. In addition to that, the CMC works hand in hand with the CBCCs carers in looking after the welfare of the children around the CBCC.

2.3 Construction of a water point at Chimatiro CBCC

During the mobilization meeting the community members were advised to contribute bricks towards the construction of the water point at Chimatiro CBCC. The community were requested to contribute about 1500 burnt bricks for the water point construction project and they managed to meet the set target. These bricks were used for the lining of the well before pump installation. Lining of the well is a very important part of the water point construction process because it helps the well to withstand collapsing and provide clean water free from any ground water contaminants. The water point construction process begun with a site identification process. At this stage, Pump Aid, the water point construction consultant and the community were involved in the process of identifying a proper site for the construction of the water point. After a rigorous process, a suitable place free of and far away from contaminants like latrines and animal kraals was identified and the well sinking and/or well preparation process begun.

2.4 Pump Installation

The site identification and well preparation processes were conducted in between the months of July and August 2017. The pump was installed on 25th August, 2017, thereby providing the children and caregivers at the CBCC with access to safe and clean water. The water point is mainly used by children and the caregivers as the community has an Afridev pump at the other end of the village. However, due to congestion and other factors, some community members find it convenient to draw water from the CBCC's water point.

2.5 Construction of VIP latrines facility.



The construction of the VIP latrines at Chimatiro CBCC was completed in November 2017. As per project design, a hand-washing facility was constructed at the latrine block to ease hand-washing practice among children after visiting the latrine. The picture below depicts the old latrine and the newly finished VIP

latrines which were constructed with funding from Frugi. A total of 80 children and 10 caregivers will have access to improved sanitation and hygiene at Chimatiro CBCC. Utilization of improved latrines has been known to improve child health and wellbeing by reducing diarrhea episodes. This is well complemented with access to safe water and hence the installation of the water point and construction of latrines will tremendously reduce diarrhoeal diseases.

2.6 Training of caregivers

There are a total of 10 caregivers at Chimatiro CBCC and 5 (2 men and 3 women) of them were trained in implementing satisfactory CBCC WASH. The training was conducted for a total number of 5- days from 11th to 15th September 2017 at Rewards Lodge and conference centre in the district. The main aim of the training was to build the capacity of the caregivers, equipping them with skills and knowledge on

sanitation and hygiene so that they should be able to provide excellent teaching/training on sanitation and hygiene, as well as good nutrition to the children. The training was purposefully aimed at training the care givers from Chimatiro CBCC and 10 other CBCCs in Mchinji district to understand better the concept of the CBCC WASH Model and that, at the end of the training, participants should be capable of teaching improved practices to the children. The training was carried out by three facilitators from the district's social welfare office who are qualified Early Childhood Development (ECD) Trainers, and one facilitator was from the Mchinji district's environmental health office who is a specialist in sanitation and hygiene training.

2.7 Training of CMCs

To ensure the sustainability of the projects which were implemented at Chimatiro CBCC, the project also trained the CMC (responsible for managing the affairs of the CBCC). The CMC were mainly trained in sanitation and hygiene and the operation and maintenance of the elephant pump. Major areas covered during training:

- Committee procedures.
- Record keeping.
- Financial management.
- Hygiene and Sanitation.
- Elephant pump maintenance.
- Operation and maintenance of WASH facilities.

All 10 CMC members were trained as well as the village chief. In essence, in the previous CBM trainings the chiefs were not included however it was noted that this was leading to a number of community management problems therefore the trainings have of late included the chiefs to ensure proper coordination between the CMC, the chief and the community at large. Training was provided with the assistance of the Ministry of Health and Population services, Ministry of Agriculture, Irrigation and Water development as well Ministry of Gender, Disability, Children and Social welfare. The District Coordinating Team (DCT) was responsible for the supervision training.

2.8 Monitoring Visits

In Blantyre, a total of 36 follow up visits were conducted by Pump Aid staff to assess how caregivers interact with children following the capacity building training on hygiene behavior change in which they took part. In addition to that, the follow up visits were meant to provide support and collect data on growth monitoring, children enrolment and attendance. Caregivers have started teaching children how to use latrines and the importance of handwashing with soap at critical times. Children were also observed demonstrating the hand washing practice. The children sing songs and recite poems on WASH behaviour change. It was very interesting to note the creativity behind children's poem recitals because the poems contain key messages on sanitation and hygiene. Caregivers explained that the use of songs, poems, and folktales to teach the children about hygiene behavior change is a great way of conveying the sanitation and hygiene message and helps the message to remain in the minds of children for a long time.

Caregivers and CMC members also demonstrated good sanitation and hygiene behaviours of washing their hands before preparing food for children and training children to line up and wash hands before

receiving and eating their food. Improved hand washing behavior by children after visiting latrines was also evident, as well as general cleanliness of the children and the environment surrounding the CBCCs.

Replication of this behavior has also been noted in communities surrounding the CBCC. Furthermore, the Country Director from Pump Aid also made several supportive visits to the CBCCs to monitor progress and provide support where necessary. Joint monitoring visits with government staff from both districts were also conducted. The government staff recognized the efforts which Pump Aid is making in supporting early childhood development and advised the CMC members to take care of the facilities which have been constructed at the CBCC.

2.9 Growth Monitoring

Growth monitoring sessions have been conducted from the month of May to December 2017. On average a total of 100 under-five children have undergone thorough growth monitoring at My Journey CBCC in Blantyre and all the children have been reported to be in good health. No referral was made based on the nutritional status, however, a recent health screening of 112 children revealed 6 cases of malaria, 4 cases of pneumonia and 3 were referred for other general ailments. There were no cases of diarrhoea reported. Looking at the current trend, there is reduction in children suffering from Malaria, diarrhoea, pneumonia and malnutrition and this can be attributed to Pump Aid's intervention funded by Frugi which is promoting sanitation and hygiene and proper nourishment of the children attending the CBCCs.

2.10 Kitchen Garden

The communities through the CMCs were advised on the need to establish kitchen gardens around the CBCC. In this case, both of the CBCCs identified a piece of land to be used of the kitchen gardens. Pump Aid assisted in procuring seeds and distributed them at the CBCCs. The crops grown include mustard, amaranthus, okra, pumpkins, beans and tomatoes. The kitchen garden at My Journey CBCC in Blantyre had a reasonable harvest, whilst that at Chimatiro CBCC in Mchinji performed much worse due to an extensive dry spell. However, there are plans to revive the kitchen garden in the next winter cropping season. Kitchen gardening has been very successful at My Journey CBCC and currently, the community has grown and planted vegetables for the fourth time using their own resources because the Pump Aid seeds were just a start pack. The harvests realized from the CBCC were used as food for the children thereby supplementing nutrition to children and some were sold to provide for other CBCCs needs.

3.0 Lessons Learnt

- Inclusion of village chief into the CMC has improved CBM management and accelerates community participation in CBCC development works and projects such as latrine construction.

4.0 Conclusion

The project has been successfully completed and all the activities were implemented according to the plan. In this case, all constructed facilities are functional. Pump Aid sincerely expresses its gratitude to Frugi for the funding that has transformed Chimatiro and My Journey CBCCs. The success has been down to the combined effort of the development partners and active involvement of the beneficiary communities. A sustainability strategy will be developed in collaboration with district development partners to ensure that the constructed facilities are well taken care of and maintained