

Clean, Clear Water



EPRC, Bangladesh: This water project, funded by Esther Lazarson of New York, is now in its 19th phase. The recent report indicates that they have installed 7 new tubewells serving an additional 1250 people, 300 of them children. Three of the wells were financed by Maryland Presbyterian Church. These folks all live within 50 meters of the wells, and so carrying pots on their heads, leaving their toddlers tied to bedposts, and walking to the dirty water river is not necessary any more and they are very grateful.

The total number served now since the project began in 2003 is over 40,000. Some of the funds were used to install latrines for very poor families to prevent open defecation. Other EPTC funds were used to continue classes for school children unassisted by the government and for education of women since they were now free from carrying water from the river. A volunteer group from each option area, called Women for Environment and Livelihood (WEL) was formed to overlook care of the tubewells as well as being instructed in sanitation and health.



One Program, Ten Years Later, Hundreds of Lives Changed.

The Child Health Foundation gave a \$5,000.00 one-time grant to a Nigerian initiative in 2006 that promotes healthy practices. The Sweet Mother program has reached nearly 2,000 women and is still going strong. **This is what CHF does.**

The following is from a 2008 newsletter.

Eclipse Development Initiatives finalized their Sweet Mother Program, empowering parents and families with knowledge, resources, skills and behavior to ensure safe motherhood, healthy children and a good start in life for newborns. They used counseling sessions and visual and auditory aids to promote breastfeeding, immunizations, and oral rehydration therapy, and treated bed nets to prevent malaria.

All reports herein are available on our website and more complete reports can be sent to you if you request them.

Make it at Home

Sometimes it's not possible to go to the store when your child is having diarrhea. And of course you don't want your precious one to get dehydrated. So here is the recipe for ORS.

Feed even if the child is vomiting, just give by spoonful, a little at a time. And continue to breastfeed.

A good suggestion is to have a supply of ready-made ORS on hand also. Pedialyte is readily available, or we would like to recommend that you order some CeryLyte from ceraproducts.com.

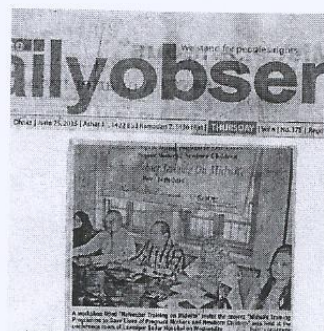
But you can't beat the price for the home-made!

Oral Rehydration Solution

- 1½ tablespoons of granulated sugar
 - 2 cups of water
 - 1/2 tsp. salt
- Instructions:
Mix well sugar, water, and salt together. Drink enough to replace the amount of fluid lost. Banana or other non-sweetened mashed fruit can help provide potassium.

Saving Babies

SAVE, Bangladesh, has trained midwives to facilitate safe deliveries. The service is very much appreciated by the Government Health Department and they are cooperating. They have provided 6 training sessions with 25 midwives in each session, also providing them with delivery kits. Then these trained midwives continued to instruct others and they have noticed a reduction in infant and maternal mortality.



An article about the project appeared in a Dhaka newspaper. CHF's name and icon are on the poster.



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GRASSROOTS PLATFORM

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EDI organises HIV/AIDS awareness training programme

A non-governmental organisation, Eclipse Development Initiatives (EDI), has concluded a 2-day training programme for some indigenes of Saala/ Arejogbo community in Ifako Ijaye Local Government area of Lagos State in its determined efforts to increase awareness on the dreaded disease of HIV/AIDS in various communities in the state.

According to the Executive Director of EDI, Mr. Henry Ofurine, the programme was held in conjunction with the Community Development Association of Saala community and the Chiefs-in-council of the community.

"Our intention is to train animators who will go out and spread

awareness about HIV/AIDS and its devastating effect on the society. So, it's a kind of 'train the trainers' programme and we were very delighted at the turnout of participants at the event. Those we trained at the event will later go out and spread awareness on the devastating effect of the dreaded disease of HIV/AIDS," Mr. Ofurine noted.

He said that the event which took place at the palace of Baale of Saala included: talks on HIV/AIDS, film shows showcasing the experience of four individuals living with HIV, role plays, games, as well as questions and answers session.

"Our aim is to aggregate efforts at fighting the dreaded disease of HIV/AIDS, hence the need to train those who will go out and spread



• The baale and chiefs of Saala community pose for a group photograph with the participants after the training programme.

awareness on the disease in the various communities in the country," the EDI executive director told our correspondent.

28 animators chosen from the Saala community were trained in the programme during which the participants were guided through the formulation of action plans

meant to be used to spread awareness on HIV/AIDS in the community.

"We are planning a follow up programme on this and it is at this follow up programme we will examine how effective the animators have been in the community," Mr. Ofurine said.

The closing events of the programmes were witnessed by the Baale of Saala community, Chief P.A. Bajomo and the chairman of the Saala CDA, Prince Olatokun.

The EDI executive director told our correspondent that the NGO was formed to provide integrated

development programmes and services for youths, women and vulnerable groups through information, education and communication for decent living and sense of dignity. The NGO is community based, that is, the focus of attention is development of various communities in the state.



The time bomb at Alausa

Since the inauguration of the current House of Assembly in Lagos State, there has been very cordial relationship between the executive arm and its legislative counterpart in the state. Governor Bola Ahmed Tinubu (BAT) does not have to worry about the lawmakers whenever he wants any bill or amendment to go through in the house of assembly. All he just needs is summon the leadership of the house, present his case and before one could say Jack Robinson the house would hasten to do the bidding of the governor.

Some will like to call the Lagos State House of Assembly the rubber stamp of the governor while others will just say that the lawmakers are only trying to maintain cordial relationship with the state government. But the fact remains that the governor always has his ways with the Lagos lawmakers. Right from the election of principal officers in the house to the issue of amending the local government law of the state to reflect the old 20 local governments and 37 additional local development councils in the state, BAT usually had his ways.

But that seeming friendship appears to be heading for the rocks. The lawmakers are grumbling and 'Adan', sorry, Tinubu, should better take notice of this grumbling. Somebody told me that some of the lawmakers are not

happy that almost three months after the Federal Government had released N20 billion out of the N34 billion seized in the wake of the controversy surrounding the seizure of allocation to local governments in Lagos State, the state government has not said anything regarding the distribution of the money.

The aggrieved lawmakers are also wondering what the state government has done with the allocation for local governments since August when the Bola Ajibola-led Elders' Committee brokered a truce between the Federal and Lagos State governments on the allocation seizure issue. They noted that the Federal Government has been releasing monthly allocation to the local governments in the state since August, but nothing has been given to the councils.

Yours truly learnt that these lawmakers are set for a serious showdown with the state government as they want to know what the Tinubu administration has been doing with the money in its coffers when local governments and local development councils in the state are crying seriously over lack of funds for developmental projects.

While we await the response of BAT to this, we want to advise that the combatants should thread softly, otherwise this time bomb will explode and it is capable of blowing everybody away.

Itu Agan villagers resist sales of 402 hectares of land

• Sue oil company

It is obviously not well with members of the Itu Agan community located in Amuwo-Odofin Local Government area of Lagos State. The sleepy 'riverine' community has in the last few weeks been in the news, no thanks to a quit notice said to have been issued to thousands of residents of the community by an oil company.

According to the villagers, the management of Oil Fields Integrated Logistics Support Services Limited served them with eviction notices, pointing out that they had got a lease of the 402 hectares of land from the Onisiwo Royal Family of Lagos for 60 years.

"Speaking through their 'baale', Chief Lot Ikuesan, the villagers insisted that though they've never really felt the presence of the govern-

ment in their locality, something they are not complaining about, they would, however, resist with the last drop of their blood an attempt to take over a place that had served as their homes for many years.

The Itu Agan villagers who are llages by tribe are also vehemently opposed to attempt to relocate them to a nearby settlement, 'Monkey Village'.

"It is disruption to our existence. It amounts to starting from the scratch again, which we are not prepared to do. We don't even want their compensation. We are quite satisfied with our ways of life here. You see, we have invested so much here and we can't abandon all these now," an angry villager told 'Grassroots Platform'.

The villagers appear not leaving anything to chance as they have filed a suit at a Lagos High Court praying the court to determine whether or not the company's claim over the land is valid given the Land Acts Number 52 of 1993 and the Inland Waterways Authority Act Number 13 of 1997.

Although the next hearing date of the suit is November 8, 2005, the villagers are, however, not sleeping with their two eyes closed as they have made passionate appeal to the authority at the federal, state and local levels to come to their aid and ensure that they are not driven out of their abode unceremoniously.

Itu Agan lies between the Atlantic Ocean and the Lagoon in Lagos State from Tomaro Village in Amuwo-Odofin Local Government and Abagbo Village beside NPA Light House in Eti-Osa Local Government.



• Tinubu

Farmland tears Ikorodu chieftaincy family apart

A farmland of several hectares said to be the property of the Aruderufi Chieftaincy Family in Ikorodu area of Lagos State is now a subject of dispute among members of the family leading to the institution of a number of court cases and sending of petition to the Inspector-General of Police (IGP) Mr. Sunday Ehindero.

In one of the petitions addressed to the IGP dated 24th October 2005 and signed on behalf of one Y. A. Adeleke from the chambers of Y. A. Adeleke & Co, the family members explained that the family is a land owning family with six branches.

The six branches, they explained further, had from time immemorial exercised the right of ownership jointly on a parcel of land that ran into several hectares without

let or hindrance or disturbance from anybody whatsoever.

They, however, said that problem started in 1994 when one of them, Lateef Isikalu, revolted against the common and long time inherited tradition of joint exercise of control and insisted he wanted to be single handedly responsible for the administration of the family land.

Although the act was resisted even by all the branches including the one Mr. Isikalu hailed from, their grouse now is that the resistance has become the harbinger of hardship, oppression, high handedness, ceaseless police detention and harassment, threat to life among other untoward treatments being meted out to them.

The family members also alleged that sometime in 2003 they

were arrested by the Monitoring Unit, Ikeja and detained. While in detention, some people aided by thugs numbering about 50 led by some uniformed men believed to be from the Ikorodu Police Station, went to the land in dispute, allegedly held the villagers hostage and destroyed belongings worth several millions of naira.

While noting that these actions were carried out without a valid court order, the Aruderufi family members called on the police IGP to use his good office to call his men to order.

"The matters are before courts of competent jurisdiction. It is advisable we await courts' judgments rather than the use of police officers to subjugate 'a' lis pendis," the petition concluded.



• Ehindero.

Nigeria



University of Ibadan, Dept. of Nutrition (2009 Grant) used their grant to educate pregnant mothers on exclusive breastfeeding, immunizations, and micronutrients. Four rural areas were selected for the project, reaching 5,000 people.

The project was divided into 3 phases. First a survey was done involving 339 mother/child pairs. Then the nutrition education phase which used innovative methods such as drama, focused group discussions, audio-visuals, and posters such as the one above. The 3rd phase was a monitor of growth.

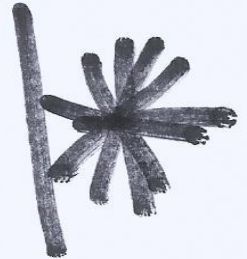
Education focused on teaching pregnant and lactating mothers exclusive breastfeeding, immunization, micronutrient supplement availability and sources, hygienic environment and the provision of care for their children, using community drama, focused group discussions and audio visuals in their local dialects.

They also provided skills training for 50 women for income generation to overcome poverty. We are pleased with this very fine report and the accomplishments.



Eclipse Development Initiatives (2006 grant) finalized their Sweet Mother Program, empowering parents and families with knowledge, resources, skills and behavior to ensure safe motherhood, healthy children and a good start in life for newborns. They used counseling sessions and visual and auditory aids to promote breastfeeding, immunizations, and oral rehydration therapy, and treated bed nets to prevent malaria.

See newsletter 2/08 for more description of this very successful project.



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