



Issue No. 3

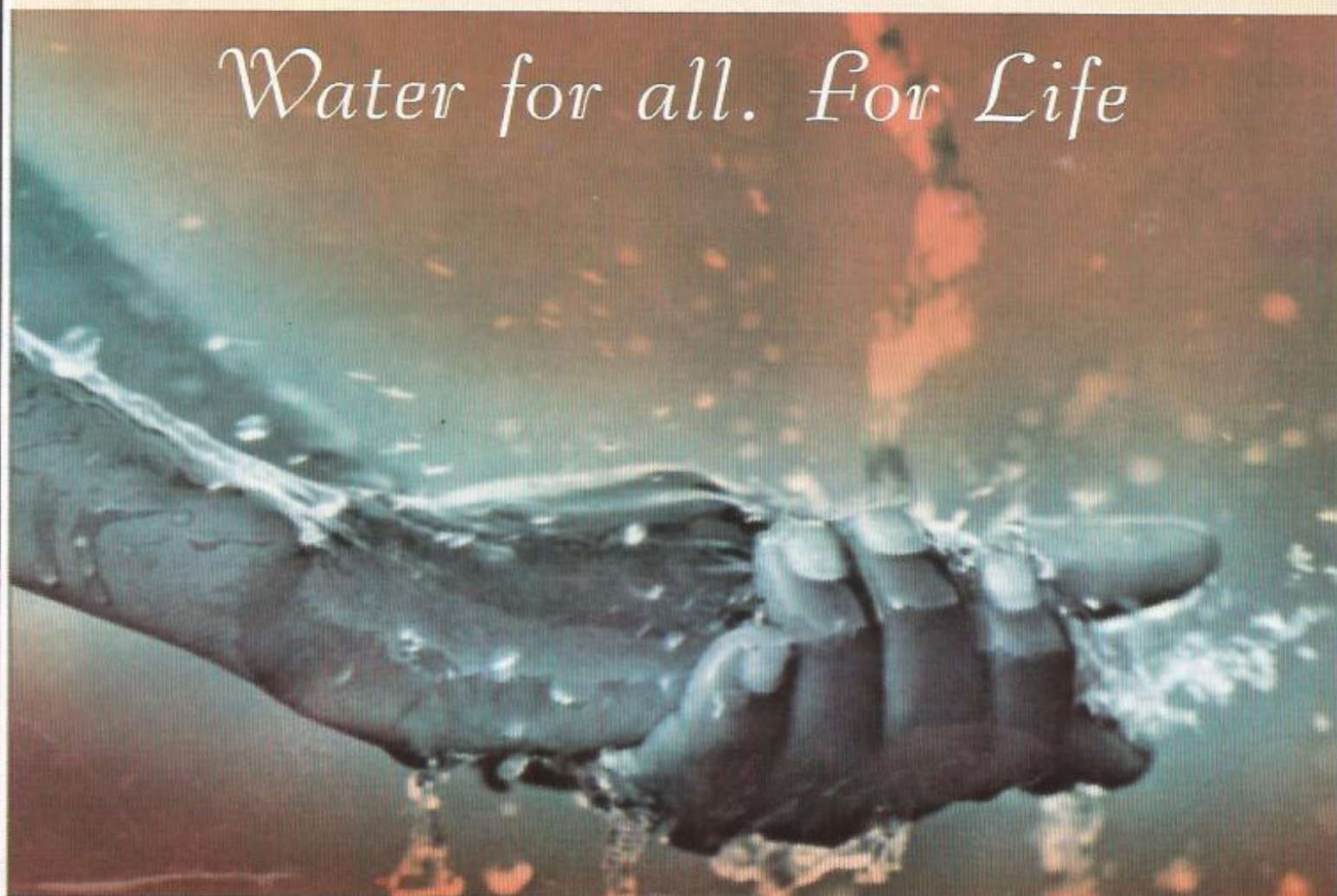
Corridors

A NEWSLETTER OF ECLIPSE DEVELOPMENT INITIATIVES

FEBRUARY 2007

wash your hands -
It's the healthy thing to do

Water for all. For Life



IN THIS ISSUE

- * Saving Women's Lives,
Saving children's Live
- * Leadership Training for Community
Based Animators
- * Painting against Drug Abuse
- * World AIDs Day
- * EDI/Dulux Collaborates
on Painting Exhibition
- * Photorama
- * Consultancy
- * EDI Mentee...

Promoting Social change through participation and community building

Message from **Coordinator's Podium**

Dear Partners in development, Welcome! As we move into another exciting year we have gained more insights from our programmes of the past years. Communication with local communities has been the core of our programs and projects.

All sectors of society in our country - women, children, NGOs, Local Government, business and Industry, Farmers, Academics, Students, parents - have a part to play in making community development a reality. We each have part to play as individuals through our actions.

*Communication with
Local Communities has
always been the core of our
Project and Programmes*

In our own little way, we have impacted on the lives of people we are working with. We can only look back with joy that many lives have been impacted on positively directly or indirectly through our various capacity building programmes. Our success thus far is just like a drop of water that makes a mighty ocean. There is still a lot to be done to promote the development of our people and communities and achieve the millenium development goals by 2015. In this newsletter we present exciting

stories of our activities this past year.

We also intimate you of our change of name. In response to the requirement for registration by the corporate affairs commission and in order for us to be able to expand our program frontiers, we have

therefore changed our name from **Eclipse Development Initiatives** to Health Education and Empower-

ment Initiatives (HEDEN). This takes effect from year 2007. Our logo, mission and objectives remain the same. We will also be widening the scope of our programmes.

Our Vision is a **"NEW COMMUNITY"** where everyone can share all the gifts that belong to each one everywhere. To this end, we implore you, wherever you may be, whoever you are to Join us in bringing positive changes to the communities. Remember, we rely on your support in cash or kind for our programmes to be rich in diversity.

As you read this edition of newsletter, I can only wish you a blissful year ahead.

MATERNAL HEALTH:

Every minute of everyday, somewhere in the world a woman dies as a result of complications arising from pregnancy and child birth

The rate of maternal mortality is a key issue for the entire development community and one of the internationally agreed development targets is a 75% reduction in maternal mortality by 2015.

In adding her voice to the reduction of maternal deaths **ECLIPSE DEVELOPMENT INITIATIVES (EDI)** has looked at the issue as a matter of moral choice and will. To this end EDI has continued to carry out communication campaign

Saving women's lives, Saving children's lives.



A Session on Family Planning Choices

programmes in various hospitals to address safe motherhood. A project tagged "Sweet Mother" was initiated to address the many factors that contributes to the high statistics of maternal mortality and what can be done to prevent so many unnecessary deaths of both mothers and children. The project focuses on areas such as family planning, improved hygiene, pre and post natal care, delay in getting to the hospital, self medication, exercises, unsafe abortion, high blood pressure, adequate information about reproductive health and a host of others.

This has helped in the enlightenment of more women on issues that has to do with their health and child's health during pregnancy and after birth.

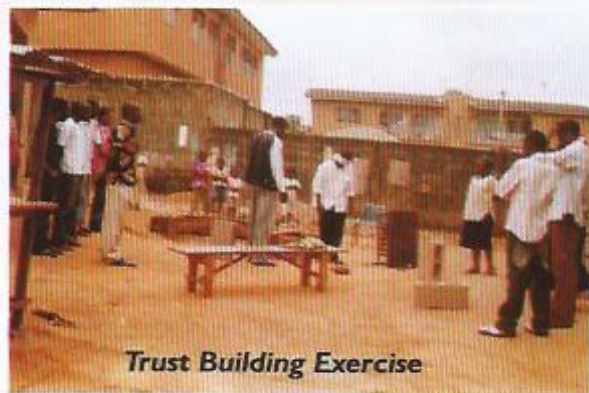


A Video Session on Breastfeeding

EDI ORGANIZES LEADERSHIP TRAINING FOR COMMUNITY BASED ANIMATORS

With much attention given to capacity building, Eclipse Development Initiatives organised a 2-day Leadership Development Programme for Community Based animators in Saala Village (Ifako Ijaiye LG. Area) of Lagos State.

During the training attention was given to areas



Trust Building Exercise

Building, Gender, Conflict Management Consensus building, Communications and

such as Leadership roles, Trust building, Effective meetings, Team

motivation and Attitude building. The training



Cross Section of animators during the training

included role play, group exercises, and some forms of energizers. The training was held at the palace of Baale of Saala.

Our believe in EDI is that when we build capacity, we Leave knowledge and skills within the community and deepens program impact. The Community Based Animators had earlier been trained in the area of HIV/AIDS and sexual reproductive health. In all, 23 participants attended the Leadership Training.

MURAL PAINTING AT GRANGE SCHOOL

As part of its ongoing campaign against Drug Abuse in secondary Schools, EDI with the support of CAP Plc and Participation of Students carried out a creative mural painting project at GRANGE SCHOOL Ikeja Lagos. The objective is to use Painting as a creative means to campaign against drug/substance abuse, while also bringing out the creative instinct of the students. The painting was done outdoor under the tree in the school

premises in January 2006.

The activities took two full days which included, paintings, cutting and painting. The third day was used to launch the finished mural. Talks and presentation on drug abuse was given by Mr. Henry Ofurune of EDI inside the school hall which was filled to capacity.

The School principal Mr. Pope expressed his appreciation and satisfaction over the mural design and promised that the master piece



Students Participating in the Painting

will be mounted on the school wall where it will be seen by everyone.

In all, 29 Students participated in the design.



The Master Piece

FOTORAMA



Peer Educators Training



Talk on Drug Abuse with Students paying rapt attention



TOT Training for Community Driven Development Teams in Akwa Ibom.



Focus group Discussion on Drug Abuse @ Grange School Ikeja.



Group Work on Leadership



Group Work on Leadership

EDI Family- Blessed with Bouncing Baby Girl

It was joy all the way for the EDI programme staff as the program officer of the organization Mrs Folasade Ofurune was delivered of a bouncing baby girl on October 15, 2006. Babys name is FOLASEWA OKEMENA OFURUNE. We wish mother and child a blessed future. .



Little baby SEWA

EDI Consults for World Bank/IFAD

Eclipse Consulting (The consulting arm of EDI) was engaged as consultant to the World Bank sponsored IFAD Community Based Natural Resources Management Program in the Niger Delta. The program was held in Akwa Ibom and included v3 states namely Akwa Ibom(The host state) Abia and Cross River states.

The training took place between Nov 13- Dec2 2006, spanning 3 weeks. The first 2 weeks was used for classroom work while the last week was for field practice in various communities.

The major tool used in the village areas was the **PARTICIPATORY RURAL APPRAISAL (PRA)**. This was used to formulate Action Plans for the communities. The field activities will be replicated by other participating states in their respective village areas. In all 54 participants were selected for the training.



Director of Eclipse consulting Facilitating the programme

AFRICA LEADERSHIP FORUM



Mrs. Ofurune during the Workshop @ AIF

The 16th Democratic Leadership Training Workshop (DLTW) held at the Africa Leadership

Forum, OTA from June 25-July1 2006. The program officer of EDI Mrs. Folasade Ofurune participated in the week long training. The objective of the training is to build the capacity of future leaders in their respective

field so that they could contribute to the development of the community as a whole.



Group Photograph

In The Heart of an Addict-

By Folasade Ofurune

The words Drug Abuse are common and addiction to drugs is nothing new. Yet, few people look beyond the surface to really probe into the heart of an addict. Addiction is an unstable state of being, marked by a compulsion to deny all that you are and have been in favor of some new and ecstatic experience with drugs.

The addict is a person who never learns to come to grips with his world, and who therefore seeks stability and reassurance through some repeated, ritualized activity. When we place a magnifying glass on this definition, we actually see that the roots of addiction lie in the socio-psychological environment of an individual. This means that a persons emotional state and his relationship with his environment determines to a large extent whether a person is prone to addiction.

A look into the heart of an addict reveals that the genesis of his addiction is his low opinion of himself and his lack of genuine involvement with life. He has not

learned to accomplish things he can regard as worthwhile or even simply to enjoy life. This incapability makes him, naturally turn away from opportunities to meaningful activities. His lack of self-respect causes pessimism and also his belief that he cannot stand alone, that he needs outside support to survive. Thus his life assumes the shape of a series of dependencies whether approved (such as family, school, or work) or disapproved (such as drugs, prisons or mental institution. He feels this external supports are stronger than he is.

In giving himself up to this larger forces, he is a perpetual invalid .His view of life is not a positive one which anticipates chances for pleasure and fulfillment, but a negative one which fears the world and sees people as threats to himself. Yearning to escape from a distasteful consciousness of his life, and having no abiding purpose to check his desire for unconsciousness, the addict welcomes oblivion. Drugs and other strong depressants accomplish this function directly by

In The Heart of an Addict-

Contd. From Page 8

inducing an all-encompassing soothing sensation.

With repeated drug abuse a cycle of addiction sets in. Eventually, the addict depends totally on the addiction for his gratifications in life and nothing else can interest him. He has given up hope of managing his existence; forgetfulness is the one aim he is capable of pursuing wholeheartedly.

Haven gained insight into the true heart of an addict; one cannot help but see that an addict is not a genuinely rebellious person. Rather, he is a fearful one. He is in a pitiable state. Hence, the society as a whole should shift from criticism to understanding and helpfulness. The responsibility to bring an addict back to face life and its crude realities goes beyond helping him to stop using drugs to actual reformation of his mind and recreating in him a new and better opinion of himself and life.

We have to develop in him life skills that give him confidence in his ability to face problems and solve

them, to believe in himself. This insightful approach to drug addict reformation will reduce the number of cases of people going back to drugs after rehabilitation.

No parent am sure would want his or her child to end up an addict. Unfortunately, majority of the faults stem from broken homes, sibling rivalry and preferential treatment by parents. But more important are the attitudes, beliefs and orientation that are transmitted to all the children within a given family, Self doubt, anxiety and discontent on the part of parents, strict control and allowing little voice to their children, overprotection and harassment leads children never to develop into fully competent people who can make independent judgment. To this end, the bulk of preventive measures against addiction lies on the shoulder of parents, guardians and the society at large.

Conclusively then, the next time you see an addict, do not treat him or her with disdain rather nurture him back to life.

A CANDLE LOSES NOTHING BY LIGHTING ANOTHER CANDLE

The story as it happened; Nine contestants-all physically or mentally disabled-assembled at the starting line for the 100 meter dash. At the gun they all started out, not exactly in a dash, but with a relish to run the race to the finish and win. All this except for one little boy who stumbled on the asphalt, tumbled over a couple of times and began to cry. The other eight contestants heard the boy cry and slowed down to look back.

Then they all turned around and went back...every one of them. One girl with Down syndrome bent down and kissed him and said "This will make it better". Then all the nine linked hands

and walked together to the finish line. Everyone in the stadium stood up, and cheering went on for several minutes. People who were there are still telling the story. Why? Because deep down we know this one thing: What matters in this life is not winning for ourselves, what matters really is helping others to win, even if it means slowing down and changing our course.

If you pass this on, we may be able to change our hearts as well as someone else's. A candle loses nothing by lighting another candle. So let's join hands help another human succeed. This is the way all should move forward.

EDI MENTEE LAUNCHES NETWORK



Members of the Network

As part of EDI community development work, it mentors youths who are interested in self help community development. In June 2006 Mr. Wilson a mentee launched his network Adolescent Media (ADOLSmedia) in Ezekiel private college Iju. His network focuses on adolescents

Mrs. Folasade Ofurune of EDI was there to launch the network and delivered a talk on HIV/AIDS; The way out. 12 students joined the network amidst a hall filled to capacity.

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YOUR CHOICES
DETERMINES
YOUR
FUTURE-
CHOOSE WISELY

AIDS

is
REAL

THANK U

How can we recognize all the people and organizations-tens, perhaps even hundreds-whose contributions (in cash or kind) made our programs rich in diversity? And how can we acknowledge the insights gained by the previous year from so many of our friends and supporters?

The following deserves our appreciation for their numerous gestures

IN CASH

- * Child Health Foundation (CHF) USA
- * Dr Anthony B Azeez
- * Mrs. Olubunmi Aina
- * CAP Plc

IN KIND

- * Mrs. Gloria Shodeinde (US Embassy Lagos)
- * Rainbow Cards Ltd, Lagos
- * Agenda for Community Development (AFCODE)
- * Family Health International, UK
- * Population Reference Bureau USA
- * International HIV/AIDS Alliance UK
- * Family Care International USA

CHANGE OF NAME

With effect from 2007 program year, Eclipse Development Initiatives will henceforth be known as **HEALTH EDUCATION AND EMPOWERMENT INITIATIVES (HEDEN)**. This is in order to help us expand our program frontiers. Our mission and objectives remain the same.



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for better service
and best quality

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