



United Nations
CERF | Central
Emergency
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Fund



WASH SERVICES IN EMERGENCIES

PROJECT TITLE: Restoring access to safe water improving hygiene practices in 3 of the most food insecure and drought affected districts in Zimbabwe.

Introduction

Following the selection of Uzumba Maramba Pfungwe (UMP) district as one of the beneficiary districts in the emergency drought response project funded by UNICEF, a number of intervention activities were successfully conducted through the effective collaboration of Christian care and government stakeholders. The intervention activities conducted included the refresher training and capacity strengthening of VHWs, revival/resuscitation of community health clubs, assessment of boreholes for repair, identification of beneficiaries of non-food items and distribution of hand washing equipment to be set up in public places to promote hand washing.

Refresher Training of EHTs

A total of 7 EHTs (3 males;4 females) went through a refresher training on PHHE in order to gain some insight on supporting community health club activities in their respective wards. The project is currently being implemented in wards 1,2,3, and 4 of the districts. The trained EHTs are also being supported by the project with fuel for motor bikes to facilitate their smooth movement in the project area for support and supervision of the activities on the ground.

Training of Village Health Workers (VHWs)

A total of 30 VHWs (23 females;7 males) were trained on PHHE and given guidance on the resuscitation of community health clubs in the four wards operation. Each ward was assigned two CHCs that will be supported by the project.

Revival/Resuscitations of Community Health Clubs (CHCs)

Each club has a membership of 25 individuals. Therefore, the project is supporting a total of 8 CHCs in the district with a total membership of 200 individuals. The CHCs are currently going through PHHE sessions conducted once per week. These sessions will be expected to transform mindsets amongst members of the beneficiary communities so that they uphold the concept of maintaining health and hygiene standards at household level.



Figure 1: A recently revived Chenesai community health club in ward 1 of UMP district. The members putting on face masks and observing social distance in view of the COVID - 19 pandemic.

Assessment of broken-down boreholes for repair

A total of 59 broken down boreholes were identified for repair in the three wards of operation. A total of 7 water point committee members (3males;4 females) per borehole were trained in order to promote operation and maintenance activities through the community-based management approach. The trained water point management teams will play a key role in mobilizing the users to support the repair works and utilization of the water infrastructure responsibly. To date the communities have managed to fence the targeted boreholes before the commencement of repair works. Meanwhile spare parts for borehole repairs are still to be supplied but the communities have already started working on the fencing of the facilities.



Figure 2: One of the 59 boreholes assessed for rehabilitation in Jaji 2 Village. The borehole requires rods, GI pipes and a soak away pit.



Figure 3: Area EHT- ward 4 conducting a sanitary inspection on Jaji Borehole

Identification and selection of beneficiaries of non- food items

Although the non- food items to be distributed in this project have not yet been availed by UNICEF, all intended beneficiaries have since been identified. A total of 1200 beneficiaries will be targeted by the project. Each ward will get at least 300 beneficiaries. Targeting and selection of beneficiaries was community driven where WSSC was responsible for guiding and monitoring the selection process. EHTs provided technical support to the community leaders, WSSC and Village Health workers during the process. The water point committee was strengthened through refresher training. Jaji 2 Water point is one on the water point with fully functioning water point committee and this is evidenced by their responsiveness through fencing and maintaining the water point in a hygienic state. A total of 179 households are drawing water from this water point.

Distribution of NFI's- Hand washing tanks and soap

A total of 19 hand washing tanks were distributed across the 4 targeted wards in a bid to set up hand washing points that can be used by the communities to facilitate hand washing in light of the current covid 19 pandemic.



Figure 4: One of the 19 WASH Hand Tank facilities established to promote hand washing with soap.

Recommendations

- Taking into consideration the outstanding activities and the remaining period for project implementation, UNICEF might need to expedite the supply of the borehole spare parts to avoid hurried repairs that may compromise on quality
- There is need to re look at the time period for the implementation of school health activities considering the effects of the lock down and continued school closures due to covid 19 pandemic.
- The non -food items supply also needs to be speeded up in order to assess the impact of their utilization before the project comes to an end.

Conclusion

Community participation in this project is quite good as of now and if this together with stakeholder cooperation is maintained at this level, the project outcomes are likely to be realized.