

*COMMUNITY LED TOTAL
SANITATION*

*OPEN DEFECATION FREE
PROGRAM*

Ajumako Enyan Esiam District – Our Story

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Introduction

- ❖ Ajumako Enyan Essiam District (AEED) is in the Central Region of Ghana
 - ❖ Ajumako is the Administrative Capital of the District
 - ❖ Total Population of the District is estimated at 138,046 by the 2010 population census, at 2.2% growth rate, the District's total population is estimated at 161,742 as at December 2017.
 - ❖ Like any District in Ghana the District is faced with Water Sanitation and Hygiene challenges among which includes Open Defecation
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Our Story Before

- ❖ AEED joined the GoG / UNICEF WASH Program in 2010
 - ❖ Pronet (Private Consultancy) came in as an entity with a target of 40 Communities
Their achievement was zero ODF community
 - ❖ Plan Ghana also came in with a target of 8 communities
Achievement was also zero
 - ❖ EHSU 2010-2016 entered in 48 communities
Achievement was zero ODF Certified
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Our Story Before

- ❖ September 2016 saw the introduction of the DRP (District Resource Person)
 - ❖ Target was 4 for the last Quarter of 2016
 - ❖ The story thus depicts a consistent failure in our attempt to turn communities from OD to ODF status
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What Accounted for This?

- ❖ Lack of commitment on the part of the team
 - ❖ Lack of ownership and drive
 - ❖ Absence of leadership and direction
 - ❖ Absence of support for the team
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Need to Rewrite the Narrative

- ❖ The cost of environmental issues to the nation
 - ❖ His Excellency's drive in the area of sanitation
 - ❖ Our resolve to reverse the unacceptable trend
 - ❖ UNICEF investment over the years should not go in vain
 - ❖ Ensure we don't lose out on UNICEF future opportunities and programs
 - ❖ Saw the program as a cost effective way of attending to the plethora of needs for latrines in communities
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What Did We Do?

- ❖ We took ownership of the program
 - ❖ Consistently meeting the team
 - ❖ Understood the challenges
 - ❖ Gave the necessary support
 - ❖ We were involved in activities from sensitization, education, advocacy to some form of enforcement
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What Has Been the Outcome

- ❖ Out of the Target of 4 communities for the last Quarter of 2016 2 communities were ODF verified by January 2017
 - ❖ March 2017 saw a UNICEF Funding for 10 Communities
 - ❖ We achieved 8 out of the 10 communities and further funding was requested for 12 communities
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What Has Been the Outcome

- ❖ By December 2017 we had 18 ODF verified communities
 - ❖ By February four 2018 (4) communities were ODF verified and six (6) communities have been submitted for verification
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What Has Been the Outcome

- ❖ We have at the moment entered 22 communities which are at different stages. The target is to get them all declared ODF by September 2018
 - ❖ Already sensitization is ongoing in about 15 communities with a target of entering 25 communities by September 2018
 - ❖ We are intensively working on 3 off-track communities to be declared ODF by September 2018
 - ❖ With this we are set to achieve our target of 52 ODF verified communities by end of December 2018
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The Challenges so far

- ❖ Absence of support for the venerable in the various communities – Aged, Poor, PWDs
 - ❖ Itinerant settlers
Some in these communities are basically there for farming purposes. Once the cash crop season is over they move away from the communities
 - ❖ Effects of social functions – some community members when they attend some social functions like festivals, funerals etc in the main communities takes a while to return to their communities.
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Challenges so far

- ❖ Lacks of Digging Tools for Household
Some Households lack the purchasing power to acquire their own tools. This means they have to wait till another household is done
 - ❖ Lack of Requisition Logistics – Motor Bikes and Vehicle
Considering the number of communities that we are targeting, resourcing the team becomes a critical success factor.
 - ❖ Local Language challenges of some facilitators
 - ❖ Mindset of the people
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Our Immediate Assignment

- ❖ We have made top management members an integral part of the program
 - ❖ Achieve set target
 - ❖ Think through support schemes for the vulnerable.
 - ❖ Bring all off-track communities back on-track
 - ❖ Support and Energize the Team
 - ❖ Commit human and material resources
 - ❖ Ensure the gazetting of bye-laws so as to we can move into true enforcement mode
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Our Immediate Assignment

- ❖ Sanitation Technological Options
Switch over to a more sustainable and environmental friendly slabs i.e. move from the traditional coconut trees to Concrete Slabs

We are exploring the possibility of a Revolving Fund scheme to support concrete slabbing for communities.



The Way Forward

- ❖ Increase the Numbers of Natural Leaders
AEE has Natural Leaders Network implementing in OD communities. To attain set targets the way forward is to increase the numbers.
 - ❖ Effective utilization of Trained Latrine Artisans
 - ❖ Use Community Technological Volunteers to facilitate latrine construction process
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Conclusion

Our Goal is to attain a district-wide ODF status by 2020

We are not oblivious of how denting the challenge is. We know we will have to confront deep rooted social norms, cultural practices that are ingrained in our people as well as think through the varied entry strategies into much bigger communities.

Not only that but we will have to deal with attitudinal issues and we will need to strike the behavioural cords of our people to effect the desired behavioural change.

Conclusion

In spite of all the issues raised and the challenges we would be encountering, our modest achievements over this short period really gives us the confidence that it's highly achievable.

We are looking forward to the needed support systems from our key partners like UNICEF and other agencies to achieve our target

Conclusion

We are also of the strongest conviction that, gazetting of our sanitation bye-laws will be extremely critical to the success of our program since that will empower us to move to a full enforcement mode considering that challenges that we encounter with the entire process of dealing with community based bye-laws.

THANK YOU FOR THE OPPORTUNITY
TO SHARE OUR STORY AND THANKS
FOR LISTENING

