

# FinnWASH-BG

## Donben Kebele is declared Open Defecation Free

About 400 people and officials gathered at Danbo School, Donben kebele, Dibatie Woreda on Sunday 13th May 2012 to celebrate the kebele achieving ODF status. This is the first kebele to be declared ODF in Metekel Zone. Since triggering took place on 23rd February 2012 all 801 households in the kebele of eight gotts have constructed a pit latrine with hand washing facilities including soap of ash. The triggering was done by teachers and Health Extension Workers who had been trained by the Woreda education and health offices. The training of teachers is a new development which took place after experts from health and education offices took part in an experience sharing visit to Shebedino Woreda in the Southern Nations and Nationalities Peoples Region last December.



*Wzo Yenewud Zewde outside her latrine in Tach Donben / FinnWASH-BG*

Before the ceremony, visitors visited some of the latrines in Tach Donben, the largest gott with 244 households. Here, Meseret Degafu, a teacher, was involved in the triggering and follow up. Most of the latrines were well built with woven bamboo superstructures and plastered top slabs with a cover over the squatting hole so that flies can not get into the pit. Wzo. Yenewud Zewde said it had taken her husband and her six days to dig the pit and construct the latrine which she says her children also use.

There is also one public latrine in the kebele and more public latrines are planned. Some latrines

have not plastered the top slab so they were advised to do so to stop flies entering the pit and then flying onto peoples' food. In Obsi Sefer there is one latrine with a concrete slab and vent pipe which was built by the NGO CPAR some five years ago.



*Guests at the ODF ceremony in Donben kebele / FinnWASH-BG*

Ato Iyasu Ayana, the Kebele Chairman congratulated the community for constructing latrines on time and urged people to improve them and also to use them. Ato Geremew Dibaba, Head of Dibatie Health Office also congratulated the community on their achievement. The WASH Adviser also congratulated the community and the Education and Health offices for their excellent work in conducting the triggering together with teachers and HEWS. This is the first kebele in Metekel Zone to be declared ODF and this is a tremendous achievement and can serve as a good example to other kebelles in other Woreda's.

It will give a big boost to the region to attain its UAP and MDG targets regarding sanitation. Mr. Wood thanked the kebele chairman for his support in pushing the CLTS (Community Led Total Sanitation) approach and praised Ato Wondassa of the Education office and Ato Shimelis of the Health office for their enthusiasm and hard work in training teachers and HEWs on the CLTS approach and for following up and monitoring progress on the ground.



*The people of Donben kebele at the ODF ceremony / FinnWASH-BG*

Four community leaders from the Shinasha, Amhara, Oromo and Gumuz communities also made short speeches on their communities achieving ODF status.

The school students performed an entertaining drama on the importance of having a proper latrine and washing ones hands with soap. Three students also read poems which they had composed about sanitation. The head of Woreda Support Group and the WSG sanitation and hygiene expert also spoke at the occasion. Finally lunch was served to visitors and community members.

*By Mike Wood, WASH Adviser*

This entry was posted in general on May 21, 2012 [<http://finnwash-bg.com/donben-kebele-is-declared-open-defecation-free-at-a-colourful-ceremony/>].

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## Community Led Total Sanitation & Hygiene takes off in Dibatie Woreda

February 23rd 2012 was a special day in Donben Kebele, Dibatie Woreda as eight triggering meetings to promote Community Led Total Sanitation and Hygiene (CLTSH) were organised by Dibatie Woreda Health and Education offices in coordination with the kebele administration. This ambitious programme was partly as the result of the Experience Sharing visit to Hawassa, Southern Region in December when Ato Wondassa Habte of Dibatie Education office travelled with other Finn WASH Programme Woreda staff to learn how Plan International had trained teachers to conduct

CLYSH triggering and follow up.



*CLTSH triggering in Sinzay village, Donben kebele*

Donben is a large Kebele consisting of 10 villages lying about 40 km south east of Dibatie town accessed through a rough road from Berber. Finn WASH has constructed nine hand dug wells/hand pumps and protected one spring in the kebele. A monitoring team consisting of Woreda health and education office experts, the Zonal Health head, the WSG sanitation and hygiene specialist and the WASH Advisor visited some of the CLTSH sessions to assist the newly trained teachers and Kebele officials.

At the first village, Sinzay, about 200 people were observed doing a transect walk in which they showed CLTSH presenters where they defecate and a discussion ensued resulting in feelings of fear, shame and disgust. Then the villages gathered under a large tree in the centre of the village and drew a large map in the sand showing roads, paths, the church, the mosque and the grinding mill. Villagers were then asked to locate their houses on the map using pieces of paper. Then they were asked to show where they defecate using ash to mark the spot. Although several villagers have pit latrines, many do not and soon the map was full of dots of ash showing a lot of excrement. The facilitators of the triggering were three teachers from the local elementary school which had been closed for the day.

Then the monitoring team moved to the second triggering in Sinzay 2 village where another group of villagers were making their map and showing where they defecate. This session was led by the kebele manager and the cluster supervisor from the school that had both been trained in the CLTSH approach.

The monitoring team then moved to the third triggering in Tach Donben where about 400 people

were gathered under a large tree also making a map of their village and showing where they defecate. This session was being led by the kebele chairman, Iyasu Ayene, assisted by Tesfaye Abebe, a teacher. In order to calculate the amount of excrement deposited daily the presenters questions were translated into Gumuz and Oromiffa. It was calculated that 6.5 quintals of excrement are deposited daily, a lot of it in the bush. When asked where this excrement ends up some people said the river, others said on our feet. The link was also made between flies landing on the excrement and then on food. One person said they were eating their own excrement!

As a result of this all the villagers decided that they would dig latrines and build the superstructure within one month. They then debated on a fine for non conformers and they decided to fine people 100 birr if they failed to dig a latrine in that time.



*Mike Wood demonstrates hand washing with soap, Tach Donben at the end of CLTSH triggering*

Then the villagers decided to form a “Shit eradication committee” to follow up on people building latrines and placing hand washing containers outside. At the end of the CLTSH session the WASH adviser advised people to not only make a latrine but to also put a water container and soap next to the latrine as hand washing with soap was of vital importance in breaking the disease cycle. He then gave a hand washing demonstration using soap and then ash for those that can’t afford soap.

The session ended with elders from the Gumuz, Amhara and Shinasha communities offering prayers to bless the meeting.

This was an impressive example of how villagers can be mobilised and persuaded to change their behaviour and improve their sanitation conditions. But it also requires close follow up by Woreda and kebele officials to make sure that everyone actually does dig a latrine and puts a hand washing container with soap or ash outside and keeps water in the container at all times. It is hoped that

other Woredas will follow the good example set by Dibatie Woreda in their CLTSH initiative.

*By Mike Wood, WASH Adviser*

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## The President Opens Dafili Gravity Water Supply Scheme

The President of Benishangul Gumuz Region Region, The Honourable Ahmed Nasser, officially opened the Dafili Gravity Water Supply Scheme in February 14, 2012. A colourful ceremony attended by hundreds of people in Dafili, Jigda Selassie Kebele, Mandura Woreda.



*The President Ahmed Nasser arriving to Dafili Gravity Water Supply Scheme opening ceremony  
(Photo: Faisal Ahmed)*

Ato Fancha, Mandura Woreda Administrator, welcomed the President to Dafili and introduced scheme cost structure. The total cost of scheme was 745,000 birr of which 655,000 birr had come from the Government of Finland and the community had contributed 90,000 birr or 12% of total cost. Water supply coverage had been 13% in 2007 but had risen to 76% by June 2011. The scheme had been constructed by Mandura Artisans Association and a Water Users Association has been

formed to manage the scheme.

The President, accompanied by Woreda, Zonal and Regional officials and journalists, inspected one of the five water points in the area. Public stands are equipped with Talbot taps, which are imported from the United Kingdom. They are gravity operated, have no moving parts and have a life expectancy of 20 years. A technician from the community has been trained to maintain the public tap stands.



*Michael Wood, WASH Adviser, introducing use of Talbot taps to the President Ahmed Nasser  
(Photo: Faisal Ahmed)*

The President was impressed by multiple uses of water, as he inspected community's irrigated sugar cane and potato plots. It was reported that about 100 households are paying three birr per month to use water to irrigate vegetable plots. The President recommended this as an excellent example for other communities in the Region.

The President thanked FinnWASH-BG for its valuable contribution in the completion of this scheme and for helping the Zone to achieve Universal Access Plan targets. Also Ato Abienneh Teschale, The chairman of the kebele, thanked FinnWASH-BG and Mandura Woreda Water Office for their assistance in constructing the scheme.

*Michael Wood, WASH Adviser*

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