



Benin

What We Did

WASHplus implemented a pilot hygiene improvement program to reduce household vulnerability to diarrhea and cholera and support government agencies responsible for urban WASH to improve health and quality of life in two of Cotonou's most neglected peri-urban neighborhoods, Agbato and Enagnon. WASHplus carried out a comprehensive baseline of WASH conditions in the greater urban area of Cotonou, Abomey Calavi and Porto Novo. The pilot program emphasized handwashing with soap and safe household drinking water. Poor access to sanitation was addressed through a community-led total sanitation (CLTS) trial adapted to peri-urban conditions. The activities were geared toward reducing diarrhea morbidity of children under 5 living in these peri-urban zones.

Community outreach workers from partner PSI/ABMS carried out nearly 5,000 home visits to the 1,700 target households to conduct face-to-face communication and demonstrations on topics ranging from installing and using handwashing stations, treating household drinking water, and using toilets. Hygiene sessions for women's groups and for mothers and caretakers at health center vaccination sessions, mobile video showings, and radio call-in shows complemented household visits and reinforced the messages. School-based activities include training teachers to make tippy taps and keep drinking water safe in school, and on creating WASH-Friendly schools. WASHplus is also supporting the rehabilitation of school latrines. Results from a comparison study (two neighborhoods with control neighborhoods) will be available in June 2016.



Why It Matters



The activity shone a spotlight on WASH issues in neglected densely populated slum areas where no development program had previously intervened. 1,762 handwashing stations were installed in homes and institutions.



The baseline of peri-urban WASH was a first ever, and was used by the Ministry of Health Hygiene and Sanitation Service to expand its data collection.



WASHplus pilot experiences and lessons, including the experimental peri-urban CLTS, are being included in the development of a national Urban WASH Strategy.



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