

**TRANSFORMING VALUES AND CATALYZING  
CHANGE:  
REFLECTING ON EXPERIENCES IN TAKING WaSH-  
GENDER TO PUBLIC SCHOOLS IN NIGERIA.**

**PRESENTED BY:**

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**DURING THE XVIII INTERNATIONAL WATER CONGRESS  
IN BEIJING, CHINA.**



# WaSH CLUB IN SCHOOLS

Taking WaSH to schools in Nigeria,  
to

Teach our Pupils/ Students safe Water, Sanitation and Hygiene(WaSH) practices

**SPONSORED BY:**  
Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Netherlands.  
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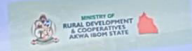
WATER AND  
DEVELOPMENT  
PARTNERSHIP  
PROGRAMME



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# OVERVIEW

- WaSH conversations bothering on water availability, proper usage and access both in quality and quantity, and maintenance of proper sanitation and hygiene for safety of individual and public health has been on the front-burner of global discourse, for decades, but the task has always been on creating realistic ways of sustaining these concepts to transcend generations.
- This project aims to raise public health awareness and build transgenerational capacity of children in the WaSH loop so as to close the age-long gap
- Example: the head of school confession at Afahaube primary school



# OBJECTIVES

- To build capacity in children and kindle their interest in WaSH
- To raise awareness on public health importance of WaSH
- To teach and encourage healthy living through regular sanitation and hygiene in children.
- To encourage active participation of students and pupils in the WaSH program
- To create awareness on the importance of safe-drinking water, sanitation and hygiene and access in schools



# PARTNERSHIP WITH THE STATE MINISTRY OF EDUCATION

In our decision to internalize and deepen this lofty project, we understood that the sphere of implementation will be the school system which is regulated by the State Ministry of Education, thus, we wrote to the ministry for partnership. The significance of this project won the approval of Akwa Ibom State Ministry of Education





# AT TANG SIO 102.7 FM (media collaboration)

TangSio 102.7FM on May 25, 2023, played host to the WaSH-Gender School Advocacy team, led by the director of international programmes, University of Uyo, at Ibiaku Uruan, Uruan LGA, AKS, Nigeria

The team was instantly granted 30mins free radio airtime for live transmission of our blueprint and ideals





# FLAG OFF

The School WaSH team gathered at Odoro Ikpe Stadium, Ini L.G.A. of Akwa Ibom State on 27th May 2023 to officially kick-off "WaSH Club in Schools" with a clarion call that heads of schools and stakeholders should prioritize and strengthen capacities of students and pupils for an improved sanitation and hygiene practices in every level of education.





# INAUGURATION AT IKOT NTUEN OKU PRIMARY SCHOOL

At the Government Primary School, Ikot Ntuen Oku, Uyo, Pupils couldn't hide their excitement at the sound of the bell as they came out in numbers to volunteer during the handwashing demonstrations. Sadly, a garbage dump welcomes every visitor to the school.





# INAUGURATION AT GOVERNMENT SCHOOL, AFAHAUBE ITAM, ITU, AKS



The inauguration of WaSH Club in Afaha Ube primary school was an intentional step in the right direction to promote safe water and improved sanitation and hygiene practices in schools. Boys and girls were encouraged to change wrong practices and share the changes learnt with their families when they go back to their homes.







## SOCIAL MEDIA FEEDBACK

*”Our government cannot claim to value the lives of our children and priority for quality education under this unhygienic school environment. Education invariably brings sanity to the world and not contrariwise. Our school environment should set a model of any ideal space” ... (human developer)*

## GOVERNMENT FEEDBACK

The governor of AKS also took a laudable step to create a separate ministry for water resources and sanitation as a result of our intense advocacy.

### **The governor's voice**



# PROJECT OUTCOME

	Summary	Indicators	Means of Verification	Risks/Assumptions
<b>Goal</b>	To raise public health awareness and build transgenerational capacity in children and kindle their interests in WaSH	Over 834 pupils have signed up to become WaSH ambassadors	Number of pupils that signed up during WaSH Club inauguration	Children are best ambassadors of change
<b>Outcome</b>	Creation of State ministry of water resources and sanitation	Appointment of honorable commissioner for water resources and sanitation	Induction into the State executive council	WaSH issues will be properly channeled and addressed
<b>Outputs</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Consciousness and awareness of public health threat</li> <li>▪ Train the trainers approach adopted</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Pupils protesting against public health threat</li> <li>• Both teachers and pupils are trained to train others</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Display of placards with inscriptions of displeasure at a garbage dump by the School gate</li> <li>• Creation of pupil's leadership structure, with teachers as supervisors</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Children's interests in WaSH are rekindled</li> <li>• Teachers are excited to assist in modelling change</li> </ul>
<b>Activities</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Inauguration of WaSH club in schools</li> <li>• Distribution of mini-water stations in schools</li> <li>• Distribution of soaps, water bottles and WaSH exercise books to pupils and teachers</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Number of schools inaugurated</li> <li>• Number of kits distributed</li> <li>• Number distributed</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• WaSH advocacy records</li> <li>• WaSH advocacy records</li> <li>• WaSH advocacy records</li> </ul>	Children are excited becoming WaSH ambassadors



# Evaluation and Strategic Recommendations

- The program has a positive outlook
- Intensify efforts for more results
- Collaborate with more individuals, agencies and organizations with aligned vision

# CONCLUSION

This is a project of School WaSH Advocacy team: an arm of the WaSH-Gender transdisciplinary project, a medium-scale project on water and development partnership programme of the Institute for Water Education (IHE), Delft, Netherlands.

Implemented through a consortium of excellent members of University of Uyo staff and government organizations, including the Akwa Ibom State Rural Water and Sanitation Agency (AKRUWATSAN), and non-governmental organizations (NGOs) including Development Impact Pathfinders Initiative (DEVIMPATH) and a law firm (Afiko Sunday LP).



