

JWF Fund 2019 Result of the Follow-up observation

I. Sierra Leone

- Organization: Rural Agency for Community Action Programme–Sierra Leone (RACAP–SL) (#227)
- Project title: Rehabilitation of a hand pump well in Baoma Village, Kpaka Chiefdom, Pujehun District, Southern Sierra Leone
- Country/Area: Sierra Leone / Baoma Village, Pujehun District, Southern Province
- Project period: October 2019 to March 2020
- Number of beneficiaries: 659 (235 women, 107 men, 317 children)
- Cost: \$1,454 (\$1,000: JWF funds, \$254: beneficiaries, \$200: RACAP–SL)
- Background:
 - Baoma village, like many rural villages in Pujehun District, is faced with the challenge of a lack of clean drinking water. Essential government services are inadequate, or in some villages non-existent. In 2014, UNICEF through the RACAP/SL facilitated the construction of a hand pump to deal with the challenge, however this hand pump had broken down and was in urgent need of repairs. Also, at the peak of the dry season, the well would dry up completely. Thus, the residents of Baoma, including women and children, were relying on a running stream located approximately a mile away from the village as their main source of water for all purposes. This water source is unsafe and unprotected and exposed the villagers to many water-related problems.
 - The women and children were being exposed to diarrhea, dysentery and typhoid, which had been reported by the Pujehun District Health Management Team (DHMT) as highly prevalent in Baoma. The children were also affected by skin infections such as scabies when they were bathed in the water. Additionally, children walking to the stream to fetch water ran the risk of being bitten by snakes, as the foot path leading to the stream is often covered in brush.
- Main activities:
 - Project Inception Meeting, Restructuring and training of WASH management committee, Rehabilitation of one hand pump, Water quality test, Monthly Community Awareness Creation Sessions, Regular project monitoring and Establishment of community WASH funding and local by-laws



A nursing mother fetching water from an unprotected source



Pump technicians and RACAP volunteers repairing/rehabilitating the Baoma Village hand pump

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As of March 2021

【Current situation】

- **Repaired handpump**...The hand pump that was repaired in the village of Baoma is functioning well.
- **Operation and maintenance**...The WASH committee members we trained are working closely with the stakeholders in Baoma. The committee obtains funds for maintenance of the hand pump only from the monthly subscription for direct beneficiaries at the household level.

【Changes】

- **Reduction in disease**: Beneficiaries have found reductions in water-borne diseases such as skin ailments and typhoid caused by the use of contaminated water.
- **Community by-laws**: To ensure sustainable use of the hand pump, the WASH committee has set up by-laws regarding its use. In addition, beneficiaries pay a monthly fee. There are penalties for breaking the rules, so the residents use the hand pump in accordance with the rules.
- **Good hygiene habits**: About 70% of Baoma's residents are conducting hygiene activities, such as regular cleaning within their households.

【Others】

- Residents of neighboring villages who do not have safe water sources are now coming to Baoma to fetch water, and the district head, village head and WASH committee are discussing the collection of user fees.



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Voices from the beneficiaries (Excerpts)



Mr. Dauda Rogers, 53 years old, village chief of Baoma

A positive change in Baoma is the improvement of hygiene practices in all households in the community. A negative point is that surrounding communities are fetching drinking water from Baoma's water point due to a lack of safe drinking water in those communities. There have been a lot of improvements to health in Baoma, especially for children and pregnant women. After the rehabilitation of Baoma's water point, there has been massive reduction in diarrhea, typhoid, dysentery and skin infections. Previously, the residents frequently had to travel out of the community to visit medical facilities for their health problems, thus spending large sums of money on transportation and healthcare.

After rehabilitation of the hand pump, there has been a reduction in spending on healthcare. Our residents are now able to take part in a variety of social activities, such as hosting festivals, often with surrounding communities. The WASH committee members have different tasks and roles to perform for the sustainability of the pump. Some members are caretakers of the pump, some are charged with responsibility for monitoring the promotion of hygiene and sanitation in Baoma. Others are responsible for working with community stakeholders to enforce the by-laws in order to ensure sustainability of the pump.



Ms. Hawa Massaquoi, 18 years old,
a user of the hand pump

I use the pump on a daily basis and always feel really excited to have access to safe drinking water for my family. The only problem is that the pump site is always overcrowded with people coming from other villages.

I am proud to be an agent for the promotion of hygiene and sanitation in Baoma. I advise people to frequently wash their hands as a habit, and in doing so I always look to the WASH committee for effective coordination and directions. Common diseases such as typhoid, dysentery, diarrhea and skin infections, which used to affect almost everyone in our village, especially children and pregnant women, have been drastically reduced since completion of the project.