

México 2006
IV Foro Mundial
del Agua



Gender Mainstreaming and Water for Growth and Development: Diversity as an Agent of Change

Gender Intermediation in Uboma, Nigeria: A Model for Sustainable Access to Clean Water for the Rural Poor

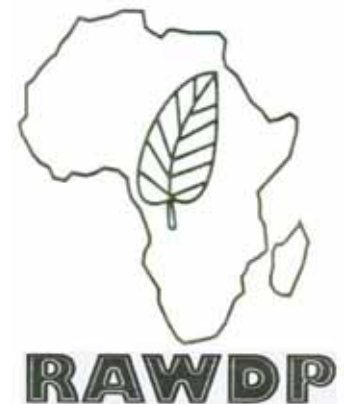
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Ciudad de México

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Uboma, Imo State, Nigeria: Geographical Setting / Ambito Geografico

Topography

- North & West: Hilly, South: Flat
- Population: ~10,000, most adults illiterate
 - 37% farmers, 8% council/mill
 - 55% traders
 - 27% women, 28% men
- Average Daily Income: USD 2.50
 - 80% illnesses from water
 - 50% under age 5 die from unsafe water



RAWDP

A map of Nigeria with its state boundaries. The state of Imo is highlighted in a yellowish-gold color. The text 'IMO' is written above the state, and 'Owerri' is written below it, indicating the location of the study area.

IMO
Owerri



Context & Background

- **Prior water quality and management situation**
 - Not enough water, mismanaged funds, stomach aches & frequent stooling
 - Traces of E-Coli, Cryptosporidium and Giardia cysts due to unlined well
 - Committee composed of only men, could not improve or regulate well
- **Uboma Women Association**
 - Objective: Contribute to community development
 - 500 members: daughters (umuada) and married women (ndomi)
 - Informal for many years, registered with government January 1991
 - Current Water Committee functions:
 - Oversees operations, maintains borehole, sponsors Mor-sand filter trainings
 - Standardized charge, appropriate budgeting, double entry accounting, audits
 - Women enthroned an effective pro-poor governance mechanism
 - Incorporated the principles of inclusiveness, equity, effectiveness, efficiency, transparency and accountability
 - Critical prerequisites to creating an enabling environment for successful implementation and sustainance of the water project



Tools & Process

- **Uboma Women Assoc. leaders contacted RAWDP in November 2002**
- **RAWDP facilitated entire project**
 - Discussed problems, tested the water, led filter trainings
- **Ocean Foundation & Christcares International aided Women Assoc.**
 - Community Resource Management Training built capacity:
 - Project management, group organization, resource mobilization
- ***Innovations: Women empowered in community water management***
Mor-sand filter improves on Bio-sand filter
- **Worked because women courageously involved themselves**
 - Able to draw external groups into community and serve as fulcrum
- **Operation has been functioning since inception, 183 filters installed**
- **The total of all costs involved in the project so far is USD 35,000**
 - Used part of USD 40,000 donated by AFDB in September 2004
 - Unit filter cost is USD 35, materials available locally



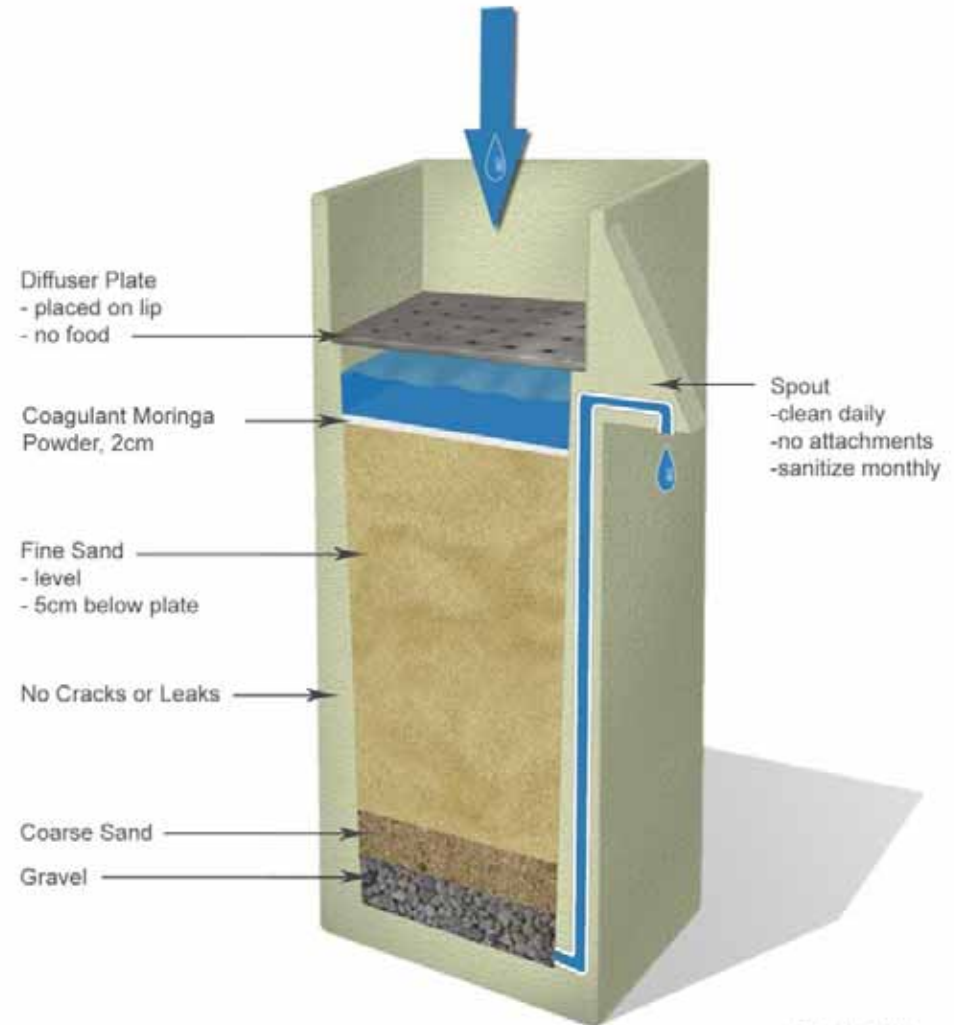
Lessons Learned

- **Well motivated poor are enthusiastic, and can contribute to local project success through their time and labour.**
 - It is often community women who are capable of tuning on this motivation and enthusiasm.
- **A combination of the local Moringa plant seed and the slow-sand filter can effectively improve the physical, chemical and microbiological quality of the drinking water.**
 - In achieving a widespread adoption of the innovative Mor-sand filter, RAWDP relied on women in Uboma who:
 - Mobilized households
 - Became the unpaid promoters of the filter
- **Both women and men have something to contribute to development.**
 - All attempts at social or technical improvement in public utilities in any community should maximally explore the input of all groups.
- **Long term sustainability of any project rests squarely with the benefiting community**
 - Only achievable in an atmosphere of harmony, understanding, cooperation, synergy and partnership
 - Often facilitated by an identifiable and influential group.
 - In Uboma, women were the influential group.



Transferability of Uboma Gender Intermediation and Mor-sand Filter Pilot Project

- **The scaling-up of Mor-sand filter is possible anywhere.**
- **Long-term committment:**
 - One million filters
 - Use in every rural household in Imo State
 - Areas with similar water scarcity problems
- **Women introducing filters in many more communities**
 - Use expanding in old Okigwe province
 - Creates new markets
 - New entrepreneurships, including for females



Conclusions

- **Improved sanitation, personal hygiene and household water treatment are dependent upon actual water supply source**
 - In all cases women are first class casualties
- **In seeking an appropriate long term solution to unclean water:**
 - Must first understand the concerns of women (i.e. social concerns) and blend them with technological solutions
- **In Uboma, everybody had a stake in the project:**
 - Mor-sand filters were neither donated nor sold to the locals
 - People were trained to produce them, and to manage their situation
- **Money is important in project development, but not everything.**
 - Other things that money may not be able to buy were provided by the women
 - These things enabled RAWDP to achieve much with limited funds and on record time



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Marzo 16 al 22



Nuestro compromiso es que el agua llegue a estar en boca del mundo



antes de que sea demasiado tarde.



Acciones locales para un reto global

www.worldwaterforum4.org.mx



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