

Lobbying and Advocacy skills finally deliver clean and safe water to the farmers Of Adamasiko Village



Over the years, leaders of farmers groups and associations in Katine sub-county Soroti District had consistently submitted their requests to CIDI to come to their rescue and provide them with a clean water source within easy reach for the community members. Whereas CIDI was aware of the magnitude of the challenge, the resources envelop and the focus of support from the funders could hardly meet such community needs. In many cases, the farmers were advised to lobby for support from the sub county local government but many of them would not even imagine that they would be listened to by the leadership of the Katine Sub County.

As an effort to empower farmers to lobby and demand services from their duty bearers, CIDI has built capacity in lobbying and advocacy skills among farmers under the SIDP III project that is being implemented through support from Caritas Denmark.

It was not until this empowerment was done that the farmers of Adamasiko village, Ojom parish organized themselves and demanded for provision of a water source from the Katine sub-county authorities. Over the years, this parish had no access to clean and safe water and all that was available was an open water pond where residents would share water with animals.

This exposed them to a number of water bone diseases including malaria, typhoid and diarrhea

In his own words, Mr. Ocen George William a member of Adamasiko Aupa Akwap farmers group working with KIFDA and a resident of Ojom parish Adamasiko village narrates that *“for many years we the people of Adamasiko village have been suffering from lack of access to clean and safe water. We have been consuming water from a swamp pond which was very dirty, not protected, people were washing near the well and dirty water gets back into the pond while sharing with the animals and this led to disease out breaks in the village especially diarrhea and typhoid. Many people suffered from typhoid and children diarrheated which made us spend the little money we had on treatment hence keeping us very poor. While in this state CIDI, came in and intervened in the area of improving our livelihood and emphasized construction and use of latrines, bath shelters and rubbish pits at household level. They also trained us on sanitation and hygiene aspect and lobbying and advocacy in groups and association level”.* **Our situation of water was very bad indeed you can even see this water how dirty it is.....not until May 2014 Mr. Ocen emphasizes.**

The residents engaged the sub-county authorities' overtime who contracted a private company that constructed a shallow well bore hole for the community.

They attribute their success to the advocacy and lobbying skills that were provided by CIDI which helped them to create a strategy of capitalizing their engagements on leaders that mattered and very key in decision making and influencing the deliberations of the sub-county council meetings. These included the LCIII chairperson, the parish councilor for Ojom parish, and the speaker of the council.

Currently the health condition of Adamasiko community has improved due to access to clean and safe water.

*Thanks to CIDI that brought the idea of empowering the farmers not only in sustainable agriculture but also with knowledge and skills of lobbying and advocacy so that we can be able to demand for better service delivery and lobby for more support from other service providers including the government. We now have easy access to clean and safe water, and I believe disease outbreaks will now reduce, and so is the money that we have been spending on treatment of water related diseases such as diarrhea and typhoid. Says; **Ageo Phoebe** the chairperson of KIFDA.*



The picture above is of Mr. Ocen .G.William showing CIDI staff the kind of water they used to consume until may 2014



Above: The well user committee chairman washing hands while one member is pumping water from the long awaited shallow well as other members observed together with CIDI staff

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