PREVENTING WATER-BORNE DISEASES AMONG POOR HOUSEHOLDS

In the Philippines, poor communities in Alabel Municipality in Sarangani Province benefit from an innovative financing scheme for household sanitation. Groundwater sources for some communities in Alabel are at risk from contamination from fecal bacteria and pathogens due to lack of proper household sanitation services.

What Are We Addressing: USAID recognizes the health challenges faced by poor families due to lack of sanitary toilets.

- Poor households practice open defecation or share toilets, most not up to sanitary standards
- Lack of sanitation exposes water sources to fecal contamination and harbor water-borne diseases
- High population density increases the magnitude of risk in the spread of water-borne diseases
- Poor families desire their own toilets but are constrained by limited resources and competing expenses

Piloting the OBA-BF: USAID and DAI, through Safe Water, introduced the OBA-BF as an innovative means for poor households to afford their own toilets.

- Output-based aid: DAI provided grant resources to subsidize the cost of septic tanks compliant with the standards of the Philippine Sanitation Code.
- Blended finance: Households pay for the toilet superstructure sourced through loans from ASA Philippines, a microfinance institution.
- OBA-BF: This makes toilets more affordable to families thus protecting their health, especially that of their children.

What We’ve Learned: USAID and DAI underlined lessons learned in the pilot implementation of OBA-BF in Alabel Municipality, in relation to consciousness-raising, complementation of efforts, adaptability, and women’s empowerment.

- Created consciousness about the value of sanitation to health and environment
- Strengthened collaboration among LGUs, MFIs, and POs to encourage households to participate in the program
- Adapted septic tank design and construction method to site conditions
- Empowered women to manage their sanitation loans and protect their families’ health

OBA-BF PILOT AT A GLANCE

- Household Equity Loans for Toilet Super Structure
- Around 300 people from 60 households now enjoy affordable sanitary toilets and the multiple benefits they provide for their health and the environment. This was made possible through a multi-sectoral partnership that mobilized PHP1.5M/$30,000 of investments from DAI (PH-P0.75M/$15,000) and ASA Philippines (PH-P0.75M/$15,000) that helped subsidize the cost of septic tanks, and technical assistance from USAID, with commitment and cooperation from pioneering local government unit of Alabel, Sarangani.

Adopt OBA-BF now and improve the quality of life for Filipino families!