

Triggering Local Leaders: AN OVERVIEW

TO ACCELERATE SUPPORT FOR CLTS & THE ODF MALAWI 2015 STRATEGY

NATIONAL ODF ANNUAL REVIEW WORKSHOP — MARCH 2013

Why “trigger” local leaders?

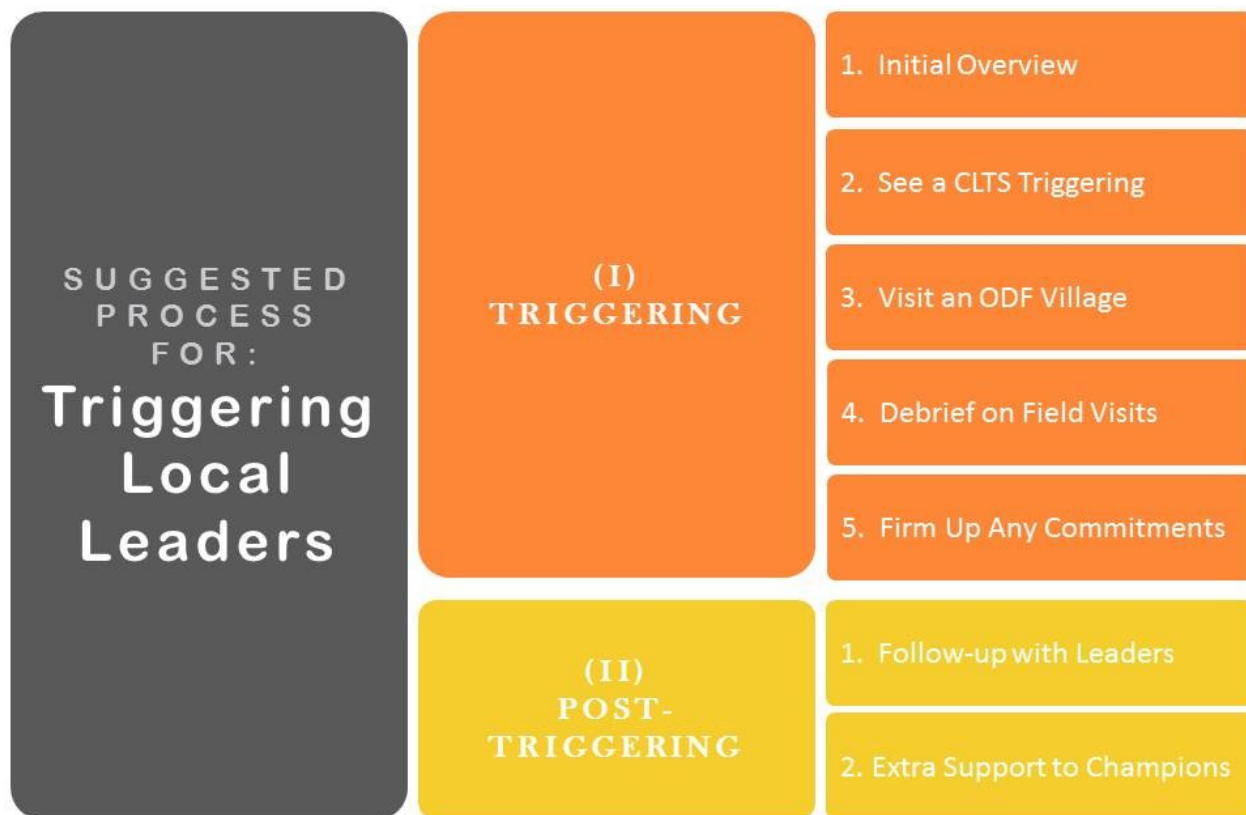
We would love to reach each and every village in Malawi with a CLTS triggering, and sufficient follow-up support. But this could take many years, and a lot of resources. So, the **ODF Malawi by 2015 National Strategy** has suggested some additional ways to promote the concept of “ODF”.

What if religious leaders (pastors, church elders, priests, imams, etc.) traditional leaders (village heads, group village heads, traditional authorities and chiefs) or other local leaders (VDCs, ADCs, SMCs, etc.) could be effectively encouraged to promote ODF? This could be one way to accelerate the adoption of ODF in communities across Malawi. WASH implementers are beginning to facilitate creative orientation sessions to trigger local leaders to actively support CLTS and ODF. The objectives of this are:

- To help local leaders to come to understand the urgency and benefits for communities to become Open Defecation Free
- To motivate and ignite local leaders to become champions for ODF



Traditional Authority Mwaulambya (standing at the far left), together with district staff and two village headmen at an ODF celebration in Chitipa District.



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(I) TRIGGERING

A CLTS triggering in process with traditional leaders present.

When it comes to triggering local leaders, there are 5 key steps:

1. INITIAL OVERVIEW

You'll want to first come together to briefly explain why you've called the leaders to meet with you, and what the programme is for the next 1-2 days. You can say that you want to update them on your sanitation and hygiene efforts in their areas, and answer any questions they may have. You can also say you hope to learn from them, about their own observations and experiences of these issues, as community leaders. Don't be too specific or take too long (1 hour max.) – deeper discussions can come after visiting the field.

2. SEE A CLTS TRIGGERING

Based on your experiences with CLTS, choose villages where you know the triggering process will go smoothly, i.e. likely to be a “matchbox in a gas station”. The leaders are just there to observe and learn about CLTS triggering.

3. VISIT AN ODF VILLAGE

Choose an ODF village that reacted very strongly to CLTS, that fully implemented their triggering commitments (or more), and where the local leadership is strong. This will show the leaders what kind of change is possible when the community becomes motivated and has good leadership to support them.

4. DEBRIEF ON FIELD VISITS

Facilitate a discussion among the leaders of what they observed and learned. What surprised them? Did they get any new ideas for themselves?

5. FIRM UP ANY COMMITMENTS

Try and facilitate a “way forward” conversation among the leaders, stemming from the discussion. If any ideas are suggested among the leaders for what they could do, encourage these and try to establish firm commitments with them. This can help you know what you can follow up on, with who and when, i.e. **(II) Post-Triggering**.

(II) POST-TRIGGERING

When it comes to post-triggering, follow-up support to the local leaders who attended is crucial. Are they likely to follow through on their action plans if they never hear from you again? Keep in mind the following as you make your own follow-up plans:

1. FOLLOW UP WITH ALL LEADERS

For those leaders who make action plans or commitments during your “Local Leader Triggering”, ask them what kind of support they expect from you after they leave. Then, **document and follow through on your own commitments to stay in touch and provide support.**

Even for those leaders who don't

make firm commitments during the triggering, you can follow up by inviting them to visit GVHs or T/As where good progress has been made, to encourage them to take a more active role in their own communities.

2. PROVIDE EXTRA SUPPORT TO CHAMPIONS

There may be some leaders who react very strongly and positively to the “triggering” experience you provide them with. Be sure to seize this as an opportunity if possible. How might this person be positioned to play a stronger leadership role among their fellow leaders? Discuss ideas with them for how to make their whole area, or even your whole district ODF. They may become key allies towards ODF in your district.

REAL DISTRICT EXPERIENCES:

“The hardest thing about triggering local leaders is making them realize they can convince village members to have a latrine, but not only by enforcing by-laws and giving fines ... take the process slow because of the different levels of understanding of the various leaders. Let them come to realize the significance of stopping Open Defecation on their own.”

– Noel Khunga, EHO Salima

“The hardest thing about triggering local leaders is winning their hearts ... Respect them, get their trust, leave implementation in their hands and conduct consistent follow-ups in the early days.”

– Ona Nyirenda, DWO Nkhata Bay

If you have any questions, or would like more information, contact:

UNICEF: Chimwemwe Nyimba, WASH Specialist: cnyimba@unicef.org | 0888 540 559

Salima DCT: Noel Khunga, EHO-WES: noelkhunga@gmail.com | 0999 645 656

Nkhata Bay DCT: Onances Nyirenda, DWO: onanyirenda@yahoo.co.uk | 0999 490 706



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