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**IHO Success Story: Community of Nyocawany Payam benefited from Health education sessions.**

The community of Nyocawany Payam just like any other Payams in Aweil South County had never received any health education messages for the past one year as was indicated in the baseline assessment. Fecal contamination near the water sources, around homes and in the path were witnessed by IHO health teams whenever moving to the community for outreaches. These was possible the cause of diarrheal diseases that was a common illness registered in the out-patient department especially among children of below 5 years of age.

IHO health educators launched a community and households' health education session that were carried out in different bomas through a strong community mobilization. Proper waste disposal using a pit latrine was among the health topics that were emphasized on in order to reduce WASH related problems that were majorly the root of morbidity among children.

Several homes have been witnessed having constructed latrines across many bomas in two Payams i.e. Nyocawany and Wathmouk Payams where health educations sessions were conducted during the project implementation period. IHO health teams visited Mr. Santino Atak Atak of Nyocawany Payam of Amecrol Boma who were among many other community members who constructed a local pit latrine at his home. Cases of Acute Watery diarrhea subsided after 3 months of the implementation period which clearly indicated that knowledge and skills on disease prevention were imparted to the community members and proper waste disposed being practiced among other mechanisms.



*Figure 1. Photo taken during health education session in Amecrol Nyocawany Payam.*

*“I am very happy that IHO made us to know the importance of using a pit latrine. We have been following cultural believes for a long time that discourages us to use latrine and this is why our children are constantly falling sick. I and my family are now very happy because of no more moving to the bush that especially my children were tired of. I shall advocate for digging of the latrine and encouraging our community to use pit latrine” Santino concluded in his own words.*

Open defecation and poor hygiene and sanitation are a common practice particularly in Aweil South, South Sudan. These has been aggravated by lack of knowledge on the importance of proper disposal of waste and cultural beliefs that discourages burying of the human waste. Santino was one of the individuals who never attended any formal education nor any health education sessions.

The community of Aweil South were very happy with IHO to take for them messages and now they know that, they have to take the responsibility of their own health.