

BIOGRAPHY FOR OMOLADE OLALEKAN

Working to meet the basic sanitation needs of the rural poor who do not have access to safe and hygienic sanitation, provision of portable water, environmental improvement, gender equality and improving the livelihood of the vulnerable, has given me great joy by contributing to poverty reduction in my career as a development worker.

Omolade Olalekan was born on the 9th April, 1972 in Abeokuta Ogun State, Nigeria. He obtained first degree in Food Science and Technology in 1991; he also obtained Post Graduate Diploma in Management from Abubakar Tafawa Balewa University Bauchi in 1998. He obtained certificate in Conflict Analysis from United States Institute of Peace, Certificate in Local Governance and Rural Decentralisation: Multi-Stakeholder Process for Institutional Strengthening from Wageningen UR Centre for Development Innovation. The Netherlands.

Omolade joined the Community Women Economic and Development Organisation [CWEDO], formerly known as the National Women Economic and Development [NWEDO] in 1999 as a programme officer [WASH], a non governmental organisation established with the aim of reducing poverty among the vulnerable and excluded poor in our community, through integrated approach in four major programmes, Water, Sanitation and Hygiene, Food and Nutrition, Education, and Agriculture. He is currently the Programme Coordinator for Community Women Economic and Development Organisation.

Omolade has experience in rural and urban development, working with participatory, institutional sustainable and demand responsive projects. He has been involved in improving the role and capacity of local governments in Northern Nigeria, measuring their success in terms of responsiveness and accountability to citizens; improved service delivery, its leadership in promoting pro-poor economic development, and its capacity to negotiate with the private sector, NGOs, local authorities and central government, and participatory planning and budgeting of public funds. He has strong skill in programme management; policy advice; advocacy and capacity building; working with multiple actors and partnership building.

He has been involved in building the capacity of CSO to have voice in advocating for increased access to budget decision-making in Water, Sanitation and hygiene, build culture of accountability. Strong experience in crisis management and conflict prevention.

He is a member of various global network organisation among which are , End Water poverty, WASH Manager, Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene[Nigeria], Child Right Information Network, Peace and collaborative Development Network, International Network on Water, Environment and health, The Global Citizen Initiative and active member of Water Supply and Sanitation Collaborative Council . He is an online volunteer for the United Nation online volunteer programme.

He is married with two children and currently residing in Jos Plateau State of Nigeria.

Manifesto for Omolade Olalekan

It is no longer news that globally over 2.6 billion people do not have access to improve sanitation facility, 1.2 billion people drinks dirty water everyday. The news and the challenge is how to meet the needs of this 1.2 billion people by providing them with safe drinking water, and also ending open defecation for 2.6 billion people who have to walk into fields to defecate, women risking being raped and assaults, there by loosing their respects and dignity, children risking being kidnapped and some ended up for rituals and killed. Unsafe drinking water and poor sanitation means that children are dying unnecessarily from preventable diseases caused by contaminated water. Developing countries are the worst hit of these problems, imaging it is your wife or your children that are among the vulnerable groups; will you take action or stand looking?

I have been an active member of our great organisation Water Supply and Sanitation Collaborative Council for some years back. Omolade has over 10 years experience in rural and urban development sector. . Management experience in development of project concepts, operational planning, organisation and supervision of implementation, monitoring and evaluation, team building, financial administration, networking and representation, staff security management, reporting to donors. He has strong skill in programme management; policy advice; advocacy and capacity building of local government institution, working with multiple actors and partnership building.

In the last five years I have been responsible for organizing and conduct of various trainings in Management for Sustainability in the Water Supply & Sanitation Sector, School WASH using participatory learning method, Community Sanitation, and Institutional Strengthening and Equity. Initiating activities for sustainable sanitation program design, the Community Led Total Sanitation, School Led Total Sanitation projects and development of non agricultural activities. Support the development and implementation of Water Supply, Sanitation and Hygiene policy development, documentation and validation process for Bauchi, Yobe State, Plateau State. I have realized through my research process the importance of the National Youth service corps member in Plateau state to be included in the policy direction for the achievement of sanitation coverage. The NYSC members, structures in each of the local government is an opportunity of reaching out to people on the Community Led Total Sanitation {CLTS} while also influencing the government at the local government level.

I have used evidenced based advocacy approach and policy research in broadening knowledge of the issue to influencing policy processes. These were used in providing evidence based campaigns during World Water Day and World Toilet day. Action research was conducted and case study were developed to show the importance of water and sanitation to social, economic, and educational development in Jos to decision maker. I have lead five teams of volunteer from five different countries in the development of sanitation manual for NGO in West Africa region. I have served as a consultant for EU-Water Supply and sanitation sector Reform Program in Yobe State Nigeria to Conduct assessment of water supply and sanitation sector reform program, develop and prepare exist strategy for the program in Yobe State.

Presently I am vying for a seat in the steering committee in the West Africa Sub region hoping to provide strong support for the region by taking action to increase the membership of WSSCC who will be active members, dedicated and committed to the improvement of WASH in their country and the region. Sector Coordination in water and sanitation is weak and it needs to be strengthening, to have strong and viable voice to demand for Water, Sanitation and hygiene. Through the national coordinator, I will ensure the decision makers are lobbied in the sub –region to make water and sanitation a political top priority for consideration. Some countries in the region have not shared lessons in the last few months, I will ensure that there is effective knowledge management and sharing, identify issues, challenges and lesson learnt will be used for corrective action and documentation. Through effective advocacy strategy, the decision makers in the sub regional countries will be lobbied to increase funding priority in the countries at the region and communities in need.

Honourable colleagues, members of this prestigious organisation of Water Supply and Sanitation Collaborative council. I am of the opinion that we all share a common goal to fight poor sanitation and hygiene, ensuring safe water for all, therefore it is a collective responsibility let us join hands and do the work to improve sanitation globally and end water poverty. Thank you all and I wish you a successful election as you cast your vote for me.

