

Foundation module 6

Community mobilisation

Section 2 Characteristics of community-based approaches

Exercise 3



Community-based approaches

Purpose

By the end of this exercise, participants will be able to:

- understand what kind of approach to working with communities is possible and appropriate in acute emergencies.

Timeframe

about 60 minutes

Resources

- enough copies of **Section 2, Handout 3** Table of approaches and **Handout 4** Discussion
- enough copies of **Section 1, Handout 1** Scenario or your own scenario relating to a more relevant situation, or a situation the participants are working in or will be working in

Method

- 1 Divide the participants into groups and give them **Handout 3** and **Section 1, Handout 1** or an alternative scenario. More than one scenario can be used if there is time, or different groups can have different situations.

Remind the participants about what they have learnt in **Section 2**.

- Many programmes refer to community-based approaches or programmes, but these do not necessarily involve a community mobilisation approach. The central issue in relation to community mobilisation is the ownership of activities by the community, whereas a community-based programme may be a method of implementing a programme defined by an external agency.
- In very urgent, dangerous or highly political situations there may be constraints on the amount of community participation possible, but there are few situations where this would be the case for long and the objective should always be a high degree of community participation; failure to make such an investment can result in





ineffective responses or can be damaging to the wellbeing of a community in the long term.

- It may be helpful to think of a continuum with direct service delivery at one end and community mobilisation at the other. Although involving the community to some degree is always extremely important, community mobilisation may not always be possible or appropriate in acute emergencies.

- 2 Ask the participants to spend 20 minutes looking at the table in **Handout 3** and thinking about what kind of approach would be best in relation to the scenario(s) they have been given.

Emphasise that it is possible to implement approaches which reflect aspects of those represented on the table.

- 3 In plenary, ask each group to recommend an approach for the scenario(s) they have been working on, explaining briefly the reasons why.
- 4 Give the participants **Handout 4** and facilitate a brief discussion of any questions or comments arising.

