

ASSIGNMENT 1

1. Suppose you work with a community radio station, describe what your radio station would do to address water, sanitation and hygiene issues with regard to your i) audience, and ii) WASH messages?

To address the Water, Sanitation and Hygiene issues in the community, the radio station in collaboration and participation of the community, will develop an integrated strategy and an implementation plan that cuts across the entire scope of Water Supply, Sanitation and Hygiene Promotion (WASH) issues affecting the community with the objective of providing sustainable response. The strategy and plan will focus on the identifying specific WASH issues affecting the community, identifying the underlining causes, develop response to the root causes, implement the response and monitor and evaluate the implementation of the response.

The project implementation approach will identify and address the issues across the WASH spectrum namely Water Supply, Excreta Management, Vector Control, Solid Waste Management and WASH in disease outbreak and health care settings (Sphere Handbook 2018). The implementation approach will provide details on how analysis, programming and engagement with the target audience will be carried out.

Analysis

- Context
- People

Under this section, the radio station will develop an advocacy program targeted at the different stakeholders in the audience and engender the commitment of individuals, community leaders and government officers as well as children. This

will give the radio has the opportunity to set the context of the WASH programme to be implemented.

Programming

- Behaviors and Practice
- Information and Communication
- Capacity Building
- Accountability
- Participation
- Monitoring Evaluation and Learning

In the stage, the radio station will commence implementation of interactive programs that will involve active participation of the entire community. Such programmes will target identifying current practices and gather actionable intelligence, appraise the capacity of households as well as WASH practitioners. With this background information and with the collaboration of WASH experts, suitable response in terms training of WASH practitioners in communities, promotion of hygienic practices and advocating for WAS policy development or revision where policies are ineffective. As a mass media infrastructure, the radio station could reach out to the general public to gather feedbacks of WASH intervention in the community through phone programmes.

External Engagement

- Coordination and Collaboration
- Advocacy

The radio station, through extended advocacy programmes that are far reaching, could collaborate with government, businesses and individuals to facilitate the swift implementation of WASH programmes targeted at address the wash issues.

2. In your own words, what is your understanding of public health and what are its key elements?

Public health can be defined as the practice of protecting the safety and promoting good health of the community and the country in general through education, policy making and research for disease prevention. Unlike medicine that is targeted at an individual, public health is focused on the prospective population.

According to Rand Baird and Mitchell Haas, Some of the key elements that define public health practice include:

- I. Monitor health status to identify community health problems
- II. Diagnose and investigate health problems and health hazards in the community
- III. Inform, educate, and empower people about health issues
- IV. Mobilize community partnerships to identify and solve health problems
- V. Develop policies and plans that support individual and community health efforts
- VI. Enforce laws and regulations that protect health and ensure safety
- VII. Link People to needed personal health services and assure the provision of health care when otherwise unavailable
- VIII. Assure a competent workforce for public health and personal health care
- IX. Evaluate effectiveness, accessibility and quality of personal and population based services

X. Research for new insights and innovative solutions to health problems

3. Public health is about partnership between the different players.

Explain how the role of international non-profit/NGO in terms of i) recruitment ii) training iii) funding and iv) monitoring for public health projects contribute to the success or failure of those projects in the developing countries

In order to evaluate the contribution of International Non-profit bodies and NGOs in confronting the challenges of Public Health, it is important to review the definition of NGO from the United Nations Department of Public Information (DPI).

A non-governmental organization (NGO) is any non-profit, voluntary citizens' group which is organized on a local, national or international level. Task-oriented and driven by people with a common interest, NGOs perform a variety of service and humanitarian functions, bring citizen concerns to Governments, advocate and monitor policies and encourage political participation through provision of information. Some are organized around specific issues, such as human rights, environment or health. They provide analysis and expertise, serve as early warning mechanisms and help monitor and implement international agreements. Their relationship with offices and agencies of the United Nations system differs depending on their goals, their venue and the mandate of a particular institution.

In other words, NGOs in the Public Health Sector are non-profit and voluntary groups positioned to address Public Health concerns through programme implementation, advocacy and monitoring of policies, analysis and provision of expertise to target population through collaboration and partnerships with affected populations and government.

i) The Role of **International Non-profit/NGO in Recruitment**

UN Agencies, International and National NGOs usually design and implement interventions programmes in partnership with government to address identified gaps in public health. A case in view is the recently launched 2019 – 2021 Humanitarian Response Strategy for North East Nigeria that is a product collaboration between the countries around the Lake Chad and UN agencies operating in the region. This 2019-2021 Humanitarian Response Strategy provides a way forward to tackle the challenges inherent in planning and responding to large-scale needs in a complex setting (Humanitarian Response Plan, 2018).

In low income countries and in emergencies situations, International Non-profit/NGO intervene by recruiting and deploying specialist health workers in deep field where the most vulnerable on the affected communities can be reached. According to Yagub, NGOs recruited 1,390 health workers to address the emergency situation created by the conflict that erupted in North Darfur. It was also reported that training courses for health staff in the public sector, especially for doctors, nurses, and midwives were also provided by NGOs.

ii) The Role of **International Non-profit/NGO in Training**

In consideration of one of the key elements of public health, which is to inform, educate, and empower people about health issues, countries are expected to develop and implement public health programmes which are targeted at preventive health or control of disease outbreak. Also in times of emergencies, where large population are vulnerable to disease outbreak due poor hygiene conditions or shortage of medicine, government is expected to intervene and to help restore normalcy in the affected community. In Nigeria, the Federal Ministry of Health is the public health agency of government charged with the responsibility of emergency preparedness and response as well as disease prevention and control (Muhamma et el 2017).

In low income countries and in emergency situations where government is constrained to perform the public health function of education the public and training health workers to respond to the occasion a gap is created and it open result to suffering or death of the affected population. In response, International Non-profit/NGOs have consistently stepped in through a number of UN agencies and Non-Governmental Organization namely WHO, World Bank, UNICEF, USAID, CDC, Doctors Without Borders, CARE International among others. (<https://www.albany.edu/globalhealth/working-in-global-health-orgs.php>)

The success of addressing the health challenge mentioned above depends on the skills and knowledge of the first responders in affected communities, mostly National NGOs and Community Based Organisations. INGOs have provided response training to community leaders and public health staff, as first responders of their own communities, helping them make informed decisions at the ground level, as well as facilitating adaptive implementation of international approaches in local context. Response training enables those staff to detect and respond to a crisis in the first place from early on. Record indicates that Ebola cases reports made by community leaders and public health staff resulted in more relief items and medical support in the affected communities. (Yoon Ah Shi 2018)

The capacity enhancement intervention to the affected communities and health workers have favorable improved the well-being of the general public in many instances. This is evident in the 2014 Ebola outbreak in Sierra Leone, where trained community leaders translated the international response approaches and contextualize them to fit into the local environment. Especially, such response training of community leaders is important in a tribe-based society like Sierra Leone, where the leaders have strong authority that has an influence on community members' day to day decisions and behavior. It was noted Ebola cases reported by

the trained community leaders and public health staff resulted in more relief items and medical support in the affected communities (Yoon Ah Shi 2018).

iii) The Role of International Non-profit/NGO in Funding

In 2018, the United Nation's Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) launched the world first ever Government and Private Sector Collaboration in titled "Nigerian Humanitarian Fund" to raise funds to address the devastation of the insurgency in North East of Nigeria. The process of identifying and quantifying needs of the affected population, developing response plan, budgeting and sourcing of funds, implementing programmes and monitoring and evaluating the entire processes is achieved through the initiation of UN agencies and collaboration of International and National NGOs. Without facilitating the preparatory tasks there would be no basis for engaging donors and governments who usually fund public health programmes.

According to Sean Healy and Sandrine Tiller, July 2014, "While the humanitarian system has grown massively in recent years, this has not led to a proportionate improvement in performance during emergencies". It was further explained that emergency response requires flexible, rapidly disbursable and un-earmarked funding to be effective and to respond to changing needs – but the current emergency financing mechanisms fail to provide this. This position help to point out the funding challenges experienced in emergency situations.

Never the less, it been reported by most accounts that global funding for health has increased dramatically. According to McCoy et al 2019, development assistance for health grew from US\$2.5 billion in 1990 to almost US\$14 billion in 2005 (World Bank 2007). They also noted that official development assistance (ODA) grew from

US\$8.5 billion in 2000 to US\$13.5 billion in 2004 (Kates et al. 2006). This has shown that the effort of International Non-profit/NGOs in raising funds is yielding favorable results.

iv) The Role of **International Non-profit/NGO in Monitoring**

Response monitoring intends to determine the progress of HRP implementation and accomplishments and, more importantly, assess the constraints and challenges that require immediate action or adjustments to guarantee appropriateness of response and assistance to affected people.

4. In your capacity as the environmental health officer you have been tasked to lead the assessment of a disaster situation. Come up with two key questions under each of the following five headings in your assessment list , namely:

The two key questions are listed below:

- i) General overview of the situation
 - a) What is the capacity of the community to respond to disaster?
 - b) How are we going to respond to the disaster
- ii) Water supply
 - a) What are the main sources of water supply to the affected communities?
 - b) Is the water supply affected by the disaster and to ask about the quality

iii) Solid-waste disposal

- a) What is the culture and tradition concerning solid-waste disposal
- b) What are the vulnerabilities associated to solid waste disposal

iv) Excreta disposal and

- a) Are the environment free from human excreta caused by open defecation?
 - b) What is the access to toilet/latrines and what is the density of usage?
- v) Vector-borne diseases for purposes of assessing local conditions, health needs and identifying local resources in the disaster situation that you are addressing.
- a) What are the vector control practice at settlement levels
 - b) What are the personal and household practice to control vector.

Reference

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