

STUDENT: **SHAI DI NGONA SHAI DO**

PROGRAM/COURSE: **POST GRADUATE DIPLOMA IN WATER, SANITATION AND HYGIENE**

SUBJECT: **ASSIGNMENT 1 (ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS)**

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:** all community member at household level

ii) **WASH messages:**

- Wash hands with soap after visiting toilet and before preparing food,
- Prepare food in clean environment.
- Wash fruits and vegetables that are eaten raw with safe water
- Wash hands with soap after using a latrine, after cleaning child's bottom, before eating and before feeding a child, before preparing food, before breastfeeding
- Collect water from safe sources,
- Clean utensils with hot water and soap and keep them clean
- serve only boiled or treated water for drinking or making juices
- Wash your hands with soap before fetching / collecting water
- Use appropriate water storage and clean containers regularly with soap and water
- Keep the surroundings of the water source in clean and hygienic condition, avoid haphazard spilling of water
- Do not allow buckets/ jerry cans or containers to be contaminated through poor drainage or putting buckets inside each other
- Do not wash hands in the same water / bowl

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

Public health is the science and art of preventing disease, prolonging life and promoting human health through organized efforts and informed choices of society, organizations, public and private, communities and individuals. Therefore, analyzing the health of a population and the threats is the basis for public health.

Key element: public health has three related fundamentals— assessment, policy development, and assurance

Assessment

- Monitor and evaluate health status to identify community health problems.
- Diagnose and investigate health problems and health hazards in the community.

Policy development

- Inform, educate, and empower people about health issues.
- Mobilize community partnerships to identify and solve health problems.
- Develop policies and plans that support individual and community health efforts.

Assurance

- Enforce laws and regulations that protect and ensure public health and safety.
- Link people to needed personal health services and assure the provision of health care when otherwise unavailable.
- Assure a competent public and personal health care workforce.
- Evaluate effectiveness, accessibility, and quality of personal and population-based health services.
- Research for new insights and innovative solutions to health problems.

List of public health services

- Monitor and evaluate health status to identify community health problems
- Inform, educate, and empower people about health issues
- Mobilize community partnerships to identify and solve health problems
- Enforce laws and regulations that protect and ensure public health and safety
- Link people to needed personal health services and assure the provision of health care when otherwise unavailable
- Assure a competent public and personal health care workforce
- Evaluate effectiveness, accessibility, and quality of personal and population-based health services
- Research for new insights and innovative solutions to health problems

2. Public health is about partnership between the different players. Explain how the role of international non-profit/NGO in terms of

- i) **recruitment:** the NGOs in the health system are providing services and health advocacy. This provision of services includes medical, social and psychological services as well as, integration activities, care and nursing, material and financial support, educational and information services and training which

required staff with high personal commitment potentially very flexible with fast response times as they are providing service through great variety of programs to meet community needs.

- ii) **training:** NGOs have been supplying a trained public health workforce, years so far. Much of this work has been accomplished through direct involvement and funding by NGOs, more government and NGO funding is needed to continue establishment and expansion of schools and programs of public health education, the research cycle, fostering the relevance and effectiveness of the research, priority setting, and knowledge translation to action. Provide assistance to develop and/or strengthen local NGO capabilities and activities with particular attention to local community development groups. They have a key role in stewardship (promoting and advocating for relevant global health research), resource mobilization, the generation, utilization and management of knowledge, and capacity development. Yet, typically, the involvement of NGOs in research, knowledge production and it usually takes the form of a partnership with universities or dedicated research agencies
- iii) **funding:** the international non-profit/NGO provide valuable resources, tools and funding in the field of public health. They invest money to save lives, but the lack of funding and initiative remain a global issue.
- iv) **monitoring for public health projects contribute to the success or failure of those projects in the developing countries:** international non-profit/NGO conduct reviews and assessment of existing health and development programs and assist communities in the exercise of their own role in such reviews; a greater emphasis on evaluative techniques will render all new programs more accountable to real community needs. They develop innovative programs placing primary health care in the context of comprehensive human development. They ensure that their existing programs and new initiatives promote full participation by individuals and communities in the planning, implementation, and control of these programs. NGOs often play a critical role in interpreting the evidence and translating its relevance for local

communities. Inevitably the level of involvement by the community depends on relevance and opportunity for action and advocacy.

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

i) **General overview of the situation** Dengue fever in Tacloban, the Philippines, where large numbers of people have been displaced following the Typhoon Yolanda (Haiyan). Most people settled in temporary camps, which are plagued by a dengue fever epidemic. Large quantities of flood water still remain in the surrounding area, plus quantities of solid waste un-cleared since the typhoon. IDPs are already given water containers to store drinking water collected from emergency bladders.

ii) **Water supply** The humanitarian should be distributing water via tankers and jerry cans across Tacloban city and the surrounding areas as the need will be high. This will prevent water-borne diseases.

iii) **Solid-waste disposal** the organization can establish a waste pick-up routine among households and project recovery work site includes the establishment of temporary operated landfills, and later building a robust recycling system and assisting local government in improving its waste management systems. To meet the urgent needs of the devastated communities, additional fund is to be generated.

iv) **Excreta disposal** The UN estimates that 4.5m people across the typhoon-affected areas need hygiene help or access to toilets and latrines. sanitation and hygiene are at the heart of recovery operations.

v) **Vector-borne diseases for purposes of assessing local conditions, health needs and identifying local resources in the disaster situation that you are addressing.** The *Aedes aegypti* mosquito is the main vector that transmits the viruses that cause dengue. The viruses are passed on to humans through the bites of an infective female *Aedes* mosquito, which mainly acquires the virus while feeding on the blood of an infected person. Therefore, a method of controlling and preventing dengue virus transmission is to effectively combat mosquitoes. Also it requires to take action in the field of surveillance in the way that The rapid re-establishment of an effective

surveillance system to quickly identify new dengue cases, monitor trends and determine the geographical distribution of cases is essential. Dengue rapid diagnostic tests (RDTs) are to be distributed to sentinel health facilities.