COURSE CODE: PGD002 COURSE NAME: POST GRADUATE DIPLOMA IN WATER HYGIENE AND SANITATION WASH

Monthly Assignment 8

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Assignment

1. Explain 5 reasons why emergencies can put people at greater risk of waterborne disease.

Emergency can be defined as an occurrence of certain events that destabilize communities and institutions lose control over the situation (Bjørnskov C., Voigt S, 2018). The loss of control over the processes that support the livelihood of the communities lead to poor sanitary conditions as the infrastructure that produces such services, might/can be ineffective. In addition, emergency situations call for resources that are unavailable at the spot, therefore, malnutrition, diseases, etc. can flourish. As water is essential for human life, water resources get strained in emergencies that can lead to numerous waterborne diseases. However, to be more exact, emergencies can lead to a number of conditions that breed waterborne diseases:

    a. First and foremost, waterborne diseases go through water dissemination infrastructure, therefore once such infrastructure is affected, whether public or private water systems, such risk is always present

    b. Flooding – spreading fecal contamination in an affected area

    c. Runoff from landfills

    d. Malnutrion – renders the vulnerable especially at higher risk of contracting diseases

    e. WASH – Once an emergency occurs, if the response is not up to the standards, all WASH violations may occur, which leads to waterborne disease epidemics

2. Sustainability is essential in any project. Substantiate this claim. How is sustainability achieved in donor funded projects? Explain 3 aspects

Achieving sustainability in all donor projects has been one of the major problems worldwide. Once the budget is dried out and the project is on its way to the end, much of the activities seize to continue. Therefore, any investment, as in the private sector, should have a sustainability mechanism implemented, which is much more difficult to achieve in projects that are not oriented towards profit making (Verzuh, 2015). For implementing change, drivers of change need to be present (Schroeder, 2017), and when there is no invisible hand to shape the market, community based mechanisms (CBM) need to be installed to achieve desired results (Ostrom, 1997).

Development of respective CBMs and behaviors is dependent on the informal institutions that are present in the target community/area, therefore it is difficult to generalize on how these instruments can be developed. Nevertheless, if we take claim on WASH, based on CENN's WASH projects in the target communities in Georgia there are some mechanisms that can be placed in any community:

a. Establish WASH Councils – Groups comprised of local stakeholders (Community members, municipality representatives, etc.), who, through participatory approach select hotspots on where the project should focus its activities and take part in the implementation process. Such an approach gives the target community a sense of ownership that amplifies the effectiveness of the project as well as establishes a base of sustainability once the project exits.

b. Awareness raising campaign – Such campaigns are designed specifically for a certain group of people that addresses certain behaviors which needs to be implemented to achieve different results

c. Community Mobilization – An activity that is closely linked to the a&b above, however, it must be realized that often times, communities in poverty are difficult to mobilize, especially if they see no need for implementing WASH practices in their daily routine.

3. How would you explain what advocacy means to a colleague who is not a WASH worker? Explain the difference between policy advocacy and programme advocacy.

Simply speaking, advocacy means to involve stakeholders to facilitate change. Involving stakeholders can happen through meetings, awareness raising campaign ect. Activities that imply change through stakeholders.

Policy Advocacy is an advocacy campaign carried out on the national level, where advocating is conducted to target specific policies that will create an enabling environment for WASH.

Programme Advocacy is a local campaign which can involve community meetings, community mobilization, awareness raising campaign, etc. Activities that change specific behavior (WASH Module Notes 8). .

4. Outline four particular challenges involved in urban WASH advocacy.

Urban settlements pose a whole different challenge to the advocacy campaign. When designing an advocacy plan, you have clearly defined stakeholders in mind that can have specific approaches designed to. However, in urban settlements, where communities are very diverse, settlements can be illegal and generally very difficult to mobilize. In practice, advocating on a national level is very difficult if you do not have support on the local level from the communities, as legislators need to have evidence based materials indicating the need for change (WASH Module Notes 8).

5. What do you understand by community mobilization? Describe briefly how it can be achieved.

Community mobilization involves community members establishing their interests, how theses interests can be achieved and actually taking action. It is a part of the participatory approach, which is focused on giving the communities more value through community based projects.

Community mobilization can be achieved first through stakeholder analysis, knowing who needs to be involved and defining their interests. The analysis must be followed by a series of meetings where specific actions can be outlined together with the target community, where they will be one of the essential actors for producing the outcomes intended.

b). Explain why knowing your community is essential for effective community mobilization.

Knowing your community is essential as you must know all the stances of the community for the enabling action to be effective. As communities are diverse with different agendas and social classes, their purposes for lobbying and advocacy can be very different from each other. This condition will severely damage the planning phase of mobilization, and even if the mobilization is still carried out, it will lack effectiveness, ending up in ineffective project implementation (WASH Module Notes 8).

Bjørnskov C., Voigt S., The architecture of emergency constitutions, International Journal of Constitutional Law, Volume 16, 2018

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Schroeder, H., 2017, Organizational Transformation Drivers of Change

Verzuh, E., 2015, The Fast Forward MBA in Project Management (Fast Forward MBA Series)