**STRATEGIA NETHERLANDS, INTERNATIONAL MANAGEMENT ORGANIZATION**

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Assignment 8

1. Explain 5 reasons why emergencies can put people at greater risk of waterborne disease.
2. Sustainability is essential in any project. Substantiate this claim. How is sustainability achieved in donor funded projects? Explain 3 aspects
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.
4. Outline four particular challenges involved in urban WASH advocacy.
5. What do you understand by community mobilization? Describe briefly how it can be achieved.

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

Assignment and answers

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

An emergency is an unexpected and usually dangerous situation that calls and demands immediate and careful actions. Water born diseases are such diseases that are caused, by ingesting water contaminated by human or animal faeces, containing pathogens. Such diseases may also be caused by eating contaminated food.

Usually emergencies are caused by wars, floods, droughts, earthquakes among others; they disrupt water systems, medical and other services and movements.

In South Sudan, Wars have left more than three million people homeless; with majority settled I concentrated camps in northern Uganda. Initially, most of these people lacked better WASH and other services, because most of these camps are located in very far rural areas, without some of these essential services.

After emergencies, people are traumatized, starved, dehydrated and exhausted; and all these make them vulnerable to all kind of diseases including cholera, diarrhea, among others.

Emergencies make people to move new place for security or help. During movement, water may be scared, this will force people to eat with washing their hands, or they may be forced to drink unsafe water along the roads. Even in the camps, there is always scarcity of water, and this forces people to draw water from unsafe sources for drinking.

When people are in the camps as a result of an emergency, cultural and family standards are compromised. Children, who used to wash their hands before eating, while playing with others, will begin to share breads, biscuits and food without washing their hands, hence they because susceptible to cholera, and other diseases.

During and after emergency, many infrastructures such as latrines, landfills, sewage lines and pipes are destroyed. Lack of latrines in an area makes people to start defecating in an open area, and when sewage lines are broken, wastes and faeces will all be washed to the nearby streams, or well hence contaminating drinking water sources. And in the community where people don’t boil water, they will definitely contract water born diseases after ingesting the contaminated water.

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

Firstly, sustainability has been defined in many ways. It literally means to operate in a way that may be sustained indefinitely; to generate something or to cause a change without depleting or destroying the necessary resources.

Project must not drain the resources of funds at the rate which higher than the flow of those funds. Even the local resources such as human resource and land must not be made over use at the rate that exceeds the renewing process.

Therefore, any project must be implemented in a manner that does to compromise the resources now and in the future.

Basically the project managers must always take in consideration the following key aspects in order for the donor funded projects to realize sustainability.

Transparency and accountability is a very serious aspect, which requires an organization to be open about its policies, decisions and actions, including environmental and social effects of those actions. This aspect further requires that an organization should provide clear, timely and meaningful information to all the stakeholders involved. The beauty about this aspect is that it helps all the stakeholders to collectively handle the issues at hand with delay and in a very professional ways, since they have been presented also well. Once the organization has clearly accounted for and acted in a very transparent way, donors will automatically develop trust; hence more funds will be channeled to the organization.

Another aspect is coordination both at local and global level. Donor funded money is about creating a change at the local level without compromising the global or international standards and policies regarding such funds. A project will be sustainable if the project implements coordinate well both the local and international issues regarding such projects. Projects implementers must also always borrow success stories from other countries or regions where such projects have performed well.

Sustainability is also about the personal values and ethics of all involved in the project implementation. Sustainability is about causing a positive change, but it should be noted that this change is based on the personalities and the level of influence and behaviors of the implementers. Good and credible project staff will positively impact and make the project sustainable, and the reverse is true.

1. 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.

Advocacy is a process that starts with conceptualizing a decision in support of a particular cause or activity and trying to convince other people or groups of people, especially decision makers that such idea is good. Advocacy as a process can be used to influence decisions within political, economic, and social systems and institutions.

In WASH context, advocacy may include many activities that an individual or organization undertakes which are directed towards influencing policies or program. Some of these activities may include, engaging opinion leaders, addressing community meetings, mass and media campaigns among others.

Advocacy can take place at the policy and program level

Policy advocacy involves attempts to explain to senior politicians and administrators the impacts of an issue and the need for changes to laws and policies at the national perspective/ level.

While program advocacy takes place at more of the local level, involving attempts to explain to local leaders the need for change or action at the community level.

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

The first challenge is limited resources and the funding constraints. In Uganda, the government is creating some many urban/ town areas without linking them up to the level of funds available. In most cases, the urban authorities find it hard to run the administration. Therefore in such cases, it is very hard for them to conduct advocacy in WASH sector which still given limited budget.

It is very hard to build relationship with the key policy makers, yet this is a very important state in advocacy process. Making time to build trust with these policy makers and all the influential persons is very tedious, because most of these people have got no time, due to their busy-schedules.

Representativeness and creditability is a big challenge; advocacy process may be hindered by the way those who present the issue at hand. In Uganda, those who tend to help present the issue to policy makers, and politicians are always they campaign agents in the previous elections. And most of these people are always noisy makers, who cannot present the issues at hand clearly. They are just “noise makers” yet most of these politicians, and other policy makers who are always voted love to work with such people.

Limited capacity is yet another challenge that affects advocacy; policy and decision making processes are very complex. In Uganda, some of the urban authorities and those who advocate for Urban WASH don’t have full understanding of WASH activities. Therefore, in case the Urban WASH advocates don’t have strong evidence base to support the direction of change, the all process will fail to achieve the desired change.

Misconception from the policy makers is yet another challenge. In Uganda, most people who tend to stand with or present the community issues are always misconceived by politicians/ policy makers. They are always perceived to be interested in politics. Therefore, this has always made it very hard to convince the relevant stakeholders/ policy makers in the process of urban WASH advocacy.

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

Community mobilization is a process by which community members come and act together to achieve a common/ desired and an agreed goal. This process starts by the identification of needs and priorities, coming up with possible solutions and actions to cause the change.

Communality mobilization is a very important aspect in development initiative. It helps the community not only to understand and appreciate their situation, but also to set the pace of their demand and action in regards to service delivery.

Community mobilization can be achieved by building effective consensus with relevant stakeholders, including community based organization and local leaders.

Its achievement also depends on the involvement of opinion leaders, religious leaders, and marginalized group of people.

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

The first is that it helps to identify the common problem and it’s extend; and this is very important in coming up with the collective actions that will cause a change.

Knowing a community is also very essential, because it helps to identify stakeholders with their respective roles to play.

Further still, knowing a community is very essential, in the sense that it make it easy to propose, suggest and generate resources that are necessary to solve the problems. It is vet hard for somebody who has never been part of the community to implement latrine construction project, without the prior knowing of the soil types, local trees etc.

It builds trust; it is also very essential to for one to know the community, because it helps in building good public consensus, with the local leaders, quite easily. Some communities are very hard, and they would loved to be served by those whom they feel, love and know them better; they fear being served by people who are not part of that community. Therefore, it is very easy for somebody who knows a community to work in such community.

There are communities which are gender and culturally sensitive. Therefore in such communities, only people who deeply know the cultures of such communities will effectively conduct community mobilization.

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