**Module Nine Assignment**

**Presented by: Wani Moses Joseph**

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1. **Why is it important to involve the community when making decision on public health project?**

Community participation is fundamental principle of both local agenda and healthy cities. It is important for many different reasons and offers many different benefits for individuals, communities, organizations and society as a whole (community participation in local health and development, EUP/ICP/POLC 06 03 05D David Breuer). When planning to implement public health project, the plan should not be imposed or policies formulated without involving the community in all matters concerning health and development (Sule SS. Niger J Med. 2004 Jul Sep). The important of community participation include;

**Increase democracy**. Community participation in decision-making, planning and actions is a human right. An increasing number of citizens are disillusioned with government and wanted see more participatory approaches to democracy.it is increasingly been argued that new styles and structures of governance is needed to transcend people being viewed as passive recipients of services provided by agencies and decided by elected representatives and enable guanine participation, empowerment and citizenship (12).

**Combating exclusion**. Community development and community organization often works specific groups of population, especially those that are marginalized and disadvantaged. By giving the community a voice, community participation can play an important role in combating social exclusion within the society (12).

**Empowerment of people.** Community participation can be both the outcomes of empowerment and an effective empowerment strategy. The actual process of participation can inherently empower individuals and communities to understand their own situations and to gain increase control over the factors affecting their lives. This can intend, enhance people’s sense of wellbeing and quality of life as highlighted in health21 (12).

**Mobilizing resources and energy**. Community have wealth of untapped resources and energy that can harnessed and mobilized through community participation, using range of practical techniques that can engage people, where appropriate, train and employ them in community development works. There is clear tension here between mobilizing resources in a way that empowers community and mobilizing resources to reduce the cost of providing services (13).

**Developing holistic and integrated approaches**. Ordinary people do not compartmentalize their thinking in the way that many professional have been trained to do. They can thus, make a valuable contribution to holistic and integrated-cross cutting approaches that can address the complex that faced them (13).

**Achieving better decision and more effective services**. Involving people in identifying needs, planning and taking action can result into better and more effective decisions being taken and more responsive and appropriate service being provided. (13).

**Ensuring the ownership and sustainability of programs**. Community participation is essential if interventions and programs aimed at promoting health, wellbeing, quality of life and environmental protection are widely to be owned and sustainable. Such sustainability requires that the community participation process must be sustainable, with fundamental pre-requisites being in place (13).

1. **Explain project planning process putting in perspective public health objective.**

Project planning process, are series of steps that determine how to achieve a particular community or organizational goal or set of related goals. (Module nine, project planning page 2). The following are the steps involve in project planning development.

**Conduct a community assessment to identify the problem.** To implement a successful project, it requires understanding of the community problems and identifies the problems preventing the community from achieving its long-range goals. The community conditions include, the geographically locations, demographic, ecosystem and history. A community assessmentcan be conducted to identify the problem(s) and determine which adverse current community condition a project will address. A community assessment can also be used to gather information once a specific problem has been identified, in order to design a project that will effectively address the problem. For example, “what factors influence community of Fangak to practice open defecation” could it be geographical, demographic or history or cultural?

**Problem statement.** A problem statement describes a current critical condition or set of conditions affecting a defined group of people in a specific place at a specific time. The problem statement should include a clear, concise, and precise description of the nature, scope, and severity of the problem or problems the project will address. Typically, the statement identifies the specific physical, economic, social, financial, governmental, institutional, behavioral, native language, or cultural challenges of the community (module nine note page 9). Example, the major factor that drives people to practice open defecation is “cultural norms”, the faeces of daughter in-law should not mix with that of father or mother in-law.”

**Assess available resources, refine assessment.** Assessing the available resources will help determine the best strategy for implementing the project and should be part of the community assessment process. Begin this analysis with the resources that currently exist within the community. Use the list of assets/resources that you identified in the community assessment to build an inventory of internal (from within the community) and external (from outside the community) resources that could be available for a project that would address the problem(s) identified in the assessment (module nine note page 10).

**Determine project goal**. The project goalis a basic description of the purpose of the project, in other words, a reduction or resolution of the problem or problems you identified earlier. The project goal should reflect positive changes in the set of conditions desired by the community after the problem is addressed. The project goalshould clearly describe how the project relates to one or more of the community’s long-range goals. The statement should be brief and to the point, as well as realistic (module nine note page 11). Example of project goal “established the factors that influence open defecation practice in New Fangak Town of Jongeli state”

**Select a project approach/strategy**. Once you have determined the project goal, you are ready to develop the project approach or strategy. Based on the information gathered in the previous steps, develop a list of possible strategies for addressing the problem and achieving the goal and then select a strategy that represents the best method for implementing the project.

**Develop project objectives and activities**. Objectives are specific, measurable accomplishments designed to address the stated problems and attain the project goal. An objective is an endpoint, not a process, to be achieved within the proposed project period. Completion of objectives must result in specific, measurable outcomes that benefit the community and directly contribute to the achievement of the stated project goal. The clearer, more concise, and more specific the objectives are, the easier it will be to implement the project and the easier it will be for a funder to understand the project approach. Example, “to determine the factor that influence open defection practices amongst the residents of New Fangak Town”. An objective should S.M.A.R.T. as objective outlined below:

**S**pecific — Start with an action verb (strengthen, train, develop, teach, implement) and specify the outcome; state what you will do to achieve your goal and meet your identified need

**M**easurable — the objective must include measurable outcomes and describe measurable changes in community conditions (including social, cultural, environmental, economic, and governance conditions).

**A**chievable — the objective must be realistic and attainable, something you can expect to achieve given your available resources and project strategy.

**R**elevant and Results-oriented— your objective should address your project goal and therefore the long-term goals of your organization.

**T**ime-bound — the objective should reflect a time period in which it will be accomplished

**Identify potential problems and develop contingency plan**. Every project has the potential to run into challenges that can impede progress and prevent or delay successful completion. Development of a **contingency plan** requires that identification and preparation for potential challenges that may cause the project to be late in starting up or to fall behind schedule and/or over budget.

***Assumptions, Challenges and Risks.*** The first, develop the list of assumptions, the challenges that result if the assumption is not realized, and the risk that is associated with each challenge. Assumptions might include filling or retaining staff positions, contributions from project partners, licensing requirements, internal procedures, etc. Next identify the challenges that will be faced in the event that the assumed contribution, outcome, etc. is not accomplished as planned. Finally, factor in the potential risk the challenge will pose to the implementation of your project. Example, “the problem identified “language barrier during data collection as the questionnaires need to be translated into Nuer language”.

***Develop a Contingency Plan.*** A contingency plan is an alternate route just in case the route you planned is not available. Project challenge that has a significant risk of delaying or stopping project progress, you should develop an alternate, or go-to plan, that will minimize the disruption. Example, Contingency plan “To recruit local enumerators to translate the questionnaire into Nuer language during data collection”.

**Develop a project evaluation plan**. A project evaluationmeasures the effectiveness and efficiency of a project, and determines the level of achievement of the project objectives. An evaluation will help an organization plan for the future, as it can identify additional or persistent problems that need to be solved. An evaluation plan describes the process and provides the tools to measure progress in implementing the project; it also assesses how effectively the project addressed problems and achieved its objectives.

**Develop an objective work plan.** An Objective Work Plan (OWP) is to describe how (through what activities), when (within what time frames) and by whom (assignment of responsibility) the project will be implemented—as well as the expected outcomes or benefits. Items include; project Title and Goal, the problem addressed, The Results expected and criteria for evaluating success in achieving them, The Benefits expected and criteria for evaluating success in achieving them.

**Develop a sustainability strategy.** A sustainability planis a narrative description of how you plan to continue your project after Federal funding is complete. A sustainable project is one that can and will continue without additional Federal funds, and will therefore contribute to long-term success and impacts within the organization.

**Develop a project cost estimate**. Project cost estimate is a program and fiscal document that reflects cost necessary to perform the project activities, that is the dollar expression of project being proposed and must be reasonable tied to project activities and work plan (module nine notes page 20). Budgeting is the method by which an organization translates the project goals and objectives into the resources necessary to accomplish the goals and objectives.

**Write the project summary**. The project summary is the last component written but will be the first read by an application reviewer. The project summary should not exceed one single-spaced page, and should reflect the essence of the entire project. The summary section should include the following: Clear statement of the priority area the application is submitted under, two or three pertinent facts about the community and the population to be served, a brief discussion of the problem that exists in the community, relating it to the facts you presented in the first paragraph about your community (one paragraph maximum). This can include your problem statement, the project goal, the project objectives, the impact indicators, and the number of people to be served or impacted by the project

1. **What are some of the challenges you face as an individual in implementation of public health project?**

**Resource and sustainability**. Funding and human resources are typically limited, it can be particularly difficult generate to enough start-up funds to sustain the program as it begins.

**Geographic limitation**. Geography influence a number of factors that can challenge program implementation and operations e.g. Isolation and weather. This becomes a particularly important issue when there is limited transportation access for the target population.

**Recruitment of staffs**. In rural communities that are implementing program that require physicians, dietitians or physiotherapist faced barriers to recruit appropriate trained staffs. In most time the programs are implemented by volunteers or retired practitioners or students.

**Hard-to-reach populations**. The priority population may be highly mobile. These population travel from camp to camp during different times each years, making it challenging to reach them and provide medical services.

**Cultural and social issues**. A number of challenges to program success arise out of unique cultural and social norms that influence expectations about the program and its likelihood of success. Examples include; deeply rooted traditions and cultures around food, lack of trust for medical professional and outsiders and social beliefs around certain behaviors

**Language.** In many project implementation languages is an issue as many health professionals may not come from the indigent communities, hence health communication becomes a challenge as it requires translation of the patient complain from local language to English.

**Keeping the community motivated**. Regardless of the community and populations targeted in the program efforts, an awareness of health concerns needs to exist and individual and organizational commitments are necessary toward making these concerns

**Lack of community participation in the implementation of health project**. Many rural communities believe that Non-governmental organizations are to provide all their basic needs, thus expecting 100% provision of services by the implementing partners, making implementation of community participation component difficult to achieve.

Interference by local authorities or government official in the recruitment process of the local staffs as they needed to bring in their relatives who are incompetent and not skilled enough to carry out health tasks.

1. **One of the challenges faced by many third world countries is underdeveloped health infrastructure. Do you agree with the statement? Support your answers with scholarly evidence and practical examples.**

**Poor health system and lack of infrastructure paralyses health care in Africa.** For several year now, most countries have been battling with poor systems which till today is posing enormous challenges to citizens. It is not new that most of African head of states and administrative authorities will prefer to have their medical checkup out of their various countries. This is a result of the lack of adequate infrastructure and equipment as well inadequate medical professional to cater for the population. Africans are still to have full access to one of the most basic human necessities. While the relevant authorities are trying as much as they can to provide health services to their communities, these services are still very limited to major towns and cities. People in distant areas have to work long distances to access proper health services which in most cases causes those who cannot afford the journey to give into their conditions. Reports indicate that the percentage of people in Africa who die from transmissible diseases is higher than those who die from chronic diseases. (Article from AFRIC editorial 31.12.2018).

**Lack of up to date equipment to meet health demands**. The lack of modern tools and infrastructures are one of the major reasons why Africa suffers with porous health care system. It is common practice in African health facilities to refer patients to developed country where they can find complete access to sophisticated tools and top notch technology required for treatment. Most hospital still make use and rely on traditional equipment which sometimes are not very effective.

**Lack of subsidy and support to public hospital.** Some private clinics have been properly equipped with first class materials and competent staff, but the challenges is the services they provide still remain highly accessible to the well to do people. Usually large sum of cash are requested for initial deposits before treatment is commenced which a majority cannot afford. Sadly this trend is infiltrating even into state hospitals where patients are refused to be attended to without prior payment. This is consequence of poor subsidy and support to public hospitals (Article from AFRIC editorial 31.12.2018).

**Unavailability of sufficient staff cripples the health sector.** Extreme shortages of health workers exist in 57 countries of which 36 are in Africa, the crises has been exacerbated by inequities in workforce and brain drain. Thus the delivery of effective public health interventions to people in need is compromised particularly in remote rural areas (JM kirigia 2008). Most nations have a very low doctor to patient ration and as a result, single health care specialist is entitles to thousands of patients which makes it impossible to attend to all. To make matter worse state trained doctors never hesitate to leave to developed countries where their services are better rewarded and their working conditions better than what is provided in their countries. In Kenya, there is one doctor to 5000 people, South Africa records one doctor per 1000 people, and it is worst in Zimbabwe with one doctor for 10000 people (Article from AFRIC editorial 31.12.2018).

**Lack of safe and clean water supply in the communities and hospital.** This contributed to increase burden of diarrheal disease and water borne disease. It is estimated 64% of the population lack sustainable access to improved sanitation facilities, and 42% lack sustainable access to an improved water source.

**Rampant corruption in medical products and technologies procurement systems.** Unreliable supply systems, unaffordable prices, irrational use, wide variance in quality and safety. This has contributed to current situations in the region lack of access to essential medicines (JM kirigia 2008, page 6).

**Dearth of information and communication technology and mass internet connectivity.** compounded by paucity of ICT-related knowledge and skills limiting capacities of national health management information systems to generate, analyze and disseminate information for use in decision-making.

**Health financing in the region is characterized by low investment in health**. lack of comprehensive health financing policies and strategic plans, lack of extensive out-of-pocket payment, lack of social safety nets to protect the poor, weak financial management, insufficient resource use, and weak mechanisms for coordinating partner support (JM Kirigia 2008, page 9).

1. **What entailed in project cost estimate of any health project?**

Project cost estimate is a program and fiscal document that reflects cost necessary to perform the project activities, that is the dollar expression of project being proposed and must be reasonable tied to project activities and work plan (module nine notice page 20). Budgeting is the method by which an organization translates project goals and objectives into resources necessary to accomplish the goals and objectives. In preparing a project cost estimate the following factors need to be seriously considered.

Available resources, analysis of available resources involves an identification of what is available in terms of dollar and people. This involves an assessment of human resources, capital resources and financially resources.

Regulations, the regulations that governs programs. The budgeting process must assess the impact that these regulations will have on the allocation of resources to the various line items.

**Scope, quality and method of services.** It is one of the most important factors in determining the expenditure is the range and quality of services to be provided. This involves the methods that can be used to provide the services, rather basing on past expenditure.

**Volume of the activity.** The volume of activity must be analyzed to determine fixed costs and those that are impacted by an increase or decrease in the funding or level of activity. The organization must establish a base level at which the project can be operated.

**Cost elements**. The organization will need to determine the types of labor, materials, equipment, and other cost elements required to perform the services and the cost for each. The budget formats and requirements differ among funding agencies, the following is standard for the development of most Federal budgets.

**Personnel.** List all full- and part-time staff in the proposed project, the number of hours they will work on the project, and the hourly rate. Identify each position working on the project as a percentage of full-time equivalent (FTE). The Federal government uses 2080 hours as the equivalent of one FTE, however if the tribe/organization uses a different definition, it must be identified in the budget justification section. For **non-salary personnel**, the hours listed in the budget must be reasonable and must align with the hours listed on the Objective Work Plan in the non-salary personnel column.

**Fringe Benefits**. List each of the fringe benefits the staff will receive and the dollar cost of each benefit. The fringe benefit category will include both mandatory payroll taxes and organizational employee benefits. Examples of mandatory payroll taxes include personal income taxes (PIT) and examples of employee benefits include; medical, life insurance and national social insurance fund (retirements)

**Travel**. In the budget identify each of the out of area trips planned and the cost of airfare, ground transportation, lodging, and meals for each planned trip. Only out-of-area travel is calculated in this budget category as local travel will be included in the “other” category.

**Equipment.** Equipment is defined as an item costing more than $5,000 and with a useful lifetime of more than one year. List all the items of equipment to be purchased.

**Supplies.** List all supplies such as paper clips, paper, pens, and pencils. Do not simply use one line

item, written as “Office Supplies: pens, paper, pencils, etc.” If there are unusual needs for project supplies such as training supplies use a separate line item for each category of supply and the amount

**Contractual.** If the project plans to contract with a company or individual to perform work for the project, the cost of the contract should be included under the “contractual” category. It is important to include cost of the contract. The scope of work should be included as an attachment to the application.

**Others**

Additional costs of the project should be included in the “other” category. Examples of other costs include:

**Facilities used:** In this section list all of the facilities that will be used during the project. Rent must be comparable to prevailing rents in the geographic area in which the facility is located. In addition to the actual rent, include the cost of utilities, maintenance services, and minor renovations if they are absolutely essential to your project.

**Telephone:** Telephone should include the cost of basic services, if not provided through indirect costs (see explanation below), and all planned long-distance usage.

**Postage:** Include the projected mailings, purpose, and cost.

**Copying and printing:** Provide information on the materials to be copied and/or printed and the projected cost by product.

**Professional services:** List the professional services (consultants) that are anticipated during the project. It is important to include the projected number of days of use and the cost per day. Include a scope of work or RFP as an attachment to the application.

**Local travel:** Provide information on the planned local travel, purpose of the travel, and cost. All travel that does not require per diem is considered local travel. Any other items that do not logically fit elsewhere in the budget.

**Indirect Costs** are cost an organization incurs for common or joint objectives that cannot be readily and specifically identified with a particular grant project or other institutional activity.

Reference

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4. WHO strengthening health systems to improve outcomes; ***WHO’s framework for action Geneva 2007.***
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