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| **WASH ASSIGNMENT 8-READY** |

**COURSE TITLE: POST GRADUATE DIPLOMA IN WATER, HYGIENE & SANITATION.**

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Assignment-8

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

Water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) are critical for survival in the first phase of an emergency. People affected by humanitarian crises, such as natural disasters or displaced by conflict, are generally at a much higher risk of illness and death from disease. Inadequate access to WASH infrastructure and poor and crowded living conditions will exacerbate this risk. The most important diseases are those diarrheal and infectious diseases transmitted by the faecal oral route, but also include those transmitted by vectors associated with poor sanitation, waste management and drainage. People in emergency situations are generally much more susceptible to illness and death from disease, often caused by a lack of sanitation, inadequate water supplies and poor hygiene. Diarrhoea and infectious diseases transmitted from faeces to mouth are the most significant health problems. Increased risk of disease also arises from overcrowding, exposure to new pathogens and the disruption of routine and safe habits. Displacement of people may possibly expose them to new pathogens. (Source: study session 14 Emergency WASH Behavior Communication. Open University –UK).

The following are some of the reasons why emergencies can lead to increased risk of waterborne disease.

Water supply systems may be broken or contaminated so people only have unsafe water to drink.

Lack of latrines or other safe method for disposing of human waste forces people to defecate in the open.

Disruption of normal routine and regular habits means that people may not wash their hands at critical times.

Flies and other disease vectors may increase in the disturbed conditions following an emergency.

Some emergencies will force people out of their homes to refugee camps which may be in locations with insufficient resources to meet people’s needs. Overcrowding can add to the increased health risk in such camps.

Poor personal hygiene due to inadequate water supply or personal negligent to practice good hygiene behaviors such as regular hands washing with soap at critical times.

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

Sustainability means that the WASH activities would be planned with consideration for the long term benefits to the environment and communities living in it both now and in the future. By environment we mean the larger environment including nearby towns and villages. By communities, we mean everyone in them. Water Aid (2011) uses this definition:

Sustainability is about whether or not WASH services and good hygiene practices continue to work and deliver benefits over time. No time limit is set on those continued services, behavior changes and outcomes. In other words, sustainability is about lasting benefits achieved through the continued enjoyment of water supply and sanitation services and hygiene practices.

**Sustainability is essential in any project due to the following reasons.**

Social acceptance is a basic foundation for sustainability. If promotional activities result in acceptance of inclusive WASH among the society or community, it means that there is ownership of the facilities which in turn, contributes towards ensuring sustainability.

Project is able to take corrective actions for its progress and sustainability. Project results and impact can be achieved when elements of sustainability were considered during design and implementation stage of the project.

Sustainability is important in project implementation because it requires different stakeholders to play their roles during planning, implementation and after project ends. Ownership of the project by local community is achieved when they are involved as implementers and not as mere beneficiaries.

When users participate in project planning, their opinions, interests and needs are addressed which may lead to project acceptance and ownership.

Participatory site selection is crucial because it affects accessibility. Consultation is essential to find and agree on a suitable location.

Proper management of WASH facilities is achieved. This needs an effective management body, with adequate capacity building and sound financial management.

Operation and maintenance; when a system for timely, efficient and cost-effective is established then breakdowns of WASH facilities are prevented.

**Sustainability can be achieved in the donor funded project through the following ways;**

Participatory planning; users must participate in planning so that their opinions and interests and needs are addressed which may lead to project acceptance and ownership.

Participatory site selection is crucial because it affects accessibility. Consultation is essential to find and agree on a suitable location.

Proper management of WASH facilities is achieved. This needs an effective management body, with adequate capacity building and sound financial management.

Operation and maintenance; when a system for timely, efficient and cost-effective is established then breakdowns of WASH facilities are prevented.

Sustainable inclusive WASH for all is the goal that all WASH sector actors should be aiming for. It requires greater knowledge and awareness of the challenges of inclusion, as well as commitment and persistence from all those concerned.

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 means making a case in support of a particular cause. It’s a process that aims to influence decisions within political, economic and social systems and institutions.

Policy advocacy involves trying to influence senior politicians who are responsible for policy setting and aims to get changes in policies and legislation. Program advocacy is more localized and directed to make changes in the opinions and attitudes of local leaders.

It means making a case in support of a particular cause or activity and trying to convince other people, usually decision makers, that it is a good idea. Advocacy is a process to influence decisions within political, economic and social systems and institutions. In an urban WASH context, advocacy may include many activities that you and your organisation undertake including engaging opinion leaders, addressing community meetings, media campaigns and public speaking. Advocacy is the process of influencing policies, practices and outcomes that directly affect people’s lives. Members of the community coming together to work with government and other power structures to address identified needs/concerns by the community.

**Policy advocacy** involves attempts to explain to senior politicians and administrators the impact of an issue at the national level and the need for changes to laws and policies (WHO, 2008). In a WASH context, an example is a media campaign to advocate a decrease in the tax imposed on soap to help improve use of soap. **Programme advocacy** takes place at a more local level. It involves attempts to explain to local leaders the need for action at local community level. In an urban WASH context this might include the mobilising of community leaders to promote the practice of hand washing or mobilising religious leaders to interpret and explain faith-based texts which refer to the importance of personal hygiene.

Advocacy for improving urban WASH services involves organising public opinion and participation to make changes in policy and practice as well as influencing policy makers and implementers to consider community interests. It can involve a range of strategies and activities that are intended to draw attention to an issue.

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

Training communities, community leaders, networks and local water boards and associations on their rights and responsibilities regarding urban WASH laws, budgets and policies

Educating national and local political leaders on urban WASH.

Strengthening policy dialogues between communities, civil society groups and decision makers

Urging increased funding for government-funded urban WASH programs

Supporting high-quality urban WASH messaging in local news media, etc.

Weak, fragile or poorly governed states are not always willing or able to take on their responsibilities of providing basic services. In developing countries, they typically have limited capacity and resources to fulfill all their obligations as enshrined in international law.

Too often budgets for water and sanitation exist but remain unspent. Too often water and sanitation policies are not suited to the local context or do not exist at all.

WASH service upgrade and expansion is slower than the rate of population growth, which puts pressure on the existing systems. As the services are shared by many more people, they quickly become inadequate and may break down.

Population growth and urbanization are enforcing rapid changes leading to a dramatic increase in high-quality water consumption. Frequently, this demand for water can’t be satisfied by the locally available water resources, while the discharge of insufficiently treated wastewater increases costs for downstream users and has detrimental effects on the aquatic systems.

Climate change is predicted to cause significant changes in precipitation and temperature patterns, affecting the availability of water.

A rapidly growing demand for water for multi-sectorial uses, on the one hand, and diminution of natural storage capacity and lack of development of artificial storage capacity to meet demand and to buffer against shocks.

1. 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.

Community mobilization is the process of mobilizing people within communities. This means encouraging and supporting them to act together to achieve desired community goals. Communities can be mobilized through helping them to identify their priorities, resources, needs and solutions.

Organize a meeting with community representatives and try to build consensus on priorities. This is most likely to be feasible in smaller urban communities.

Facilitate the formation of **community action groups** (CAGs). These are small groups tasked with managing individual projects and should involve those best placed to help with project implementation.

Ensure discussions include the pros and cons of various options, based on criteria that have been agreed by the community.

If community members realize that more information is needed to make a decision, the CAG can agree on how to collect the required information and arrange another meeting for further reviewing priorities before project selection.

Keep the larger community informed about the schedule, process and actions taken by the CAG, using appropriate communication channels such as community notice boards or local radio announcements.

Organize a community vote or some alternative way to obtain acknowledged agreement, so that you ensure the project is acceptable to the community.

The following factors can be considered besides the above factors.

**Start off with a transparent community selection process and share results**

There are many options on how to go about selecting your target communities.  Donor requirements may indicate specific selection criteria or prioritized geographic or socio-demographic sectors. The quality and availability of quantitative data such as average family income or school dropout rates will also drive selection criteria. As important as defining your community selection process may be, it is equally important that you are transparent and publically share selection criteria and the results of the community selection process. Post the results of your community selection process online and share them with program stakeholders, including the communities that were not selected.

**Map community priorities and identify community leaders through community assessments.**

Once we identified our target communities, we designed a simple questionnaire with the goal of identifying potential community leaders as well as what community members saw as their most pressing priorities

**Hold preliminary meetings with community leaders and enlist their support to mobilize community participation.**

Often vulnerable communities are skeptical of outsiders and have been on the receiving end of broken promises to improve community infrastructure or provide much needed basic services.  Trying to engage communities directly through public calls for meetings without establishing community channels and trusted intermediaries may limit or delay your success in mobilizing communities to participate early in the program

**Hold community assembly meetings to elect local representation to coordinate program activities**

Global Communities’ PACE methodology works through a community coordination mechanism called Community Development Councils (CDCs).Community capacity building activities such as long-term community development planning and project formulation and execution are led through and carried out by the CDCs. The goal is to build a critical mass of community capacity to enable communities to take ownership and put them in the driver’s seat.

**Allow communities to prioritize and select quick impact projects to solidify support and galvanize local participation**

It is important in your first community assembly meeting to select a community project that can be completed in a short period of time. These projects will build off of the initial enthusiasm at the prospect of the program’s start-up.

1. (b). Knowing the community is essential for effective community mobilization because you need to understand the people in the community and the issues that are important to them. Facilitators should be familiar with the social structure of the community and the different groups and their leaders. Knowing about language, culture, religion and economic status are also important. It’s important to identify the key stakeholders who have influence of others and who are likely to lead any decision-making process. For WASH projects, the current water supply situation, sanitation habits and health status of the community are also essential information.

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