**STRATEGIA NETHERLANDS, INTERNATIONAL MANAGEMENT ORGANIZATION**

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**COURSE: ONLINE -POST GRADUATE DIPLOMA**

**IN**

**WATER, HYGIENE AND SANITATION**

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**Assignment one 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, and ii) WASH messages?
2. In your own words, what is your understanding of public health and what are its key elements?
3. Public health is about partnership between the different players. Explain how the role of international non-profit/NGO in terms of
4. recruitment ii) training iii) funding and iv) monitoring for public health projects contribute to the success or failure of those projects in the developing countries
5. 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 ii)Water supply iii) Solid-waste disposal iv) Excreta disposal and v) Vector-borne diseases for purposes of assessing local conditions, health needs and identifying local resources in the disaster situation that you are addressing

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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, and ii) WASH messages**?

Water , sanitation and hygiene is a broader term that includes provision of safer water for drinking, washing and domestic activities, final removal of faecal and solid waste disposal, and health promotion activities, that encourage protective and preventive healthy behaviors among the community.

Major disparities still exist between the poor and the rich, the rural dwellers and the urban dwellers, towards accessing water sanitation and hygiene.

Radio station is being considered to be one of the greatest tools in promoting and improving Water, sanitation and hygiene status, in the community. It provides opportunity for the marginalized population to complain, demand, and comment and to come up with possible initiatives.

According to (Janai Wabwire 2013), Radio is an inexpensive medium, with comparatively simple technology, more suitable for the illiterate and the peasant communities and societies characterized by oral and folks traditions. He added that radio station allows people to listen to its progammes without disturbing their domestic chores. Example a woman can be listening to WASH program while cleaning her utensils.

It is the mouth piece of the general people and equally can be used to create awareness and the community accountability towards a given course.

In this era of modernization, unlike in the past, radio station is widely accessed across the geographic areas, and it gives prompt responses to the matter of discussion, since different languages are always used to cover all categories of people.

Therefore, as the staff of community radio station, these will be key objectives while using the radio station to communicate the Water Sanitation and hygiene practices;

To increase, the number of households practicing, safer water, sanitation and hygiene behaviors.

To Increase stakeholders’ participation and collaboration towards advocating and provision of safer water sanitation and hygiene practices.

To, rally for community active participation, in the management of their Water Sanitation and, Hygiene in their respective areas.

To increase the number of households who practice the recommended water sanitation and hygiene practices.

The key targeted audience will be the Hotel/ restaurants’ operators, saloon owners, women, men and children

And the key messages will be;

To wash hands properly with water, and soap, during the five critical moments;

*That is before eating food or before giving food, to babies after defecation, cleaning the child’s bottom, before cooking or preparing food, after work.*

*Kill the flies by throwing all the rubbishes in the dirt bins and keeping home and the community very clean.*

In order to achieve the above objectives, these are the key activities that will be carried out by the radio station.

**Formation of Radio’s Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene team**: Few radio staff will be assessed and assigned a task of capturing, producing and playing Water, Sanitation and Hygiene related news/ information.

**Media Visits**: A field visit will always be organized, in order to bridge the gap between theoretical and factual information on the ground. Having these field visits, give the Radio Water Sanitation and Hygiene team, the opportunity to report clear and updated news or information, that will address the real community WASH challenges.

**Live program on Water and Sanitation and Hygiene**: As the community Radio Station, we would organize a special live program especially for Water, Sanitation and Hygiene discussion. The purpose of this program would look at bringing Water Sanitation and Hygiene issues to public domain. With this program in place some community members will be motivated and empowered to ask relevant questions regarding WASH in their area. This would also help political leadership to prioritize WASH program in their area. With such discussion, community members and the leaders will end up setting by-laws that will help to improve Water Sanitation and Hygiene practices in different areas

**Community voices: Radio Journalist(s) would from time to time be encouraged to interview few households on their Water sanitation and hygiene**. Different selected households would be asked related questions, such as the use of latrine, Hand washing with soap during critical moments, their waste disposal practices. Both men and women are interviewed during the process in order to give balanced information. All answers will be recorded and aired out for further discussion. However there will be sense of confidentiality throughout all this process. Key audience of this recorded information will be men, women and children.

**Production of Water Sanitation and Hygiene Giggles**: These are the short messages that take approximately 1 minute while being played. As community Radio station, giggles would be used to entertain and catch people’s attention; create awareness on the value of having improved Water Sanitation and Hygiene behavior as a way to prevent diseases. In the giggles, play characters will bring in the effects of having poor WASH behaviors and the next character bring out the value of having improved WASH behaviors such as having latrine, washing hand with soap, before eating food among other as the only remedy to avoid diseases like cholera, dysentery, Diarrhea.

**Full Advertisement; always play before Radio talk show**. In order to prepare people early and to be ready to participate during Radio WASH talk shows, management will always be carrying out prior advertisement, informing people about WASH Topic of discussion, the panelists and the slated date of the talk show. This will improve the listenership and in return, will be acting as a tool of mobilizing people toward improving their WASH status.

**Live Drama**: As community radio station, the management will identify and use few drama groups with very vital Water Sanitation and Hygiene messages. Some drama groups will be selected to play their series live in the studio. While other group will be motivated to organize their drama at the community level and their voices/ playing sessions shall be recorded and played later on the air.

The drama will be packaged with very special WASH messages with a call to all the community members, to improve their WASH practices. Some of the messages that will be expected to appear in the drama are the dangers open defecation, poor waste disposal practices. Sharing the effects not washing our hands, after defecation, among others.

**Formation of WASH listeners’ groups** to create linkages between the radio and the community: Key active listeners of the WASH program or community members with better or improved WASH practices will always be motivated by either greeting or appreciating them lively on the air.

**Live street program**: As local radio station our target will be to reach to all categories of the community. The management will send the WASH team to key persons such as public toilet operators, saloon barbers/ operators, restaurant operators with WASH messages that include personal hygiene and environmental health, serving hot food, proper disposal of food residues. This will also involve mentioning live on air the names, of restaurants with improved WASH services and well saloons with the most improved person hygiene practices. They will be termed as the role models when it comes to better WASH practices.

**Organizing friendly football match**: As community radio, it is very important to stay in touch with the community and to build a very strong relationship with the community. So the radio management will arrange with the local leaders / or youth group to have a footballs match competitions. The match will be in one of the community schools, where all the surrounding members can freely come and watch the game. Before the match, all the staff of Radio will lead the participants in cleaning the surrounding places, the school compounds, latrines and the willing participants will be requested to join in the cleaning process as a practical mean to pass the information. And the collected rubbish will be burnt or thrown in the rubbish pits. There will be washing taps with soap, well stationed at all corners, and this will be used to wash hands after cleaning the environment. This will indirectly be passing the message of hand washing with soap after work, to all the spectators/ football fans, and the entire players about the important of staying cleaning at all times, to avoid contracting poor sanitation related diseases.

**Promotion of local songs/ artists**: As a community based radio station, we shall identify few popular or vocal artists to record songs pertaining to WASH. Their voices may be directly recorded by our WASH team who will always be in the field to conduct the similar activities.

The recorded songs will later on be played live on air to pass the recorded information to the larger community. It’s worthy to note that, most artists are highly liked by many and this makes them very influential while reaching the community on a noble course.

The above, among others strategies described will help to improve

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

Public is a broader context in the field of health system, it’s simply, what the community or society does collectively to assure the conditions in which people can live a healthy life.

One would say that public health is the science and art of preventing disease and prolonging life, and promoting health through the organized effort and informed choices of the society, or the community

**The First element of public health is monitoring of health status to identify and solve the community health problem**: To have a healthy community most- likely community health problems have to be identified. This can be done by collecting data, accessing some relevant records of that particular community, and other statistics to give better information. The information gather will help to get better solutions in terms of who to provide the required services, and who to meet the expected cost of those services. Example, if a certain community is expected to experience cholera outbreak, much information will be gathered in term of total population likely to be affected, which services will be required to cater for the outbreak, and how much the entire services will cost and who will meet the costs.

**Another public health element is to diagnose and investigate health problems and health hazards of the community**: This involves epidemiological assessment of the health threats, rapid laboratory screening and assessing the technical capacity to handle the health threats. This is done during both emergencies and normal routine situations.

**Inform, educate, and empower, the community about their health issues**: if community is to be healthy services that involve social marketing of health related products/ services through various communication channels such as churches, schools, and worksites, must be considered. This goes as far as identifying other cheaper similar service providers to join in health care education so community can easily access these health messages much easily and cheaper.

**Mobilization and coordination at the community level to come up actions, to solve health problems**: This starts with calling for a community meetings and facilitation of community groups or association which are considered to be very influential in spearheading health related matter in the community. However, this many not necessarily mean working with only groups/ associations that are health based. The purpose of such meetings will be to come with preventive measures and to rally support for any programs. The community will be equipped with material that can be source of references in case of any disease outbreak.

**Development of by-laws or policies to support community plans and efforts**: In order for the community to have healthy conditions, it is required that leaders at both local and national leaders come up with favorable polices and plans that will be the guiding tools. This should include health improvement, measureable objectives, and quality improvement, as well as regulatory and legalization frame work to guide the public health practice. This also calls for a clear and well developed health systems evaluation tools to assess the consistency in the prevention and treatment services.

**Enforcement of laws and regulations that protect the health insurance and safety**: For communities to live healthy conditions, enforcement of sanitary standards, in all the factories producing food, drinks like soda, juice and other consumable products is a must. Furthermore, enforcement of air standards, water supplies is a must, since this will prevent exposure to health related diseases and other occupational hazards. This must all so hand in hand with monitoring of health services in all units like nursing homes, laboratories, schools, clinics as well and constant and timely monitoring of drug supplies and usage, among others.

**Linking people (both able and disadvantage persons) to required health personals and services.** This element emphasizes the need to meet all categories of people in the community. And this can be done by conducting outreaches to community members considered to be disadvantaged either by their geographical location or them physical inability. According to Global Information and Education report on HIV and AIDS 2017, the most at risk persons in Uganda are sex workers, with HIV prevalence at 37%, therefore base on the above example, such a group of persons needs outreach services. These services need to be clinically, culturally, and linguistically favorable and appropriate to such persons.

**Competent workforces in both public and personal health care centres**: if the community must live and lead a healthy life, then there should always be assured, well trained, licensed and efficient professionals. Therefore, this requires proper education and constant trainings to improve and increase the number and the capacities of health personals. This process also involves certification, regular verification and inspection of different health centres/ facilities. It also goes hand in hand with constant follow-ups on the adoption of quality standards, and formation of health professionals’ association as a way to sharing both administrative roles and learning experiences.

**Evaluation:** This involves evaluating the effectiveness, accessible and the quality of the personal, and community base- health services. When the health programs, status and data are analyzed, clear information will be generated, hence improving the effectiveness and efficiency allocation of health resources/ services and programs.

**Research**: For the community to get improved and quality health services, research on new insights and innovations is a must. Research is always done by linking up with higher institutions of learning, and other recognized research centres; and this will help to prepare or build the capacities of health workers and systems in the areas of epidemiological and economical aspects in rendering the required health services to the community.

1. **Public health is about partnership between the different players. Explain how the role of international non-profit/NGO in terms of**
2. **Recruitment ii) training iii) funding and iv) monitoring for public health projects contribute to the success or failure of those projects in the developing countries**.

Partnership is very important while delivering public health service. I quote ‘’ we are dealing with prime public health concerns of our time. We are focusing on conditions with a major impact on the poor and the disadvantaged. And we are working alongside a broad range of partners, maximizing what we can achieve together’’, said Dr Gro Harlem Brundtland, a former WHO chief on the 105th session of the executive board, January 2000. The statement stresses the importance of different health actors coming together. Therefore below are the key roles being played by international organizations is providing public health services

And these roles are being classified as noted below.

**Recruitment:**

Africa is currently facing a critical shortage of health workers, exacerbated by international migration of those seeking for better employments, wages and working conditions. Yet delivering public health services requires, highest the standards of efficiency, competence and integrity, by well trained, motivated, equitably distributed and well supported health personals. In order to attain the project goals, most internationals organizations are giving a higher wage scale that attracts few expatriates, including well trained health workers from the project region/ country. This in return, improves the quality of public health services, hence registering success, and the reverse is true.

**Training:**

The success of all the public health service deliveries depends on the level of training, each health staff has acquired, poorly trained staff will always give poor health services, which definitely fail the project, or causing more harms to the beneficiaries. But well trained medical staff will always be a blessing or the driving force to the project success.

A lot of International organizations are working to ensure that health services are provided by well trained personals. This is be done by conducting series of capacity building trainings, either directly by the organization or through advocacy where government is requested to conduct the relevant health training. Examples are Doctors without borders/ medecins Sans frontiers, population service international, where both field and office based staff are given constant trainings, in order for them to be fully equipped to carry out the health services. This process includes training both the staff recruited by the project and government staff who are providing public health services in public and private health care facilities

In south Sudan, to ensure that health service is provided without drugs stock out, World Health organization , trained 24 participants drawn from 20 health implementing agencies, on requisition, distribution and rational use of emergency kits , the training was from 11-12/ feb/ 2019 . A second training was also held from 2 1-22 feb/2019, where and more 35 participants drawn from health partners were trained on optimizing the distribution and rational use of live-saving medicines. In addition, World Health organization, in partnership with UNICEF, UNFPA conducted a joint training on forecasting, procurement, distribution and rational use of emergencies kits, non-communicable disease kits, and reproductive health kits and emergencies vaccines, to prevent illness or death. Therefore, such trainings organized by the international agencies, greatly impact on public health services, since these health practitioners will always give quality services to the project beneficiaries/ community members.

**Funding:**

Most of the developing countries have narrowed tax base to generate adequate finance, and this affects health service deliveries. And therefore, the success of almost all health projects in countries like Uganda, South Sudan is based on the funds given by international originations.

Most international organizations such as United Nation international Children Funds are strengthening health financial system by lobby for more financial supports and directly advocating for more support towards health services. UNICEF is financing drilling of boreholes; provision of Hand washing facilities, soap, drugs to the people of South Sudan through the financial support donated United Nations Headquarters in Washington DC.

World Health Organization requested for US$ 1693900 to finance Sustain Access and availability for consolidated safe drinking water to emergency areas affected by epidemic prone diseases like cholera and malnutrition in South Sudan. The above figure was far beyond the capacity of South Sudan government, national or community based organizations.

Example, through, South Sudan Humanitarian fund and European Humanitarian aid, WHO is providing critical live-saving interventions in terms of medicines and treatments, to the affected population and the host communities of several regions of South Sudan.

These regions were adversely affected by frequent disease outbreaks, high burden of both communicable and non communicable diseases, such as psychosocial and mental conditions, resulting into a complete deterioration of health status. They were also faced with irregular and inadequate supplies medicines and other health commodities that led to frequent stock out and interruptions in health service delivery.

**Monitoring:**

Monitoring is very vital aspect in public health project; international organizations such as, USAIDS, Management International Services, UNICEF and WHO are working with implementing partners to ensure that health indicators are meeting the project goals. There are always quarterly meetings with implementing agencies to review progress based on the pre-designed standards. In south sudan, Health clusters meetings are held at state level, where all the implementing partners are tasked to report all their activities, success stories and challenges. The line ministry will equally commit itself to address other challenges, or come up with by-laws in case some challenges are from the community.

1. 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 ii)Water supply iii) Solid-waste disposal iv) Excreta disposal and v) Vector-borne diseases for purposes of assessing local conditions, health needs and identifying local resources in the disaster situation that you are addressing

According to (B.Wisener and J Adams 2002), disasters are events that occur when significant numbers of people are exposed to hazards to which they are vulnerable, with resulting injuries, loss of life, often combined with damages to the property and livelihood.

Therefore, if an event of such nature happens, it is very importance to conduct assessment determine the nature and extent of possible risks, analyzing hazards and evaluating level of vulnerability, capacity assessment and people’s perception of risk

1. **General overview;**
2. How many people are affected by the disaster? (Where are they distributed? settled or not settled?) This helps in planning for and this will definitely help during emergency response
3. What are current or likely water and sanitation related diseases
4. **Water Supply**
5. What are the water sources? Is the water source contaminated or at the risk of contamination? And if so, what are the causes of contamination?
6. Are all categories of people able to access water sources?, Are the vulnerable persons like pregnant women, child headed households, elderly , the disabled ones equally accessing water sources?
7. **Solid waste disposal.**

Lack/ or inadequate solid waste facilities/ management can cause a major public health risks to the affected community. These risks can rise from the breeding flies, rodent or pollution of surface or underground water. Following questions may help to ascertain the situations

1. How do people dispose off their waste?, is the disposal on site or it has to be collected?
2. What are commonly disposed and at what quantity?
3. **Excreta disposal**
4. Are there excreta disposal facilities available? If so are they used and are they enough?
5. Is the current defecation or excreta disposal a threat to health? How?. And what does the current beliefs and traditions talk about women’s habits and attitudes, child’s excreta? If available, what materials are used for anal cleaning?

V) **Vector-borne diseases** for purposes of assessing local conditions, health needs and identifying local resources in the disaster situation that you are addressing

Vectors-borne diseases are a major health risk following disaster; mosquitoes will transmit malaria which is the major cause of morbidity and mortality. Mosquitoes are also responsible for yellow fever and hemorrhagic fever. Therefore, the assessment of the potential risk should be considered. Site selection and the provision of shelter should be considered as well. This may base on generating some few assessment questions such as;

1. What are the common health related behaviors are being practiced by the affected population, and how are those behaviors affected by the disaster?

2. What are the likely understanding between water, san1itation hygiene, vector and diseases? Does the community have access to water containers, cooking utensils, mosquitoes nets, soap, sanitary services, bathing facilities?

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