**ASSIGNMENT 1**

1. Suppose you work with a community radio station, describe what your radio station would do to address water, sanitation, and hygiene issues about your i) audience, and ii) WASH messages?

If I happen to be work with a community radio station, I would suggest several ways in which water and sanitation are addressed and hygienic issues as well. The main challenge in the 21st century today according to WHO (2004), found out that 1.1 billion people in the entire world do not have access to safe water and sanitation and a total of 2.4 billion people were found not to be having basic sanitation facilities.

It has been found out by the WHO (2004), that 4 million people that the majority of them are young people die of water-related diseases due to poor sanitation. In crop production, 70-80% of the total amount of water used is mainly for irrigation purposes and to achieve better yields of crops. It is also not without any reasonable doubt that water is also used in other important ways like the building of commercial houses of for commercial purposes, industries and other ways. Therefore in place of water scarcity human general health is affected, hunger is experienced, and poverty becomes the order of the day.

Water-related efforts in the developing world are often balkanized and not sufficiently integrated to ensure sustainable water services. There can be different strategies to ensure access to safe water depending on the country and its social needs. The different strategies may have impacts on reaching the Millennium Development Goal of reducing by half the proportion of the population that lacks access to improved water and sanitation by 2015. This chapter focuses on presentations addressing the challenges in developing countries.

Water and sanitation concerns are of great magnitude: 1.1 billion individuals, approximately 17 percent of the world's population, are without improved water, and more do not have access to safe drinking water, and 2.6 billion, approximately 41 percent, are without improved sanitation. Even worse, many of the world's school children attend a school without water or toilets. Not surprisingly, 40 percent of the world's school-age children have worm infections, predisposing them to be cognitive and developmental problems. It is further estimated that 5,000 children die every day from diseases because of lack of safe drinking water, inadequate sanitation, and poor hygiene (WSSCC, 2004).

**Therefore the only remedy to these problems I would recommend that:**

* The management that is responsible for safe water and sanitation is addressed, and an agreement is made on ways of curbing waste creation, contamination, and environmental degradation.
* Proper policies governing waste management is also introduced in towns due to increased population growth rate, urbanization, and industrialization.

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

-My understanding of the word public health means two different things that are prevention and policy development and population health surveillance.

-Prevention involves practice and disease prevention in promoting good health within a particular group of persons from small communities.

-Policy Development and Population Health Surveillance-This purely rely on policy and strategies of research in understanding issues like infant mortality and other chronic diseases in a particular population.

**Key Elements of Public Health**

* Monitor health status to identify and solve community health problems
* Diagnose and investigate health problems and health hazards in the community
* Inform, educate, and empower people about health issues
* Mobilize community partnerships and action to identify and solve health problems
* Develop policies and plans that support individual and community health efforts
* Enforce laws and regulations that protect the health and ensure safety
* Link people to needed personal health services and assure the provision of health care when otherwise unavailable
* Assure competent public and private health care workforce
* Evaluate effectiveness, accessibility, and quality of personal and population-based health services
* Research for new insights and innovative solutions to health problems

1. Public health is about the 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

-The World Bank has defined non-governmental organizations (NGOs) as 'private organizations that pursue activities to relieve suffering, promote the interests of the poor, protect the environment, provide basic social services, or undertake community development.' NGO activities can be local, national or international.

-NGOs have contributed to the development of communities around the world and are important partners of many governments – while remaining independent from governments. According to the Human Development Report, there were in 2002 over 37,000 NGOs in the world, a growth of 19.3% from 1990.

-Non-profit organizations play a major role when it comes to the promotion of health care, to begin with, the NGOs normally cheap in when it comes to fighting against HIV/AIDs.

# -In developing countries for example in Kenya, there are several NG O's that have emerged in the fight against drug abuse like for example UNODC.

# -The following factors have driven the success of the projects brought about by these NGOs like UNODC:

# The youths have been taught how to avoid peer pressure that leads to drug abuse.

# The teaching of the youths to invest in activities like entrepreneurship that will earn them money instead of engaging in drug abuse.

# Training of youths to be facility managers and operators.

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.

**i) A general overview of the situation**

The general overview in this situation as the environmental health officer involves several factors like conducting rapid assessment, detailed assessment, and continual assessment.

**Qn 1:** Which assessment is appropriate for the study?

**Qn 2:** How can the assessment procedure be applied?

**ii) Water supply**

I must ensure that the water supplied is safe for drinking and treated

**Q n 1:** Is the water supplied safe for drinking and domestic use?

**Qn 2:** What if the water supply is not fit for human consumption

**iii) Solid-waste disposal**

-Solid wastes in urban centers are a by-product of a broad spectrum of industrial, services as well as manufacturing processes. Solid wastes in most developing countries include industrial, municipal, medical and agricultural waste. Typical wastes include plastic, scrap metals, clinical wastes, etc. Left unattended, it turns toxic.

-As a common practice, there is generally poor solid waste management in most urban centers, with low garbage collection. Over 60% of solid waste is not collected and has the potential of increasing environmental degradation, pollution, loss of aesthetic and amenities and critical disease outbreaks.

-Developing countries have problems in solid waste management that are very representative of other countries in Sub-Saharan Africa due to the country's high growth and governance problems. Furthermore, the complexity (a mixture of medical, industrial and agricultural) of waste makes its management difficult. Inadequate solid waste management (SWM) practices affect the quality of the environment and public health of residents in many urban centers.