**South Sudan**

**Lakes States –Rumbek**

**Mott McDonald (Water for Lakes project)**

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**Diploma in WASH**

**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 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

1. **Regarding to my Audience**

Public health is defined as the science of protecting the safety and improving the health of communities through education, policy making and research for disease and injury prevention.

This lack of access to water and sanitation, and poor hygiene behaviour has major health impacts. The World Health Organization (WHO) estimates that 842,000 deaths from diarrheal diseases each year could be prevented by improved water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH)

WASH services in healthcare facilities are fundamental to the provision of quality, people-centred care. Benefits include increased trust in, and uptake of, healthcare; increased efficiency and decreased costs of healthcare services; and improved staff working conditions and morale. All major initiatives to improve global health depend on sustainable provision of basic WASH services in healthcare facilities.

**Healthcare-associated infections**

Healthcare-associated infections (HAIs) are infections acquired while receiving treatment for another condition in a healthcare setting. They are associated with a number of risk factors, including the health status of the patients, the type of medical procedure, the presence of pathogenic microorganisms and the physical environment where the healthcare is provided. The risk of acquiring HAIs is universal and affects every healthcare facility and system around the world. Impacts include prolonged hospital stays, financial burdens, long-term disability, excess deaths and increased resistance of microorganisms to antimicrobials. The source of an HAI may be from the patient’s own microbial flora, or it may be from other patients, hospital staff, or surfaces and equipment in the hospital environment; and transmission.

1. **Regarding to WASH messages**

The lack of safe water, functional toilets and handwashing facilities in healthcare settings poses significant health risks to patients, healthcare workers and nearby communities. The on-going Ebola epidemic in West Africa and periodic outbreaks of cholera on multiple continents have highlighted the devastating consequences of the lack of WASH facilities as a first line of defense for healthcare workers in preventing HAI and for patients in cholera treatment centres.

Antimicrobial resistance is a multi-sectorial problem that requires a comprehensive strategy to prevent emergence and transmission. Within healthcare settings, provision of adequate staff, supplies and services, as well as leadership and education of administrators, health workers, patients and visitors, are critical to create an institutional climate of safety. Information about standard precautions should be incorporated into patient information materials and provided upon admission to the facility.

Standard precautions are a set of evidence-based practices designed to protect both healthcare staff and patients. They represent the minimum infection prevention measures that apply to all patient care in any setting where healthcare is delivered and should be applied to every person every time to assure that transmission of disease does not occur. Standard precautions include:

* hand hygiene;
* use of personal protective equipment (e.g., gloves, gowns, facemasks) depending on the anticipated exposure;
* respiratory hygiene and cough etiquette;
* safe injection practices; and
* Safe handling of potentially contaminated equipment or surfaces in the patient environment. In addition to consistent use of standard precautions, additional precautions apply to contact with patients with symptoms of an active infection.

1. **Understanding of public health**

Public health systems are commonly defined as “all public, private, and voluntary entities that contribute to the delivery of essential public health services within a jurisdiction.” This concept ensures that all entities’ contributions to the health and well-being of the community or state are recognized in assessing the provision of public health services.

Elements of Public Health Services activities that all communities should undertake:

* 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 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 personal 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. **Explain how the role of international non-profit/ NGO in term of**

The Public Health system are the initiatives and strategies that improve one or more functions of the health system, leading to better health through improvements in the access, coverage, quality and safety thus the importance of strengthening of the public, private and community health systems has been emphasized in a variety of documents by various international, regional and national bodies concerned with the health care such as WHO, USAID, Global Fund etc. Thus NGOs, Non-profit organization has roles to play with community wellbeing in term of

1. **In term of Recruitments**

The International Non-profit/NGO Code of Conduct for Health Systems Strengthening by World Health Organization (2009) is a fairly well written guide to help selecting the appropriate and capable NGOs. It says:

* Hiring from within the community and providing staff members with ongoing educational, training and mentorship opportunities are also important ways that NGOs can build sustainable workforce capacity.
* NGOs will engage in hiring practices that ensure long-term health system sustainability.
* NGOs will enact employee compensation practices that strengthen the public sector.
* NGOs pledge to create and maintain human resources training and support systems that are good for the countries where they work.
* NGOs will minimize the NGO management burden for ministries.
* NGOs will support Ministries of Health as they engage with communities.
* NGOs will advocate for policies that promote and support the public sector.

1. **In term of training**

* Task-shifting programs that train Community Health Workers (CHWs) to perform specific tasks or procedures typically performed by doctors or nurses can also strengthen local capacity.
* Partners in Health collaborates with the MOH to ensure that its training programs focus on the skills and knowledge the government requires for CHWs.
* While financial incentives are only one component necessary for building HR capacity, NGOs can provide salary top-ups or cover funding gaps for government counterparts to help harmonize salaries between NGOs and public sector employees.
* Hiring from within the community and providing staff members with ongoing educational, training and mentorship opportunities are also important ways that NGOs can build sustainable workforce capacity.
* Governments should include engineers and technology professionals in their human resource plans, not just doctors and nurses, because their technical expertise is necessary for constructing IT networks, valuable buildings and maintaining medical equipment.
* Large infrastructure projects require strong partnerships between the government, NGOs, and civil society. NGOs should work to support the capacity of the MOH, and local communities must also be involved in decisions.
* NGOs should work with local health system officials to transfer the knowledge and skills necessary to provide the long term support necessary to maintain most infrastructure projects.
* Time for training staff members on should be accounted for early on in budgets and project plans.
* When budgeting and working with donors, NGOs should include funding for upkeep and upgrading of facilities, and strive to improve the public sector buildings where they work. One Health Alliance International Preventing Mother-to-child Transmission program in Mozambique was able to rehab entire health centers, not just antenatal care sections, by working with donors this way.
* Providing care in a resource-limited setting shouldn’t be an excuse for “small thinking.” Through partnerships, governments and NGOs should encourage each other to innovate and dream big.

1. **In term of Funding**

* NGOs besides offering financial benefits, represents a more attractive incentive which is the transfer of technical knowledge between partners.
* Priority setting, and knowledge translation to action.
* They have a key role in stewardship (promoting and advocating for relevant global health research), resource mobilization for research,
* Utilization and management of knowledge, and capacity development. Yet, typically, the involvement of NGOs in research is downstream from knowledge production and it usually takes the form of a partnership with universities or dedicated research agencies.

1. **In term of Monitoring**

* "Complement and supplement service delivery (ensuring quality, improving utilization, and through innovation); advocacy to influence policy; and capacity building of human resource"
* Structure: how many and how much resources are in command in the country;
* Space: how much social, cultural, ethical and economic space do the NGOs enjoy;
* Values: what kind of values are promoted by the NGOs;
* Impact: what has been its impact in the past*"*