

BUILDING COMMUNITY CAPACITIES ON IWRM

Final Report

Submitted to
India Water Partnership
Institute for Human Development
NIDM Building, IIPA Campus, IP Estate, MG Marg
New Delhi – 110002

Submitted by
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Acknowledgement

Development Alternatives is grateful to India Water Partnership for giving us the opportunity to work on this project. This work would not be possible without the help Dr. Veena Khanduri in facilitating the process. It was a pleasure working on the project.

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We would especially like to make a mention of our community mobilisers who were part of capacity building process and have shared their insights about the ground processes.

Our heartfelt thanks to everyone involved in the project for their enriching inputs to the project. We look forward to a long and fruitful association.

---The DA Team

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Executive Summary

Water is a very precious resource. In India over 170 million people do not have access to safe drinking water¹. Only 24 per cent of the total population is served by a household connection. While efforts have been made in improving water supply in both urban and rural areas and water may be safe at the point of treatment or distribution, this water is subject to frequent and substantial microbial contamination by the time it is ultimately consumed².

The poor in slum areas are vulnerable to health risks as a consequence of living in a degraded environment, inaccessibility to health care, irregular employment, widespread illiteracy and lack of negotiating capacity to demand better services. The Planning Commission of India has estimated that each year, between 400,000 and 500,000 Indian children, under age five, die of diarrhoeal disease³. Thus, addressing the widespread problem of microbial contamination as a priority can have far reaching effects in reducing waterborne diseases, child mortality and overall well-being of the masses.

It was realized that there is a need to enable end users to take informed decisions about their water treatment and management. This knowledge gap can be filled by community mobilization. During the course of the project from April to June 2012, Development Alternatives aimed at filling this knowledge gap by providing information and building capacities of end users about the various Household Water Treatment and Safe Storage Methods. Around 50 Community mobilisers from different slums of Delhi were mobilised and trained through interactive training methodology.. The training material was prepared simple and crisp keeping in my mind their knowledge so that this can facilitate the process. These mobilisers were to act as change makers within the

¹ <http://www.wateraid.org>

² Wright J. et al. (2004) ' Household drinking water in developing countries: a systematic review of microbiological contamination between source and point of use.' *Tropical Medicine and International Health* 9(1): 106-17

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community who will create awareness in their community as well as motivate the community to take on Household Water Treatment and Safe Storage (HWTS) methods.

Project Overview

The project aims to fill the knowledge gap of the end users to take informed decisions about their water treatment and management. This knowledge gap can be filled by community mobilization and capacity building. In this regard, DA develops the capacity and capability within a community to generate and sustain good health practices. Community mobilisers trained under this programme will act as change makers within the community to introduce and exchange new ideas and to strengthen community involvement in dissemination of Household Water Treatment and Safe Storage (HWTS) methods.

The project aims to:

- Create awareness about water resource management through community mobilization
- Create a cadre of community mobilisers to communicate to communities
- Raise funds to promote and sustain these activities

This was with special emphasis on Household Treatment and Safe Storage (HWTS) systems to ensure water security for the communities. Youth and women in urban slum areas were primarily targeted under this project. The target for intensive interventions under the project was urban slums and other poor habitations in the Delhi National Capital Region (NCR) of India.

Activities Undertaken under the Project

Formalizing partnerships

In order to conduct trainings for mobilisers, NGOs working in the urban slums were identified. Efforts were made to cover a wide geographical coverage. Formal agreements were made with these NGOs. Community mobilisers (mainly women and youth) from the selected NGOs were trained under this programme. These mobilisers were already working in urban slums with NGO partners. The trainings were to build and enhance their capacities to communicate the need for integrated water resource management in terms of treatment, handling and storage.

Community Mobilisers Training Manual

A training manual was designed for the community mobilisers. This manual contains basic information about the need and importance of safe drinking water, sources of contamination of water, ways of treat water at household level and basics of safe storage and sanitation. The manual was provided to them during the training so that they can use it further and refer to it while working with the community. The soft copy of the training manual is enclosed here with the report.

Training Programme

Community mobilisers were selected from the slums across Delhi. The community mobilisers majorly include women and youth. A one-day training program was designed to build the capacities of the community mobilisers on Household Water Treatment and Safe Storage (HWTS) methods.

In each training 17-20 community mobilisers were targeted and interactive medium such as group discussion, power point presentation, movies and live demonstration were used as tools for the training.

The first session of the training focussed on need and importance of safe drinking water, impact of drinking contaminated water on health and slight information on water testing. The second session was an interactive session to know the present

level of understanding about the household water treatment methods. These community mobilisers were then provided detailed information about all the methods of water treatment along with the do's and do not's of each method. The third session of the training focussed on methods of safe storage, need and importance of sanitation and hand washing. The mode of communication in this session was majorly films. In the training a session on communication was designed in which the mobilisers were trained on effective ways of communicating with the community. The agenda of the training is enclosed with the report.

At the end of the training programme, certificates were distributed among the community mobilisers and also an aqua check vial was given to them so that they can check the quality of water they are consuming. An interactive session was organised to inform them about the expectation we have from them.

Glimpses of Training Programme



***Certificate Distribution among
Community Mobilisers***



***Interactive Session with
the Community Mobilisers***



Training to Community Mobilisers

Learnings

- Most of the community mobilisers had the knowledge about the Household Water Treatment Methods through programs of Government and Civil Society Organisations but the mobilisers lack the information about the accurate procedure of these methods. Training should stress on the accurate procedure as well as Do's and Don'ts of the household water treatment methods.
- To create effective awareness about HWTS in the community there is a need to relate the message of safe drinking water with health. That's why last sessions was incorporated on the ways and messages used for communicating in the community. It was realized that more focus should be put on this session as this was the most useful session from the perspective of community mobilisers.
- There is a need to sensitize mobilisers about safe storage component because after treating if water is not stored properly this can lead to secondary contamination of water.
- In order to build the capacities of the mobilisers interactive mediums should be used. The best and most effective medium to train people is through videos and live demonstrations.
- While providing training the trainer needs to empathise with the problems faced by the mobilisers while working in the community and practical solutions should be recommended to them. For e.g. In slums most of the families, all the members work they cannot do SODIS so they can motivate some women who stays at home to do SODIS for them and they can pay them some amount in return.
- The training should encourage community mobilisers to motivate the community to maintain proper hygiene in their community as improper disposal of waste, feces will lead to unclean surrounding which can lead to many diseases as well as secondary contamination of water.
- Other than mobilizing and training community mobilisers some traditional methods need to be done at community level such as creating awareness through nukkad natak, posters and drawing, slogan writing competitions. If it can be done through radio programs, cable operators, print media, the message reaches very fast.

Awareness through various medium, if done simultaneously, proves to be very effective.

Way Forward

The learnings of this phase need to be incorporated for the future trainings on Household Water Treatment and Safe Storage. As Household Water Treatment and Safe Storage (HWTS) methods are one of the effective ways through which people can have access to safe drinking water. Promoting HWTS helps vulnerable populations to take charge of their own water security by providing them with the knowledge and tools to treat their own drinking water. There is still a need to train more community mobilisers as still the number and reach is very limited. While this projects ends, but Development Alternatives will keep on building the capacities of the community mobilisers on HWTS.

Annexure

- Training Manual on Household Water Treatment and Safe Storage
- Agenda of the community mobilization training

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