Community Empowerment

Nowahatti, BANGLADESH

Improved Health, Changed Behaviour

Water Safety Plans Deliver...

Water safety, leading to:

- Poverty reduction through improved confidence to participate in water supply decision-making and deal with improvements in water safety in his village, and much less sickness in his family.

- Children miss school less; improved school attendance.
- Better knowledge about safe water and sanitation and hygiene processes; improved community health.
- Higher productivity (e.g. man hours saved, reduced absences from work due to illness).
- Increased confidence in the water supply system.
- Stronger sense of ownership; people take pride in their water supply.
- Better knowledge about safe water practices, particularly household water treatment and storage.
- Consumer satisfaction has increased, and the local public health officer considers Amarapuri to be “waterborne disease-free”. Members of the users’ group hold regular workshops for local communities.
- Improved access to safe water.
- Less expenditure on medicines and medical care; healthier community.
- Higher productivity (e.g. man hours saved, reduced absences from work).

CONSUMER GROUPS

- Better knowledge about safe water practices.
- Improved education outcomes
- Increased confidence in the water supply system.

CONSUMERS / HOUSEHOLDORS

- Safer water, leading to:
- Improved access to clean water.
- Reduced disease burden.
- Increased community health.
- Improved community hygiene.
- Reduced risk of waterborne diseases.

Community Empowerment

Amarapuri, NEPAL

Better knowledge about safe water processes; improved community sanitation and hygiene

Better health

Higher productivity

Less expenditure on clinics and medicines

Children miss school less; improved education outcomes

Better knowledge about safe water practices, particularly household water treatment and storage

Increased confidence in the water supply system

Amarapuri’s water supply serves 1530 households, and is managed by a Water Users’ Group. In 2010, a water safety plan was developed, and the users’ group quickly realized what a powerful tool this could be. They used the process to improve water supply management, operations and quality. Consumer satisfaction has increased, and the local health officer considers Amarapuri to be “waterborne disease-free”. Members of the users’ group hold regular workshops for local people on safe water storage and handling. The users’ group was very active in making Amarapuri Open Defecation Free (ODF). It manages the water supply confidently, and is respected in the community.

Better sense of ownership; partnership in monitoring, review and improvement

Confidence to participate in water supply decision-making and deal with other stakeholders, particularly local government

Poverty reduction through improved community health

Connecting and Getting More Information

WSP manuals and technical and health information: www.who.int/water_sanitation_health/Roadmap
Asia-Pacific Water Safety Plan Network: www.wsportal.org/apasafecity
WSP Road Map: www.who.int/water_sanitation_health/WSPRoadMap

Your Next Step

WATER SUPPLIERS

Use the water safety plan materials to help you in awareness-raising and surveillance, both to support communities and to influence your ministry.

Your role in surveillance is a key part of water safety planning, and helps ensure that improvements in water quality are sustainable.

HEALTH PROVIDERS

You may be supporting any of the groups above, and can encourage them to use water safety plans as a way of achieving their goals. The process of developing water safety plans brings together many stakeholders and contributes in multi-dimensional ways to better water services and better health.

ACADEMIC INSTITUTIONS

Ensure that water safety plans become standard practice by including them in your curricula, providing training as part of continuing professional development and continuing to research their impacts.

This will ensure that the water sector is characterized by analytical risk-based thinking and improved decision-making in planning and budgeting for water safety.

With the Sustainable Development Goals focusing more on improving the quality, as well as accessibility, of drinking water (both in and outside the home), water safety planning will become even more important.

World Health Organization – South-East Asia Regional Office (SEARO)
Indraprastha Estate, Mahatma Gandhi Marg, New Delhi 110 002, India
Web: www.searo.who.int  Phone:+91 11 2337 0804

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World Health Organization – South-East Asia Regional Office (SEARO)
Water Safety Plans Defined

Around the world, 750 million people still lack access to safe water. Even in highly industrialized countries, there are sometimes major problems with drinking water quality. A water distribution system is very efficient at moving pathogens to large numbers of people! Around the world, 750 million people still lack access to safe water. Even in highly industrialized countries, there are sometimes major problems with drinking water quality. A water distribution system is very efficient at moving pathogens to large numbers of people!

One way to ensure water quality is to fix problems before they become problems. This is done by identifying hazardous events and assessing their risks from catchment to point of use, and dealing with them before they become problems. It does this by:

- Identifying hazardous events and assessing their risks from catchment to point of use
- Prioritizing the risks, and then focusing on the highest risks
- Providing a tool to manage the risks, using barriers to stop contamination of water

Water safety plans can be developed for all contexts, from small, simple village water systems to large, complex metropolitan systems. The risk management approach is accessible for professionals and technicians from the basic water supply sectors, and for NGO staff, lay people and community members. In fact, the process of working together is a strong feature of water safety planning, and one of its key benefits.

Developing a water safety plan involves bringing together an interdisciplinary group of professionals, technicians and stakeholders, who get to know the water system thoroughly, and work out reliable, realistic and responsible ways to make sure the system works as it should. A good water safety plan will ensure that processes are in place to:

- Prevent contamination at the source
- Remove or reduce contamination by treatment
- Prevent re-contamination in distribution and handling

Water Safety Plans Developed

PHASES:

Phase I, 2005–2009: Piloting water safety plans and setting foundations
Phase II, 2010–2011: Scaling up water safety plans
Phase III, 2011–2016: Consolidating water safety plans for sustainability

Water Safety Plans Deliver...

- Better Business for Water Suppliers
  - Nagpur, INDIA
  - Better Business for Water Suppliers
  - Nagpur, INDIA

- Local to National Scale-up
  - Thimphu, BHUTAN

- Local to National Scale-up
  - Thimphu, BHUTAN

Water safety plans have informed Nagpur Municipal Corporation and Orange City Water (operators of the system) of the main risks to water quality, enabling them to upgrade water quality protection. Standard operating procedures have been developed, and systematic training has resulted in an informed, dynamic and engaged staff with commitment to improved performance. Water service revenues are being allocated to maintenance and investment in water and sanitation services, giving stability to future funding. The water safety plan works with the non-revenue water project to create a more cost-effective water supply.

List of Tables:

- Total population served by systems with WSPs
  - Urban: 35
  - Rural: 96

List of Figures:

- Water Safety Plans Defined
- Water Safety Plans Developed
- Water Safety Plans Deliver...