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Have story ideas for the RWSSP News Brief?

Send your suggestions, photos or other thoughts to us via email at pcu@rwssp.org.vn

Workshop on “Improving the effectiveness of IEC/BCC for Water, Sanitation and Hygiene in Vietnam”

On 5 August 2009, a workshop was held on “Improving the effectiveness of IEC/BCC for Water, Sanitation and Hygiene in Vietnam,” in Do Son, Hai Phong City by the Rural Water Supply and Sanitation Partnership (RWSSP) Coordination Unit, Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development (MARD) in collaboration with the National Centre for Rural Water Supply and Sanitation (NCERWASS) and the United Nations International Children’s Fund (UNICEF).



The participants listened to presentations on topics such as the National Target Program II (RWSS NTPII) IEC Action Plan, community participatory methods such as Participatory Hygiene and Sanitation Transformation (PHAST) and Community-Led Total Sanitation (CLTS), social marketing activities, IEC/BCC activities for ethnic minority groups such as Hmong and Gia Rai; and WASH as it relates to child survival. They also had an opportunity to share recently developed WASH IEC materials, and discuss and make recommendations for IEC effectiveness at the workshop. This way of information sharing is strongly supported by the participants. The workshop recommendations (on i. policy, coordination, ii. IEC effectiveness, iii. Information/experience sharing opportunities) will now be taken into consideration by donors and key implementers of the NTP II and other programs. The IEC workshop was attended by representatives from line ministries of the Government of Vietnam, donors, international non-government organizations, mass organizations, research institutions and the private sector.

RURAL WATER SUPPLY AND SANITATION PARTNERSHIP

News from the Coordination Unit (cont.)

Promotion of the sanitation working group establishment (SWG)

On 20/8/2009, in Hanoi, the Preventive Medicine and Environment Dept/Ministry of Health (MOH) in collaboration with the RWSSP CU/MARD organized a consultative meeting on the activities under the sanitation component of RWSS NTP II and further discussion and agreement of the SWG establishment.

The meeting was attended by representatives from the following ministries and organizations: MOH, MARD, Ministry of Education and Training (MOET), Vietnam Women's Union, UNICEF, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Denmark (DANIDA), Australian Agency for International Development (AusAID), Netherlands Development Organisation (SNV), International Development Enterprises (IDE), UK Department for International Development (DFID), Plan International, and CARE.

At the meeting, participants commented on the sanitation activities presented by the Preventive Medicine and Environment Dept., and agreed to propose the Preventive Medicine and Environment Dept/MOH to issue the SWG establishment decision. This proposal was endorsed by the Department's leaders.

News from the members and partners in RWSS

Development of latrine design standards for pupils with disability

From 1st to 2nd July 2009, in Hanoi, MOET in collaboration with UNICEF organized the workshop on "Assessment and consultation on the latrine design standards issued by MOET in March 2008 and discussion on development of latrine design standards for pupils with disability".

The meeting was attended by representatives from the RWSS NTP II SO, Preventive Medicine and Environment Dept/MOH, NCERWASS/MARD, Departments of Education and Training and Centres of Preventive Medicine from 13 provinces who have applied the newly issued latrine design standards for kindergartens, primary and secondary schools.

On the basis of the comments, MOET requested the School design research Institute to modify the latrine design standards in terms of architecture, structure, water supply and sewage, estimate cost and explanation.

Source: Nguyen Thi Son, Students' affairs Department, MOET



School latrine – RWSS NTP II, August, 2009. Photo by: Le Thi Thanh Xuan, SANIVAT

Training workshop on Strengthening National Monitoring of Drinking Water Supply and Sanitation Targets

From 29 to 31 July 2009, the Preventive Medicine and Environment Dept/MOH in collaboration with WHO, UNICEF organized a training workshop on strengthening the water supply and sanitation monitoring for related ministries, agencies and institutions. Through the workshop, the participants accessed to the concept of WHO/UNICEF Joint Monitoring Program (JMP) on how to identify the coverage of water supply and sanitation, to discuss mechanisms of co-ordination among ministries and between national monitoring system and JPM.

RURAL WATER SUPPLY AND SANITATION PARTNERSHIP

News from the members and partners in RWSS (cont.)

The meeting was attended by leaders of the Preventive Medicine and Environment Dept, representatives from ministries, agencies, associations and institutions related to water supply and sanitation, staff from the Departments of Preventive Medicine from provinces, representatives from different areas and regions throughout the country and institutes. At the workshop, all participants listened to presentations on M&E systems and JMP approach by WHO international consultants, comparison of existing different methodologies applied in Vietnam and increased understanding the urgent needs of reliable data on the sector. By the end of the workshop, the leaders from the Preventive Medicine and Environment Dept/MOH highly appreciated the JMP approach; however, pointed out that it is necessary to establish an inter-ministerial working group to further suggest and identify monitoring and evaluation approaches for the sector in the short coming time. *Source: Nguyen Thi Hong Diem, Preventive Medicine and Environment Dept/MOH.*

Decision on revising the monitoring and evaluation indicators set for RWSS sector

On 31st August 2009, the Minister of MARD issued the Decision no. 2444/QĐ-BNN-TL on revising the monitoring and evaluation indicator set for the RWSS sector. According to the Decision, the indicators of 2, 3B, 4B, 5B in the RWSS monitoring and evaluation indicator set issued at the Decision no. 51/QĐ-BNN-TL by MARD on 14/4/2008 are to be in line with the Circular no.05/2009/TT-BYT by MOH on 17/6/2009 on national domestic water quality standards – QCVN02:2009/BYT. *Source: MARD, Decision no. 2444/QĐ-BNN-TL on 31/8/2009*

Workshop on “Hygiene for community health protection – for a healthy Vietnam”



On 19/8/2009, the Preventive Medicine and Environment Dept/MOH in collaboration with Unilever Foundation organized a workshop to share experience on “Hygiene for community health protection – for a healthy Vietnam”. This activity is under the cooperation framework to improve quality of living environment and community health care.

The workshop was attended by representatives from the Preventive Medicine and Environment Dept., Unilever Foundation, MARD, National Institute of Hygiene and Epidemiology, Women’s Union,

provincial agencies and international organizations. The participants listened to presentations by WHO, Nursery Education Dept/MOET, Ninh Binh provincial women’s union and comment by Dr. Rajan Raghavachari, an Indian researcher. At the workshop, constraints and difficulties in implementing activities on improving hygiene and sanitation awareness were presented. At the end of the workshop, the participants showed their determination to further mobilize resources and strengthen IEC for local people, and gradually establish good hygienic habits via a specific and practical action plan. Specifically, the Nursery Education Dept/MOET would do IEC for schools, households and society for child hygiene care and education. With the importance of IEC in mind, Ninh Binh provincial women’s union will conduct a sustainable communication program covering 100% of the commune and face to face communication with all of the local people to ensure that the information is strongly effective in establishing the daily habit of washing hands with soap. *Source: Nguyen Thi Hong Diem, Preventive Medicine and Environment Dept/MOH*

DEMAND FOR RESEARCH - APPLICATION on rural water supply and sanitation

The RWSS NTP II, MARD now has demand for applied research/study on rural water supply and sanitation. Quality and effective proposals/projects will be selected for implementation with financial support of Governments of Denmark and Australia. The Standing Office for NTP II hereby call s interested institutions/individuals to make proposals. Time for receiving proposals: From the advertisement to the end of June 2010, proposals will be reviewed every 6 month s. For first round of selection, only proposals sent in within 01 month since the advertisement date (on 25, 26, 27 August 2009) will be considered. *Please see detail at <http://www.rwssp.org.vn>*

RURAL WATER SUPPLY AND SANITATION PARTNERSHIP

News from the members and partners in RWSS (cont.)

WATER SUPPLY, SANITATION, HYGIENE PROMOTION AND HEALTH IN VIETNAM (SANIVAT PROJECT)

“Impact assessment of water supply, sanitation and hygiene improvement on health of Lao Cai local people” - SANIVAT is a DANIDA-funded project that supports research in health impacts of water, sanitation and hygiene interventions and how people perceive hygiene, health risks and different types of hygiene promotion. The interventions are provided under the RWSS NTP as well as by other donor supports.

SANIVAT involves key Vietnamese and Danish institutions doing research on health and hygiene aspects, including the National Institute of Hygiene and Epidemiology, National Institute of Occupational and Environmental Health, National Institute of Nutrition, Hanoi Medical University and University of Copenhagen. The project also aims to build capacity in relevant national institutions to conduct risk assessment and perception studies on human health and hygiene aspects relating to WASH. This is realised through a number of field researches as well as PhD studies conducted by the researchers from SANIVAT partners. The studies focus on a wide range of health and hygiene issues, including the occurrence of diarrhoea diseases among children under 5 years old, microbiological quality of household drinking water, hygiene aspects of food safety and food handling at a household level, helminth infection in school children, and hygiene practices and perceptions in school children and the community. All of these studies are on going with the field research activities taken place in Lao Cai province, one of the 9 pilot provinces of the RWSS-NTPII. The two rural communes Ta Phoi and Hop Thanh of Lao Cai city have been selected as the project study areas where all of the RWSS -NTPII intervention activities within water supply and sanitation have been implemented. *Further details at: www.sanivat.com.vn.*



Children from T Phoi commune bathing at a ditch near their houses. By: Louise Ladefoged, PhD student

Safe Water and Sanitation Still Out of Reach for Billions

This month in Stockholm at World Water Week (16-22 August 2009), hundreds of water, sanitation and hygiene professionals placed the spotlight on water and sanitation issues, hoping to find answers that reduce the millions of annual deaths and instances of illness, and billions of dollars in annual economic losses caused from poor water and sanitation.

One area of intervention is providing water and sanitation services for poor people living in urban areas, who comprise more than 70 percent of the urban population in developing countries. This is a growing concern because of rapid urbanization in many of these countries. In *Guidance Notes on Water and Sanitation Services for the Urban Poor*, the Water and Sanitation Program (WSP) believes that some of the answers we and our partners derived from case studies of developing countries around the world will contribute to identifying solutions at Stockholm and beyond. The studies from Bangladesh, Brazil, Honduras, India, Kenya, Pakistan, Peru, the Philippines, Senegal, Tanzania, Uganda and Zambia demonstrate that the issues go well beyond basic investments in infrastructure to underlying systems of affordable, hygienic and sustainable service delivery. *Source: Ms. Jae So, Manager, Water and Sanitation Program, World Bank*

Up coming events

- 🔥 Round table on “Output based aids – Global Partnership of Output-Based Aid”, Hà Nội, 1/9/2009.
- 🔥 Consultative workshop “Sustainability of rural sanitation marketing in Việt Nam”, Hà Nội, 8/9/2009.
- 🔥 Workshop on IEC for hygiene behavior change under the RWSS Red River Delta project”, Hà Nội, 11-12/9/2009.