



Introduction

Community Led Total Sanitation (CLTS) is a new sanitation promotion methodology that in recent years has produced remarkable successes in changing sanitation behaviours, across several developing countries. First introduced by Kamal Kar in Bangladesh with Plan International NGO, it has very quickly taken the sanitation sector by storm, enabling millennium goals on sanitation to be more realistically reached by 2015. Very quickly, international NGOs have seized upon the impact and results, and have incorporated the very simple and quick methodology into country programmes. In Papua New Guinea, the methodology has already been trialled by Oxfam International in 2008, and ChildFund PNG and Live and Learn in 2009, with promising results in three different PNG cultures.

Fast Impact and results

In the Western Highlands, Oxfam International managed to completely change a community's sanitation behaviour in only two weeks. The community, previously had eleven latrines for sixty-one house-holds, but now boasts non-open defecation at all sixty-one house-holds. This was achieved with zero materials subsidies. Similar impact can be achieved throughout PNG.

Methodology

The methodology is quite rapid and can be completed in as little as 3 to 4 hours. It uses PRA tools to create a moment of collective community awareness;

- Arrival and transect walk of defecation sites and existing latrines
- Calling a spontaneous community meeting and explanation of objective
- Community mapping exercise involving as many households and family members as possible, and identification by community members of individual defecation sites
- Analysis of recurring medical costs associated with diarrhoeal diseases
- Faecal oral transmission and realisation exercise leading to an 'ignition moment'
- Community action plan and construction of latrines

At the point where the community has completed the initial community action plan, it is usual for the NSA to allow the emerging motivation to develop in the community's own time.



Community members engaging in mapping activity

Follow-up support and technical advice includes an explanation or demonstration of available sanitation options for the community. This can occur immediately following the CLTS activities, or at an agreed later visit by the NSA.

Improving Health through the provision of latrines

Although CLTS had only been implemented on a few occasions in PNG, the benefits to NSAs using the methodology is already quite clear. As a stand-alone exercise, CLTS achieves improved latrines as a central output. By design it can shame individuals into taking responsibility for their own health and allows the NSA to expect a heavy reliance by the community to change its own hygiene practice and behaviour. An additional advantage of using the CLTS is that the community gains trust with the NSA, and can experience physical growth and development. This is likely to pave the way for more community action and ownership of further water and sanitation interventions. The latrine as an output of CLTS removes an expected output from the PHAST methodology, so it is useful to use CLTS before attempting PHAST. This allows communities to prioritise other sanitation needs such as hand wash, water storage & handling, solid-waste-management, fencing of animals.



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