

Introduction

Collection of Significant Change stories is a means to measure project success by stories rather than indicators. Stories are about important or significant changes - they give a rich picture of the impact of development work and provide the basis for dialogue over key objectives and values of development programmes.

Significant Change can be understood by the metaphor of a newspaper, which picks out the most interesting or significant story from the wide range of events and background details that it could draw on.



How to do

The stories are collected by asking a simple question such as: 'What was the most significant change that took place for participants as a result of water being made available in the village?'

It is useful to collect stories around different themes. The themes might include hygiene practice; village cleanliness; regular laundry; women's workload; personal hygiene; washing utensils; disease; time; convenience and improved living standards.

Do record the name of the person, age, sex, location and if possible an image.

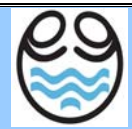


Quantification included in the stories and the extent to which the most significant changes identified in one location have taken place in other locations within a time period. Type the story using the language used and do not edit.

Conclusions

RWSSP would like each NSA to supply at least one Significant Change story for each scheme to the PMU.

This will help with overall impact measurement and provide material for use in reporting and help in the assessing programme performance.



Examples

Below are some examples collected from Phase 1 to show the kind of words collected.

Lydia

**Ilahup, Maprik. East Sepik
Aged 24 married with 3 children.**

“I’m from Illaita Village, the village down the road where you came. But I came and got married here. When I first came, getting water was a laborious job for especially us women and our daughters, because we would go up into the bush back there and fetch water from underground sources and then walk all the way back to our houses. Its not close...its quite far and the track is rough. But we did it everyday because we have to cook and wash our plates and cups and also our children. It was very hard. But now that you people have given us these tanks, we are able to fetch water for cooking and drinking and even washing. It’s a lot easier for us now and we are very happy. I’m even happier to be married here as back in my village we have problems collecting water. SSEC has made it easier for us here in Ilahup”

Michael Sai Aiyayok, Bulolo, Morobe

Michael is a member of the WatSan committee in this village. This is the first project to be completed by ADRA PNG under this UE funded rural water supply and sanitation programme. He is married with three children – 1 girl and 2 boys. I have lived here since my mother gave birth to me. I then moved to Port Moresby and lived there for 10 years and then returned to my village. Since then am happily living in my community. When news reached me that ADRAPNG will install a water supply system in my village I was excited. It was sheer excitement that got me heavily involved in this project. From the time when ADRA technical officers came to do a feasibility study. I have contributed cash and also labor. More to that I have been entrusted with the responsibility to over village cleanliness through the health training as part of the WatSan committee roles and

responsibilities. My role is to encourage people to contribute and ensure the pipes and extensions well secured. Most times what I say fall on deaf ears.

Currently I am the committee responsible for water supply but the committee seems to be very weak and do not respond or cooperate. That alone has been the set back to this project. Otherwise the benefits of this project are huge.

Some of the very important change is having seen in this community as results of this project are:

- It has reduced the walking distance to the nearest water source*
- Women are doing laundry regularly*
- Eating utensils are being washed daily*
- We are taking baths daily after a hard days work which is very important to all of us.*

The most important change I feel is bathing. Previously before the water supply we only take shower on Sundays to go to church as there is no water nearby, but now we have access to it 24 hours and we take bath whenever we feel like. That alone I think is the most significant change for me. This has helped me feel better, stronger and healthier after taking a good shower, I feel relaxed and relieved after a hard days work in my yam gardens.

The benefits mentioned here is not only for me but I think the whole project beneficiaries will agree with me that this are the changes we are beginning to see in our households and the community as a whole.

One of the things that put me off is when I see the houses covered in bushes and no one dares to clean them up. This is a very good project that is benefiting all so us but the community is very reluctant to contribute money for maintenance at the moment but am sure they will still contribute. In the first year of the project, they did not thing about maintenance, if the same happens in the second year, I will put the system off and ensure they don’t get water.



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