Water Safety Plans Deliver...

...Improved Health, Changed Behaviour

Nowahatti, BANGLADESH

...Improved Health, Changed Behaviour

Safer water, leading to:

- Poverty reduction through improved community health
- Better health
- Confidence to participate in water supply decision-making and deal with other stakeholders, particularly local government
- Poverty reduction through improved community health

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 realised 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 users on safe water storage and handling.

Badal Muslim never thought much about how clean his family’s water was. Their tube well was not maintained, and their frequent illnesses were a financial burden. Children (missed school; adults were often too sick to work properly. But when a water safety plan programme was launched, Badal was trained in the importance of safe water and how water can become unsafe, as well as how to repair and maintain tube wells. Badal has now cleaned up the area around his well and repaired the platform. He often stands there in the morning, suggesting that people clean their hands and pots before taking water, and cover the vessels as they carry them home. His proactivity has seen big improvements in water safety in his village, and much less sickness in his family.

Babies are now cleaned up the area around their well, and are much less sickness in the community.

Amarapuri Open Defecation Free (ODF). It now cleans up the area around his well, and repaired the platform. He...
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!

Water Safety Plans Defined

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 realistic, 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.

Developing a water safety plan involves:

- Identifying hazardous events and assessing their risks from catchment to customer;
- Prioritising 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 technocrats from the basic to the complex water supply sectors, and for INGO 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.

Water Safety Plan Process

The water safety plan process in the small town of Tsirang, Bhutan illustrated the benefits of bringing stakeholders together. A comprehensive response brought a strong commitment to implement water safety plans in order to compete for further funding. The water safety plan works in practice that the Government quickly recognized were applicable across the country. Analysis of support from multi-lateral and bi-lateral donors has resulted in an informed, dynamic risk-based regulatory agenda, improved communication and coordination with stakeholders, greater confidence in the quality of water provided.

Water Safety Plans Developed

WHERE:

- Intensive support: Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Indonesia, Myanmar, Nepal, Sri Lanka, Timor-Leste
- Less intensive support: Democratic People’s Republic of Korea, Maldives, Thailand

PHASES:

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

Water Safety Plans Deliver...

- Better Business for Water Suppliers
- Donors / Government

...TO PROVIDE SAFE WATER HERE...