

FACILITATOR NOTES

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOAL THEME: WATER, HEALTH AND SANITATION

Setting the Context (4 minutes):

Diarrhoea is one of the leading causes of worldwide death among children under five. Every year diarrhoea kills around 760 000 children.

Tragically, many of these deaths are preventable. There are strong links between the practice of defecating in open spaces (ie in nearby fields) and the spread of diarrhoeal disease and contaminated water sources. For this reason – stopping the practice is important.

Studies also show that washing hands with soap can reduce diarrhoeal disease rates by up to 50 per cent. This makes hand washing with soap one of the most cost-effective interventions for reducing illness and preventable deaths among children.

Pre-activity (3 minutes):

Explanation for facilitator: The Sanitation Ladder is used by development agencies to plot the steps that can be taken to achieve safe sanitation practices in communities around the world.

Ask the students to place the steps in what they believe are the correct order. **See complete ladder to guide students.**

Activity 1 (5 minutes):

Explanation for teachers

The students are given a development scenario (right) where they've installed some pit toilets in a rural, coastal community in PNG. However, whilst the community embraced the installation of piped water a few years earlier, they are less keen about the toilets. The point of this exercise is to encourage students to gain insight into the point of view of the local community and understand the complexities of international development.

Activity

- 1) Ask one of the students to read the Development Scenario above.
- 2) Show photos of the village and the traditional toilets.
- 3) Hand out paper and ask your group to consider the following key question:

Key Question: "Why would a community be resistant to using a new pit toilet?"

- 4) Ask students to write some possible answers on the butcher's paper

Development Scenario (also printed on students instructions)

A local village in Papua New Guinea has traditionally used 'over hang' toilets into the ocean in their coastal village. The community have agreed to move away from that practice as it is polluting their coastline and important food sources.

Through a local Water and Sanitation program they received three pit toilets for their village. There is a tap outside the toilets with space for soap.

Whilst the community embraced the implementation of taps and a gravity fed water system a few years back, they are not using the toilets as expected and no one seems to be buying or using the soap – the containers are empty.

Activity 2 Role Play (5 minutes):

1) Give out 5 role play cards. Select 5 students to read aloud their character's concerns.

The role play cards

- I am a woman who is required to clean these new toilets. This is making extra work for me, and I can't stand the smell.
- I am a teenage girl. When you go to the toilet everyone knows what you are doing – they may laugh when I come out. I prefer to sneak off by myself.
- I am a mother – I will not let my toddlers walk all the way to those toilets and I'm too busy to take them all the time. It is better that they go in the garden near our house – they are safe then and I can see them.
- I am a farmer – I have no time to be walking back to these toilets – and they smell bad. Far better for me to go in the field, that wastes no time.
- I am old. I am very happy we now have taps of clean water in our village because I no longer have to walk far to collect water. But the soap is not necessary to me – why spend extra money on soap?

Note - there are no easy solutions to these problems – they are all valid concerns. It would be very different if every community around the world had the wealth and infrastructure to implement household toilets with sewage systems!

Activity 3 (3 minutes):

- 2) Now that the students have listened to the characters and understand their perspectives, ask the group to re-write their answers to the key question on the butcher's paper.**
- 3) Compare the two sets of answers – are they different?**

Post Activity Discussion (5 minutes):

A strong community development approach makes sure all members of the community are listened to and their concerns taken into consideration.

Likewise, research suggests the best way to encourage use of toilets is to ensure the whole community understands the underlying reasons fixed point toilet use help stem the flow of disease - because it won't always be convenient or easy for the community to change their behaviour.

- 1) Ask the students to watch this short video about a current methodology being used to change behaviours about open defecation. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=v031PPjRVNM>
- 2) If the video doesn't work, read out this short explanation.
Community-Led Total Sanitation focuses on igniting a change in behaviour rather than just constructing toilets. It does this through a process of social awakening that's stimulated (usually with a lot of energy!) by people within or even outside the community. This process concentrates on the whole community rather than on individual behaviours. People decide together how they will create a clean and hygienic environment that benefits everyone.

Resources needed for this Activity Station

Laminated Sanitation Ladder in 6 pieces

Laminated photos

5 Laminated Role Play cards

Butcher's paper and marker pens

