



ISO 9001:2008 CERTIFIED

Water Sector Trust Fund

Programme for Public Meetings

(SafiSan Baraza Shows & SafiSan Mini fairs)

Topic: *Contributions that can be made by the Public Health Officer (PHO) within the SafiSan Programme*

1. How the Public Health Officer can contribute to the impact and success of the important SafiSan Programme during Barazas

Self Introduction

The Public Health Officer (PHO) introduces himself, his name, designation and the area of his jurisdiction.

If the Public Health Officer is accompanied by the local Community Health (Extension) Workers (CHEWS), they can be asked to introduce themselves.

Roles of the Public Health Officer (PHO)

A Public Health Officer works under the Ministry of Public Health and Sanitation, his/her role is to access and determine the appropriateness of any siting of premises that is meant for human occupation or use and give relevant advice or directives.

It is his/her duty to ensure that buildings are properly drained and advise the community on the maintenance of the drainage system.

He/she is also involved in routine supervision, inspection of a public sanitation facility and is empowered by the law to institute legal action against the offender where the law is contravened.

He/she can take any decision as may be appropriate to safeguard the health, welfare and comfort of the occupants of any premises.

Current Sanitation Situation in the Area

The PHO will need to give a detailed approach of the sanitation situation in his area of jurisdiction:

- ⇒ The current sanitation situation in the area.
- ⇒ The number of household with and without access to basic sanitation.
- ⇒ The percentage of households having access to basic sanitation (if necessary information can be obtained from MajiData).
- ⇒ The main sanitation challenges faced.

Impact of Poor Sanitation

What can be the main impact of poor sanitation? (at individual, household and community level):

- ⇒ Using poor sanitation - dirty toilets - can make family members (and children in particular) sick. They can suffer from diarrhoea
- ⇒ Poor hygienic conditions can lead to outbreaks of water- and sanitation-related diseases like diarrhoea, cholera and typhoid.
- ⇒ When children are sick they miss classes.
- ⇒ When adults are sick they cannot work and earn money for their family.

The SafiSan Programme: Improving Sanitation

The SafiSan Programme aims at improving the living conditions of the urban poor in Kenya by providing better access to improved basic sanitation and safe water.

What are the main advantages of the SafiSan toilets?

The SafiSan toilet:

1. Can be assembled quickly **or** it's very easy to construct (depending on the option).
2. Does not require a lot of space.
3. Looks beautiful and "cool".
4. Is user-friendly.
5. Is not an environmental hazard. Ground water contamination is minimal and, therefore, a SafiSan toilet can be placed near your water source.
6. Is a good solution for areas with collapsible soils, high water tables and hard (rocky) soil.
7. ... and tThere is no need to dig a (new) pit once the toilet is full.
8. Is strong, durable and termite proof.

9. Is user-friendly - easy to use and safe.
10. Does not smell and is well lit.
11. Is easy to keep clean and maintain.
12. Can be equipped with a hand-washing facility.
13. Is affordable and subsidised.

The waste from a SafiSan toilet:

- ⇒ Is safe disposable waste.
- ⇒ Can be used as compost.

Advantages of Good Sanitation

The project is meant to enable the residents to apply sound hygiene practices

Advantages of having access to good sanitation (toilets):

1. Minimises the risks of the outbreak of diseases such as diarrhoea, typhoid fever, cholera, etc.
2. “Good sanitation means better health for you, your family and the community!”
3. Good sanitation; its all about human dignity.
4. Good sanitation contributes to poverty eradication; If people get sick due to poor toilets they cannot work and take care of their family, children cannot go to school, etc.
5. If a toilet does not have a deep pit there is less chance that ground water or the water from local streams and rivers get contaminated.
6. If human waste is not dumped in the environment we live in (for example, a nearby stream or drain) we all and our children (the future generations) will benefit from cleaner and healthier surroundings.
7. If a toilet produces safe compost, this compost can be sold as fertiliser/soil conditioner.

The Constitution

Having access to adequate sanitation is a human right!

The new Constitution states clearly, under Chapter Four – the Bill of Rights under Article 28 – Human Dignity:

- ⇒ *“Every person has inherent dignity and the right to have that dignity respected and protected.”*

and Article 43b – (Economic and Social Rights) states:

- ⇒ *“Every person has the right to accessible and adequate housing and to reasonable standards of sanitation.”*

What does the Constitution mean for us and our children and for our sanitation?

- ⇒ That a tenant has a right to a good sanitation facility regardless of his/her social class or social status.
- ⇒ The sanitation facility should be clean, offer some privacy and be of acceptable standards.
- ⇒ The structure should be safe for use and have functional doors.
- ⇒ It should be a hygienic facility not having overflowing faeces on the floor.
- ⇒ The toilet should not pollute the compound (living area) environmentally by producing bad smells, by overflowing and/or getting flooded during the rainy seasons, causing diseases and polluting the nearby water sources.

The Public Health Act

Under the Public Health Act, 242 - laws of Kenya, Section 118 (1) (b)(e) and (k)(n):

- ⇒ The PHO has a right to inspect and supervise whether a premises or dwelling place is dirty or so verminous as to be, in the opinion of the medical officer of health, injurious or dangerous to health, or which is or are liable to favour the spread of infectious diseases like typhoid, cholera and diarrhoea.
- ⇒ Stipulates drainage and latrine rules – no noxious matter, or waste water, flowing or discharged from any premises to a street or water source.
- ⇒ The sanitation provided should meet the satisfaction of the PHO.
- ⇒ The premises should be kept free of offensive smell (nuisance), overcrowding, lack of enough light or ventilation that could be injurious or dangerous to the health.

1. The penalties of not having good sanitation

If you don't have good accessible sanitation the Public Health Officer is empowered by Public Health Act (Cap 242) to:

- ⇒ Institute a legal suite against the offender.
- ⇒ May order the premises (household) as unfit for human occupation and close it down until the directed adjustments are carried out to his satisfaction.
- ⇒ He may recommend you to be penalized for violating the right of others by paying some amount of money as per the Local Government Act.

2. Sanitation is your responsibility as area residents!

- ⇒ It is the responsibility of the residents/community to adopt/embrace improved basic sanitation.
- ⇒ A tenant should observe basic level hygiene practices.
- ⇒ This will call for cultural change.

⇒ Good maintenance of the available sanitation facility.