

Glossary

The following glossary provides the reader with guidance about what is meant by various terms used in this document. The list is not intended to be exhaustive, nor the definitions definitive, rather this list is designed to help the reader to understand what is intended in the current text. Where the definition is taken from a published reference, this is noted.

Advocacy: is a continuous and adaptive process of gathering, organizing and formulating information into arguments to be communicated through various interpersonal and media channels, with a view to raising resources or gaining political and social leadership acceptance and commitment for a development programme, thereby preparing a society for acceptance of the programmeⁱ.

Civil Society: individuals and organisations who are not part of the government apparatus including but not limited to community organisations and informal groups, non-governmental organisations, voluntary agencies, small scale independent providers, private sector, media organisations and professional bodies.

Ecological Sanitation: sanitation whose design builds on the concept of protecting ecosystems, and which treats excreta as a valuable resource to be recycled.

Empowerment: is a process of facilitating and enabling people to acquire skills, knowledge and confidence to make responsible choices and implement them; it helps create settings that facilitate autonomous functioning.

Enabling Environment: Policies, financial instruments, formal organisations, community organisations and partnerships which together support and promote needed changes in hygiene practices and access to technology.

Environmental Sanitation: a range of interventions designed to improve the management of excreta, sullage, drainage and solid waste.

Excreta: faeces and urine.

Gender Equity: the process of being fair to women and men. To ensure fairness measures must be often available to compensate for historical and social disadvantages that prevent women and men from otherwise operating on a level playing field. Equity leads to equalityⁱⁱ.

Groundwater: water found below ground level in the sub-soil.

Groundwater Table: the level at which the subsoil is saturated.

Hygiene Promotion: a planned approach to preventing diarrhoeal diseases through the widespread adoption of safe hygiene practices. It begins with and is built on what local people know, do and wantⁱⁱⁱ.

Off-site sanitation: system of sanitation where excreta are removed from the plot occupied by the dwelling and its immediate surroundings.

On-site sanitation: system of sanitation where the means of collection, storage and treatment (where this exists) are contained within the plot occupied by the dwelling and its immediate surroundings.

Pit Latrine: latrine with a pit for collection and decomposition of excreta and from which liquid infiltrates into the surrounding soil.

Pour-flush Latrine: latrine that depends for its operation of small quantities of water, poured from a container by hand, to flush away faeces from the point of defecation.

Private Benefits: benefits (of hygiene improvements) which accrue to the household or individual (for example savings in the household budget for health-related expenses).

Private Sector: individuals, companies or organisations who provide goods and services relating to hygiene improvements on a commercial basis for profit.

Programming: the establishment of a set of rules and conventions under which all sanitation and hygiene promotion projects and investments can be made, such that they all work towards and agreed long-term vision for improved health and dignity for the entire population.

Public Benefits: benefits (of hygiene improvements) which accrue to society as a whole (for example, improvements to the health of the population at large resulting from a significant proportion of individuals adopting hygienic behaviours such as hand washing).

Public Policy: decisions enshrined in laws, regulations and policy documents which express the will of government towards public concerns such as sanitation and hygiene promotion.

Sanitation: interventions (usually construction of facilities such as latrines) that improve the management of excreta.

Septic Tank: a tank or container, normally with one inlet and one outlet, that retains sewage and reduces its strength by settlement and anaerobic digestion.

Sewer: a pipe or other conduit that carries wastewater from more than one property.

Sewerage: a system of interconnected sewers.

Small-scale Independent Provider: individual, company or voluntary/non-profit organisation providing goods or services relating to hygiene improvement operating independently of the system of public provision.

Social Mobilisation: is a process bringing together all feasible social partners and allies to identify needs and raise awareness of, and demand for, a particular development objective.

Sullage: dirty water that has been used for washing, cooking, washing clothes, pots, pans etc)

Ventilated Improved Pit Latrine: pit latrine with a screened vent pipe and darkened interior to the superstructure which is designed to keep flies out and minimise smell.

Endnotes

- i UNICEF, WHO, USAID, BASICS (2000) *Communication Handbook for Polio Eradication and Routine EPI*: UNICEF, New York
- ii Lidonde, R., D. de Jong, N. Barot, B. Shamsun Nahar, N. Maharaj, H. Derbyshire (2000) *Advocacy Manual for Gender and Water Ambassadors* Gender and Water Alliance, Delft
- iii UNICEF (1999) *A Manual on Hygiene Promotion* UNICEF, New York