

REPRODUCTIVE, MATERNAL, NEWBORN AND CHILD HEALTH AND THE IMPORTANCE OF WASH

LENGTH: ½ to 1 day

SEMINAR DESCRIPTION

This seminar introduces the importance of WASH for reproductive, maternal, newborn and child health using discussion-based, participatory learning. Participants discuss detailed information about water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH)-related diseases, such as the symptoms, prevalence, transmission routes, and prevention methods. They define actions that can be taken to reduce the impact of WASH-related diseases on pregnant women, newborns and children.

The workshop explores the impact of WASH-related diseases on pregnant women, newborns and children; WASH interventions to address these impacts; a multi-barrier approach to provide safe drinking water; and effectiveness of different household water treatment and safe storage (HWTS) options for pathogens of concern for pregnant women, newborns and children. The theory in the course is balanced with hands on sessions to evaluate different HWTS options. This is an introductory seminar.

CAWST focuses on the planning, design and implementation of household-based water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) solutions in low-income, non-networked communities. This seminar is not intended to provide full training on the operation and maintenance of different HWTS options or the implementation of HWTS or WASH programs.

PARTICIPANTS

Participants may be individuals or groups who are:

- Working in health, WASH, or community development projects seeking solutions for WASH
- Program organizers or project managers with the responsibility for organizing projects and making decisions
- Motivated to start or strengthen projects for improving health

It is an advantage if participants:

- Are already starting to plan a WASH or HWTS project
- Have a source of funding in place to begin implementation (as this will allow for immediate application of the knowledge gained in the seminar)
- Have the support of a committed organization which recognizes that a WASH program is beneficial for their local communities

Participation by women is encouraged. Preferably, two to five people from each organization would attend to ensure that they learn together and benefit most from the seminar.

OBJECTIVES

Upon completion of the seminar participants will be able to:

- Compare the diseases that are particularly harmful to pregnant women, newborns and children under five
- Identify the consequences that WASH-related diseases have on maternal, newborn and child health
- Analyze the effectiveness of household water treatment in preventing the diseases that are harmful to pregnant women and children
- Identify WASH interventions to improve maternal, newborn and child health
- Explain why water, sanitation, and hygiene are needed to improve the health of pregnant women, newborns and children

METHODS OF INSTRUCTION

The participatory seminar includes theory, participatory activities, demonstrations, and open discussion. Active participant engagement in all learning activities is encouraged.

CONTENT

The following is a tentative list of the topics covered in the workshop material. A specific agenda will be developed for the training based on consultations with the organizer and participants' needs.

- WASH-related diseases of concern for maternal, newborn and child health
- Transmission of WASH-related diseases
- Multi-barrier approach to provide safe water
- Household water treatment and safe storage (HWTS) options
- Effectiveness of HWTS options for waterborne diseases
- WASH interventions to improve maternal, newborn and child health

TRAINING MATERIALS

The following materials will be provided:

- Participant materials
- CD containing all material presented in the workshop and related resources