

BIOSAND FILTER PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION WORKSHOP

LENGTH: 4 or 5 days

WORKSHOP DESCRIPTION

This workshop includes information and hands-on experience on the construction, use and monitoring of the biosand filter. The hands-on topics include checking the steel mold, making the concrete filter container, preparing filtration sand, installing filters and conducting follow-up visits. The participant will gain a clear understanding of the rationale behind the filter design and why proper preparation of the filtration sand is so important.

The construction sections of the workshop are balanced with interactive learning sessions in the classroom. The relationship between water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) and health in developing countries is explored. Participants will learn about the role of household water treatment and the biosand filter in improving health, as well as effective ways to implement WASH projects. The trainer will lead the participants in investigating the challenges and opportunities that can present themselves during implementation of a biosand filter project. Integrated throughout the workshop are opportunities to discuss and begin planning a project.

Training of project staff and filter users is essential to ensure the proper and sustainable use of biosand filters in diverse regions of the world. This workshop is taught in a way that demonstrates concepts and tools that participants can later use to teach others in communities and households.

PARTICIPANTS

Participants may be individuals or groups who are:

- Working in water and sanitation, community development or health projects seeking solutions for safe water
- Aware of the need for safe water and may have some familiarity with household water treatment
- Motivated and prepared to implement a biosand filter project
- Mid-level managers within their organization with the responsibility for organizing projects and making decisions
- Program organizers, community liaison people, technicians, front line supervisors, project managers, or project engineers

It is an advantage if participants:

- Are already starting to plan their biosand filter project
- Have a source of funding in place to begin implementation (as this will allow for immediate application of the knowledge gained in the workshop)
- Have the support of a committed organization which recognizes that a household water treatment 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 workshop.

METHODS OF INSTRUCTION

The participatory workshop includes theory, classroom activities, demonstrations, open discussion, case studies and hands-on construction activities. Approximately one-third of the workshop is spent constructing and installing a biosand filter. Active participant engagement in all learning activities is encouraged.

OBJECTIVES

Upon completion of the workshop participants will be able to:

- Demonstrate how to construct and install a biosand filter
- Demonstrate the operation and maintenance of a biosand filter
- Describe the relationship between water and health
- Explain the need for education on household water treatment, hygiene and sanitation
- Describe the roles required in a project and how they relate to successful project implementation
- Describe how to successfully plan a biosand filter project
- Describe why and how to monitor a biosand filter project
- Establish a network of contacts including other program implementers

CONTENT

The following is a tentative list of the topics to be covered. A specific agenda will be developed for each workshop.

Theory

- Global and local water issues
- Water sources, contamination and environmental issues
- Water related diseases
- Transmission of water related diseases
- Sanitation and hygiene
- Multi-barrier approach to water treatment
- Household water treatment options
- Safe water storage and handling
- Gender considerations in WASH projects
- WASH and the needs of vulnerable people (may include mothers and children, people living with HIV/AIDS, the elderly, disabled people)
- Biosand filter design and operation

Practical

- Constructing, installing, operating and maintaining the biosand filter
- Selecting and preparing filtration sand
- Troubleshooting
- Educating users and conducting follow-up visits
- Monitoring a biosand filter project

Implementation

- CAWST model for roles in biosand filter projects
- Project planning
- Requirements for a successful biosand filter project
- Developing a plan and the next steps after the workshop

TRAINING MATERIALS

The following materials will be provided:

- Biosand Filter Manual with instructions on construction, installation, operation and maintenance
- CD containing all material presented in the workshop and related resources