



IMPROVED PREPAREDNESS & RESPONSE FOR HEALTH EMERGENCIES

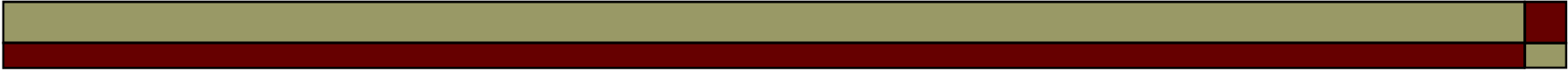
Cholera & Outbreaks of other Water-borne Diseases Role of NGOs & Health Promotion

Presented by
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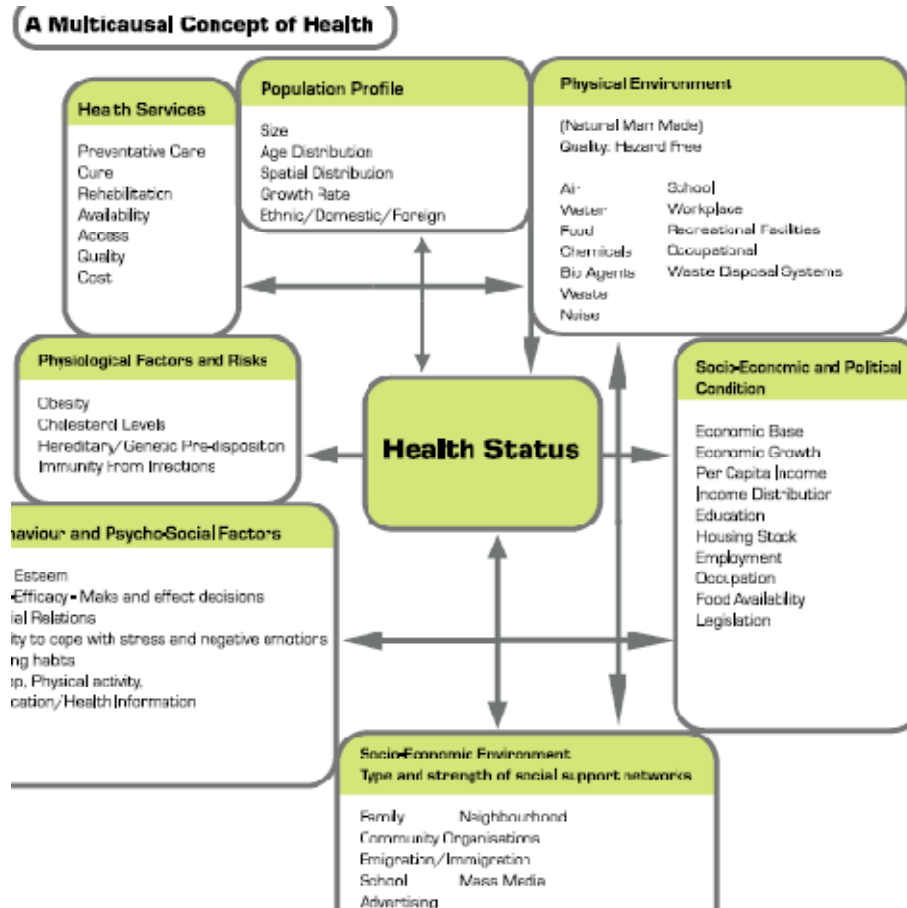


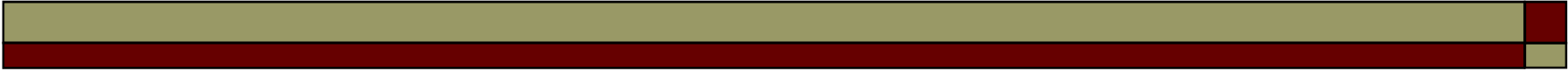
Objectives

- Identify key components of health status
- Understand the role of NGOs in responding to health emergencies

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- ❑ Health is influenced by a range of factors:
 - ❑ Behaviour, beliefs
 - ❑ Health care services
 - ❑ Socio-economic environment
 - ❑ Population profile
 - ❑ Physical environment
 - ❑ Political context

Multi-causal Concept of Health



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- Responses to health challenges must also be multi-dimensional, multi-sectoral & coordinated



Responses

- Call for coordinated actions on a number of levels by:
 - Individuals
 - Communities
 - social institutions
 - Non-Governmental Organisations
 - Private sector
 - Public sector, not only Ministries of Health



The Caribbean Charter for Health Promotion

- Formulating healthy public policy
- Reorienting health services
- Creating supportive environments
- Developing personal health skills
- **Building alliances with special emphasis on the media**
- **Empowering communities to achieve wellbeing**



Port of Spain Declaration (September 2007)

- Speaks to partnership with NGOs, government and social organisations to address the burden of NCDs



NGO Definition

- A legally created organisation that operates independently from government
- Private organisations that pursue activities to relieve suffering, promote the interest of the poor, protect the environment, provide basic social services or undertake community development (World Bank)
- Social benefit organisations
- Civil society organisations



Types of NGOs

- NGO can be understood by type:
- Charitable, service, participatory, empowering
- NGO type by cooperation:
 - Community
 - National
 - International



Roles of NGOs

- Education
- Trade Unions
- Advocacy



Community Participation

- Communities and civil society often take the lead in initiating, shaping and undertaking health promotion
- Well organised and empowered communities are highly effective in determining their own health needs and are capable of making government accountable for health consequences of their policies and practices



Establish Partnerships

- NGOs have demonstrated their skills and success in the health sector
- NGOs can help government to achieve goals related to equity and access to healthcare
- NGOs can provide models of practice for others to follow





Establish Partnerships

NGOs can

- ❑ Provide timely, credible information
- ❑ Reach populations difficult for government agencies to reach
- ❑ Encourage people to prepare and practice healthy habits
- ❑ Provide information and encouragement in ways that are appropriate and meaningful for the community
- ❑ Serve as a safety net by providing services that might be disrupted
- ❑ Provide emotional support and comfort



Challenges

- ❑ Creating and maintaining effective partnerships, especially with sectors outside the health sector
- ❑ Establishing effective communication systems with NGOs
- ❑ Each sector must identify its unique strengths, unique resources and skills that can be used to address the issue at hand



Before an outbreak or crisis: Build a Foundation

- ❑ Is there a flexible plan in place?
- ❑ Does the plan include and identify stakeholders, decision makers, authorities and policies?
- ❑ How can plans be communicated to the public?
- ❑ What mechanisms are in place for monitoring & evaluation?



□ Thank you!