

Sani Tweaks

Consult, Modify, Consult

Changing implementation of sanitation programmes in emergencies



According to recent research*, an average of 40% of women and girls do not use the communal or shared family latrines that agencies provide.

Reasons include: not wanting to be seen going to the latrine; a lack of privacy (people peeking in); sexual harassment; a lack of lighting at night; a lack of locks on doors; a fear of vermin.



Acting on these findings, Oxfam has launched 'Sani Tweaks' — an approach that seeks to improve the quality of sanitation programmes in emergencies, through a series of communication tools and trainings that aim to:

- promote best practices in sanitation;
- put users at the heart of sanitation programmes; and
- ensure safety, privacy and dignity, particularly for women and girls.

THE GOAL The aim of the project is to ensure that, before the superstructure is designed, even in rapid onset emergencies, appropriate consultation with potential users happens. The goal is to ensure that all user groups are consulted and feedback is acted upon through design modification. The Sani Tweaks approach can therefore be summarised by three key words: CONSULT, MODIFY, CONSULT. For it is only through continuous engagement with the affected community and modifications made according to their feedback that our sanitation programmes can be improved.

THE APPROACH The Sani Tweaks approach will be supported by the wide dissemination of communication tools and interactive workshops run in numerous countries for WASH staff. The workshops will encourage participants to put themselves 'in the shoes' of the crisis-affected population, to understand the needs of different users and identify opportunities to adapt latrine designs. Participants will also learn important skills around how to ask the right questions to get good honest feedback and improve the quality of designs. As each emergency sees an increased number of less experienced staff, participants will also be consulted on what tools and dissemination methods might provide the most effective support.

WORKING TOGETHER The Sani Tweaks project will continue until 2021 and Oxfam is actively looking for other agencies to join the initiative. All agencies will be supported with communication tools and workshop methodologies to enable them to conduct their own training on improving the inclusion of all in sanitation programmes.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

Please write to Sani Tweaks Project Manager

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*HIF funded interagency Sanitation Lighting Research & User-Centred Design Project; Oxfam's Social Architecture Project



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