

Guidelines for Analysis of Environmental Health Planning



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PREFACE TO THE SERIES

The International Health Planning Methods Series has been developed by the Office of International Health, Public Health Service on request of the Agency for International Development.

The series consists of ten basic volumes which cover a variety of health issues considered vital for effective development planning. These ten volumes are supplemented by six additional works in the International Health Reference Series, which list resource and reference material in the same subject areas.

The International Health Planning Methods Series is intended to assist health sector advisors, administrators and planners in countries where the Agency for International Development supports health related activities. Each manual attempts to be both a practical tool and a source book within a specialized area of concern. Contributors to these volumes are recognized authorities with many years of experience in specialized fields. Specific methods for collecting information and using it in the planning process are included in each manual.

The six supporting documents in the International Health Reference Series contain reports of literature surveys and bibliographies in selected subject areas. These are intended for the serious researcher and are less appropriate for broad field distribution.

The volumes in the International Health Planning Methods Series contain the collective effort of dozens of experienced professionals who have contributed knowledge, research and organizational skills. Through this effort they hope to provide the AID field officer and his host country counterparts with a systematic approach to health planning in developing countries.

PREFACE TO VOLUME TWO

This manual for planning in the field of environmental health is the second volume in a series of works known collectively as the International Health Planning Methods Series.

The series was produced by the Office of International Health as requested by the Agency for International Development to provide AID advisors and national health officials in developing countries with critically needed guidelines for incorporating environmental health planning into national plans for economic development.

This volume covers material ranging from contemporary issues in environmental health, through principles of environmental health assessments, planning and evaluation, to consideration of specific types of projects having environmental health impact.

In addition to the need for fundamental improvements in such areas as drinking water supply, wastewater and excreta disposal, and pest control, the authors have noted the occasionally adverse effect of economic development projects. Examples are drawn from the fields of agriculture, industry, transport, and land use patterns.

Preparation of this volume was undertaken for the Office of International Health by Plog Research, Inc., of Reseda, California, functioning as a subcontractor to the E.H. White & Co., Management Consultants, of San Francisco, California. Chapters in this volume were prepared by Renee White Fraser, Ph.D., and Hadasa Shani, M.P.H.

This manual is important because it contains a unique compilation of assessment issues, data considerations, alternative technologies and practical planning methods that are specifically related to developing countries. While the literature in the general areas of environmental health and sanitation is very large, little emphasis until recently has been placed on reporting programs from developing areas. Within this volume the emphasis is almost exclusively on those areas.

Guidance for conducting assessments, evaluation and planning in the environmental health sector is contained in this manual. The authors have been guided by three general objectives during the production of this work: (1) to describe the inter-related environmental

hazards to health relevant to people in developing nations; (2) to identify competing elements, priorities and institutional relationships affecting available solutions; (3) to offer components needed to make planning decisions, including recommendations for data collection methods, surveillance methods, standards and alternative technologies.

It should be understood that this is a selective study. To review all possible options within the broad field of environmental health would require many volumes of instruction. Therefore, instead of attempting to be an exhaustive or even comprehensive study, this manual includes only a selective discussion of assessment, surveillance and data collection procedures. The selection has been based primarily on relevance and practical applicability to developing nations.

This same restriction has been applied to technologies and planning considerations. Rather than present an exhaustive review of potential technologies including everything from nomadic settlements to metropolitan cities, emphasis has been placed on technologies that are practical for rural village or perirural circumstances. Those interested in higher level technologies are directed within the manual to additional available resources.

The authors of this manual, in addition to describing technical aspects of certain environmental health control programs, have also expressed personal viewpoints concerning some programs in developing countries. While their viewpoints generally coincide with those of organizations or agencies with whom they are associated, the material in this manual should not be construed to reflect the official policy of any agency or organization.

Environmental health constitutes a critical problem in developing countries. This volume, it is hoped, will assist in effectively evaluating current programs, and it should provide a sound basis for environmental health planning within the context of national development.

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ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

Each volume in the International Health Planning Methods Series has been the work of many people. In addition to the primary authors, each manual has involved government reviewers and reviewers from positions outside government, editors, revisors, and numerous technical and support personnel. Substantial contributions have been made by manual advisors, who provided the authors with the benefit of their knowledge and experience in the fields under study.

With reference to Volume 2: Environmental Health Planning, special thanks are in order for contributions made by John Hanlon, Vic Wehmann, Gary Hart, James Thompson, Irv Taylor, and Steven Lucas.

While the present work could not have been completed without the assistance of these individuals, responsibility for the content of this manual rests solely with the authors.

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