

Latrine Cleaning by the Latrine User Groups

Since 2017, NGO Forum for Public Health with support from UNICEF, is ensuring safe water supply, sanitation & hygiene promotion in camp 6 & 7. Under sanitation, NGOF has been constructed several latrines in the designated area in the camp 6 & 7. Now every 20 household have a shared communal latrine to use. Besides, ensuring safe water supply & sanitation services, our Hygiene Promotion Team is working on several community engagement & behavioral change approaches such as CCC-PLTH & RANAS. Under this RANAS approach, we work in two behavioral changing activities – one is MHM & the other is “Latrine Cleaning by the User Groups”.

Activities such as “Latrine Cleaning by the User Group” was so much challenging at the beginning as because of less ownership by the community, people were not used to cleaning the latrines the use.



However, in this RANAS approach, we have started enabling a friendly environment at camp 6 (firstly as pilot basis) for the interaction of “Doers & Non-doers”, means, through household visit, we bring the community people who clean/ willing to clean the latrine by themselves to the people who don’t clean. Then the non-doers groups were being inspired by the experience & positive feelings sharing by the doers groups. Along with these regular household visit, we have established “Latrine User Groups” in consultation with the community people. Each group consists of seven members from seven household. They clean the latrines as per the duty roster written on the latrine’s doors (One member - one day/ seven members - seven days). Male members clean the male latrines, while female members clean the female latrines.

Now, we are scaling up the RANAS approach in our all 86 sub-block of camp 6 & 7. And under this approach, we have established 2253 “Latrine Users Groups” which consist of 15,771 members.

Today, more or less, all these “Latrine Users Groups” members clean the communal latrines as per the duty rosters written on the latrine’s doors. We monitor their work through our community hygiene volunteer’s every day. If it is observed that, some members/ some groups are not cleaning the latrines as they committed earlier, our community hygiene promoter visit their household and discusses with them - as they (community people) use the latrines, so it’s their own responsibilities to keep the latrines clean & functional. Our community hygiene promoters bring the “Doers” (Who clean the latrines regularly) to them also, then the “doers” remind them about the commitment & the responsibilities for their own community. Thus, we are trying to improve both the level of ownership & accountability among the community people.

LAYLA BEGUM: AN UNPAID VOLUNTEER

NGO Forum for Public Health has been doing Community Mobilization along with other WASH services in Camp-06 & 07 from a long time. It's a story of a Rohingya female named "Layla Begum". Once she had a job in an organization. But her contract was ended and she lost her job. She became frustrated after losing her job. Then one day she met one of our CHP (community hygiene promoter). Our CHP talked with her about her situation and came to know that she had enough knowledge to provide hygiene promotion sessions and other awareness sessions in her Rohingya community. Our CHP had random conversations with her in different times and motivated her to cope up with her situation and do good works for her own Rohingya community. Gradually she became mentally stronger than before. Through the conversation with our CHP she felt that she should do good work for her own community. When she expressed her willingness to work on her community, our CHP oriented her about how to conduct session and how to communicate with the community for increasing her knowledge in a structured way.



After couple of trainings, now she has turned into a gem among the volunteer of camp 7. She is doing sessions about safe drinking water, proper use of Hand Washing Devices, proper use of Latrine and Latrine maintenance etc. And the most surprising thing is that -she is doing her job willingly, and not taking any money or barter from anyone. Every day she spends 4/5 hours in her block and provides session or passes information for the betterment of her own community people. She informed us that her family members and community peoples support her for what she's doing.

And she feels proud to be AN UNPAID VOLUNTEER.