Organizing Action with Communities for MSF Associations

urbanspaces.msf.org

“How to”….
webcast series
June 3, 2020
How to...webinar#2; Re-Opening Our Communities

Session Goals

1. Provide an Overview of Organizing Action with Communities Plan during COVID-19 response in Italy
2. Share Challenges and Successes
3. Reflect on how the insights emerging from this work, could enhance your work and action plans
How to...webinar#2; Re-Opening Our Communities

MSF ORGANIZING ACTION WITH COMMUNITIES
Focus Topic:

Re-opening our Communities; experience sharing of COVID-19 plan, on organizing action with communities in Italy

Co-hosts:

Sara Radighieri: Deputy Medical Program Coord. MSF Italy
Bianca Benvenuti: Advocacy Officer, MSF Italy
Re-opening our Communities

experience sharing of COVID-19s plan of MSF Italy on organizing action with communities’ plan

Wednesday, June 3, 2020
Socio-economical collateral damages of COVID epidemic and lockdown measures

COVID19 epidemic sharpen social inequalities and exacerbated marginalization of segments of the society

- ISTAT 192 billion underground economy (12% of total GDP)
- 3.7 billion irregular workers 15% of all workers in the country
- 2019 ISTAT 5 million people or 8.4% of the population live in absolute poverty

114% increase in beneficiaries of food distribution and services for homeless (CARITAS)

2020
- Unemployment 12.5% (10% today)
- GDP -9%
None left behind: civil society mobilize

- Errands for people who cannot leave home – i.e. elderly and people with chronical conditions
- Food collecting and distribution to families in need

City of Rome
70 organizations
330+ churches

NESSUNO DEVE RESTARE INDIETRO
DONA E SOSTIENI LA RACCOLTA DI GENERI ALIMENTARI
Supporting civil society: Urban spaces in Italy

Supporting and giving visibility to civil society organizations active in the territory in the response to the humanitarian consequences of the COVID-19 crisis

- IPC remote training
- Support to re-open regular activities
- Give visibility to civil society initiatives

MULTI-PHASE ACTIVITY PLANNING
Municipio Solidale (Municipality in Solidarity)
Founded in February 2020 to respond to socio-economical consequences of COVID-19

- Junior Municipality
- Home delivery (books, drugs, grocerieis)
- Psicological support (phoneline)
- Local Radio
- Food delivery and collecting
Palermo: engaging with our partners

- IPC training to one Community Centre (Centro Astalli) & Moltivolti
- Direct involvement of the operation team in Sicily
CIVIL SOCIETY ENGAGEMENT IN THE FIGHT AGAINST THE EPIDEMIC

Lesson learned from previous epidemics is to include community involvement in health emergency response

- Strengthen Community Actions
- Capacity buildings
- Community surveillance
- Create an approach of proximity
- Look to the near future
PRINCIPLES ON WHICH WE HAVE STRUCTURED THE INTERVENTION

- Each community is unique
- Listening to needs & questions
- Building an appropriate risk mitigation strategy
- Acting on feedback
- Involve individuals and communities in the implementation and monitoring of IPC training
- Constant follow up on criticalities and context change
Our experience so far: training to Municipio VIII

**WHO?**
- 11 ASSOCIATIONS INVOLVED IN TRAINING
- TRAINING OF TRAINERS
- 170 VOLUNTEERS REACHED

**HOW?**
- REMOTE WEBINARS
- TRAINING MATERIAL
- FLYERS
- CONSTANT UPDATING OF TRAINING MATERIALS

**WHEN?**
- ASAP
- PERIODIC FOLLOW UP
Mapping of training needs

- Periodic context assessment
- Gathering information on organizations' activities
- Knowledge of how the activities are conducted
- Collecting information on the volunteers' profile
- Identification of possible vulnerabilities among volunteers
- Previous training done, if any
TRAINING

MAIN OBJECTIVE:
IPC training for civil society organisations, carrying out activities to support vulnerable and struggling populations in the emergency phase, in order to limit the risk of infection and the spread of the virus in the population.

CONTENTS:

• Basic information about the epidemic, transmission, symptoms and spread of the infection
• IPC as a routine to be adopted in everyday life
• Physical and psychological well-being: from the individual to the communities
• Individual and environmental hygiene rules
• IPC rules to be applied during volunteer activities
• Relationship with beneficiaries and community surveillance
• Conscious and correct use of PPE
Main questions asked

- Correct use of PPE from an environmental friendly standpoint
- Relationship with beneficiaries, in particular people who are victims of social marginalization
- Sharing psychological difficulties in stress management
- Wish to compare with other realities and cities on emergency management
Our experience so far: training to Municipio VIII

CRITICAL ISSUES THAT HAVE ARISEN:
• Difficulties in preparing the training toolkit due to continuous changes in the context, ministerial regulations and the socio-economic situation.
• Need to continuously update materials so that it is updated with latest scientific findings
• Adapt the training each time to the activities of the different associations and the profile of the volunteers

STRENGTH POINTS
• Expansion of the network with civil society
• Knowledge of the territory and of the situations of social marginality that emerged following the crisis
• Possible future operational development
Challenges and constraints (1)

- Fast changing scenario
- Unknown evolution of the epidemics
- Government social restrictions

TIMING

LONG TERM GOALS WITH SHORT TERM ACTIVITIES

RESTRICTIONS TO VOLUNTEERS ACTIVITIES
Challenges and constraints (2)

- Being consistent with long term objectives in a fast changing scenario
- Anticipate trends and civil society needs
- Engage MSF volunteers in Urban Spaces activities
- Coordinate with ops in the post-acute emergency
  - Monitor emerging humanitarian needs
Questions, Comments...
2 minutes reflections....

Using the Insights

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How to...webinar #3;
Tactics; Creative Ways and Ideas on organizing action with volunteers and communities;
co – hosted with Climate Action Change Group of Greenpeace

Wednesday, June 10, 2020
14.00-15.15 P.M, CEST/Paris Time

Register HERE
Thank you, for your participation !!!!