

CLIMATE CHANGE XHEALTH COMMUNITY HANDBOOK

REPORT OF THE KENYA'S FOCUSED GROUP DISCUSSION HELD IN KOROGOCHO ON

10TH SEPTEMBER 2024

INTRODUCTION.

The aim of the focused group discussion was to identify climate and health issues in Kenya and tailor make the handbook to local realities, ensuring it addresses specific climate challenges, cultural contexts, and health priorities of communities in Kenya. In addition to this, the collaborative efforts of the local community members is needed for a handbook that is truly community focused.

Discussions

- 1. Have you experienced any climate change and health related event in your community?**

Some of climate change events experienced in Kenya include, landslides that happened in Mahimahi, droughts in North Eastern parts of the country and floods which for the first time affected Nairobi and its environs.

- 2. How did this event affect the health of people in your community?**

During floods, there were water borne diseases such as Bilharzia, people lost lives, children had to drop out of school following evacuation exercise that was done by the government. Many had mental health challenges such as anxiety that resulted from an un-anticipated climate change event, depression and stress that resulted from loss of property and lives. There was also an

increase in gender based violence cases that was attributed to scarce resources.

“In Mathare some people who were displaced were raped, I have a cousin who was affected, as she was looking for a place to stay, she got raped by a man who pretended to be a good samaritan.”

“For me, I would say that the government moved us from our land. That was the only place we knew as home. The movement was disorienting.”

3. What can be done better to handle climate change challenges?

Awareness creation on climate change to empower the community to take action and strengthen their resilience therefore reducing their vulnerabilities helping them be better prepared of climate change events in future. Raising awareness helps communities understand climate change and health risks and take preventive measures to protect their health, and environment.

“If people who live near river banks knew earlier that their will be floods, they would have prepared themselves better, the loses we saw would not have happened”

“Social media helped a lot in highlighting affected areas and the areas of support needed”

“Here in Nairobi, we are not very aware of how to take care of the environment, floods has never happened in Nairibi, it is our first time experiencing this, we don't even know how to respond”

4.Are their existing resources to address climate change challenges.

There are no specific climate change and health infrastructure. The existing infastructure are the normal healthcare facilities like Kenyatta and SHOFCO.

5.What should be the goal of the handbook.

The handbook should support the mental health of communities affected by climate change and have information on hotlines to link people to services and facilities during crisis events.

6.What topics should be in the handbook.

Topics such as mental health, climate change causes and mitigation, how to plant trees and GBV referral pathways should be in the handbook.

7.What features should the handbook have?

“The handbook should be precise with not so many pages and words. Pictures and words should be balanced”

“The handbook should fit the size of a pocket, if there are resources some pages can be made as stickers”

8.Has any other partners from your community worked on climate change.

“We don’t know partners who work in the area of climate, when we had floods most support came as aid”

9.How can we make the handbook accessible.

The book should be in soft copy and hardcopy. Soft copy should be shared through facebook.

The handbook should be disseminated to community based organizations in Korogocho, who will help circulate during their various activities.

PICTURES

