

TASKS OF MEN AND WOMEN IN THE COMMUNITY

This exercise can be done to increase knowledge and understanding of which household and community tasks are done by affected women, and which are done by affected men. It can also help identify whether any change in task allocation would be desirable and possible.¹

What to do

1. If there has been a break between this activity and a previous one, start with a group discussion to review what was learned or decided at the previous meeting.
2. Ask the participants to form groups from five to eight people.
3. Using the following words, ask the group to carry out the activity:
“Each group will be given a drawing of a man, a woman and a man and woman (a couple) together, and a set of drawings showing different tasks. Discuss in your group who would normally do this task. When you agree, put the task drawing underneath the drawing of the man, woman or couple based on what you decide. The drawing of the man and woman together means that both sexes perform the task”



- 4 Let the groups work on their own and discuss their findings. They can draw and add other tasks. You should provide them with blank paper for this purpose.
- 5 Once the activity has been completed, ask each group to present its selection to the rest of the participants, explain its choice and answer any questions.
- 6 Facilitate a group discussion on:
 - Who does what tasks.
 - The workloads of men and women.
 - How differences in workloads might affect task allocation for overcoming the new problems in the community because of the disaster.
 - The advantages and disadvantages of changing tasks done by men and women.
 - The potential for changing the tasks done by men or women.
 - Ask the group to identify roles which could be changed or modified in order to improve sanitation and hygiene, and record these conclusions for use in monitoring later on.
- 7 Facilitate a discussion with the group on what it has learned during this activity, what it liked and disliked about this activity.

Special Note:

During this activity men sometimes complain that drawings of their usual tasks have not been included in the set. This is because the set focuses mostly on tasks related to domestic and community hygiene and sanitation, and in most societies these tasks fall to women. If this happens, ask the men to make drawings of tasks they perform, and add them to the activity. The group may decide that three drawings (man, woman, and both together) are not enough and choose to add drawings of boys and girls. This is fine, but the analysis should focus on gender not age.

Footnotes

- 1 Adapted from Sawyer, R., et al., 'Part II Step-by-step activities' as cited in *PHAST Step-by-Step Guide: A participatory approach for the control of diarrhoeal disease*, WHO, Geneva, 1998, pp. 33-35.