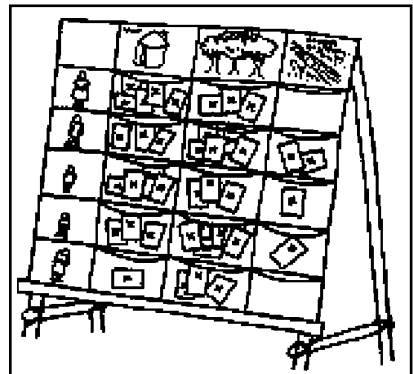


## HOW TO USE A POCKET OR VOTING CHART

The use of pocket charts is a participatory method that can help you examine an affected community's practices more closely, and to monitor progress. You can lead this exercise in various ways. – a cloth pocket chart can be made from cotton by a local tailor. People can vote using tins or pots, or you place drawings or photographs showing selected behaviours on the pocket chart. Once you have chosen the type of chart to use, ask each participant to vote accordingly and as privately as possible. If privacy is not ensured, participants may change their vote to please others. After the votes are cast, collate them and discuss the results with the group.<sup>1</sup>



### A step-by-step guide to using the pocket or voting chart<sup>2</sup>

- Step 1:** Ask a participant who is familiar with the pocket chart to facilitate this activity.
- Step 2:** Set up the pocket chart with a behaviour that is measured and explain what it is and how it is used. Place a vote yourself to show how to use the pocket chart. Make sure you remove your vote and explain that it was a just a demonstration.

**Step 3:** Position the chart so that people can vote in private. Then invite people to approach the chart one at a time to place their votes.

**Step 4:** Once everyone has had a chance to vote, ask a participant to count the votes and display the results. Make sure that the counting is in full view of everyone.

**Step 5:** Facilitate the group discussion on:

- What the pocket chart has shown.
- The reasons why people voted the way they did.
- Whether this result shows improvement (if this is used as a monitoring exercise), or need for improvement.

**Step 6:** Once the comparison has been made, ask the group to discuss:

- What behavioural changes have been successful?
- What behavioural changes have been problematic?

**Step 7:** Ask the group to record (in drawings or words) the problems and sort them into three categories:

- Problems the participants do not fully understand.
- Problems the affected community can deal with by itself.
- Problems the affected community cannot solve by itself.

**Step 8:** Stick the three groups of problems on a wall and ask the participants to decide:

- For the problems not understood, how they will get more information, when they will do this, and whose responsibility it will be.
- For the problems the affected community can deal with, what actions they will take.
- For the problems the affected community cannot solve alone, how they will get outside help to overcome these problems.

**Step 9:** Use information from the pocket or voting exercise to assess the knowledge of the affected community, feed into the initial baseline data report, adjust your programme to meet the evolving needs of the affected community and to verify indicators.

## Sample charts: Water use

	River/stream	Pond	Handpump	Unprotected well	Standpost	Protected spring	Unprotected spring
Drinking							
Cooking							
Washing							
Washing utensils							
Washing clothes							
Making beer							

\*It may be useful to have two voting rounds or two different voting slips for the wet and dry season, or for pre-and-post displacement.

## Public health practices

Using bednet	Covering drinking water	Hand washing after using toilet	Hand washing after cleaning baby	Hand washing before eating and feeding baby	Disposing of children's faeces in latrine
Sometimes					
Always					
Never					

Purpose	Most widely used source of water		Reasons
	1 <sup>st</sup>	2 <sup>nd</sup>	
Drinking			
Cooking			
Washing			
Washing utensils			
Making beer			

## Defaecation practices

	Latrine	Fields	Compound	River
Women/girls				
Men/boys				
Girl Children < 8yrs				
Boy Children < 8yrs				
Old Women				
Old Men				
Babies' faeces				

## Footnotes

- 1 Adapted from Oxfam UK, *Guidelines for Public Health Promotion in Emergencies*, Oxfam, London, 2000, pp. 79 – 80. Sample charts adapted from Oxfam.
- 2 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. 90-91.