

## A challenge to public health

The Millennium Development Goals include a commitment to halving the number of people without access to improved sanitation by 2015. There is concern that this will not be achieved because the process of provision is too slow compared with population growth, particularly in the worst affected areas. However, the definition of "access" and "improved sanitation" are very technical and do not consider actual use or the condition of the facilities. At this point, hygiene awareness and improved behaviour are closing the gap.

## Complementation is required

Improved sanitation reduces the risk of faecooral diseases, mainly diarrhoeal episodes. However, relying on sanitation alone is insufficient, because:

- o most disease transmission is due to poor hygiene behaviour
- o programmes providing sanitation but no hygiene education are likely to fail
- o hygiene education by itself can only have limited success if appropriate sanitation facilities are missing.

In conclusion, technical solutions and the improvement of awareness and hygiene behaviour have to be put into operation together.

## BORDA BNS Networks Mission

The mission of BORDA (Bremen Overseas Research and Development Association), and its Basic Needs Services (BNS) Partner Network, is to improve the livelihoods of disadvantaged groups within societies and to sustain the functioning of eco-systems through dissemination of demand-oriented BNS. BORDA and its network develop and disseminate innovative solutions to facilitate access to BNS.

## Health Impact Assessment & Hygiene Education

Health Impact Assessment (HIA) and Hygiene Education (HE) aims to ensure that sanitation improvement is sustainable and to maximise its benefits for health and well-being. The involvement of beneficiaries is a key factor.

Hygiene Education is not just an add-on but a necessary component of sanitation. Assessment approaches, such as HIA, provide information about the gaps which need to be closed. It raises awareness among the users about the benefits of improved sanitation, but also the risks when appropriate housekeeping and hygiene behaviour are neglected. HE is designed in a demand-responsive manner so its implementation is flexible.



**Awareness building & impact  
assessment to improve  
sanitation situations &  
hygiene behaviour**

HIA & HE |  
DEWATS Service Package

Developed and disseminated by  
BORDA & BORDA BNS Network

# HIA & HE – a convincing concept to improve sanitation and hygiene behaviour in a sustainable manner

## HIA Key Features

HIA contributes to proper planning based on these key principles:

- Provision of qualitative & quantitative evidence
- Use of a multidisciplinary approach
- Focus on equity & social justice
- Openness to public scrutiny
- Provision of a social model of health and well-being.

Assessments at the beginning of impacts & after completion include:

- **Scoping:** determine whether HIA is appropriate and required
- **Screening:** set out the parameters
- **Identification:** develop community profile and collect information to identify potential health impacts
- **Assessment:** assess and prioritize impacts and their significance
- **Recommendation & decision-making:** use HIA findings to adapt building process
- **Evaluation & follow up:** evaluate process and monitor impact of HIA.

## HIA Benefits

- Provides proof as to the extent of project impact.
- Allows beneficiaries to express their opinion about the situation and their satisfaction.
- Shows where improvement is necessary, especially gaps that can be closed by HE.
- Provides for evaluation of long-term results of sanitation projects.

## HE Key Features

An HE implementation plan is based on collected base line data and open discussions with the community.

Key features are:

- **Training sessions** clustered by different topics of concern (e.g. hand washing with soap)
- **Conducted** in a participatory manner in which participants analyze their situation themselves
- **Self-exploration and analysis** of the existing health threats and possible solutions instead of teaching
- **Professional support** by a facilitator.

## HE Benefits

To ensure sustainability of the sanitation facilities and improvement of health, HE educates about:

- **Reduction of faeco-oral diseases** (especially diarrhoea)
- **Clean & well maintained sanitation facilities**, convenient to use
- **Cleaner environment** (reduced open defecation/promotion of facility use; waste disposal)
- **Information about disease transmission & how to block it**
- Making **good hygiene behaviour** a habit.

## Interaction between HIA & HE

Both HIA and HE are based on community participation in order to ensure adequate measures for improvement and user satisfaction.

- HIA looks at projects not only from the perspective of the objectives but also from the beneficiaries' view, valuing their perceptions and offering room for feedback.
  - HE takes up those inputs where possible and necessary.
- In addition, the participatory approach encourages ownership among the beneficiaries.

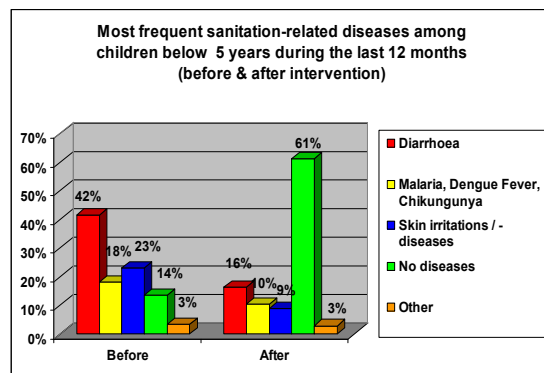
## Convincing results

HIA has so far been implemented in over 120 project locations with a total of more than 1000 respondents. HE began in 2008.

The success of HE and HIA in these projects is evident in the long-term results below:

- **Full privacy for women/girls while taking bath and using the toilet:**

*Before intervention:* 35%  
*After intervention:* 74%



**BNS Partner Network in SADC Region**



University of Kwazulu Natal  
(Pollution Research)  
South Africa



Environmental Engineering and Pollution Control Organization Tanzania



Water and Sanitation Association of Zambia, Zambia



Technologies for Economic Development Lesotho

## DEWATS Service Packages

- School Based Sanitation
- Community Based Sanitation
- Emergency Sanitation
- Sanitation for Hospitals & Hotels
- Wastewater Treatment for Agro-Industry
- Sanitation for Prisons
- Sanitation for Real Estate
- Sanitation Mapping
- Municipal Sludge Treatment Plant
- Health Impact Assessment & Hygiene Education
- Capacity Development
- Research & Development



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