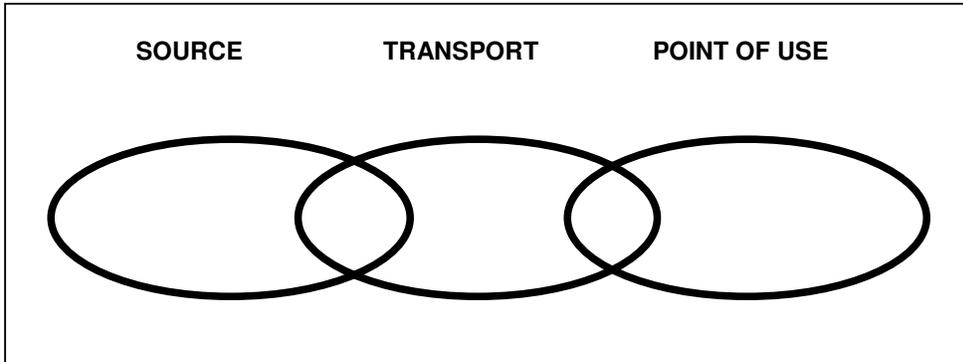


Topic:	Water Safety Plans – Step 1: Problem identification		
Step No:	1	Level No:	1
Author:	Claire Simmons	Last Updated:	February 2010

Introduction to the water chain

Draw a chain as in the diagram below:



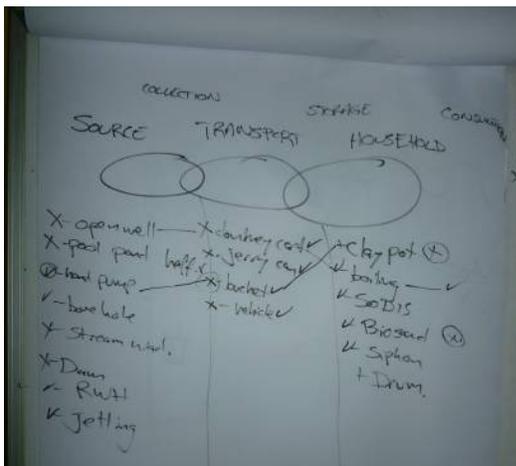
Explain that there are connected elements in any water system, including source, collection, transport, distribution, storage, treatment and consumption.

Identify the three key system elements:

- Source
- Transport
- Point of use

For each system element, ask the group to shout out the different types that they use. For example, ask the group, ‘Where do you get water from?’ [borehole, well, stream, pond etc] and ‘How do you get the water home?’ [carrying jerry can of water on head, tying the can to a bicycle, etc], and ‘What do you do with the water at home?’ [store it in a separate pot, boil it, use siphon filter, etc].

List what the group identifies below each key system element, as in the example below:



Ask the group to tell you what are the most common system elements for their community and circle these answers.

Explain that if any link is broken then the whole chain breaks. This means that we need to look after our water at source, during transportation, and at point of use, if we are to have clean water to drink.

Ask the group: 'What is clean water?'

[Clean water is clear, free from contaminants – biological, chemical and physical.]

For example, it is not enough to keep water clean at the source: if we do nothing for the transport stage, we can still have unclean water.

Outline of Water Safety Plan

Explain to the group that actions we can take at the water source will be the WASH Committee's responsibility and will benefit the whole community. We will look at this first.

Then we will discuss how to address problems of water safety during transport and at point of use, as it will be important for anything we learn together to be shared with the rest of the community. It is part of the WASH Committee's responsibility to share this with their community, but the WASH Committee takes more of a monitoring role in these two aspects of the chain rather than just taking action itself.

At the end we will have an action plan for looking after the water sources and a monitoring plan for looking after water during transport and at point of use.