

[INJECTS] Tabletop exercise

1. What's going on in the slums in Sitra? 10 minutes

The rate of COVID-19 infections and deaths skyrocketed overnight in the main slum in Sitra, which is home to over 325,000 people. Your organisation has primarily worked in rural areas since it started operations in Maiastan in 2001 (the year the war started).

A new country director has recently arrived and she wants to explore opportunities to respond to the COVID-19 crisis in the slums in Sitra. You have heard that she is someone who views new approaches with scepticism, so the first thing you will have to do is to persuade her of the importance of RCCE to the COVID-19 response.

You have a meeting with her this afternoon and she's asked you to prepare for the meeting by filling out the matrix below (see template provided) to show her how you plan to analyse existing information about the slums in Sitra. You also know she's going to ask you what RCCE is and why you think it is an important part of any plan to tackle COVID-19 in the slums.

YOUR TASK: With the information you have from the context handout (for the purposes of the simulation you may have to work with some assumptions), prepare a 3-minute presentation for your country director explaining what RCCE is, why it matters and how you plan to conduct an analysis of existing information about the slums.

[TEMPLATE: Plan to analyse existing information about the slums in Sitra]

Type of information	Why you need it	Where you will get it	What you will do with it
1.			
2.			
3.			
4.			
5.			

2. Who are the main players? 10 minutes

Your country director is not fully convinced after your meeting... She is new to the country and wants to know more about the main actors in the slums – she doesn't know much about the *puyas*. 'This RCCE or whatever new acronym', as she called it during the meeting, seems to be confusing for her. In her last mission, she said, 'we were doing AAP'.

All the same, she seems to be interested in your work and she is particularly concerned about making sure RCCE efforts reach the elderly, people with disabilities, children and pregnant women. Winter is approaching and people in these groups were all living in very harsh conditions in the slums even before the pandemic, and they are most at risk of developing a serious illness if they become infected with COVID-19.

Your country director has asked you to draft a stakeholder influence grid with the main actors present in the slums. She also wants to know what channels you plan to use to reach each group or category of people.

YOUR TASK: Using the template below, prepare a stakeholder influence grid then make a list of the communication channels you will use to reach the various stakeholders.



3. Launching a participatory assessment... 10 minutes

Your organisation just got some funding from ECHO to conduct an assessment in the main slum in Sitra. Your country director told ECHO that it would be a 'participatory assessment' – congratulations, your internal advocacy efforts seems to be working!

ECHO wants to learn more about your organisation's assessment plans, so your country director has asked you to join her for a video conference with ECHO tomorrow afternoon where the assessment plans will be discussed.

YOUR TASK: You have to explain to ECHO what you mean by 'participatory assessment', what methodology and tools you will use and what outputs they can expect and by when.

4. Setting up a community feedback mechanism **10 minutes**

As health officials feared, false information and rumours about COVID-19 have become serious obstacles to engaging the people most at risk in the slums. To make things worse, religious leaders in Sitra have begun telling their followers that this new sickness is a “population control event” orchestrated by NGOs such as yours. Religious leaders blame those who contract COVID-19 of being “sinful”.

People are confused, but your organisation doesn’t have a feedback mechanism yet to help answer their questions, provide accurate information and tackle rumours. ECHO has emailed your country director saying it agrees to provide your organisation with some emergency funding to set up ‘a realistic community feedback mechanism ASAP’.

YOUR TASK: Outline your plans to establish a community feedback mechanism and how you will design it. This includes explaining, in realistic terms, what channels you will use and how the feedback mechanism will be managed internally.