

## **A call for contributions to the development of a Manual on Sanitation Safety Plans**

In 2006, WHO, in collaboration with FAO and UNEP, published the third edition of the Guidelines for the Safe Use of Wastewater, Excreta and Greywater in Agriculture and Aquaculture. In order to make these guidelines accessible to the broadest possible target audience and promote their implementation in a range of different settings, the concept of *Sanitation Safety Plans* has emerged. It is elaborated in a concept note by Eva Barrenberg and Professor Thor-Axel Stenström contained in the second edition of the Guidelines' information kit.

This concept, in line with the water safety plans as a similar instrument to implement the WHO Drinking-water Quality Guidelines, originated from research work done in Ghana, Jordan and Senegal as a joint WHO/FAO/IDRC initiative in relation to the safe use of wastewater in agriculture. But sanitation safety plans go beyond the narrower concept wastewater safety plans, although the exact boundaries still need defining. The concept of sanitation safety plans will be transformed into a Manual that explains different steps of the risk assessment and management process and points out the considerations that need to be taken into account when developing such a sanitation safety plan in a certain setting. The Manual shall target policy makers at different governmental levels, acknowledging the fragmented responsibilities and competences in the field of sanitation. It will address the composition of a multidisciplinary team, system assessment, issues of target setting and exposure assessment, the establishment of control points, management and communication. The Manual will also expand on policy and legal aspects of sanitation safety plans, point out options against the background of the sanitation ladder as proposed by the WHO/UNICEF Joint Monitoring Programme, considering different levels of development. In its first edition, the Manual on Sanitation Safety Plans will maintain a strong focus on the use of wastewater, excreta and greywater in agriculture and aquaculture, but it will not be restricted to this area of work.

The World Health Organization calls for contributions in support of the development of the Manual on Sanitation Safety Plans. Scientists, regulators, public health and development experts and all other stakeholders are invited to contribute their views, experiences and expertise to the manual in any manner they see fit. Those interested are kindly requested to indicate the type and content of their possible contribution for the Manual's first edition to Robert Bos, by making use of the contact data provided below, no later than 31 October 2010.

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