



## Community Health Diagnosis (WASH Needs Assessment Tool)

### What is it about?

The development and use of 'Community Health Diagnosis' is aimed to place targeted communities at a centre stage in profiling their WASH (Water, Sanitation and Hygiene) problems together with associated health issues, root causes, effects and risks. It puts a special emphasis on the most vulnerable groups such as women, children, elderly and persons with physical or mental disabilities.

### Why an intervention?

Most of the WASH interventions depended widely on conventional baseline surveys conducted without emphasis on the most affected persons. Those interventions had several gaps and challenges, as they tended to exclude the needs of the less powerful. Based on such experiences, PACHEDO was prompted to generate 'Community Health Diagnosis' - a more comprehensive, inclusive and action driven assessment tool in order to develop ideal actions.

### What does it change?

Community Health Diagnosis engages all segments of the community, including vulnerable women, men and children and allows the target community to primarily profile, dialogue and explore the prevalent WASH and health situation, as well as to generate community based monitoring and participative evaluation processes.

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*Experience*  
**AT A GLANCE**

### How does it work?

- Every segment of the population in the community is encouraged to actively participate in the identification of their WASH needs and of actions to respond to those needs.
- After documenting the current situation, community members are involved in feedback sessions and in participatory actions designed for each particular community.
- The tool supports communities to generate M&E indicators and to embrace local people in planning, implementation and M&E process.
- Local people are engaged into the functional structures that promote hygiene, sanitation and the protection of water points through sanitation and water use committees
- The experience relies rather on human than on financial resources, and on the collaboration with local resource persons, such as group and clan leaders as well as village health teams.

### Who are the beneficiaries?

Vulnerable rural and peri-urban persons and households - including women, children, elderly, persons with disabilities, persons with HIV/AIDS - in conflict, post-conflict and disaster affected communities, as well as public places and schools.

### Who could use / be interested in that approach?

- AMREF, World Vision and the District Public Health Officer in Gulu, Uganda
- PACHEDO groups of young mothers and persons with HIV/AIDS
- Local governments

### Who is already using it?

PACHEDO (Partners for Community Health and Development Organisation) in North and North Eastern Uganda

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AUSTRIAN ORGANISATION  
FOR DEVELOPMENT COOPERATION

**Sector:** Rural Development – Natural Resource Management

**Period:** Since 2012

**Organisation:** PACHEDO (Partners for Community Health and Development Organisation)

**Further material:** [www.pachedo.wordpress.com](http://www.pachedo.wordpress.com)

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