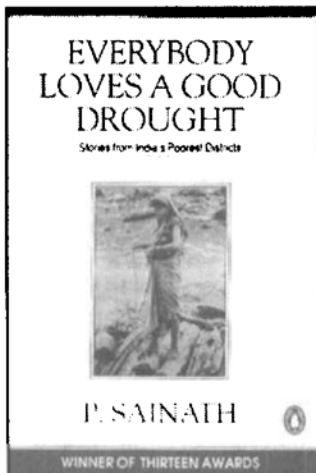


books



Water problems, real and rigged

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Sanitation in Emergencies: Sanitation programmes in camps for refugees or displaced persons Video (PAL; 30 minutes)

Tom de Veer
IRC, The Hague, 1997.
£15.00.

Sanitation in Emergencies, a 30-minute video, is an introduction to managing a sanitation programme in an emergency situation. It is based mainly on the experiences of a Rwandan displaced-persons camp in 1995, but also refers to a number of other cases in order to make a number of generally applicable points. The video is, essentially, a set of slides, accompanied by narration, which illustrates issues such as planning, involving the community concerned, and monitoring and assessment, as well as some technical areas, including excreta-disposal, solid-waste management, and hygiene education. Sanitation is presented as a broad subject, and the links between its different aspects and the importance of co-ordination are stressed. Importantly, failures as well as successes are highlighted, to help viewers understand some of the dilemmas involved in planning and managing programmes in uncertain and insecure situations; and the producers avoid suggesting a model for the ideal programme.

Training receives a lot of attention, and the video itself is a useful training tool; there is even an exercise for viewers on the back of the cassette-box. The presentation is serious, even heavy, despite music by Ladysmith Black Mambaza, Shaka Zulu, and Unomathemba. The appearance of camels in one of the slides may surprise viewers familiar with Rwandan livestock, but I suppose it must be something to do with El Niño. I recommend the video to anyone who wants to find out about emergency sanitation.

John Adams

Emergency Water Sources: Guidelines for selection and treatment

Sarah House and Bob Reed
WEDC, Loughborough, 1997.
320pp. Pbk. £5.00.
ISBN 0 906055 50 4.

There is a trend for humanitarian agencies to support technical and policy publications which they can all use, based on shared knowledge and practice. A good example of this is the RedR manual *Engineering in Emergencies*, published by IT Publications. Now, WEDC (the Water, Engineering and Development Centre at Loughborough University) has produced *Emergency Water Sources* after three years of research and review funded by the UK Government's Department for International Development. A large number of individuals, as well as seven major humanitarian agencies were involved as contributors, reviewers, and providers of material support for fieldwork.

The authors aim to provide comprehensive guidelines for those involved in the assessment of emergency situations to collect relevant information in a systematic way, to use this information to select a water source, or sources, and to determine the appropriate level of treatment required to make the water suitable for drinking.

The guidelines are organized into five sections. The first includes a very useful discussion of emergencies, and defines two broad levels of water supply according to different phases of the emergency: survival-level and longer-term level. In general, this division corresponds to the initial stages of an emergency as well as any later stages.

The next two sections provide a detailed system for selecting water sources and deciding on treatment options. Section II concerns survival-level water supplies, and section III examines longer-term supplies. Each of these sections includes flow charts to aid decision-making, and checklists of information to be collected before departure, and in the field. This is followed by an example log for the assessor to fill in. Both sections are in loose-leaf bindings to allow for easy removal and photocopying, and for the addition of blank sheets for more detailed record-keeping as necessary.

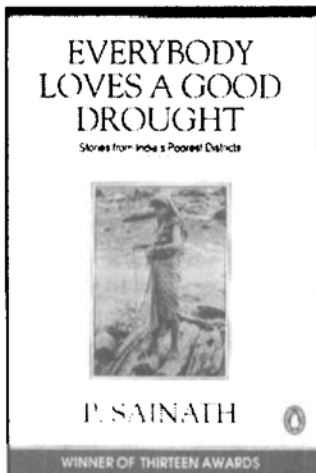
Section IV summarizes supporting/background information on undertaking assessments and report-writing; management; legal, security, socio-political and cultural issues — supplemented by case studies; water-source features; water-source development; water quantities; measurement of yield and water levels; water-quality assessment routines; catchment mapping; water-quality analysis; biological surveying; water treatment; the background to groundwater and aquifers; rock and soil identification; groundwater investigation; and rainwater harvesting. This section is full of very useful information which, I suspect, is likely to be the most used part of the publication. It is not, however, a textbook, and readers will have difficulty finding their way around it unless they use it in conjunction with sections II and III; this is an assessment tool and, as such, not a 'casual' read.

The final section of *Emergency Water Sources* contains information on useful equipment, contact addresses, and a very comprehensive bibliography, which gives some idea of the scale of the work involved in preparing the guidelines, which are extremely well thought-out and based firmly on many years of experience in different types of emergency all over the world.

The guidelines need 'learning' before they can be used intelligently, and WEDC have produced training modules to help with this. Eight hundred free copies of the guidelines have already been distributed, but a reprint is planned, and readers wishing to get a copy should get in touch with WEDC; you will be put on a distribution list.

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