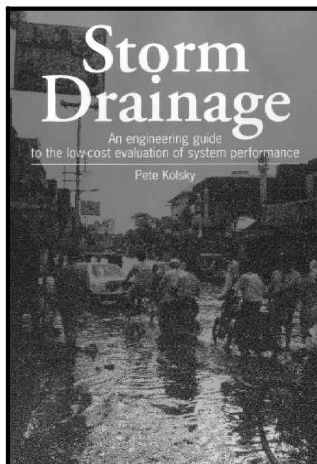


books



Book announcement

Guidelines for Drinking-water Quality Second Edition. Addendum to Volume One: Recommendations
This addendum to volume one of *Guidelines for Drinking-water Quality* summarizes new findings that have become available since the second edition was published in 1993. It contains guideline values for a number of chemical substances that may be found in drinking-water, including inorganic and organic substances, pesticides and a disinfectant bi-product. In addition, guideline values for four substances are presented here for the first time.
WHO, Geneva, 1998
36pp. Pbk. £8.00. ISBN 92 4 154514 3

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Calculo de Costos: Aplicado a sistemas de agua potable y letrinas (Calculating Costs: Applied to drinking-water systems and latrines)

Edited by Orlando Lugo, Nathalie Vesco, and Ursulo Lopez
Unicef, Guatemala City, 1996.
171pp. Pbk. Spanish edition. Limited number of free copies available. E-mail: jmolina@unicef.org

This publication successfully fills the vacuum in technical literature on the follow-up, establishment and comparison of the costs of water and latrine systems — a subject constantly discussed by those responsible for the implementation of water and sanitation projects. The particularities of each locality, differing currency exchange rates, and the level of access to water and sanitation (W&S) systems provided by each project almost made the comparison impossible, as did the not-always-reliable records of costs not directly associated with the construction work, such as training and technical assistance. This publication, and the proposed *Uniform System of Costs for Water and Sanitation*, resolve this need.

With respect to data collection, a system of forms that allows for the collection of information from the most simple source (the community level), and its cumulative transference to other forms where more technical information is also included, represents an interesting innovation that solves the problem of having an instrument that is difficult for community members to manage.

The section dedicated to data analysis describes how the information is entered and registered, and the possibilities of search (by locality, type of system etc.) that allow different report-sheets to be generated. These include both simple and more complex reports — for example, those containing analysis by type of technology used, a key aspect when analysing W&S systems. The reports may also be organized according to budget-size, and the different types of contribution (community, donor, municipality), thus enabling people to work out

who did what at each stage of the project.

A deficiency that might be corrected in future editions is the lack of diagrams or graphics which would help the reader to identify the various system parts being referred to. A disk of the proposed software would also be beneficial — leading to user-training; and the hardware support required to run the programme should be indicated.

In short, this is a book that should greatly interest readers involved in the technical side of W&S programmes, and one that may become a very valuable tool for the follow-up, control and evaluation of associated costs, as well as for the planning and budgeting of future programmes and projects.

Duval Zambrano, Co-ordinator, Peru
Programme, Oxfam-UK

Childhood Diarrhoea in sub-Saharan Africa

Diarrhoeal disease remains a leading cause of mortality and morbidity of children in sub-Saharan Africa, a region where unique geographic, economic, political, and socio-cultural factors interact to create continuing challenges to its prevention and control.

This report is a comprehensive review of the problem, and examines the burden of disease, causes of diarrhoeal diseases, and the roles of cholera, refugee camps, invasive diarrhoea, multi-drug resistant shigellosis, drug use and misuse, and antibiotic resistance.

An overview of treatment and prevention programmes is also provided, and includes home case management and traditional healers, treatment in the hospital or clinic, and diarrhoeal control programs. An agenda for future research and interventions are outlined in the conclusions, as is a comprehensive bibliography on the subject.

A copy of the report is available via <http://ih1.sph.jhu.edu/chr/chr.html>
Or contact: The ARCH project, Harvard's Institute for International Development, 14, Story Street, Cambridge, Massachusetts 02138, USA. Fax +1 617 495 9706. E-mail: Health@HIID.Harvard.edu

Storm Drainage: An engineering guide to the low-cost evaluation of system performance

by Pete Kolsky

Millions of slum residents across the world suffer the hazards and misery of frequent flooding of their streets and homes, which may result in savings of a lifetime being washed away in a few hours, damaged property, loss of work and time, and higher risks of diarrhoea, worm infection and other health problems.

This manual is written to help engineers, aid and agency workers understand drainage problems more clearly in the developing world, so that they can work towards finding practical solutions. It focuses on questions of particular relevance to low-income urban areas in developing countries:

- What is drainage performance? What happens when it floods?
- How can we evaluate a drainage system, to assess how best to improve its performance?
- What are the effects of solids in drains upon performance?

234pp. January 1999. Paperback. £12.95. ISBN 1 85339 432 7.