LESSONS LEARNED: FIRST GENERATION OF POPULATION-HEALTH-ENVIRONMENT FIELD PROJECTS

Results of a program review of the Packard Foundation and USAID field projects
Value of a first generation program evaluation

- Did the PHE program achieve its objectives
- Identify key factors that affect success/failure
- Recognize successful project models & best practices
- Identify where PHE is most appropriate
- Assess if there is value-added in a multi-sector approach
Limitations of this review

- Modest number of field sites visited
- Dependence on reported project results
- Operational Research not always complete
- Project evaluation methodology and rigor varies
General Findings

- Most projects met their anticipated objectives
- Inexpensive community mobilization techniques can provide results within 1-2 years
Successful Program models

- Health & environment-based NGOs can adapt to implement PHE community initiatives
- A variety of community mobilization models have been successful
Successful Program Models (cont.)

- The PE organizational model is less important than other factors (e.g. leadership, acceptance of PE concept)
- A variety of successful training tools have been developed and are available for dissemination
Value Added – Family Planning

- Greater access to men
- Greater access to adolescent boys
- Positive changes in the community perception of women and in women’s self-perception when they have access to money and credit
- Can benefit from child health or improved water as an entry point
Value added - Natural Resource/Coastal Resource Management

- Greater female involvement
- Increased participation of adolescents of both sexes.
- Benefits from linkages to health/pop activities that are community priorities
- Inclusion of micro-credit component may bring greater impact
Value-added: Programmatic

- Cost effective for NGOs with reduced operating expenses (transport, training, personnel)
- Time savings for villagers, expanded audiences
- Management efficient for local leadership
- But difficult for donors and central governments that prefer sectoral approaches
Sustainability

PE/PHE projects have:

- not paid sufficient attention to recurrent cost issues
- not yet demonstrated they can be sustained by local governments without outside donor funding
- not yet demonstrated that they can be replicated without outside donor funding
Scale-Up

- The “capital stage” for PE programs has been completed in the Philippines and Madagascar. Most factors needed for broader program replication are in place.
- However, examples are lacking of how to scale up PHE programs for a much larger target audience.
- The Philippines provides the best opportunity for this to occur, in part due to the success of advocacy activities.
Government decentralization may provide the opportunity to “break through” donor and central government reticence to support integrated programs.

- Consider PE in new contexts
- Retain a flexible definition of PE and PHE
PE/PHE is most appropriate where:

- Communities place heavy pressure on the natural resource base due to high population density per arable land available
- Demographic, health or poverty indicators are worse than the norm
- Both P and E problems and pressures are evident to the communities
Key supporting factors for PE/PHE

- Communities demonstrate a reasonable degree of social capital and leadership
- NGOs have gained the respect of the community
- Mayoral or other local political support is present
- A cluster of donor or government projects are active in the area and can build on each other’s energy and program content
- Where P and E program services (e.g. government) are not adequate
Specific target areas for PE/PHE

- Threatened environmental or biodiversity “hotspots” and buffer zones of protected areas
- Landscape and corridor areas
- Fishing villages near threatened marine areas AND where the fishing waters can be locally controlled (e.g. absence of commercial fishing)
- Watersheds where water scarcity is a recognized problem
- Urban slums
- As part of disaster relief programs
THANK YOU
Report available at:

1. www.wilsoncenter.org
   Programs
   Environmental change & security program
   Event Summaries
   Sept 2005 (bottom of page)
   Review of PHE programs- Pielemeier

2. Email Jpielemeie@aol.com