

EXERCISE 3.3: VENN DIAGRAMS

Objective: Venn diagrams can be used to find out which people and organizations are important within a community.

In the case of an emergency, it can be used to identify who and what is believed to be important for the spread or curbing of an outbreak, to see what institutions operate together and how they interact with each other, or to illustrate the influence that people and institutions have on the life of the community.

Materials Required: Flipchart paper, colored papers, marker pens, scissors, tape or glue

Time Required: 60 to 75 minutes

Instructions:

Select the issue you want to address with the group depending on your needs. Examples relating to an emergency can include:

- The influential people and institutions that can contribute to bringing the emergency to an end
- The different factors perpetuating the outbreak (e.g., hygiene and sanitation)
- The people who are most affected by or at-risk of the problem
- The behaviors that contribute to perpetuating the outbreak

Divide participants into groups of four to eight people and tell them that they will describe visually the importance of the issue being addressed.

Explain that first they need to think of all the people/institutions/behaviors (depending on the factor being discussed) related to that issue.

Once they have identified these, tell participants they need to rank them in terms of importance. The importance of each factor will be presented visually by cutting a circle from the colored paper. The larger the circle, the more important the factor. All group members need to come to a consensus.

Ask participants to glue the different sized circles onto the flipchart paper and to place close together, overlapping those that are linked or connected, while those that are not linked or connected should be placed further apart. This will show the level of connection and interaction that exists between factors.

Once the groups have completed their Venn diagrams, ask them to place them on the wall in an exhibit.

Ask each group to describe their diagram.

Discuss as a group what these diagrams tell you about the problem being addressed. Areas of discussion can include:

- What are the most influential factors affecting the problem? Are they linked?

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- Who in the community is most affected by these factors?
- Who are what institutions have the most decision-making power and influence to help address the issue?
- How can this information be used to develop activities that can address the problem?