
Access to Information in Emergency Situations

Emma Anakhasyan

Armenian Women for Health and Healthy Environment

Bucharest, 2010



Communication with the Public

- WSS Guidance
- Provided information should be accurate, timely, frank and comprehensive
- Trust and credibility

Obsolete Pesticides Burial Ground (case study)

- Constructed in 1982
- Contains about 500 tons of pesticides
- More than 60% persistent organo-chlorines
- Active landslide area
- Located on the top of the hill, 800 meters away from two villages
- Stream, rainfall

Obsolete Pesticides Burial Ground (case study)



Obsolete Pesticides Burial Ground (case study)



AWHHE Activities

- Investigation and monitoring – 10 years
- Survey
- Public awareness
- Press conference
- Advocacy campaign (letters, Round tables, working group)
- Work with mass media (TV, radio, newspapers)

State Actions

- Governmental Order
- Working group
- Provision of information in a month
- Investigation by MoH and MA, OSCE, (phosphorus, mercury, arsenic, organo-chlorine, etc.)
- Temporary measures in 2 months

Obsolete Pesticides Burial Ground (case study)



Lessons Learnt

- Risk assessment
- Timely provision of information
- Quick response by authorities, especially in a rainy season
- Fundraising for the permanent solution

Thank you

www.awhhe.am