



“Gheorghe Asachi” Technical University of Iasi, Romania



SANITATION RESPONSE IN EMERGENCIES: LESSONS LEARNT FROM PRACTITIONERS IN POST-EARTHQUAKE HAITI

Daniela Giardina, Sabrina Sorlini*, Luca Rondi

CeTAmb LAB - Research Laboratory on Appropriate Technologies for Environmental Management in Resource-Limited Countries, Department of Civil Engineering, Architecture, Land, Environment and of Mathematics, University of Brescia, Via Branze 43, 25123 Brescia, Italy

Abstract

The January 2010 earthquake in Haiti caused catastrophic damage, and the displacement of about 1.5 million people in urban and peri-urban areas of Port-au-Prince. A web-based questionnaire was developed and sent to international organizations working in Haiti through the Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH) Cluster in order to assess how humanitarian actors responded to the sanitation needs for Internally Displaced People (IDP). The findings showed different sanitation systems being implemented during humanitarian relief and the transition to the reconstruction/development phase. Humanitarian practitioners faced specific challenges to sanitation provision related to the urban type of the emergency response. However, experts' opinions highlighted innovative solutions that have not been implemented in the field, due mostly to land tenure issues, donors' restrictions and lack of political will. Practitioners provided some suggestions for more resistant sanitation technologies as well as some recommendations for sanitation provision in the early recovery phase.

Key words: disaster risk reduction, earthquake, emergency sanitation, Haiti

Received: January, 2016; Revised final: September, 2016; Accepted: September, 2016

* Author to whom all correspondence should be addressed: e-mail: sabrina.sorlini@unibs.it