**Module 6 – Projects**

**Problem analysis: environment in the problem tree**

**‘Generica district’ case study**

**Introduction**

In the logical framework approach, the “problem tree” is the main tool used for problem analysis. Its strength is that it allows clarification in stakeholders’ minds about the cause-effect relationships between various problems: following a “brainstorming” of the various problems characterising a situation, these problems are organised in the shape of a “tree”, showing the “cause-effect” relationships. The problem tree is the starting point for building a logical framework. Identifying any environmental problems and including them in the tree can be referred to as “greening” the logframe.

**Consider the following situation in Generica District**

The incidence of malaria, and the associated morbidity and mortality, are increasing in the District. The government has requested support from the EC, as the CSP includes health as a focal area.

A medical consultant was sent to Generica in order to investigate and identify a possible project. According to her ToR, she is to attend a participatory meeting organised by the District Medical Officer and chaired by the Councillor. The consultant already thinks that health centres in Generica are poorly organised.

At the meeting, the Councillor explains that according to statistics malaria remains the most significant problem and that there seem to be more and more mosquitoes. Under a former project, he distributed insecticide impregnated bed nets – however, the malaria problem was not solved, probably because there were not enough nets supplied. The person in charge of the nets explains that all nets sent to Generica were distributed.

A woman explains that people are not as strong as they used to be and that is why they get more malaria, she thinks that this may be because these days food production is more erratic and unreliable because of flooding and crop damage from heavy rain and heat waves.

A man says that more nets should be provided because some people use them for fishing. The fish have become so small that they slip through the meshes of ordinary fishing nets. He adds that now it is very difficult to fish because the lake is invaded by aquatic plants, and flooding often washes the fish away.

The Medical Officer explains that the increase in floods and heavy rain over the past decade combined with higher temperatures promotes the breeding of mosquitoes, and the increase in aquatic vegetation does not help. He also explains that gutters and drains are a breeding ground for mosquitoes, because they are clogged with plastic bags and other waste.

“But”, he says looking at the Councillor, “this is not my responsibility; my responsibility is to ensure that the centre operates and to provide you with mosquito nets”.

On the basis of these discussions, the consultant drafted the following problem tree:

**Ineffective treatment**

**Insufficient distribution of mosquito nets**

**High rate of infection**

**Health centre poorly organised**

**Limited stocks of nets**

**High rate of malaria**

**morbidity & mortality**

… and the following intervention logic:

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Overall objective** | Reduce malaria morbidity and mortality |
| **Purpose** | Lower rate of malaria infection  More effective treatment of malaria cases |
| **Results** | More mosquito nets distributed  Better organised health care |

**Instructions**

Has the consultant taken account of **ALL** the **environmental and climate related issues** raised at the meeting?

From the contributions made at the meeting can you identify any environmental causes of the problems?

Write any environmental problems you identify on cards and add them to the original problem tree as appropriate.

The integrated problem tree will be the basis of a “greened” logframe, but note it remains a health project - the overall objective and purpose should not be modified.