Water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH)

Improving access for all

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Coverage Headlines

• 884 million people without access to an improved source of drinking-water

• 2.6 billion people without access to improved sanitation

(WHO/UNICEF JMP 2010)
Relevant MDGs

MDG 7: Ensure Environmental Sustainability

Target 7C: Halve, by 2015, the proportion of the population without sustainable access to safe drinking water and basic sanitation

Definitions

• *Improved drinking water source*
  – adequately protects the source from outside contamination, in particular from faecal matter

• *Improved sanitation facility*
  – hygienically separates human excreta from human contact
Progress on MDG 7

✔ Drinking water target – on track
  - Urban/rural disparity: in rural areas, numbers not using improved source of drinking water is >5 times the number in urban areas;
  - 37% of people not using improved source live in Sub-Saharan Africa.

🌟 Sanitation target – out of reach
  - Worldwide, 1.1 billion people practise open defecation;
  - Urban/rural disparity: rural population using improved sanitation - 45%; urban areas 76%.
WASH & children

• 2.2 million children <age of 5 die each year due to “unsafe water, inadequate sanitation and lack of hygiene”
• Diarrhoea kills 1.5 million children <5 every year
• Diarrhoea kills more young children than AIDS, malaria and measles combined.

(UNICEF/WHO, 2009)
DFID-funded EngKaR research project

Goal:
• to contribute to improved WATSAN services and facilities for disabled people

Purpose:
• To produce information on simple low-cost solutions and approaches to making WATSAN facilities more accessible

• Led by WEDC – partner CRP Bangladesh
• Field-work in 4* low-income countries
Fairly typical water sources
Obstacles to inclusion

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Environmental - natural</td>
<td>Long distances, rough or steep paths, muddy ground...</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Environmental - infrastructure</td>
<td>High steps, narrow entrances, no doors, unlockable doors, slippery or dirty floors, narrow cubicles</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Policy/Institutional</td>
<td>Lack of policy/strategy, knowledge, skills, information, procedures for consultation with disabled people...</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Social/cultural/attitudinal</td>
<td>Lack of information, traditional beliefs, pity, isolation, overprotection, stigma, prejudice, shame ...</td>
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</tbody>
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Who is affected?
Physical Environment - solutions

For convenience, can be divided into:

• Getting there
• Getting in/on/ near
• Usability
Getting there

- Smooth paths
- Drains, ditches, etc. covered
Getting there

- Change of ground texture, landmarks for visually impaired people
Getting in/on

- Minimise difference in apron height
- Ramps
Getting in - entrances

- Entrance wide enough for user + helper, wheelchair, stick, crutches etc.
- Communal latrine with low steps & handrails
Extra space inside for
• wheelchair to enter and turn, or
• user + helper, or
• to move a seat to one side when not in use
Support rails

- May be fixed to the floor or the wall
Seating options - fixed

Concrete toilet seat - household latrine

- Twin brick blocks
Seating options - moveable
Water – transport, storage

- Wheelchair trailer
- Internal water source – within easy reach
Project implementation cycle

• Project design & planning:
  – Outputs and indicators related to vulnerable groups;
  – Baseline data collection – include questions on vulnerability/ exclusion/ accessibility
  – Community consultation – seek views of most disadvantaged: disabled women & men and their families, elderly men & women, children, the poorest...
  – Provide information about accessible options

• Monitoring & evaluation:
  – Monitor participation, outputs and impact on vulnerable groups
Outputs

- Book & CD
- French book & CD
- Free to download online

Advocacy Briefing Note
- 4-pages – eye-catching
- Key messages
Follow-up into practice

Tailor-made training:
- WAWI - Ghana, Niger,
- WaterAid - Nigeria, 9 countries
- World Vision – Ethiopia
- UNICEF - Webinar on accessible school WASH

WEDC courses:
- incorporated into MSc modules;
- MSc student research projects
Issues

• Informed demand
• Domestic v public facilities
• Importance of collaboration
  – Communication/language
  – Understanding how the other sector works
• WASH sector - understanding/ skills
  – avoiding issues overload
• DPOs – capacity, competing priorities

Developing knowledge and capacity in water and sanitation
Examples of practical initiatives - Cambodia

- DPOs disseminated information
- Individuals designed their own facilities
- Improved status in community
- Role models for other disabled people

• Long Kunthea and her accessible bathroom (Source: ADD website)
Approaches to improving accessibility

A) Individual approach
  • Provide aids & equipment to individuals, according to need

B) Adaptation of existing facilities
  • e.g. adding handrails, seats, ramps, etc. Can be expensive

C) Inclusive Design
  • Design & construct facilities that are accessible and easy for all to use (aka Universal Design, Barrier-free design, Design for All...)
Public / household facilities

Household facility:
• Limited number of users, mostly known,
• Identifiable/foreseeable needs

Requires basic user-friendly design + range of accessibility features to choose from.

Communal/institutional facility:
• Large number of users, many unknown
• Wide range of possible needs:

Take “Inclusive design” approach
Examples

A. Individual equipment: a toilet stool

C. Well with low section of wall for use by children, wheelchair users, people sitting …
Issues

 ✓ Informed demand
 ✓ Domestic v public facilities
   • Importance of collaboration
     – Communication/language
     – Understanding how the other sector works
   • WASH sector - understanding/ skills
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   • DPOs – capacity, competing priorities

Developing knowledge and capacity in water and sanitation
Accessibility audits

- To assess accessibility & usability of facilities
- Involve both service providers and users
Examples of collaborative project - Disabled Friendly Toilets, India

- Collaboration between UNICEF and local DPO (Arushi) Bhopal


Websites

- **WEDC Knowledge base**: <http://wedc.lboro.ac.uk/knowledge/know.html>
- **Facts and figures: Water, sanitation and hygiene links to health** <http://www.who.int/water_sanitation_health/publications/factsfigures04/en>
- **Diarrhoea: Why children are still dying and what can be done** http://7pointplan.org/