VIOLENCE GENDER & WASH

A PRACTITIONER'S TOOLKIT

Making water, sanitation and hygiene safer through improved programming and services

This toolkit has been developed in response to an acknowledgement that although the lack of access to appropriate sanitation, hygiene and water services is not the root cause of violence, it can lead to increased vulnerabilities to violence of varying forms. Incidences have been reported from a wide range of contexts, often anecdotally but with regular occurrence, with a number of targeted studies confirming the same.

By recognising both the risks of violence associated with WASH and the potential benefits of WASH this toolkit aims to shine a light on this problem and encourage practitioners to recognise their capacity to make WASH safer and more effective.

Effectively considering gender in the process of establishing sustainable WASH services can also contribute to the process of longer-term change in attitudes and relationships between men and women. This in turn can contribute to a transformative process that can help reduce vulnerabilities to violence over the longer term.

However, for WASH actors, particularly for those working in the longer-term developmental contexts, there has been a lack of clarity on the practical steps that can be taken so that they can contribute to reducing vulnerabilities through improved policy and programming. This toolkit aims to fill this gap.

The toolkit has been developed by Sarah House, Suzanne Ferron, Dr Marni Sommer and Sue Cavill, on behalf of WaterAid with contributions from a wide range of actors. It has been funded by the Department for International Development (DFID) of the British Government through the Sanitation and Hygiene Applied Research For Equity (SHARE) Consortium and has been co-published by a number of organisations, which can be viewed on the back page of this flyer.

Please see overleaf for an overview of the contents of the toolkit and the following page for a summary of the principles for improving programming and services.

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OVERVIEW

Briefing Note 1 — BN1
About this toolkit and how to use it
- Purpose, scope and limitations
- Contents
- Definitions
- Acknowledgements

Checklist of actions — CHECKLIST
- Ten key principles
- Actions with the potential to reduce violence
- Links to further information in the toolkit

Briefing Note 2 — BN2
Improving WASH programming
- Why as WASH practitioners we should consider vulnerabilities to violence
- What violence can look like in relation to WASH
- Principles for good practice in reducing violence related to WASH
- Examples of good practice in improving programming
- Advocacy and awareness raising

Briefing Note 3 — BN3
Institutional commitment and staff capacity
- How violence can affect us as WASH professionals
- What we need to know as WASH professionals
- Responsibilities of WASH sector organisations
  – policies, codes of conduct, training and support for staff, finance and monitoring and evaluation (M&E)
- Examples of institutional good practice
- What we should do if we or our colleagues are affected directly by violence – 'Do's and Don'ts'

Briefing Note 4 — BN4
Understanding the protection sector and how to respond to violence as a WASH actor
- Actors who work in the 'protection' sector in development and humanitarian contexts
- Examples of how WASH and protection actors have worked together
- Referral systems and ethics used by the protection sector
- What we should do if we are faced with violence in communities – 'Do's and Don'ts'

Supporting documents

Toolset 1 — TS1
Case studies
Examples of violence, gender and WASH

Toolset 2 — TS2
Videos
Violence, gender and WASH and good practice in programming – including the introductory video 'As safe as toilets?'

Toolset 3 — TS3
Case studies
Good practice in policy and programming

Toolset 4 — TS4
Methodologies for working with communities

Toolset 5 — TS5
Scenarios
For use in training

Toolset 6 — TS6
People in vulnerable, marginalised and special circumstances

Toolset 7 — TS7
International legal instruments

Toolset 8 — TS8
References

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Principles for reducing vulnerabilities to violence linked to WASH through improved programming and institutional commitment

Principle 1. Institutionalise the requirement to analyse and respond to vulnerabilities to violence in WASH-related policies, strategies, plans, budgets and systems (human resource management and M&E) – *refer to* **BN3** *for further information*

Principle 2. Build the capacity of staff and partners to understand the problem of violence related to WASH and what their responsibilities are in relation to this issue – *refer to* **BN3** *for further information*

Principle 3. Make links with protection, gender and GBV specialists to assist in improving programmes and responding to challenges faced – *refer to* **BN4** *for further information*

Principle 4. Consider possible vulnerabilities to violence linked to WASH, integrate responses into all stages of WASH programming/service delivery

Principle 5. Adapt existing participatory tools and involve women, men, girls and boys in the process of identifying the risks and identifying solutions, allowing women and adolescent girls to express their views separately

Principle 6. Pay particular attention to considering the safety of people who are in vulnerable, marginalised or special circumstances when accessing WASH services

Principle 7. Build the self-esteem and self-worth of all, but with particular attention on women and adolescent girls, linking to existing groups and networks to provide support and also to help respond to backlash

Principle 8. Ensure that community members have adequate information on safety linked to WASH and that community feedback processes are built into programmes

Principle 9. Ensure that WASH facilities are designed, constructed and managed in ways that reduce vulnerabilities to violence
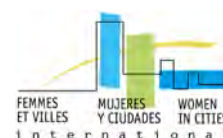
Principle 10. Pay particular attention to transparency in processes where non-food items are distributed in humanitarian contexts

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Actions that have the potential to reduce vulnerabilities to violence
(see the **Checklist** for more examples)

Safety audits

Safe-scaping / safety mapping

Locks on toilet doors

Involve women and adolescent girls in design and siting facilities

Lights in toilets and bathing facilities

Manage / fence water points

Provide adequate yield of water

Training staff

Dialogue with communities to develop solutions

Allow women and girls to express their feelings on safety separately to men

Link with existing women's groups

Work with organisations who work with people who are LBGTI

Code of conduct

Peer mentoring schemes

Make links with protection specialists

Build confidence and self-esteem

Involve boys and men

The toolkit is co-published by:

Commitments of co-publishing organisations

It should be noted that the organisations co-publishing this resource might not currently practice all of the recommendations proposed within it.

Co-publishing the resource provides an indication of the organisations' commitment to help their staff become increasingly aware of the issues relating to violence and WASH, and that they will continue to work to improve their organisation-wide commitment, policies, strategies, plans and programming over time to reduce vulnerabilities to violence related to WASH wherever it is realistically possible.

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Overview of the toolkit