



A PRACTITIONER'S TOOLKIT

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

Toolset 3-F

Policies, strategies, guidelines

TS3-F-4 – Inter-Agency Standing Committee gender and GBV guidance for humanitarian response

Context	The Inter-Agency Standing Committee was established to strengthen co-ordination in humanitarian assistance. It is the primary mechanism for facilitating inter-agency decision-making in response to complex emergencies and natural disasters.
Implementing organisations	Inter-Agency Standing Committee (IASC).
Description of good practices	<p>IASC (2005) Guidelines for Gender-based Violence Interventions in Humanitarian Settings; Focusing on Prevention of and Response to Sexual Violence in Emergencies</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The primary use of the guidelines is to enable humanitarian actors and communities to plan, establish and co-ordinate a set of minimum multi-sectoral interventions to prevent and respond to sexual violence during the early phase of an emergency. • There is a section and recommendations related to WASH: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Action sheet 5.1. Implement safe water/sanitation programmes (which has been extracted and can be found on the USB stick). • There is a section on human resources: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Action sheet 4.1. Recruit staff in a manner that will discourage sexual exploitation and abuse – Includes recommendations on reference checks, including questions on previous GBV-related issues, and also practical strategies to employ more women. These include recruiting husband/wife and brother/sister teams, particularly for cultures where women are not allowed to leave the house without a male family member. – Action sheet 4.2. Disseminate and inform all partners on code of conduct – Includes for all staff to sign in their contract that they will abide by the Secretary-General's bulletin; for partner organisations to sign the same when establishing contracts; and when engaging community members in activities such as distributions, management etc. that they must also understand and agree to abide by the code of conduct. <p>IASC (2006) Gender and Water, Sanitation and Hygiene in Emergencies (WASH-specific good practice note/checklist)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Well-written practical guidance note on gender and WASH in emergencies, including good practice related to GBV and WASH.

- The note covers: assessments; the use of disaggregated data; the importance of involving everyone in programme designs; tips for ensuring a secure setting for conducting consultations and on potential tensions when attempting to change the role of women and children in communities; and involving everyone in monitoring.
- Although this is a strong document, there are a few areas which could be strengthened. For example: the involvement of adolescent girls in discussions on safety and needs; inclusion of safety walks or audits as a tool; and information and dialogue on menstrual hygiene, which is broader than just discussing menstrual materials/cloths.
- Refer to the full document – included in the [supporting information folder on the USB](#).

IASC (2006) Women, Girls, Boys and Men; Different Needs – Equal Opportunities, gender handbook

- The handbook has a useful section on the basics of gender in emergencies, including different approaches and terminology.
- It includes tips on how to recruit teams which are male/female balanced (p.5).
- It promotes the **ADAPT and ACT Collectively to Ensure Gender Equality approach**:

ADAPT and ACT Collectively to Ensure Gender Equality

Analyse gender differences

Design services to meet the needs of all

Access for women, girl, boys and men is provided equally

Participate equally to ensure gender balance

Train women and men equally

and

Address GBV in education and humanitarian emergency efforts

Collect, analyse and report sex- and age-disaggregated data

Target actions based on gender analysis

Collectively co-ordinate actions with all partners

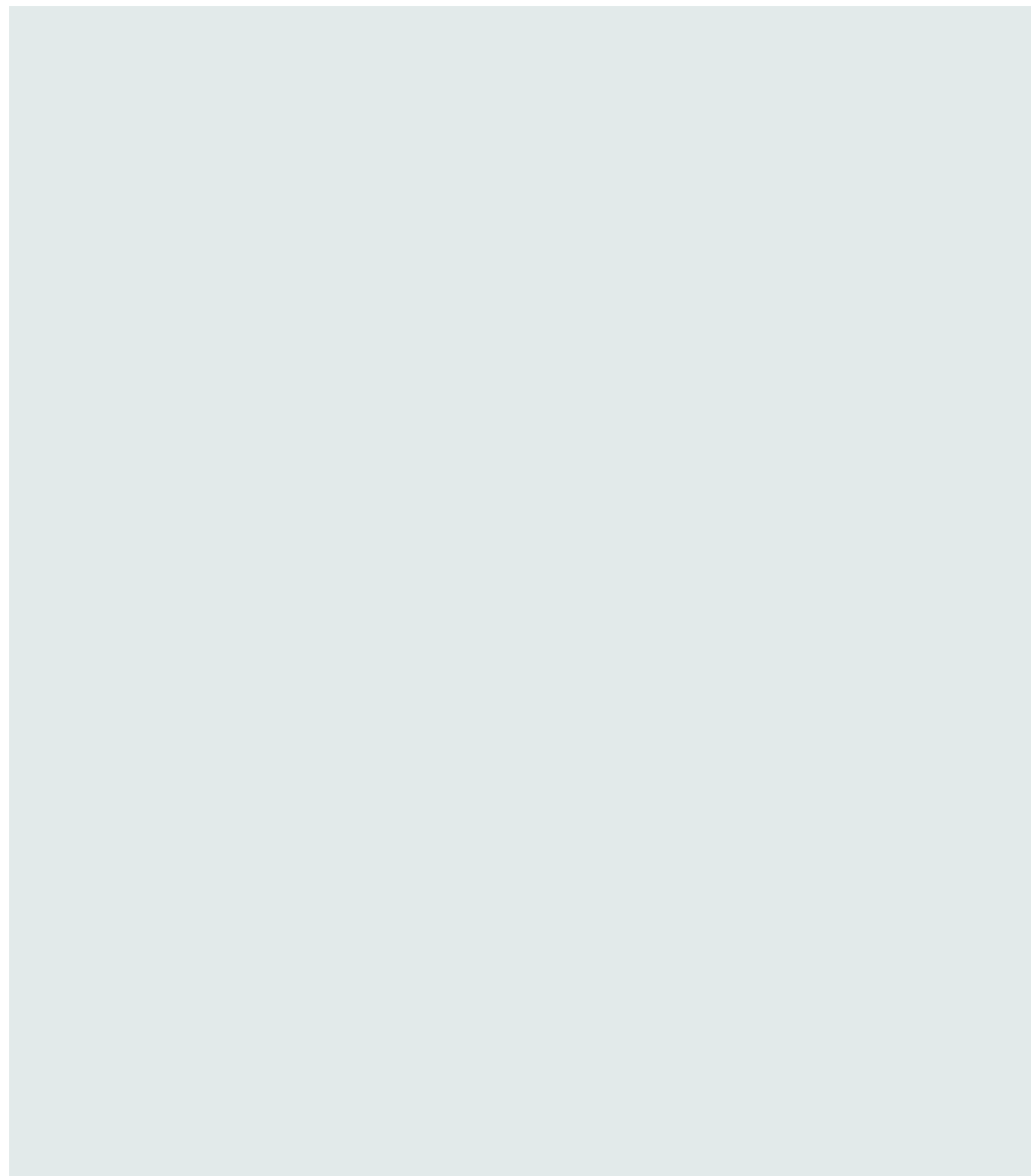
- The handbook includes information on the international legal framework for protection and on co-ordination and participation.
- It then provides sector-specific guidance – the WASH section is available as a stand-alone document (discussed above).

IASC (2010) Different Needs, Equal Opportunities: Increasing Effectiveness of Humanitarian Action for Women, Girls, Boys and Men – An E-Learning Course and Learn-in-a-group Facilitator Guidelines

- Training materials are available to support learning on the handbook, as described above.

References/Links

- Inter-Agency Standing Committee. Available at: www.humanitarianinfo.org/iasc [accessed 11 October 2013].
- Inter-Agency Standing Committee (2005) Guidelines for Gender-based Violence Interventions in Humanitarian Settings; Focusing on Prevention of and Response to Sexual Violence in Emergencies. Geneva: IASC. ([on USB stick](#))
- Inter-Agency Standing Committee (2006a) Gender and Water, Sanitation and Hygiene in Emergencies. Extracted from Inter-Agency Standing Committee (2006b) Women, Girls, Boys and Men; Different Needs – Equal Opportunities, gender handbook. Geneva: IASC. (WASH-specific good practice note). ([on USB stick](#))
- Inter-Agency Standing Committee (2006b) Women, Girls, Boys and Men; Different Needs – Equal Opportunities, gender handbook. Geneva, Switzerland: IASC. ([on USB stick](#))
- Inter-Agency Standing Committee (no date) Different Needs, Equal Opportunities: Increasing Effectiveness of Humanitarian Action for Women, Girls, Boys and Men – An E-Learning Course and Learn-in-a-group Facilitator Guidelines. Available at: <http://www.interaction.org/iasc-gender-elearning> [accessed 24 October 2013].



**VIOLENCE
GENDER
& WASH**

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