

# VIOLENCE GENDER & WASH

## A PRACTITIONER'S TOOLKIT

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

## Toolset 4-G

Methodologies for working with communities

### TS4-G – Three-pile sorting

#### This toolset includes:

Information on adapting the three-pile sorting method to stimulate a discussion about reducing vulnerabilities to violence.

#### Three-pile sorting method

The three-pile sorting method is a participatory method commonly used by WASH actors. It is used to encourage discussion, to identify problems and to enable group problem solving.

It might be helpful to have an introductory discussion on violence and what the problems are in the particular context before using this activity.

The facilitator introduces the activity and divides the participants into small groups. He/she explains that each group will be given a set of cards depicting situations relating to WASH and violence or people feeling unsafe.

Each small group of participants is given a set of cards and asked to sort them into three piles of:

- Good
- Bad
- In-between (this could be a picture that has both good and bad things about it or one where the group was undecided)

Each group discusses each picture in turn and what they see in the picture. They then decide to place it in one of the three piles.

After sorting the piles, the small groups can discuss in plenary why they have chosen a particular pile and the facilitator leads a discussion asking questions such as:

- Does this happen here?
- What do men do? What do women do?
- What can be done about it?
- What are the advantages and disadvantages?
- What can be done to make the WASH facilities safer and avoid vulnerabilities to violence for women and children etc.?



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The method can be adapted to help the group consider gender issues in WASH programmes, and what practices may increase or decrease vulnerabilities to violence.

It can also be used as an assessment tool to better understand what the vulnerabilities are in a particular community. If used as an assessment tool, it is useful to have a facilitator with each group taking notes of what people say (with their permission).

### Three pile sorting cards – gender, GBV and WASH

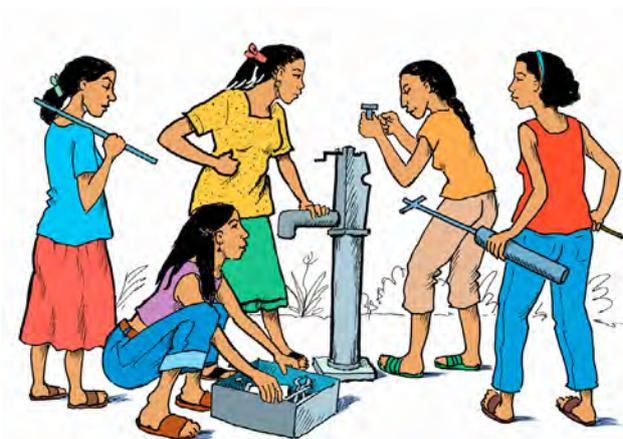
Below are examples of cards that could be used in three-pile sorting to promote discussion on how men and women in the community might view the relationship between the sexes, and how this could give rise to violence linked to WASH. The idea behind the activity is to encourage discussion, identify potential problems and try to work out as a group how such problems might be addressed. It is the responsibility of the facilitator to stimulate debate and discussion and to enable people to take more control over the decisions that affect them.

Some examples of how different groups might interpret the pictures are given below. It is important to remember that there are no right or wrong ‘piles’ of cards. The activity is meant to provoke discussion about a particular subject, identify potential problems and get people to consider context-specific solutions.

In discussing violence, there might be a temptation for some to try and avoid the problem and maintain the status quo by e.g. not making men angry. However, a skilled facilitator should get the group to see that this is not really a ‘solution’.

#### Points which may be raised during discussions

- This picture shows women involved in maintaining the waterpoint.
- They might have been involved in the project, have been trained and have some control over keeping the waterpoint operational.
- If it is working, this might mean that women and children are less likely to have to walk long distances to get water, so making them less vulnerable to harassment and rape. Keeping the waterpoint well maintained will therefore have much more impact on them than on men, and can be a motivating factor.
- However, the fact that women are taking on traditional male roles might make men in the community frustrated or angry.
- What can be done about this? What are the pros and cons?



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- Men and women are cleaning the waterpoint.
- Often this task may fall to women alone and is often unpaid.
- It is good practice that men and women should share such a task – it reduces workloads on women and indicates that there is respect between men and women through sharing the task.



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- The husband and wife are sharing household cleaning tasks.
- This might indicate that there is some level of understanding and respect between them.
- This may indicate that this couple have a more equal relationship, fewer arguments over responsibilities for WASH-related tasks and that domestic violence is less likely.



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- Joint meetings between men and women or boys and girls can sometimes be useful to discuss or resolve issues associated with the provision of WASH facilities.
- These pictures indicate that men respect that women should also be involved in discussions on WASH.
- The women will have more opportunity to contribute their opinions than if they were not involved, and to influence the project design and operation and maintenance to make it safer to use for women and children.
- However, being part of a committee does not always indicate that women will be listened to or can make decisions.
- Women or girls may sometimes feel intimidated in such situations. It is usually good practice to have separate discussions also with men and women or boys and girls.



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- This picture shows a water committee meeting where all the members are male except for one who is female [note that the two people with their backs shown are meant to be men not women].
- From the picture it looks like she is not being included in the discussions.
- She may feel shy, intimidated or uncomfortable being the only woman on the committee, or the male members may not listen to her or make her feel welcome.
- In this situation the water committee will not benefit from her knowledge and the experiences of women, who have lots of experience in relation to water.



WaterAid Tabora Programme, Tanzania

- If this is a picture of a water committee, it highlights that it has both active male and active female members.
- This could also be a picture of the treasurer collecting household contributions for sustaining WASH facilities.
- Alternatively, this could be a picture of a savings group which can help both women and men save money for multiple purposes – including for improving their access to household WASH services.
- A woman holds the position of treasurer – she looks confident and good at her job, and the other people in the picture give the impression that they are comfortable and respectful of her.
- This picture shows that the men and women are comfortable to work together.



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- Women are being involved in selecting technology choices.
- They therefore have the opportunity to select facilities etc. that will make women and children feel safer when using them.



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- This picture shows a man collecting water.
- This will reduce the workload for his wife and/or children, and also reduces the vulnerabilities that they may face linked to harassment or attack while collecting water.
- It may not always be acceptable for men to do this, but why does it happen and where?
- What are the pros and cons?



Rod Shaw / WEDC, Loughborough University

- This image shows men fighting and women looking angry with one another.
- The group decides which pile to place the picture in, and then they have to imagine if this was a WASH programme what are they fighting about?
- What can be done about this – how would can we prevent such a problem or resolve it?



CARE / Practical Action / Oxfam

- This picture shows how 'role play' can be used to encourage discussion on WASH-related issues (people will interpret the picture how they want in the context of violence and WASH).
- The group includes both men and women and also involves humour.
- Role play can provide an opportunity to discuss difficult issues, such as harassment of women and girls when they collect water, and hence allows communities to discuss and identify solutions to the problem.



CARE / Practical Action / Oxfam

- This picture shows a group of women feeling at ease with one another and discussing openly and in an animated way the issues of interest.
- Women 's groups can be a useful way for women and girls to form alliances with their peers, and provide a safe environment for discussing sensitive issues and challenges (such as gender-based violence) that they may be facing, as well as for developing solutions.



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- This picture shows the husband, wife and male child helping to clean the WASH facilities.
- This could indicate that there is some level of understanding and respect between the man and his wife.
- This may indicate that arguments over WASH-related tasks and incidents of domestic violence are less likely.
- It also shows that the latrine is likely to be kept clean and well maintained, which will make it more likely that the family members will be able to use it regularly, including women and children. Good hygiene can also make it easier for a family member with disabilities to be able to use the facilities.
- There are, however, no handrails or a seat. These would make a latrine more accessible if a family member has limited mobility.



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- This picture shows a woman or girl collecting water at an open water source.
- This means she may have to walk outside of the village and into the bush.
- She also seems to be alone.
- Walking some distance to collect water, walking into the bush and being alone are all factors that can increase the vulnerability of women and children to violence when collecting water.



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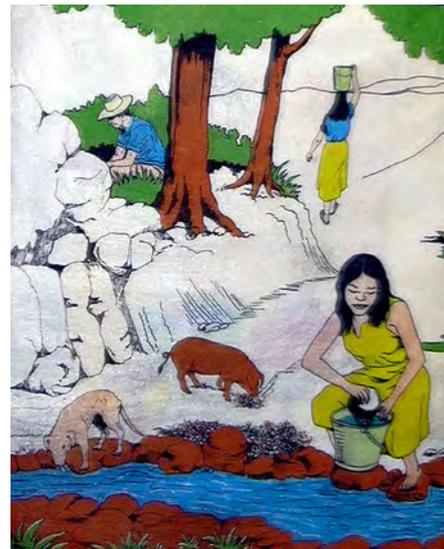
- This picture shows a young girl paying for water.
- A young girl might be more vulnerable to exploitation by unscrupulous men than older women would be. He may start to give her free water for some time acting as her friend, but then require that she pays him with sexual favours.
- However, it might also be seen as a good thing that she can access water closer to home, and that there is someone managing the taps.



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- This picture shows women/girls collecting water at an open water source.
- The women/girls have had to walk outside of the village and into the bush.
- One woman is walking back to the village leaving a man behind with the other woman. He seems to be defecating behind a tree.
- Walking some distance to collect water, walking into the bush and being alone are all factors that can increase the vulnerabilities of women and children when collecting water as they make them easy targets for attack.



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- These pictures may be of a husband and wife, or may be of a man and woman from the community.
- They look friendly and as though they may have a good relationship.
- Respect between a husband and wife can help to make it easier for them to discuss problems they are facing and to develop solutions together, and this in turn is likely to reduce vulnerabilities to violence.



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- If girls and boys latrines are not separated, girls may feel uncomfortable going to the toilet.
- Groups of boys may tease or taunt them, or even try and look at them using the toilet. It is important to involve girls in the decisions about where to site the toilets and how the separation and privacy can be maintained.



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- Separate latrines for girls and boys can help girls feel safer when using them.
- How can girls and boys be involved in deciding on locations and designs of latrine facilities in schools?



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## References

Thoughtshop Foundation, Gender Equity. Available at: [http://thoughtshopfoundation.org/project\\_summaries/Gender.html](http://thoughtshopfoundation.org/project_summaries/Gender.html) [accessed 11 October 2013].

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