

VIOLENCE GENDER & WASH

A PRACTITIONER'S TOOLKIT

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

Toolset 4-I

Methodologies for working with communities

TS4-I – WASH committees, gender and decision-making

This toolset includes:

Tools to help facilitate participation and inclusion of women and men in projects, to focus on how decisions are made to involve both women and men, and to see and value differences as well as to monitor changes.

WASH committees, gender and decision-making

A range of materials and tools are available globally for training on gender issues for WASH committees and community leaders.

A particularly nice set of tools, clearly written with associated case studies and available for download and use, has been developed by Halcrow et al. (2010). It is based on research undertaken in Fiji and Vanuatu in the Pacific. A resource guide, flash cards and an associated poster are included in this toolkit.

The stated aim of the materials is to provide ideas on how to make WASH approaches more sensitive and responsive to the views, status, needs and responsibilities of both women and men. It is designed to build on other WASH guidance materials and to build on existing WASH approaches.

These materials are particularly relevant to the issue of violence and WASH, because they help the community to work through issues relating to power and decision-making in the context of WASH committees and also in relation to WASH-related roles and responsibilities in the community, and to reflect on ways to move forward.



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The resources are based on the following principles:

- Principle 1** – Facilitate participation and inclusion
- Principle 2** – Focus on how decisions are made
- Principle 3** – See and value differences
- Principle 4** – Create opportunities

The resources include the following particularly useful materials:

- a. **Tips for encouraging good participation in a consultation or planning process** (p.11).
- b. **A methodology called a 'Learning Circle'** – which is a group of people who meet regularly to discuss, explore and learn about issues in their communities, looking at different sides to the same issue (p.12–13).
- c. **A participatory monitoring tool** – using **pocket chart voting** for information, voice and choice (p.14–15).
- d. **Discussion on decision-making processes and tips for working with women and men in making decisions and when working with committees.** This also includes the use of talking sticks for committees and the use of participation ladders for monitoring how effectively men and women report they are participating in decisions in committees (p.16–23).
- e. **The 24-hour clock and discussion on seeing and valuing differences** (p.24–27).
- f. **Role playing on different WASH-related gender roles** – suggesting that women and men play each other's roles to start what can be quite challenging conversations in a fun way (p.28–30).
- g. **Tips for managers and organisations as to how they can support gender-related principles and practices** (p.35–37).

Reference

Halcrow, G., C. Rowland, J. Willetts, J. Crawford and N. Carrard (2010) *Resource Guide: Working effectively with women and men in water, sanitation and hygiene programmes*. Sydney, Australia: International Women's Development Agency and Institute for Sustainable Futures, University of Technology – resource guide; flashcards; case study snapshots; poster of principles and practices. Available at: www.genderinpacificwash.info [accessed 11 October 2013]. ([on USB stick](#))

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