

TS4-J – Involving users in the design and location of WASH facilities

This toolset includes:

Tips on how to involve users in the design and location of WASH facilities.

Involving users in the design and siting of infrastructure

It is good practice and leads to a more effective response to involve end users in the design of WASH facilities – including people from different social groups, such as people with disabilities, older people, children of different ages, including adolescents, women and men.

It is not possible to involve every person in a community in this process, but it is possible to consult with representative groups. A number of tips follow that can help to ensure that the design and siting of facilities is appropriate to the needs of users and reduce vulnerabilities to violence.



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Tips

1. Explain in the initial meeting with community leaders that it is important for your organisation to consult with both men and women in all project aspects. This will make the process easier when seeking feedback from different groups in the design and siting of facilities.
2. Undertake an assessment with the community to identify who is likely to be the most vulnerable to violence and to make sure that this group is consulted. It may be that sharing the draft designs and locations with representatives from the group identified to be most vulnerable will allow them to provide recommendations on improvements to help the facilities meet their needs.
3. In the case of school latrines, involve groups of adolescent girls and boys in the design of the WASH facilities, perhaps in separate groups to first make their own suggestions and then to feedback and discuss together. Make sure that any design features that the girls suggest relating to privacy, dignity and/or safety are incorporated wherever possible.
4. If possible allow user representatives to make suggestions and then put them together with technicians who can help them design a prototype. Once a prototype/trial has been constructed, then more people can have a chance to comment on it to make improvements.
5. Construct an example structure – for example, a toilet, bathing and laundry block in a refugee or internally displaced persons camp might be particularly useful for obtaining comments on a design. Once people have seen the design, specific questions can be asked about features such as locks on doors, the need for screens or otherwise etc.
6. Make sure that representatives of men, women, adolescent girls, adolescent boys and younger children all have an opportunity to input into the designs of shared or public facilities. It maybe that the WASH committee can first develop suggestions and a design and drawing, and then ask some representatives of other groups to come and comment on the design and siting.
7. Take particular care to ensure that adolescent girls are involved in the design and siting of facilities, as they are likely to be a highly vulnerable group in terms of violence.
8. Use the accessibility and safety audit, or the women's safety audit or safety mapping (see TS4-C for further information) to identify any locations of particular concern where women, girls, men or boys feel especially unsafe. Use these maps to try and locate the safest sites for facilities.
9. If there are options for technologies or locations, secret pocket chart voting could be used to get the preferences of different groups. The results can then be discussed as a wider group (see TS4-E for further details).
10. groups within the community, such as women's groups, savings groups, disabled person's organisations and groups for older people, could also be involved in the process of design and siting.

References

Layton, M. and S. Layton (no date) Real involvement, real participation. ATprojects. [\(on USB stick\)](#). In: WaterAid, Australia, the International Water Centre and IRC International Water and Sanitation Centre (2010) *Sharing experiences: Effective hygiene promotion in South-East Asia and the Pacific*. Australia: WaterAid, Australia, the International Water Centre and IRC International Water and Sanitation Centre. Available at: <http://www.watercentre.org/projects/sharing-experiences-hygiene> [accessed 29 May 2013].

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Toolset 4-J

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