



## A PRACTITIONER'S TOOLKIT

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

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, with incidences reported from a wide range of contexts.

In response, the SHARE Research Consortium (<http://www.shareresearch.org>) has developed a toolkit designed to help practitioners to better recognise the risks of violence linked to water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) and provide guidance on what WASH practitioners can do to reduce these vulnerabilities to violence.

This practitioner's toolkit, funded by DFID, focuses on increasing understanding of the scale and specific nature of the problem. The toolkit has been developed by Sarah House, Suzanne Ferron, Dr Marni Sommer and Sue Cavill, with contributions from a wide range of actors. Co-published by 27 organisations, the toolkit brings together evidence, best practice, tools and policy responses to help make WASH safer and more effective – particularly for women and girls and people from marginalised groups.

### Launch of the Violence, Gender and WASH Practitioner's Toolkit

The toolkit was launched on the 9th June 2014 at the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine at an event Chaired by **David Woolnough**, Senior Energy and Water Advisor for the UK Government Department for International Development (DFID).

The launch was fairly unique in that it brought together WASH professionals with gender, protection, gender-based violence (GBV), women's empowerment and health related specialists, including practitioners, policy-makers and researchers from across organisations to discuss how this issue can be addressed.

Speakers included:

- Keynote: **Jane Edmondson**, Head of Human Development, DFID
- Address: **Louisa Gosling**, Programme Manager, Principles, WaterAid
- Presentation of the toolkit: **Sarah House**, Independent Consultant & Public Health / WASH Engineer and **Sue Cavill**, SHARE Research Manager, WaterAid
- Remarks:
  - **Mendy Marsh**, Specialist, Gender Based Violence in Emergencies, Programme Division, Child Protection, UNICEF, New York
  - **Fatuma Ibrahim**, Chief, Child Protection Programme for UNICEF, South Sudan
  - **Sanni Bundgaard**, Technical Advisor, Care for Women Survivors, International Rescue Committee
  - **Kerry Smith**, Head of Advocacy, Campaigns and Research, Plan International, UK
- Panel discussion with questions from the audience

The speakers highlighted the types of violence that can occur in the context of WASH - including at the community, household, organisational and institutional levels – as well as the scale of the problem, the available evidence and its limitations.

Speakers acknowledged that while improving WASH access does not resolve the root or underlying cause of violence, efforts by WASH and associated practitioners can make a very positive contribution to trying to reduce the exposure of those groups most vulnerable to violence.

The relevance of the toolkit to DFID commitments to reducing violence against women and girls and to WaterAid's focus on equity and inclusion as a framework for WASH service delivery were highlighted. UNICEF linked the toolkit to the on-going work updating the Inter-Agency (IASC) Standing Committee - Guidelines for GBV Interventions in Humanitarian Settings and provided an example of how these guidelines and the draft of the toolkit are currently being used by UNICEF and partners to adapt WASH programming and facilities in South Sudan.

The International Rescue Committee shared its experiences of the successes and challenges associated with working across several sectors, including women's empowerment and protection, child protection, health and environmental health. Plan International spoke of the lessons drawn from its 'Because I am a Girl' programme, which focuses on the adolescent girl and the concerns identified relating to safety and dignity when using WASH facilities. They also shared experiences of the work they have been doing on 'Safe Cities' in involving adolescent girls in assessing their feelings of safety in the urban environment.

The contributions from guest speakers and questions from the audience led to rich discussion, including on how to better engage women and adolescent girls in programming and how to engage men and boys on issues of safety, as well as how to encourage busy WASH practitioners to consider these issues and to build their confidence and capacities to be able to integrate considerations of violence into their work.

The practical focus of the toolkit and the way it has been written in a clear language to help WASH practitioners easily understand the issues, was very much appreciated. Encouragement was given to ensure that the toolkit is well disseminated and used and experiences of utilising it captured for sharing and future learning.

**VIOLENCE  
GENDER  
& WASH**



The toolkit is co-published by:



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**For further information on the toolkit:**

Please see the website where the toolkit is available online at: <http://violence-wash.lboro.ac.uk>

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