

National WASH Multi- Stakeholder Forum 9

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COWASH and WaterAid Inclusive WASH
Experience in Ethiopia

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Presentation outline

- What is inclusive WASH?
- Who benefits from inclusive WASH?
- Why is inclusive WASH important?
- How to make WASH more inclusive?
 - COWASH experience
 - WaterAid experience
 - Lessons learnt

1. What is inclusive WASH?

- The principle of inclusion is simple.
- It is the opposite of exclusion and also alienation.
- Inclusion is the right of the individual and the responsibility of society as a whole.
- It requires proactive policy making, lateral thinking and on-going commitment.
- Inclusion recognizes disability as a reality.

- Inclusive development aims for a society in which all people are equally included and have the opportunity to participate and contribute.
- Inclusion requires the removal of barriers and social structures which impede participation.
- One of the highly valued means of ensuring the inclusion of disabled persons in development and equalization of opportunities is through ensuring “accessibility”.

- As a result, accessibility becomes a prerequisite for inclusion, because, without access to buildings, transportation, social services and information, participation and full inclusion cannot be ensured.

Accessibility

- Refers to a feature or quality of any physical or virtual environment, space, facility or service that is capable of accommodating the needs of users of varying abilities or disabilities to understand and get access to or interact with.
- Therefore inclusive WASH is not only about accessible facilities, it is also about participation of all in the planning, management and maintenance of WASH facilities to ensure everyone's voice is heard.

2. Who benefits from inclusive WASH?

- Making water, hygiene and sanitation facilities accessible and WASH planning and management inclusive **benefits everyone in the community**, but there is a requirement that all WASH Programs should ensure the full and effective participation of:

- Persons with disabilities
- Older or frail people
- Pregnant women
- Children
- Sick or injured persons
- Family members of all the above mentioned groups

Focus on persons with disabilities

- For many people in Ethiopia accessing safe water and sanitation is a struggle, but for persons with disabilities the challenges are even greater.
- Disability is an issue and a reality in any society. It is also a fact of life and naturally occurring event.
- Persons with disabilities include those who have long-term physical, mental, intellectual or sensory impairments which in interaction with various barriers may hinder their full and effective participation in society on an equal basis with others (CRPD, Article 1, 2006).

- It is estimated that more than a billion people, or about **15%** of the world's population, are living with a disability, and **80%** of them reside in low-income countries (WHO and World Bank, 2011).
- Of the total population of Ethiopia, 17.6% are estimated to live with some sort of impairment (WHO and World Bank, 2011, p. 272).

3. Why inclusive WASH is important?

- The fulfilment of the rights to water and sanitation **for all** (and reaching the **SDG 6 and GTP II targets on WASH**) requires an explicit focus on the most disadvantaged and marginalised groups.
- Access to safe and clean water and sanitation facilities is a **basic right and need** of all people, including persons with disabilities.
- Access to WASH facilities has a great **positive impact on the health, hygiene, cleanliness, dignity and quality of life** of persons with disabilities.

- Inclusion **increases sustainability and reduces costs**, as making facilities accessible later is more expensive.
- If inclusion is planned from the onset of a project, the additional cost is minimal.
- The economic cost of excluding persons with disabilities outweighs the costs of inclusion.

4. COWASH Experience & Contribution to inclusive WASH

Starting point

- Before COWASH Phase III there was no explicit focus in the project on the inclusion of persons with disabilities in WASH.
- It was assumed that they would automatically benefit equally from the project.

However:

- No data was available to know their participation
- No accessible facilities were observed that majority of facilities constructed did not consider the issue of accessibility (as in other WASH projects in Ethiopia)
- No persons with disabilities were reported (as per COWASH Phase III baseline survey) member of WASHCOs

Disability inclusion in COWASH III

STRATEGY: Cross-cutting issue

The following results have been achieved in the process of the implementation of COWASH III Project

- Disability included in the monitoring and reporting frameworks/formats
- Disability Inclusion Guideline for COWASH phase III and related training materials in local languages developed.
- WASH stakeholders at Federal, Regional, Zonal, Woreda, Kebele and community levels received training on the issue of disability and inclusion in terms of the targets of COWASH.
- The inclusion of persons with disabilities in all activities at community level made practical and visible.
- Cooperation established with associations of persons with disabilities at all levels

OBJECTIVES

The main objectives of COWASH III were intended to:

- Enhance the awareness and capacity of WASH experts and stakeholders on disability issues;
- Make WASH facilities accessible for all;
- Enable persons with disabilities to benefit, participate and contribute in an equal way.

Where is COWASH now in the process of inclusion?

Acomplished

- The development of disability inclusion guideline and related training materials for COWASH;
- The conduct of training for COWASH Federal Level team and all Regional Support Unit staff;
- The conduct of training for regional, zonal and woreda experts (water, health, education, women affairs, finance, social affairs, MSE agency, TVET) and awareness raising to office heads in the 5 COWASH regions, 25 zones and 76 woredas together with DPOs.

Ongoing

- Cascading of the training to Kebele WASH teams is on-going – after this practical inclusion on the ground is expected to fully start;
- Disability issues are part of the COWASH reporting and monitoring;
- An inclusive design of a hand-dug well developed and implementation is planned in 2011 EFY;
- Inclusion in sanitation marketing and operation and maintenance MSEs has started, but still challenging;

5. WaterAid Experience & Contribution to inclusive WASH

Main Highlights of the Year

- Wateraid has been implementing projects in 20 urban areas of four regions and two rural woredas of two regions.
- Wateraid made efforts to address the special needs of PWDs through introducing and implementing disability-inclusive initiatives in the sector as described below.

1. The establishment of the task force of Inclusive WASH came into being following last year's MSF undertakings.

The Taskforce aims to support the achievement of Ethiopian Growth and Transformation Plan (GTP) and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) targets in WASH by supporting the scaling up of gender mainstreaming, women empowerment and inclusion of people with special needs through dialogue, partnership and learning.

2. A number of taskforce meetings including high level meetings with the State Minister took place.

3. Joint COWASH-WaterAid training for Woreda WASH Steering and Technical Teams at woreda level carried out.

4. Joint development of an Equity and Inclusion module conducted.

Current Members of the Taskforce

The Taskforce is led by the ONE WASH Coordination Office.

Members

- MOWIE (Ministry of Water, Irrigation and Electricity)
- MOWIE / Women Affairs Directorate
- MOE (Ministry of Education)
- MOH (Ministry of Health)
- COWASH
- WaterAid
- UNICEF
- MOLSA (Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs)
- Federation of Ethiopian National Associations of Persons with Disability (FENAPD)

N.B

- It is open for other development partners to be part of quarterly meeting

**“Count me in” a Training
module to be launched
soon!!**

What is the module for?

- This Module aims to raise awareness of the reasons why people are excluded and how this impacts their lives.
- It offers guidance on what changes and provisions are needed to promote and secure all people's rights to water and sanitation.
- The Module consists of five study sessions. The first provides an introduction to inclusive WASH in Ethiopia. The second and third focus on people with disabilities and gender equality respectively.

- The last study session describes some practical aspects of accessibility.
- This Module is designed for independent study, although it may be also studied in a group. Mainly for students in Universities, TVET, woreda /Regional wash staff NGO, WASH staff etc.
- The Module follows the same structure to the previous ONE WASH modules supported by UNICEF
- It includes introduction, learning outcomes, self-assessment questions

Lessons learnt

- WASH projects targeting only persons with disabilities are not sufficient to reach all persons with disabilities because children, youth and adults with disabilities are found in every community.
- Therefore **mainstreaming** disability issues in programmes that are not specifically designed for persons with disabilities is required.
- **Raising awareness** of disability among WASH sector actors and the communities is the first step towards inclusion.

- **Participation** by persons with disabilities is essential to ensure WASH activities are relevant, effective and meet the needs of all community members.
- Persons with disabilities are the ones who best understand the barriers they face and the possible solutions.

Thank You!!!