

## Checklist for Protection Mainstreaming in Water and Sanitation

### Key protection concerns – WHAT AUTHORITIES SHOULD CONSIDER

#### Key messages

**Every affected person should have equitable access to water and sanitation facilities**  
**Disaster-affected populations should be safe when using water and sanitation facilities**  
**The needs of vulnerable groups needs to be considered**

#### 1. General and specific technical components

- Ensure that the location of the services considers the need for physical security of all with a specific focus on women, children, older persons and persons with disabilities.
- Consult with the population to gather relevant information about the community, common cultural practices and the situation
- **In designing services maximize safety of users (e.g. location, lighting, privacy), especially for women and children**
- **Design latrines in consultation with women and girls to maximize safety, privacy and dignity.**
- Ensure that pumps are located in safe and shaded areas and ensure that women and children can easily use all services.
- Ensure that services provided do not increase or create tensions.
- Construct Pit latrines and wells considering child safety.
- Where cleaning chemicals are provided they are kept in a safe location, clearly labelled in the local language and in pictorial form as poisonous. The community knows what to do if they are ingested.

#### 2. ACCESS

- In selecting the location and in construction pay attention to groups likely to be excluded within communities (women-headed households, children, older persons, persons with disabilities) and make sure that they have easy access
- Identify problems related to logistical and financial issues (distance/transportation/cost), social/political issues (e.g. discouragement of women or girls from using latrines)
- Identify security-related issues (e.g. threats against certain groups preventing them from accessing water or latrines)
- Make sure that emergency sanitation facilities are accessible to older persons or persons with disabilities: door width, standard step height, doors that are easy to open, color contrast). **Many accessibility improvements can be done using low-cost local materials.**

- Adaptations for persons with disabilities and older persons will also benefit pregnant women, children and sick persons requiring assistance.
- Inform and raise awareness on the location and availability of latrines (and if necessary water points)

### 3. PARTICIPATION

- When designing programs and choosing locations, consult the population in general as well as groups likely to be excluded from community decision-making (e.g. women, adolescent girls, children, older persons, persons with disabilities)
- Monitor water and sanitation discussions to ensure women participate in the decisions and that their needs are met.
- Consider setting up a complaints mechanism for beneficiaries relating to water and sanitation issues and designate a complaints focal person in the camp or temporary settlement (man and woman if culturally appropriate )

### 4. SPECIFIC NEEDS

- Ensure as far as possible that the location and design of services take into account the needs of children, women, older persons and persons with disabilities by consulting with the users.
- **Ensure adequate separation of men and women latrines.**
- **Children can fall into, and drown, in pit latrines and wells.** Ensure that there is a proper cover for the pit latrine that cannot be moved by young children and doors that can be shut properly from the outside after use. Wells and water tanks should always be covered when not in use.
- Children should be made aware of the potential dangers of playing near water sources.
- Large jerry cans are difficult to carry for some older persons or persons with disabilities. Distribute smaller jerry cans (10L) to older persons and persons with disabilities that have difficulty carrying heavy loads.
- During distribution of hygiene and water/sanitation kits, consider the lay out of the distribution point, with separate lines or different queuing times.
- Mobilize volunteers to provide door-to-door/delivery service (but monitor to make sure they are not asking a 'payment' for their services)
- Together with health providers, assess whether health problems may be related to a lack of water and sanitation assistance, lack of access to clean water or bad environmental health services.

