This toolkit has been developed in response to an acknowledgement that 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. Incidences have been reported from a wide range of contexts, often anecdotally but with regular occurrence, with a number of targeted studies confirming the same.

By recognising both the risks of violence associated with WASH and the potential benefits of WASH this toolkit aims to shine a light on this problem and encourage practitioners to recognise their capacity to make WASH safer and more effective.

Effectively considering gender in the process of establishing sustainable WASH services can also contribute to the process of longer-term change in attitudes and relationships between men and women. This in turn can contribute to a transformative process that can help reduce vulnerabilities to violence over the longer term.

However, for WASH actors, particularly for those working in the longer-term developmental contexts, there has been a lack of clarity on the practical steps that can be taken so that they can contribute to reducing vulnerabilities through improved policy and programming. This toolkit aims to fill this gap.

The toolkit has been developed by Sarah House, Suzanne Ferron, Dr Marni Sommer and Sue Cavill, on behalf of WaterAid with contributions from a wide range of actors. It has been funded by the Department for International Development (DFID) of the British Government through the Sanitation and Hygiene Applied Research For Equity (SHARE) Consortium and has been co-published by a number of organisations, which can be viewed on the back page of this flyer.

Please see overleaf for an overview of the contents of the toolkit and the following page for a summary of the principles for improving programming and services.

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To access the materials: http://violence-wash.lboro.ac.uk
A PRACTITIONER’S TOOLKIT

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

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About this toolkit and how to use it
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Briefing Note 2
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- Advocacy and awareness raising

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Institutional commitment and staff capacity
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Briefing Note 4
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- Ten key principles
- Actions with the potential to reduce violence
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People in vulnerable, marginalised and special circumstances

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CHECKLIST

BN1

BN2

BN3

BN4

TS1

TS2

TS3

TS4

TS5

TS6

TS7

TS8
Principles for reducing vulnerabilities to violence linked to WASH through improved programming and institutional commitment

**Principle 1.** Institutionalise the requirement to analyse and respond to vulnerabilities to violence in WASH-related policies, strategies, plans, budgets and systems (human resource management and M&E) – refer to BN3 for further information

**Principle 2.** Build the capacity of staff and partners to understand the problem of violence related to WASH and what their responsibilities are in relation to this issue – refer to BN3 for further information

**Principle 3.** Make links with protection, gender and GBV specialists to assist in improving programmes and responding to challenges faced – refer to BN4 for further information

**Principle 4.** Consider possible vulnerabilities to violence linked to WASH, integrate responses into all stages of WASH programming/service delivery

**Principle 5.** Adapt existing participatory tools and involve women, men, girls and boys in the process of identifying the risks and identifying solutions, allowing women and adolescent girls to express their views separately

**Principle 6.** Pay particular attention to considering the safety of people who are in vulnerable, marginalised or special circumstances when accessing WASH services

**Principle 7.** Build the self-esteem and self-worth of all, but with particular attention on women and adolescent girls, linking to existing groups and networks to provide support and also to help respond to backlash

**Principle 8.** Ensure that community members have adequate information on safety linked to WASH and that community feedback processes are built into programmes

**Principle 9.** Ensure that WASH facilities are designed, constructed and managed in ways that reduce vulnerabilities to violence

**Principle 10.** Pay particular attention to transparency in processes where non-food items are distributed in humanitarian contexts

**Actions that have the potential to reduce vulnerabilities to violence**

(see the Checklist for more examples)

- Safety audits
- Safe-scaping / safety mapping
- Locks on toilet doors
- Involve women and adolescent girls in design and siting facilities
- Lights in toilets and bathing facilities
- Manage / fence water points
- Provide adequate yield of water
- Training staff
- Dialogue with communities to develop solutions
- Allow women and girls to express their feelings on safety separately to men
- Link with existing women's groups
- Work with organisations who work with people who are LBGTI
- Code of conduct
- Peer mentoring schemes
- Make links with protection specialists
- Build confidence and self-esteem
- Involve boys and men
Overview of the toolkit

The toolkit is co-published by:

Commitments of co-publishing organisations

It should be noted that the organisations co-publishing this resource might not currently practice all of the recommendations proposed within it.

Co-publishing the resource provides an indication of the organisations’ commitment to help their staff become increasingly aware of the issues relating to violence and WASH, and that they will continue to work to improve their organisation-wide commitment, policies, strategies, plans and programming over time to reduce vulnerabilities to violence related to WASH wherever it is realistically possible.

A PRACTITIONER’S TOOLKIT

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This material has been funded by UK aid from the Department for International Development (DFID). However, the views expressed do not necessarily reflect the Department’s official policies.