VIOLENCE

GENDER

& WASH

A PRACTITIONER’S TOOLKIT

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

Matthew Fryer / University of Winchester
Core research team

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Wide range of contributors

Protection / GBV, gender, women’s empowerment, law, health, psychology, engineering, WASH
The research

Why the toolkit:

• Acknowledgement - violence related to WASH occurs, regular anecdotes - not clear on scale of problem - not clear what we should be doing differently?

Research process (Jan 2013 – June 2014):

• Secondary data collection & analysis – desk review, meetings, dialogue & learning in Liberia, India and elsewhere and remotely with professionals working in a range of countries

• Wide range of contributors & staged review process
Aims

1. Raise awareness on types of violence related to WASH
2. Enable learning on good policy and practice
3. Improve understanding on linkages with protection, GBV, women’s empowerment specialists
4. Encourage institutional commitment
5. Identify what we should do when faced with violence

Practitioner’s working in development, humanitarian and transitional contexts
Root cause of violence

Poor access to WASH is **not the root cause** of violence

The root cause is the *difference in power between males and females and between people of different societal groups* and persistent discrimination which often occurs against females and people of marginalised groups

But – poor access to WASH *can increase vulnerabilities to violence*
Findings – violence & WASH

• Range of case study examples:
  – Over 30 different countries
  – Various types of violence
  – Range of contexts – urban, rural, development, humanitarian, transitional
  – Community & household levels
  – WASH staff & organisations

• Many are anecdotal or small case studies but across range of different types of publications & sources

• A few targeted more in-depth quantitative & qualitative studies
Types of violence

A - Sexual violence
(Rape, assault, molestation, inappropriate touching)

B - Psychological violence
(Harassment, 'eve-baiting', bullying or causing fear, stress or shame)

C - Physical violence
(Beating, fighting leading to injury, death)

D - Socio-cultural violence
(Social ostracism, discrimination, political marginalisation, social norms with negative impacts)

Categories of violence with relevance to WASH

Violence can occur because of differences in power between two people, because of their gender or their social grouping.

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Examples - violence at community and household levels

- Rape of a woman who was defecating in the sea (Solomon Islands, Amnesty International)
- Rape including gang rape of women who were fetching water from river beds or collecting firewood (Darfur, Médecins sans Frontières)
- Fear of rape of both boys and girls in school toilets (South Africa, UNHCR)
- Harassment of women and girls when using public services including public toilets (India, Jagori, Women in Cities International and International Development Research Centre)
- Exclusion from WASH services for domestic servants living in slave like conditions in refugee camps (Burkina Faso and Mauritania, Oxfam-Intermon)
- Multiple forms of violence against Dalit women when collecting water, including abusive language, sexual harassment, scolding and physical violence; main perpetrators being women of a higher caste (National Commission of Dalit Organisations and WaterAid, India)
- Domestic disputes and beating, fighting in the water queue and accusations of water theft from neighbours – related to water scarcity (Ethiopia, Stephenson et al, Social Science and Medicine)
Violence and WASH staff

WASH professionals:

1. Need to know what violence related to WASH can look like & how to improve our work
2. What to do if we see violence in our work or we are approached by someone who has experienced violence
3. May experience violence ourselves or be perpetrators of violence
Women or minority staff may be bullied, ignored or proactively undermined in their daily work – which may increase if they raise problems or issues being faced.

Females training for and working in the WASH sector can be expected to provide sexual favours for grades, internships, a paid job or promotion.

Where gender relations are particularly stark women may have to face rumours of sexual liaisons if male colleagues or their line manager compliments their work.

Women staff may not feel comfortable using WASH facilities in offices because of poor design or location leading to lack of privacy or feelings of insecurity.

Sexual exploitation by humanitarian actors of the people supported with programmes – the risk exists for all sectors including WASH and also outside the humanitarian sector.
The Toolkit

Briefing Note 1 – About this toolkit, its limitations & how to use it

Briefing Note 2 – Improving WASH programming

Briefing Note 3 – Institutional commitment and staff capacity

Briefing Note 4 – Understanding the protection sector and how to respond to violence as a WASH actor

Checklist of actions – 10 key principles

Toolset 1 – Case studies (Violence & WASH)

Toolset 2 – Videos

Toolset 3 – Case studies (Good practice)

Toolset 4 – Methodologies for working with communities

Toolset 5 – Training scenarios

Toolset 6 – People in vulnerable, marginalised and special circumstances

Toolset 7 – International legal instruments

Toolset 8 – References

Supporting documents
Promising good practices

Safety audits / safe-scaping / safety mapping

Links between WASH & protection actors

Practical design features of facilities & services

Institutional codes of conduct, gender and protection policies, whistle-blowing policies etc

Strengthening & modifying accountability & participatory processes
Dialogue particularly with women and girls / boys
Opportunities for peer support & empowerment

Poster developed and used in internally displaced persons camps in Batticoloa Area, Sri Lanka (Source: WeCan Campaign)
As safe as toilets?
Issues

• Broader range of types of violence

• Not monitoring feelings of safety

• Challenge ensuring protection protocols and ethics are understood by WASH practitioners & where to draw the line when monitoring / collecting information

• Confidence and commitment to consider gender still varies... GBV likely to feel more daunting

• Institutional commitment – critical - and building capacity & confidence
Next steps

• Toolkit - uploaded to official website hosted by WEDC – on 12\textsuperscript{th} June
  – http://violence-WASH.lboro.ac.uk

• Few hardcopies and USBs available with us – for those who can use in their work

• Prepare some short open source training material

• Provisional - one day capacity development workshop at WEDC International Conference in Vietnam, Sept 2014; one day in UK, Oct 2014
For practical guidance on reducing vulnerabilities to violence related to WASH, see the:

“Violence, Gender and WASH: A Practitioner’s Toolkit - Making water, sanitation and hygiene safer through improved programming and services.”

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