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MEDICINE



# Disability and WASH:

The role of Local Government and CSOs in making WASH accessible for people with disability.

- Sian White -

# General understanding of disability and WASH issues

- 'Disability' = physical disability.
- Physical disability = issues affecting wheelchair users.
- Improving WASH access = installing ramps at toilets.
- Most policy makers and implementers see that their realm of influence is only to improve WASH facilities in public spaces and to create awareness of rights.



# What could local government do?

- Meetings where disabled people are invited to share their stories
- Encourage the development of local networks for people with disability and consult these groups during decision making.
- Including indicators in their development plans
- Ensuring NGOs and CSOs working in their area make their programs inclusive
- New infrastructure should be built with inclusivity in mind
- Program delivery (ie Sanitation Marketing and CLTS) can be adapted to be made more inclusive.



# What can implementers do?

- Genuinely consult people with disability
- Lead by example
- Think beyond public WASH
- Focus more on ensuring people with disabilities have equal access to information and can participate in WASH programs.
- Monitor with more than numbers
- Collaborate between NGOs to avoid replication
- Engage with DPOs
- Work with all levels of government and engage traditional leaders.
- You can't solve everything but know who else can.



# What can we all do?

- Actively ask disabled people about WASH needs
- Listen to people with disabilities as well as masons and engineers
- Avoid vague terms and jargon when describing what you are doing to make your work more inclusive
- Rather than looking for a standard answer or outcome, look for a standard process.

