



Social Inclusion: Sanitation For All

Mulanje Total Sanitation Project

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Malawi context

National Statistics Office – 2017 population estimate

Globally – 15% population have a disability

Malawi – 3.8% population living with a disability (National Stats)

Population – 18,008,081

People living with disability – 684,307 (49%men, 51%women)

55% (376,369) Children (up to 14yrs)

90.9% (622,035) in rural areas



People living with disability in Malawi

Why consider people with disability in WASH programming?

- People with disability are the largest minority group in Malawi (NSO 2008 Report)
- They have the least access to basic WASH facilities and services
- Resultantly, their individual well being, productivity and overall quality of life is not enhanced

Mulanje District

Prior to CS WASH project in Mulanje District, Malawi.

- NSO 2008 report – 12,342 people had a form of disability in Mulanje (5,931M, 6,411W)
- Barriers to accessible toilets were apparent in households as well as institutions
- District health office was not addressing WASH services/access for people living with disability

Inclusion related project aims

What we set out to achieve



- People with disabilities are engaged to participate in the project and in WASH decision making
- People with disabilities, the elderly and vulnerable groups at village level access latrines
- Increased and noticeable participation of women in WASH decision making

That is, to practically and strategically address rights of marginalized groups (women, girls, PWD) to ensure that they participate and benefit from the sanitation products and services

Research

Action Research to inform GESI practice and:

- improve knowledge, understanding and practice of staff, government & partners
- Establish and test tools.
 - Accessibility and Safety Audits
 - Dialogue circles



Accessibility audits

Households and institutions



Accessibility and safety audit (ASA) established for:

- Households, market centres, Schools

To...

- Understand challenges faced by people living with disability in accessing and using latrines
- Collectively identify solutions and improvements

Dialogue Circles

At village level

- Facilitated at village level by health extension staff
- Include representative % of village (<30 people) including people with disability and other vulnerable groups
- Activities prompt discussion on WASH needs and experiences of people with specific needs
- Collective identification of solutions



Successes of the project

What we've seen...



- government staff more confident to engage in social inclusion activities and facilitating dialogue circles
- People with disability, the elderly and women have been engaged in WASH related decision making
- Households with people with disability and elderly have embraced change and constructed accessible latrines and hand washing facilities

Successes of the project?

Research → training → activity → results



- Completed action research
- 381 HSAs trained and mentored in gender and social inclusion
- Participation of people with disabilities in dialogue circles in 546 villages
- 2,385 people with disabilities have access to latrines
- 3,200 latrines been constructed for marginalized groups (people with disabilities, pregnant women and others)
- Inclusive market centre latrine designed and constructed
- Gender responsive and inclusive school latrine designed and constructed

Evidence of Social Inclusion



A pit latrine adapted to assist a visually impaired family member with handrails and raised seat inside the latrine.



Key learnings

Specific insights to share

- Action research helped contextualise and test the approach
- Clearly stating that ODF achievement requires ‘Sanitation for all’ prompted leaders to consider people with disability
- Mainstreaming – Extension workers required thorough introductory training on gender and social inclusion
- Practical methods and guides assisted extension staff to implement GESI activities

Resource recommendations

Project specific outputs

Final Report gender and social inclusion action research – Mulanje Total Sanitation Project

[Accessibility audits for Market Centres \(WEDC website\)](#)

[Dialogue Circles guidance note \(WEDC website\)](#)

Contact Plan Malawi for more details or reports:

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Dialogue circle on social inclusion - Guidance note

Objectives

- To raise community awareness of the problems some users face in accessing and using latrines;
- To support families and the community to identify problems and possible solutions to improve access to latrines;
- To encourage vulnerable groups and individuals to participate actively in the meeting by voicing their problems and opinions and contributing to problem-solving



Materials needed: flipchart paper, marker pen, different colours, images from Compendium

