



Realization of Human Rights to Water and Sanitation: Ensuring Equitable Water Services Among the Vulnerable

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Water and sanitation are human rights and, with hygiene, are basic requirements for daily survival and for people to live healthy, dignified lives.

Target people who are most impacted by poor WASH outcomes or services, including

- *people living in poverty,*
- *women, girls and gender minorities,*
- *people experiencing poor health,*
- *persons with disabilities,*
- *older people and other excluded or*
- *underrepresented groups relevant to contexts, such as indigenous populations.*



What is the Problem?

Numerous factors hinder the full realization of WASH-related rights- ethnic identity, race, language, religion, tribe, sexual orientation, gender identity, and migration and refugee status

Disability, age, health status, and the associated physical impairments also determine the ability to gain access to safe water and sanitation

Additionally, social stratification, such as the caste system, creates barriers for people from lower castes to access communal drinking water sources

Barriers to water equity included weakness/disability/sickness, heavy containers, distance to water source, heavy pump handles, handles out of reach, time, told not to touch water, discrimination, pay for water, and containers used



Baseline: Results/Findings

Access to WASH by the vulnerable:

- 45.9% of the sampled households of vulnerable persons had access to safe drinking water compared to the national coverage of 69%.
- 42.6% spent less than 30 minutes to fetch water from the source.
- 65.9% were collecting water themselves, and majority (78.6%) found difficulties in fetching water.
- 93% reported having access to some form of sanitation facilities (traditional pit latrines and VIP latrines)
- 7% were practicing open defecation
- Access to improved latrines were only 18%, and only 2% had access to latrines with facilities for people with disabilities (PWDs)
- 25% of vulnerable persons were unable to use the pit latrines



Time taken to and from a Water Source by Vulnerable Persons

Type of vulnerability/exclusion	less than 30 minutes	30 min < 1 hour	More than 1 hour	Total
Physical disability	18.2	20.2	15.3	18.2
Elderly (65+)	18.2	18.0	22.0	19.0
Chronic health problem	10.9	10.1	10.2	10.5
Widow	13.6	13.5	15.3	14.0
Single mother (> 18)	10.9	7.9	10.2	9.7
Orphan	6.4	5.6	5.1	5.8
Child mother (< 18)	1.8	3.4	1.7	2.3
Extremely poor	7.3	6.7	8.5	7.4
School dropout children	10.0	13.5	10.2	11.2
Ethnic minority	2.7	1.1	1.7	1.9
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0



Challenges faced by the vulnerable in using HH pit latrines

Challenges	Percent
It is difficult to enter the latrine	7.3
Latrine has no support rails, seater	12.6
The latrine does not provide privacy	31.6
The latrine is not safe	10.0
The latrine is not cleaned	9.4
The latrine is far from the house	6.7
Location - difficult to access latrine	3.1
The latrine design is not appropriate	13.2

School Sanitation for the vulnerable

Stances for PWDs:

- 12 out of the 18 schools had functional latrine stances for persons with disability.
- However, only one school had all facilities like ramp, support rail, seater and spacious.

Barriers to latrine use:

- Some of the latrines did not provide privacy, others were located far from classes, others were poorly sited – near the road and safety concerns.



Interventions targeting the vulnerable

- Identification of vulnerable across the district.
- Connection to piped water supply - on plot connections.
- Construction of Inclusive sanitation facilities.
- Economic empowerment/ Livelihood programme through programmes of MGLSD.





Sustainability Measures

- Mapping of existent social networks surrounding the vulnerable.
 - *Family members that can pay for water service*
 - *Neighbors that can help to extend water services*
 - *Alignment with MGLSD livelihood projects*
 - *Extending jobs of being a tap stand attendant, kiosk attendant.*
- Roof rainwater Harvesting alternative

Recommendations

1. Development of national designs for inclusive WASH facilities, including household latrines and boreholes.
2. Prioritize WASH inclusive infrastructure development in schools, HCFs and support subsidies to the vulnerable within communities.
3. Installation of rainwater tanks at the household level for vulnerable people to bridge the equity gap.
4. Economic empowerment of excluded and vulnerable populations.
5. Continuous sensitization and awareness of community members on negative cultural perception and practices against excluded populations.
6. Harmonization of water tariffs by different water service providers- pro-poor tariff