

## ADVANCE INFORMATION

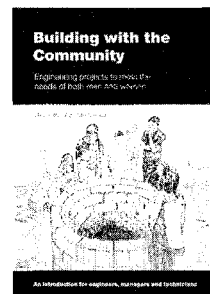
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# Building with the Community

Engineering projects to meet the needs  
of both men and women

**Brian Reed and Ian Smout**



## About this publication

Engineers and technicians working on development projects are becoming more aware of the need for the participation of local people, and more aware that women, in particular, should be involved closely at all stages of the project cycle. This booklet explains why engineers should involve both men and women in infrastructure projects and why there should be a special emphasis on women's participation. It introduces ways in which engineers and technicians can ensure their projects focus on the needs of men and women.

Many people working on development projects will be aware of these issues, so as well as providing an introduction for engineers and technicians who have not covered some of the social and gender issues before, this booklet has also been produced for managers who already understand the issues and are looking for ways to address them, or for those who wish to explain the problems and solutions to their colleagues.

This book is one of the outputs from a Knowledge and Research project funded by the Department for International Development (DFID) of the British Government.

## Markets

- Engineers, managers and technicians working on development projects in low- and middle-income countries
- Organizations, from government agencies to NGOs, seeking to maximize the impact of their development projects.

## Geographical focus

Low- and middle-income countries. Global relevance.  
Based on experience drawn mainly from Asia and Africa.

## Contents summary

- The aims of engineering projects
- Infrastructure and people's livelihoods
- Understanding communities
- Involving women
- Increasing project efficiency
- Why are men and women not involved?
- Policy and practice
- The role of the engineer
- How can engineers involve men and women?
- Practising what you preach

## About the editors

**Brian Reed** is an Assistant Programme Manager at WEDC. He is a chartered engineer with 14 years engineering and international development work experience with responsibility for aspects of water supply, and environmental sanitation design and implementation programmes, policy formation and research. He has experience of working with international and bilateral donors (DFID, World Bank), national and local government agencies, NGOs, CBOs and community members.

**Ian Smout** is Director of WEDC and has 30 years experience in international development. He has expertise in water resources, irrigation, water supply and sanitation, institutional development, strategic planning, project planning, monitoring and evaluation and project management. He is particularly experienced in interdisciplinary work and has supervised large international teams covering agronomy, economics, environmental impact, gender, hydrogeology, health, hydrology, hygiene promotion and social development in addition to his engineering and institutions expertise.

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# Infrastructure for All

Meeting the needs of both men and women in development projects  
– A practical guide for engineers, technicians and project managers

**... forthcoming: August 2005**

## About this publication

This book has been produced to help engineers, technicians and project managers ensure that the facilities they design and build are beneficial to all members of society. Using many examples, especially examples related to water and sanitation, the book demonstrates that one size does not fit all. It shows how women, men and children frequently have different needs and different priorities because they use infrastructure in different ways. It explains how the 'community' that will use the infrastructure is generally structured by inequalities of various kinds. The engineer may intend that the facility should serve the needs of all; but if there is no analysis of social issues then this intention is not likely to be realized.

The book seeks to make gender analysis intelligible to engineers working at the project level; to enable them to co-operate with social scientists, and to increase their awareness of the need to work with women and men in the user community. The book emphasizes the practical ways in which taking account of gender relations will improve the design, implementation and use of infrastructure. With this in mind, it is focused on what civil engineers actually need to know to improve their projects, to give the 'civil' aspects of their work equal weight with the 'engineering' aspects. ✕

## Market

This book will be of great interest to all engineers, technicians and project managers concerned with infrastructure development in low- and middle-income countries.

## Contents summary

The first four chapters of this guide give an overview of some of the community issues that engineers need to be aware of throughout the project cycle, and what links these to the engineer's role. The later chapters move from the *why?* and *what?* questions to the more detailed *how?* They give specific, practical examples of how engineers can involve men and women in development projects in order to match infrastructure with their needs. These chapters can be used as a source book for inspiration and guidance on appropriate designs and construction techniques. The appendices contain further references and a series of checklists that may be used to examine a project at different stages.

## Geographical focus

Low- and middle-income countries particularly in Africa and Asia. Global relevance.

## About the contributors

These guidelines were produced by a project team including Sue Coates, Marie Fry, Sarah Parry-Jones and Brian Reed, led by Ian Smout. Contributions were also received from a wide range of professionals working in the field.

This book is one of the outputs from a Knowledge and Research project funded by the Department for International Development (DFID) of the British Government.

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