

Water and Sanitation for Disabled People and Other Vulnerable Groups

Designing services to improve accessibility

Hazel Jones & Bob Reed

NEW

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and other vulnerable groups

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Description

Over 500 million people in the world are disabled, the majority of whom live in poverty in low-income communities. A major contributing factor to the poverty of disabled people is their lack of access to sanitation and safe water. The Millennium Development Goals of poverty reduction, health and access to safe water and sanitation will be difficult to achieve equitably without addressing the access needs of disabled people.

Many other vulnerable groups also experience difficulties using water and sanitation facilities, such as frail, elderly people, pregnant women, parents with small children, and people who are injured or sick – including people with AIDS.

Despite the size of the problem, almost nothing has been published on this subject to date, and disabled people continue to be ignored by providers of water and sanitation services.

Based on three years of international research and collaboration with WATSAN and disability sector organisations, this book fills a significant gap in knowledge, and should be of interest to the following audiences:

- **Water and sanitation sector planners,** to enable them to consider the needs of disabled people in low-income communities in the development of strategies and general programme design;
- **Water and sanitation service providers,** to enable them to implement ordinary programmes and services in ways that include disabled people;
- **Organisations providing disability services,** to enable them to address the issue of access to water and sanitation in their work; and

- **Disabled people's organisations,** providing information and ideas to use in advocacy for access and rights, and to engage in the consultation process.

The main focus of the book is on facilities for families in rural and peri-urban areas of low- and middle-income countries, but many of the approaches and solutions may also be applied in institutional settings, such as schools and hospitals and in emergency situations.

Summary of contents:

- The rationale for improving accessibility;
- Guidance on inter-sectoral communication and collaboration;
- Guidance on making service delivery approaches more inclusive, including ideas for how to start;
- Simple, low-cost technical solutions for inclusive design, accessibility and use of domestic water supply and toilets;
- Developing strategies for implementation; and
- Case studies illustrating actual solutions and their benefits to disabled people and their families.

Detailed descriptions are accompanied by over 400 illustrations, including photos, diagrams and drawings.

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About the authors

Hazel Jones is an Assistant Programme Manager at Loughborough University. She is a specialist in community approaches to the inclusion of disabled people, and is the principal researcher for the DFID-funded Knowledge and Research (KaR) project which has culminated in this book.

Bob Reed is Senior Programme Manager at Loughborough University with over 30 years' experience of public health engineering. He has a particular interest in water supply and sanitation for low-income communities and in emergencies.



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