



Building disability friendly latrines in Burkina Faso

Promising prospects

A new element was introduced in Danish support for water and sanitation when the programme document for the second phase of the water sector programme in Burkina Faso provided for disability friendly latrines.

The sector programme included the establishment of public latrines in market places, bus stations and in public schools, which would all include a separate cubicle for persons with disabilities.

The programme was initiated in 2005. At the time of writing (2005) it is yet too early to identify lessons learned with regard to the inclusion of disability friendly latrines. Instead, this case story presents some aspects of its introduction into the programme document.

Background

Disabled people are often among the poorest of the poor, and they are seldom given equal access to services such as health and education. Lack of adequate school latrines is one of the obstacles for disabled children in accessing school, and being absent from school further increases poverty.

Poverty both causes and is caused by disability, and addressing poverty without providing equal access means abandoning a large proportion of the poor. It is doubtful whether the Millennium Development Goals on Water and Sanitation and on poverty reduction can be reached without involving the poorest of the poor.

Location:

Burkina Faso

Title in French:

Programme d'appui au développement du secteur eau et assainissement PADSEA 2

Year of implementation:

2005-2009

Funding:

DKK 327 million (USD 53 mill) for the whole sector programme



Photo: Oxfam

Angèle Sanou, who is herself disabled, founded the Disabled Women's Association in Burkina Faso. Angèle was lucky because her parents made sure that she went to school

Extract from the programme document

Translation from French of the section regarding school latrines in the sector programme document for Danida's water sector programme in Burkina Faso 2005-2009:

"All public latrines should be equipped with facilities for washing hands. Furthermore, all public latrines and all boys and girls' latrines in schools should each have a cubicle with a seat that can be pivoted upwards made from 45mm galvanised pipe. The seat should be fastened to the wall in order to ease the use of the seat by persons with disabilities. The door for the cubicle must be at least 78 cm wide. Details in constructing the equipment, the cubicle and access to it, should be determined by the authorities responsible for sanitation and hygiene in collaboration with a disability organisation and in consultation with disabled women. The report "Water Supply and Sanitation for Disabled People" from the Water, Engineering and Development Department at Loughborough University, Leicestershire, UK provides examples, which can be viewed at their website www.lboro.ac.uk/wedc



If the floor of the cubicle is not at ground level a horizontal platform measuring 1.7 x 1.7 m should be placed in front of the latrine together with a 1 meter wide ramp with a maximum gradient of 1:20 to ease access to the platform in front of the cubicle for wheel chair users.”

Considerations during the development of the programme document

Technical standards

So far there is not much experience with technical standards for accommodating disability in sanitation programmes in developing countries. Inspiration was sought from publications of the Water, Engineering and Development Department at Loughborough University, Leicestershire, UK

Since it is complicated to accommodate all kinds of disabilities, choices must be made with regard to facilities. Based on recommendations from Danish disabled peoples' organisations, the programme document stipulates that these choices should be made in collaboration with local disability organisations and in consultation with disabled women, who may have special sanitation needs.

Further Reading:

[Water Supply and Sanitation for Disabled People](#). Resource book from the Water, Engineering and Development Department at Loughborough University, Leicestershire, UK to be finalised soon. Order at http://wedc.lboro.ac.uk/projects/new_projects3.php?id=60&url=../specialist-activities/interests.php?area=9

Sector programme document

[Programme d'appui au développement du secteur eau et assainissement PADSEA 2](#)

Danish Council of Organisations of Disabled People
www.disability.dk

Danish Embassy, Burkina Faso
www.danburkina.com

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