

Technical Issue Note

Access to water and sanitation for persons with disability

As many as one in five among the poorest of the poor are likely to be disabled.

The needs of most disabled people can be met by ordinary facilities and services. Minor changes can enable them to be included in regular water and sanitation service provision. This would make a great difference to a group of people who are often excluded from access and who are particularly vulnerable to the causes and consequences of poverty.

Improving disabled people's access to and use of the domestic water cycle could assist in restoring the social integration and dignity of the individual disabled person. It would reduce the burden of personal care placed on family members and release valuable time, enabling disabled people and their families to apply more effort to improving income and reducing poverty.

Specialist skills and knowledge are rarely required to accommodate disability. Instead consultations with local disability organisations, including women's sections, would provide insight into needs and possible solutions.

1. Good Practice Case Stories supported by Danida

Danida does not yet have much experience in terms of including accessibility for persons with disabilities planning for water and sanitation. There are initiatives, however, in Burkina Faso, where the programme document includes the construction of school latrines in collaboration with local disability organisations:

- [Building disability friendly latrines in schools, Burkina Faso](http://www.water.dccd.cursum.net/default.aspx?ActiveCAID=221282)
(<http://www.water.dccd.cursum.net/default.aspx?ActiveCAID=221282>)

The development of the Technical Issue Note and the Good Practice Case Stories

For the purpose of this web-site a good practice case story is understood as a concrete example of how disability has been addressed successfully in Danish development co-operation. The identification of good practice case stories on disability in development took a starting point in the summary of disability specific activities annexed to the review report on [The Inclusion of Disability Aspects in Danish Development Co-operation](#) from November 2004.

(<http://www.water.dccd.cursum.net/default.aspx?ActiveCAID=221283>)

Good Practice Case Stories on disability in development are included in the Tool Box and Good Practices section of several networks at [Danida Professional Networks](#).
(www.danida-networks.dk)

Criteria and selection of cases were discussed with staff of Danida's Technical Advisory Services and representatives from Danish disabled people's organisations. Good practice case stories in this collection were chosen if they met at least two of the following criteria:

- The intervention is generally perceived as successful by donors, implementers and end-users in the sense that it has led to visible or measurable change in the inclusion and participation of people with disabilities.
- The intervention involved Danish and/or local Disabled People's Organisations (DPOs)
- The intervention was effective, ethically sound, relevant, and sustainable.
- The intervention is judged replicable in other settings by donors and implementers.

2. Links to Good Practice papers by other agencies and resource centres

[The Water, Engineering and Development Centre](http://wedc.lboro.ac.uk/projects/new_projects3.php?id=60&url=../specialist-activities/interests.php?area=9) at Loughborough University, UK, has researched and developed good practices for water and sanitation accommodating the needs of persons with disabilities for several years. (http://wedc.lboro.ac.uk/projects/new_projects3.php?id=60&url=../specialist-activities/interests.php?area=9)

3. Danish policies on water and sanitation and disability

There is no explicit mentioning of persons with disabilities in Danish policies on Water Resources Management (2000)

(<http://www.um.dk/Publikationer/Danida/English/TechnicalGuidelinesAndSectorPolicy/WaterResourcesManagement/waterResources.pdf>) or Water Supply and Sanitation (2000)

(<http://www.um.dk/Publikationer/Danida/English/TechnicalGuidelinesAndSectorPolicy/WaterSupplyAndSanitation/WaterSupply.pdf>) but the policies are based on the basic goal of poverty alleviation and refer to marginalised groups' particular problems in accessing services, including water and sanitation.

4. International conventions and declarations

[Universal Declaration of Human Rights](http://www.unhchr.ch/udhr/lang/eng.htm), 1948. Article 25 lists the right to safe water. (<http://www.unhchr.ch/udhr/lang/eng.htm>)

[The Convention on the Rights of the Child](http://www.unhchr.ch/html/menu3/b/k2crc.htm), 1991. Article 27 lists the right to safe water. (<http://www.unhchr.ch/html/menu3/b/k2crc.htm>)

[The United Nations Standard Rules on the Equalization of Opportunities for Persons with Disabilities](http://www.un.org/esa/socdev/enable/dissre00.htm), 1993 (<http://www.un.org/esa/socdev/enable/dissre00.htm>)

[Ad Hoc Committee on a Comprehensive and Integral International Convention on the Protection and Promotion of the Rights and Dignity of Persons with Disabilities](http://www.un.org/esa/socdev/enable/rights/adhoccom.htm) (<http://www.un.org/esa/socdev/enable/rights/adhoccom.htm>)

[Biwako Millennium Framework for Action towards an Inclusive, Barrier-Free and Rights-Based Society for Persons with Disabilities in Asia and The Pacific](http://www.worldenable.net/bangkok2003/biwako1.htm), 2003 (<http://www.worldenable.net/bangkok2003/biwako1.htm>)

5. Other resources

[Why should the water and sanitation sector consider disabled people?](http://wedc.lboro.ac.uk/projects/proj_contents/WEJY3%20-%20WSS%20Special%20Needs/www/outputs/WELL%20Briefing%20Note%2012%20A3.pdf)

(http://wedc.lboro.ac.uk/projects/proj_contents/WEJY3%20-%20WSS%20Special%20Needs/www/outputs/WELL%20Briefing%20Note%2012%20A3.pdf)

[Access to water and sanitation for disabled people](http://wedc.lboro.ac.uk/projects/new_projects3.php?id=60&url=../specialist-activities/interests.php?area=9)

(http://wedc.lboro.ac.uk/projects/new_projects3.php?id=60&url=../specialist-activities/interests.php?area=9)

[Water supply and sanitation access and use by physically disabled people. A literature review, 2002.](#)

(<http://www.lboro.ac.uk/wedc/projects/auwsfpdp/disab%20watsan%20litreview2.pdf>)

[Chapter 2: Minimum Standards in Water Supply, Sanitation and Hygiene Promotion](#) Sphere Handbook on disaster response through humanitarian assistance. Explicitly includes issues of access for people with disabilities.

(http://www.sphereproject.org/handbook/html/4_ch2.htm)

[About the International Convention to promote and protect the rights of persons with disabilities](#)

The Danish Council of Organizations of Disabled People

(http://www.disability.dk/site/viewdoc.php?doc_id=762)

[World Bank web-site on disability](#)

(<http://web.worldbank.org/disability>)

[Washington group on disability statistics](#)

(<http://www.cdc.gov/NCHS/citygroup.htm>)

[Dutch Coalition on Disability and Development \(DCDD\)](#)

(<http://www.dccd.nl/default.asp>)

[UN Convention on the Rights of People with Disabilities Online Support](#)

(<http://www.worldenable.net/rights/>)

Accessibility of built environment and other mobility technologies

[USAID Policy on Standards for Accessibility for the Disabled in USAID-financed Construction](#)

(http://www.usaid.gov/about/disability/financed_construction.html)

[World Bank site on Universal Design or Barrier Free Environments](#)

(http://web.worldbank.org/WBSITE/EXTERNAL/TOPICS/EXTSOCIALPROTECTION/EXTDISABILITY/0,,contentMDK:20192134~menuPK:414202~pagePK:148956~piPK:216618~theSitePK:282699,00.html#_Universal_Design_or_Barrier_Free_Environments_)

[Nothing About Us Without Us. Developing Innovative Technologies For, By and With Disabled Persons.](#) David Werner's idea book for low-resource settings.

(<http://www.dinf.ne.jp/doc/english/global/david/dwe001/dwe00101.htm>)