

# **Situational analysis Report on Gender Equity and Disability Inclusion for WASH sector in Ethiopia**



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# Presentation outline

1. Background

2. Objectives

3. Methodology

4. Results and Discussion

5. Conclusion and  
Recommendations

# Background: Global context

The two UN frameworks are;

- **The SDG ;**
  - Universal access to safe and affordable drinking water for all by **2030**
  - **Goal 5 and 6** calls for the special attention to the needs of women, girls and persons with disability in realizing universal access to WASH and ending open defecation
- **UNCRDP:** The convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities;
- Access to safe water and sanitation are fundamental human rights, ratified by the by UN 2006

# Background: National context

- Governments of Ethiopia (2010)) have signed and ratified the Convention for the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD)
- The Ethiopian Constitution; equal access to basic services for all (FDRE, 1995).....not a right base
- Family Code (2000),
- Labour Legislation (1993, amended 2005 and 2019),
- Building code
- Civil Servants Proclamation (2017) and the new Criminal Code (2005).
- The Rural Land Administration and Land Use Proclamation (2005) contains provision on women's equal right to land.
- **As a result of extensive policy dialogues, networking and communication now major policy documents such as**
  - OWNP and WIF incorporate gender, E&I
  - National design of Health institutions and schools
  - National MHM Guideline
  - Specialized organizations like ECDD incorporate WASH in their strategic plan and objectives
  - The issue became sector agenda
  - In 2017 the ministry of health approved WASH guideline
  - Consideration of Women in WASH committee

# Background: National context

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- Practical steps have been taken later in the implementation of Community-Led Accelerated WASH (COWASH);
  - ✓ **Have developed Gender mainstreaming implementation** guideline for the water and energy sectors (2012) and the **gender mainstreaming field manual** for water supply and sanitation sub sector (2005)
  - ✓ As a result of such initiative, the WASH Ministries have prepared **gender focused manuals and guidelines** and made significant achievements in addressing gender concerns in their respective sector
  - ✓ And yet there are issues that need to be addressed in order to involve women and men, boys and girls in **WASH services planning, implementation and management** at full scale to ensure attainment of nationally and internationally agreed goals and targets for water and sanitation.

**There for the situational analysis is conducted to service as corner stone for the development of the national strategy.**

# Key Facts

## PWDs

- (WHO/WB, 2011), 17.6% of the adult population in Ethiopia had a disability
- 9 million (rounded to the nearest million)
- Prevalence of disability is 60 per cent higher for females than for males
- 95% of these people are estimated to live in poverty and many depend on family support and begging for their livelihoods.

## Gender

- Ethiopia a woman's worth is measured in terms of her role both as a mother and wife
- 50% of them (approximately 57.45 million) are women



# Inclusion of Women → Better Outcomes

“A World Bank evaluation of 122 water projects found that the effectiveness of a project was six to seven times higher where women were involved than where they were not.” – WSSCC

Including women in water management planning often makes for fewer oversights in technical planning, **improved resource and financial management, and greater transparency.**

Women are empowered in the community through demonstrating their technical and management qualifications.


## **Accessibility of WASH facilities is main factor**

One study in Ethiopia cited that 96.6 per cent of people with disabilities said they have difficulty in accessing basic water facilities

In WASH, disability inclusion is water, sanitation and hygiene that is available, affordable, dignified, and accessible to all persons with disabilities.



The overall objective of this situational analysis report is to provide inputs for the development of the national **Gender Equity and Disability Inclusion strategy** for the Ethiopian WASH sector.



**General  
Objective  
assessment**

# Methodology

## Study sites

- Federal level
- Regional sectorial office

## Target groups

- NGOs actively working in WASH
- MOE, MOWIE
- DPOs an Federation

## Tools

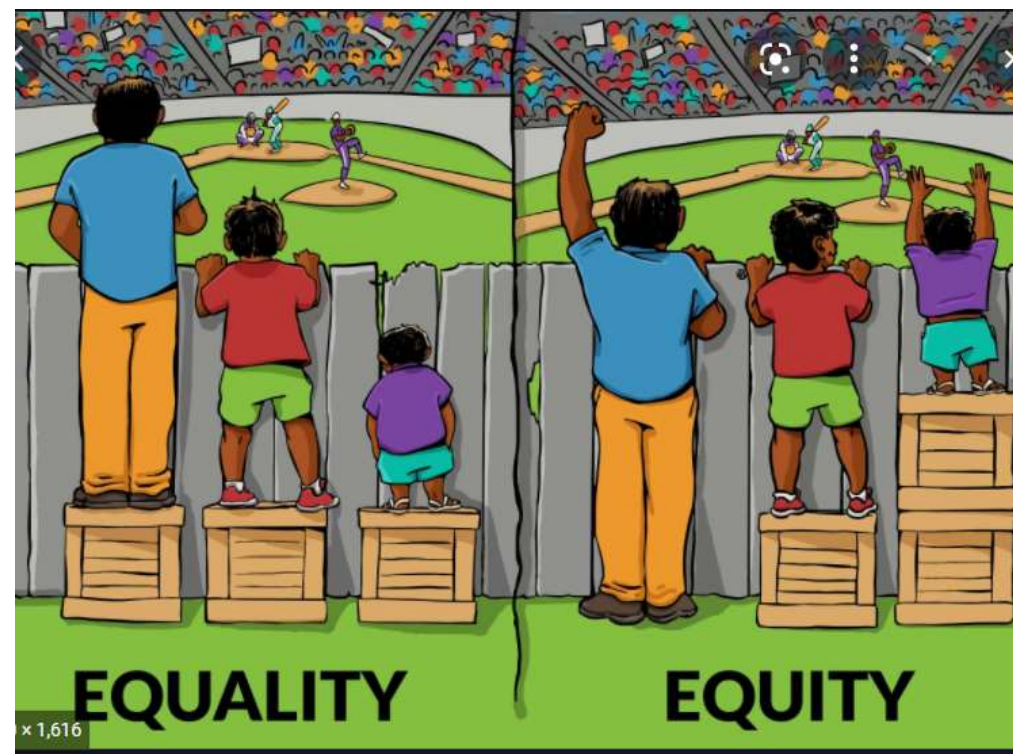
- Key informant and In-depth interviews
- Consultative meetings and discussions
- Review of other countries
- Secondary document review

Qualitative study design

# Equity and inclusion becomes a priority for WASH sector

- SDG 6 states “ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all”.
- SDG 5 states “achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls”.
- No evaluation of SDG
- Ethiopia ratified UNCRPD though the implementation is sluggish

Exclusion, discrimination, entrenched power asymmetries, poverty and material inequalities are among the main obstacles to fulfilling the human rights to WASH



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# Barriers to inclusive WASH

**Physical barriers**

technical  
(steps, narrow  
entrances and  
slippery floors)  
and natural  
(paths, long  
distances)

**Social barriers**

prejudice, shame, pity,  
isolation and  
overprotection

**Institutional  
barriers**

lack of: clear  
policies and  
strategies,  
knowledge, skills,  
inclusive designs

**Communication  
barriers**

lack of: Braille,  
signposts,  
interpreter



# Current situation of WASH practices of women, girls, and peoples with disability

The One WASH national program is addressing major aspects of gender equity and disabilities inclusion for the whole community

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Gender mainstreaming, equity and inclusion are obvious cross cutting issues in OWNP

Gender equity in WASH sector currently is improving and keeping equity among all genders in using WASH facilities:

- Previously women couldn't use latrines in daytime in Amhara region; however, the current practices of utilization of latrines are improved because of increase in latrine access and hygiene educations at different levels

Access to WASH products and services by PWDs remain unsuccessful due to poor attention, lack of sufficient understanding of the need for PWDs and standalone policy and strategies for complete, access of WASH service for PWDs.

Limited budget and topographical conditions are key challenge to address gender equity and inclusion WASH services

The root cause of these challenges are;

- Less attention (ignorance) of the government officials for allocation of budgets
- Lack of standards for new construction and modification of existing WASH
- Poor legislation and **accountability** in order to **monitor the construction and designs** of those institution to have equity and inclusion WASH services

BoFED, which is responsible for monitoring of NGOs at regional and woreda level, are not ensuring **inclusiveness of NGOs WASH and related interventions** to take appropriate corrective actions and get lessons

low involvements of OPWD and persons with disability in different WASH platforms

The established **National Gender Equity and Disability Inclusion Platform** is not bringing significant change to ensure inclusiveness.

There is standard protocol in **health extension program** to monitor the progress of gender equity and disability inclusion



# Situation of gender equity aspects of the existing WASH programs

WASH programs are tried to address gender equity and disability inclusion on the existing WASH programs

Gender equity in WASH sector is not fully applied due to different challenges including;

- lack of awareness on gender issues,
- lack of consistent structure,
- lack gender inclusive of strategy and policy for WASH interventions, cultural and social norms towards women participation
- The study revealed that though Women are participating in the WASH committee and have strong voices, the women themselves are not interested to be a chairperson in the committee
- Though the MoE have issued the national school WASH strategic and implementation guideline and manual; School girls are more prone to lack of access to appropriate WASH services

# Disability inclusion aspects of the existing WASH programs

Despite the progressive awareness of implementers about inclusion of WASH services for PWDs; Disability inclusion in WASH services didn't get match attention

Efforts have not observed to engage persons with disabilities in existing **WASH facility management**

Recently built WASH facilities are **relatively inclusive and child friendly** after the HCF and SWASH construction manual development

## **WASH inclusiveness in schools and health facilities**

At health facility level construction of hand washing facilities are not **disaggregated by gender** but there are good experiences of having **gender disaggregated sanitation facilities**

The health sector **infrastructure standard** clearly showed gender and PWDs inclusive WASH facilities in health facilities

Almost all visited health facilities and schools have not fulfilled the **standard requirements of gender equity and disability inclusion**

- HHs are lacking **awareness** on the types of disability, needs and care for PWDS
- There are **no inclusive, separate or suitable and accessible** to water, hygiene and sanitation facilities for disabilities at household level.
- Access to inclusive WASH facilities for PWD are not **affordable**



## House Holds (HH) with Person with Disability in the family

## Other Barriers and challenges to access WASH service

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Lack of government attention

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Resource limitation and cultural and societal barriers

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In adequate availability of gender friendly and inclusive WASH facilities in school and HCFs

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There are no clear gender sensitive indicators which can measure progress

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No uniform and shared understanding among stakeholders at all levels

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Lack of availability of affordable gender friendly and inclusive WASH facilities

# Enablers in accessing WASH services by PWDs and Gender

There are Gender -EQI sensitive national Legal and Policy Framework, WASH strategies, guidelines and manuals

Availability of OPWD and OPWD associations

Consideration of women and PWD in WASHCO

Availability of WASH and PWD related platform where gender and PWDs is one of the discussion areas

Availability of health extension program at community

## Enablers...cont

Increasing in number of OPWD and NGOs working on Disability

Donors and development partners' **strong commitment** to support disability, Gender and WASH programs is a key opportunity to improve inclusive WASH service.

The effort of the government for adopting **international standards** and passing important gender and disability laws (the constitution and various proclamations)

# Risks and Challenges

lack of commitment to implement adopted laws and policies

The political will (expressed in the laws and policies) is not sufficiently supported by institutional and financial commitment

Weak enforcement mechanisms put in place to check the implementation of regulations in both public and private sector activities

WASH facilities and service provisions open to the public are inaccessible for PwDs and women's

Lack of access to information and evidences on WASH with gender - EQID

Community attitude towards gender -EQID



# Best practices

- ECDD attempts for accessibility audit of WASH facilities



- Availability of guidelines



# Inputs for development of Gender Equity and Disability Inclusion strategy

- Developing **practical monitoring and evaluation system** which will strengthen the performance and inclusion of all representatives and involvement during decisions.
- Establish a system to **Strengthen collaboration and cooperation** among partners (Go-NGO), private sector, higher institutions, researchers etc.,
- Defined **roles and responsibilities of sectors** with allocation of budgets for Women and disability inclusive interventions and adjustment
- **Strengthen the different existing WASH sector platforms** at all level (national and regional level MoH and WoWIE sector)
- Strong and active participation and involvement of **Women based NGOs and associations, OPWD and PWDs association**

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Strengthen the gender and disability inclusive **research** in WASH sector is important.

**Accountability issue** is also another concern that should be included under the national strategic action plan

Identification of **low cost and locally available technology** options for women and PWDs.

**Build the capacity of partners** (Go-NGO), DPOs, private sector, higher institutions, researchers on gender equity and disability inclusion in WASH sector

Enforcement of inclusive WASH interventions by NGOs and government, inclusive construction of WASH facilities etc.

Development and enforcement of **standard design** for PWDs and women WASH facilities construction

**Clear role and responsibilities** of stakeholders for the implementation the strategy

**Advocate for political attention** and commitment, allocate sufficient budget, build the capacity of WASH sector staffs on inclusiveness specially at lower level is important

Securing the rights of women and PWDs requires the effort of various institutions that work at different levels and needs time.

# Acknowledgement

- **MoWIE**
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**Thank you for your  
attention!**

