

# Accessibility diagnostic

## Reviewing the accessibility of WASH facilities

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**Captions:** Jean Claude (top), who is partially sighted, tests the first modifications to provide easy access to the water point. The absence of a guiding edge at the entrance meant that he needed his wife to help him.

Andry (right), who also has reduced mobility, found it hard to get to the water point due to two separate factors: A ramp that is too steep and gates that open outwards.

After the training carried out by Handicap International in July 2009 on the equity and inclusion framework, WaterAid in Madagascar and its partners have improved their awareness of the different issues relating to disability. This training enabled us to use the right terminology, and to modify our plans to make our work for the supply of drinking water, sanitation and hygiene more accessible.

### History

Accessibility is the combination of measures taken to adapt and construct space and infrastructures in order to facilitate access to people who are disabled or who have reduced mobility.

Based on the guidelines provided by Handicap International, the technical core group, composed of engineers and technicians from WaterAid and partners, carried out modifications to incorporate accessibility standards to the hardware plans used by WaterAid in Madagascar. Each partner then used these new plans to construct accessible public infrastructures.

To re-inforce the learning, and in preparation for the technical



audit to validate the facilities and transfer management to the beneficiaries, a study was carried out on the infrastructure built during the year 2009 – 2010. This was to evaluate the quality of facilities built and assess their accessibility.



## Accessibility diagnostic

### Methodology

Under the leadership of the person responsible for accessibility at Handicap International, 20 technicians from partners, two technicians from the project WSUP, and the programme and project team of WaterAid in Madagascar, participated in this diagnostic exercise, with the support of the Collectif des Personnes Handicapees (COPH). The two members of COPH took it in turn to test the use of the facilities and share their views on accessibility.

The technicians then fed back on the challenges they faced in construction and discussed various alternatives for technical improvements with the advice of Handicap International.

### Principal results

- Gaps in awareness and understanding of the details of technical standards for accessibility resulted in the need for further modification and additional costs.
- Detailed plans and clear technical descriptions are required to ensure complete accessibility.
- Beneficiaries greatly appreciated the accessibility initiative.
- Technicians and beneficiaries are more aware that we all live in vulnerable situations at different times of our life (diarrhoea, stress, pregnancy for women) and at those times we will all benefit from more user-friendly and accessible facilities.

**Caption:** In a modified cubicle in a school latrine, Andry has to transfer herself onto the toilet seat from the front of her chair, due to the narrowness of the cubicle. She also found the support rails were too high.



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### Recommendations

- To make facilities accessible requires an additional cost of 5% – 8% if accessibility is addressed from the design stage.
- To make a facility accessible does not just mean executing a plan, but also requires thought about how to adapt the facility to its environment: thinking about the surface, slope, type of ground and spatial orientation.



Photos by WaterAid in Madagascar

**Caption:** The technical design of the boys' urinal is fine. However, modifications are needed in the shower cubicle. The width of the cubicle and of the doorway; the interior opening of the door; the height of support bars and all around to serve as a guide; the taps with a quarter turn; towel rail and soap tray; and non-slip floor.



WaterAid transforms lives by improving access to safe water, hygiene and sanitation in the world's poorest communities. We work with partners and influence decision-makers to maximise our impact.

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