



# HOW TO CONDUCT A WASH BARRIER ANALYSIS



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The Royal Government of Cambodia is committed to achieving universal access to sanitation and drinking water by 2025. To realise this goal everyone in the country needs to be able to access these services. Barrier analysis is a simple yet powerful tool to assist people responsible for WASH programming, make these services inclusive for everyone, including people with a disability, older people and pregnant women.

This document explains how to conduct a barrier analysis and documents the experiences of one local organisation, Disability Development Services Program (DDSP) in Pursat



## WHAT IS A BARRIER ANALYSIS?

A barrier analysis is a participatory methodology used for investigating why people do not have access to WASH services, through exposing the barriers they face, and developing solutions to overcome these barriers. There are three key types of barriers to accessing WASH experienced by men and women with disabilities. These are physical, attitudinal and institutional. This methodology is based on the rights based model of inclusion, which is about addressing the barriers to access, not individual impairments.

# HOW TO CONDUCT A BARRIER ANALYSIS

Below are the key steps in a participatory barrier analysis and the experiences of DDSP in using this methodology.

## Step 1: Partner with a local DPO

Identify and work together with a Disabled Persons Organisation (DPO). Invite them to participate in each stage of the process, including the training and when doing the barriers analysis. This means that you hear directly from people with disabilities on what their barriers to accessing WASH are, and also builds DPO's knowledge of WASH.

## Step 2: Selecting villages and contact village/commune leaders

Select the area for conducting the activity and invite the community and local authority.

DDSP decided to conduct the activity in 15 villages in 3 communes in Pursat province. DDSP was already working in some of these villages and some were new villages. The DDSP team met with village chiefs and commune councils to provide an overview about the activity and scheduled time for the awareness raising on disability and Focus Group Discussions.

## Step 3: Training on a participatory process to gather information

Staff will require training to facilitate a barrier analysis process and gather information with community members. This could include practicing using the tool within your own office, before trialling it with communities.

DDSP provided specific training on how to do a barrier analysis to their staff that already has experience on disability inclusive WASH. In the training DDSP made use of the resources *Inclusion Made Easy* (CBM, 2014 – available in Khmer and English) and *Disability: Making CLTS Fully Inclusive* (WaterAid & WEDC, 2014). During this training the DDSP team developed a question guide for Focus Group Discussions divided into three categories by the kind of barriers: physical, attitudinal and institutional.

## Step 4: Identifying barriers

The next step is to organise the meeting in the community and list (brainstorm) as many barriers to WASH as possible. You can use different pictures to brainstorm examples of the barriers to accessing WASH. You may want to divide into smaller groups and give each group a different scenario.

The group may need an introduction into what barriers are.

DDSP began this step by conducting a short *awareness raising* on disability to the participants





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which included Commune Councils (CC), Commune Committees for Women and Children (CWCC), village leaders and community members, including people with disabilities. This covered definitions, types and cause of disability and links between disability and poverty.

After this *Focus Group Discussions* were conducted in 5 villages with 126 people, who participated in the awareness raising, to find out barriers and solutions in accessing and using water and sanitation facilities.

During and after the discussions, *field observations* were conducted by the group to see the real situation faced by people with a disability in accessing and using water and sanitation facilities

### Step 5: Analysing the barriers using a “Wall of Barriers”

Put up all the barriers identified on a wall and start grouping them together into three categories – physical, attitudinal and institutional. If you have been working in smaller groups, all groups come together to consolidate findings at this point.

Facilitate a discussion of each barrier as analysis by community members raises awareness of the barriers that people with disabilities face.

DDSP facilitated the discussion using the ‘Wall of Barriers’ and participants grouped those barriers together under pictures relating to physical, attitudinal and institutional barriers. DDSP felt that the process of analysing the barriers in a group increased the level of responsibility by those involved to take action.



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## Step 6: Discuss the solutions

Now that the group has a Wall of Barriers, you can discuss ways the community can address these challenges and identify solutions.

The solutions identified in the 3 communes where DDSP conducted this activity are presented in the table.

# KEY CHALLENGES AND TIPS

Often groups focus only on physical infrastructure. Accessibility is about processes too. The facilitator needs to play an active role in steering the community to consider the processes involved in a WASH program as well as the attitudinal and institutional barriers.

Remember the hygiene component of WASH. What are the barriers to practicing hygiene behaviours, particularly hand washing? Often the discussion can focus on water supply and sanitation only.

## Key Findings: Barriers and solutions

This table presents the findings from barrier analysis conducted by DDSP in 15 villages in three communes in Pursat province in 2015. The type of barriers and solutions identified will differ from community to community however this gives you an example of the type of issues that may arise.

Type of barrier	Barriers	Solutions
Physical	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Do not have a latrine and go to the toilet in the bush in the morning</li><li>• Lack of privacy, fear of insects, feeling ashamed and loss of dignity from defecating in the open</li><li>• Latrines with high steps and narrow doors.</li><li>• Unsafe latrine (e.g. no doors or roofs) and dark inside</li><li>• Crawl or jump into the latrine and get filthy doing this</li><li>• Wells and pond with no ramps and nothing to hold onto</li><li>• Paths that are rough and bumpy make it difficult to get to a water point</li><li>• Lack of equipment to get water out of the water source and back to the home such as cart, basket, motorized pump</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Increase accessibility of facilities</li><li>• Widen doors with level entrances and ramps and handrails instead of steps</li><li>• Building ramps/rails and widen the path to the water pump</li></ul>

<p>Attitude</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Isolation in the family/community</li> <li>• High level of discrimination from the community, especially against poor people with disabilities</li> <li>• Limited social support - people with disabilities are not prioritized</li> <li>• Neighbor does not allow people with disability to share the latrine</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Conduct awareness raising on disability rights – targeting family, community and local authorities (e.g. Commune Councils), to change attitudes towards people with disability</li> </ul>
<p>Institution/ organisations</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Lack of information on hygiene for people with disabilities</li> <li>• Lack of plans on WASH for people with disabilities in Commune Investment Plan (CIP)</li> <li>• Limited awareness of existing manuals and guidance on water supply and sanitation</li> <li>• Community and local authorities do not understand about disability rights</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Conduct hygiene campaigns in different formats to reach people with different impairments</li> <li>• Ensure disability is integrated into various national plans.</li> <li>• Promote plans for WASH for people with disability in local planning process</li> <li>• Promote awareness of approaches to inclusive WASH.</li> <li>• Conduct awareness raising on disability rights – targeting family, community and local authorities (e.g. Commune Councils), to change attitudes towards people with disability</li> </ul>

## SHARING EXPERIENCES ON BARRIER ANALYSIS

DDSP are one of the first organisations to conduct a WASH barrier analysis in Cambodia. In order to promote inclusive approaches to WASH it is important that more findings are generated and shared on this topic.

If you have findings to share or would like any support using this methodology in your own work please contact WaterAid who can offer support and link you up to Disabled Persons Organisations in your area.



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### Contact us



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