S0x: “How inclusive and safe are your latrines?” activity

Session length

30 minutes

Learning objectives

By the end of the session participants will be able to:

* Recognise IFRCs observation checklist (minimum standards) for inclusive, safe, MHM-friendly latrine facilities[[1]](#footnote-1).
* Explain how and when the checklists could be useful in practice (e.g. to guide design of facilities, for assessment and monitoring, prioritising actions etc.).
* Demonstrate their observation skills by completing the checklist using real WASH facilities (or photos, if a real latrine is unavailable).

Materials and supplies required

* Print outs of the *Observation checklist* for each participant (see below) – OR, you could get participants to fill in the form using Kobo: <https://eenew.ifrc.org/x/aIVWczig>
* If you are ***not*** using a real toilet/latrine for the activity – Print outs of pictures for group activity (see separate PowerPoint called “*Pictures\_How inclusive and safe are your latrines*”)

Activity instructions

1. **Introduction [5 minutes]**

During this session, participants will practice observing WASH facilities and fill in IFRCs checklist of minimum standards for inclusive, safe latrines, using either:

1. A real latrine block or toilet. This is ideal – but not always possible. The latrine or toilet block should be communal, with a number of stalls including male and female if possible.
2. Pictures of a communal latrine block from Cox’s Bazaar, Bangladesh. See separate PowerPoint.

Split participants into smaller groups.

Give each participant a copy of the checklist, and each group a copy of the pictures. You can display the pictures on a large screen also.

1. **Ask each group to fill in the checklist**, using the pictures provided (or the latrine). **[15 minutes]**

If something is not shown clearly in the pictures or they are unsure – they should make a best guess! The main goal is to get participants to actually use the checklist, rather than having perfect results.

If you have time, you could get each group to draw the latrine on a flip-chart, including what changes / adaptations would be needed so that it meets the minimum standards.

1. **Discussion** [10 minutes]

One or two groups can present back about the latrine (or WASH facility). Have a discussion with the group about:

* + Which standards were not met? Why are these important?
  + What are some adaptations or solutions which could address these issues

**NOTE! This activity can be adapted to include IFRCs other checklists for minimum standards for:**

* **Bathing areas, and Solid waste facilities**

Some example pictures are in the folder “Pictures for activity adaptations”. If you split into 4 smaller groups, you could give each group a different WASH facilities (e.g. two different latrines, a bathing area and a solid waste facility). This may be more interesting and then introduces people to all the checklists.

OBSERVATION CHECKLIST: Minimum standards for inclusive, safe communal latrines

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **DIRECT OBSERVATION** | | | | |
| **Minimum standard to check** | | | **Yes/No** | **Action or change needed to meet standard** |
|  | The male and female latrines are physically separated and have clear signs (for female/male).  [*They should never be back to back*.] | |  |  |
|  | The walls have no holes, or gaps at bottom or between walls allow others to see in. | |  |  |
|  | There is an opening or gap on the upper part of the latrine. [*As a protection measure for child safety*.] | |  |  |
|  | Every door has an internal lock (or latch). | |  |  |
|  | The latrine has lighting in and around the facilities. *[If they are open at night[[2]](#footnote-2).]* | |  | *Torches may have been distributed – check with PGI, relief.* |
|  | There is a working hand-washing facility located nearby. | |  |  |
|  | The hand-washing facility has water available. | |  |  |
|  | There is soap available or in an accessible place near the handwashing facility. | |  |  |
|  | The hand-washing facility is accessible to persons with physical disabilities, and children. | |  | *Target = at least 10% of all communal hand-washing facilities* |
|  | There is a hook and/or shelf inside the latrine, at a height accessible for girls and persons using a wheelchair *(to place personal sanitary items off the floor)* | |  |  |
|  | There is a waste bin, chute (or other method of disposal) for menstrual waste inside the latrine. [*For all user, or female latrines*.] | |  |  |
|  | The floor is clean with no menstrual waste, faeces or other material. | |  |  |
|  | The path leading to the latrine is not slippery, has no large obstacles (e.g. steps, holes, rocks) and is an even surface. | |  |  |
|  | Minimum requirements for accessibility: | * at ground level or has a 90cm wide ramp of <1:10 slope |  | *Target = at least 10% of all communal latrines; or, if there is only one communal, public or institutional latrine then it should be accessible (e.g. meet all minimum requirements outlined).* |
| * has 90cm wide doors that open outwards |
| * has a bar to pull the door shut from inside |
| * has space for a wheelchair to turn inside |
| * has seating/commode for the toilet |
| * has handrails on both sides of the toilet seat |
| * is clearly signposted to be accessible |
|  | There is a poster or sign inside the latrine with instructions on disposal of menstrual waste.  *If yes:* Is the poster/sign in easy-to-understand, local language and including pictures? | |  |  |
|  | Products and items for cleaning the latrine are located close by (or inside) *[If applicable, adapt based on context]*. | |  |  |
| *Additional non-essential improvements:* | | |  |  |
|  | The entrance to the latrines are screened for privacy (*depends on culture and context*). | |  |  |
|  | There is a mirror (in a low position) inside the latrine *(for women and girls check clothing for blood stains)* | |  |  |
|  | There is water available inside the latrine cubicle or stall (e.g. bucket or hand-washing facility). *[Ideal case but not always possible]* | |  |  |

NOTE: In the [full version of the checklist](https://watsanmissionassistant.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/11/tool-2_checklist-for-inclusive-mhm-friendly-latrines_rev-july2019.docx), there are also sections with questions for monitoring, for discussions with people with disabilities and with people who empty or transfer menstrual waste.

1. Old version and translations available here: <https://watsanmissionassistant.org/menstrual-hygiene-management/>. Currently under revision (October 2021) – new version is pasted in this document below. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. For example, school latrines are not used at night so this question is not relevant. [↑](#footnote-ref-2)