

# Introduction: Protection, Gender and Inclusion (PGI) in WASH



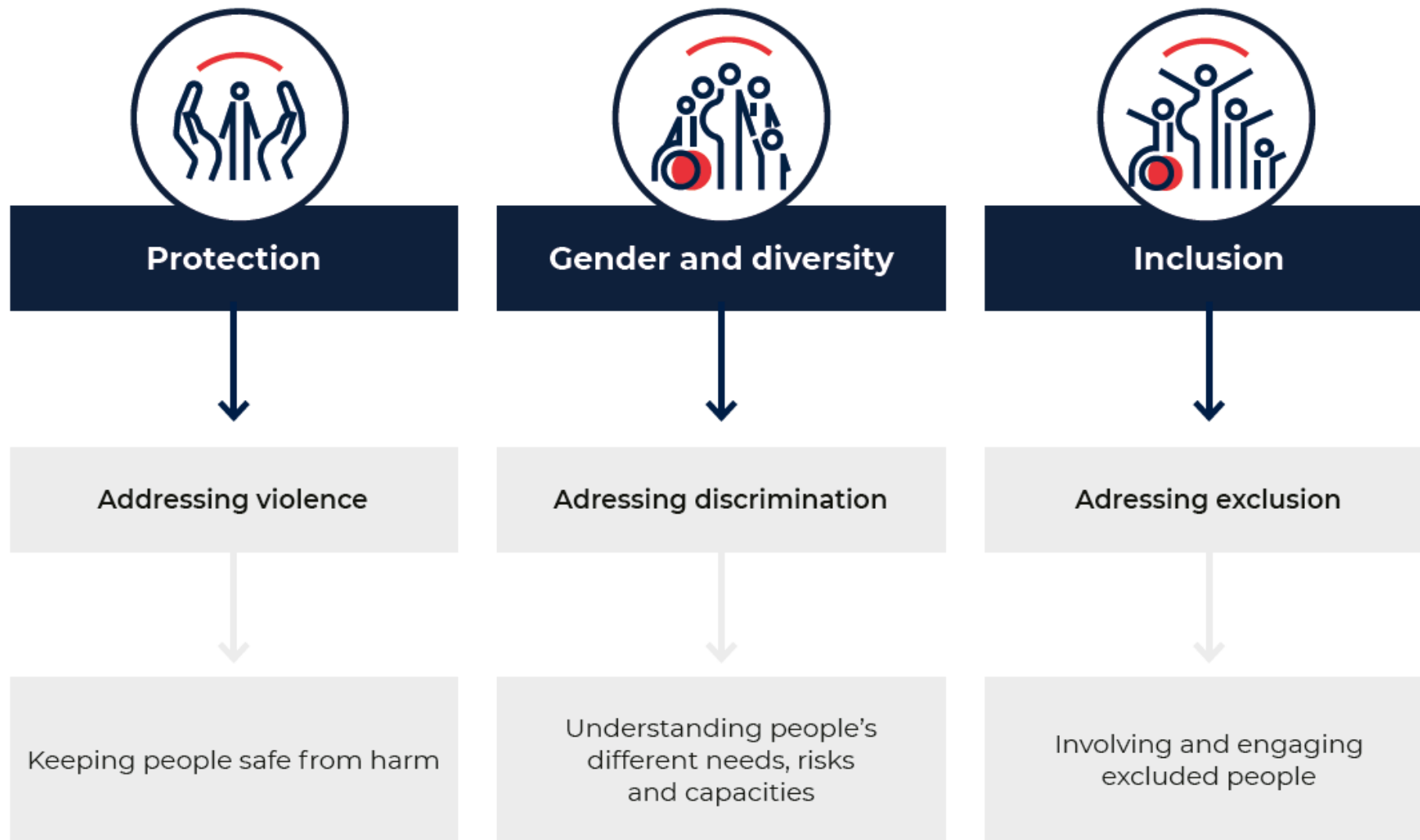


# One size does not fit all



- Age
- Gender
- Disability
- Ethnic origin
- Social background
- Religious beliefs
- Language
- Etc...

# What is PGI?



# WHY

More efficient and  
effective results

Equal  
access

Cater to needs  
of all

Safe, secure and  
culturally appropriate  
programmes



# What does it mean?



Everyone has access to water and sanitation facilities and the items they need to be able to manage their **personal and household WASH needs** in a way they want to, in accordance with **their cultural** context, and which supports their feelings of **confidence, wellbeing and self-esteem**. Adequate water and private facilities for personal hygiene (including **menstrual hygiene and incontinence**) and **maintaining cleanliness** (including of children, persons with disabilities, older people and people with chronic illnesses) are vital for safeguarding the dignity of individuals.



**WASH facilities**, services and **information** are designed and implemented in a way so that everyone can **use them, understand them and benefit from them**. Cultural stereotypes and norms around gender, age and disability affect **decision-making arrangements**, and access to power, resources, public participation and even to water itself, and need to be considered in all phases of WASH programmes.



# What does it mean?



## Participation

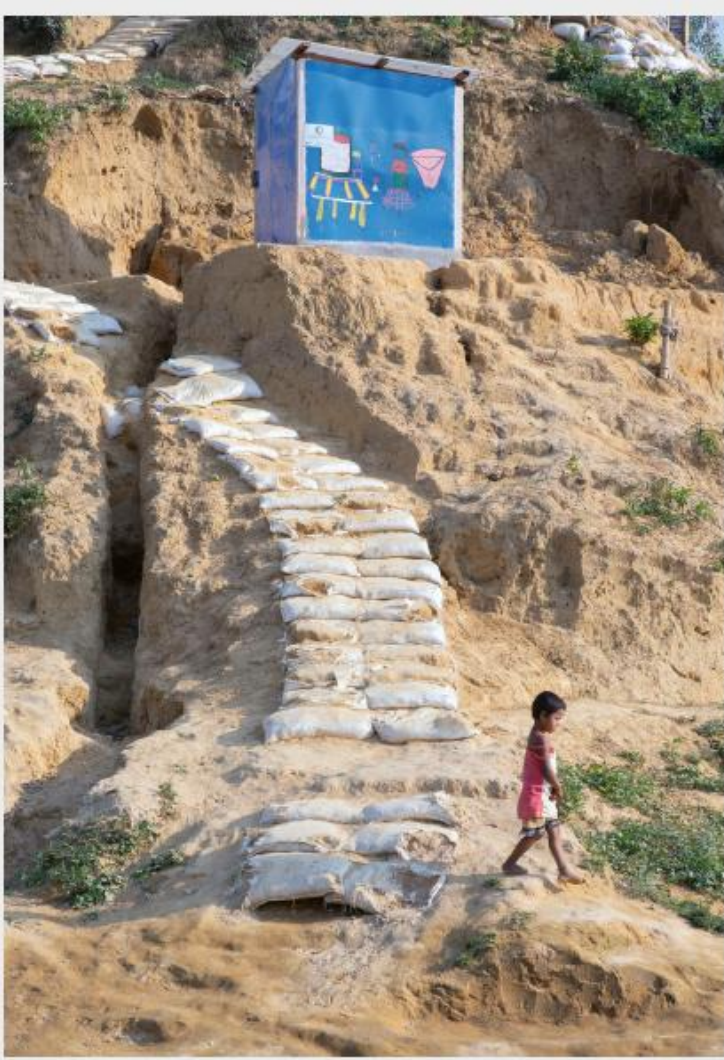
Everyone in a community – regardless of their gender, age, disability or background – has their voice heard and is actively **involved in decision-making for the selection, design**, construction and ongoing **operation and maintenance** of WASH facilities and services.



## Safety

Everyone **feels comfortable and safe** to use WASH facilities and services, and that their **design, location** and operation **minimizes risks of violence**. Vulnerability to violence is increased by a lack of safe and secure sanitation infrastructure, particularly in emergency contexts where there can be lack of privacy, overcrowding and lack of lighting in communal spaces and facilities.

# Different barriers to WASH; different solutions



One example - An older man from an ethnic group, with a physical disability

- **Dignity:** Path to the latrines is slippery. He uses a bucket which is embarrassing and stressful
- **Access:** He is partially deaf and finds it hard to understand information from volunteers.
- **Participation:** People from his ethnic group are not invited to join the WASH committee (but he has good ideas)
- **Safety:** Physical safety from slippery paths. He cannot understand main language well to complain or feedback. Risk of verbal abuse.

# Example: Disabled Friendly Latrine in Cox's Bazar





# Example from Lesbos

- HP volunteers in the community see, or are told about violence or trafficking – what should they do?
- It is not HP's role to help or “solve the problem”
- “PGI pocket guide” for people with no knowledge of PGI – tells them where to refer people for help
- Translated to 5 languages, PGI team did ½ day training for HP volunteers



1 2 3

### Assessment

The communal latrine area is dark at night; there are no lights. Women and girls are afraid to use the facilities and fear violence from men.

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### Design and preparation

Lights are planned to be installed around the latrines and along key access paths.

### Review and re-adjust

Men decide on another suitable area for them to gather at night, and lights are also installed there. Men no longer gather around the latrines, and women and girls feel comfortable using them at night.

### Monitoring

The well-lit latrines become a popular place for men to gather at night. Women and girls do not feel comfortable or safe to walk past the group of men to get to the latrines.

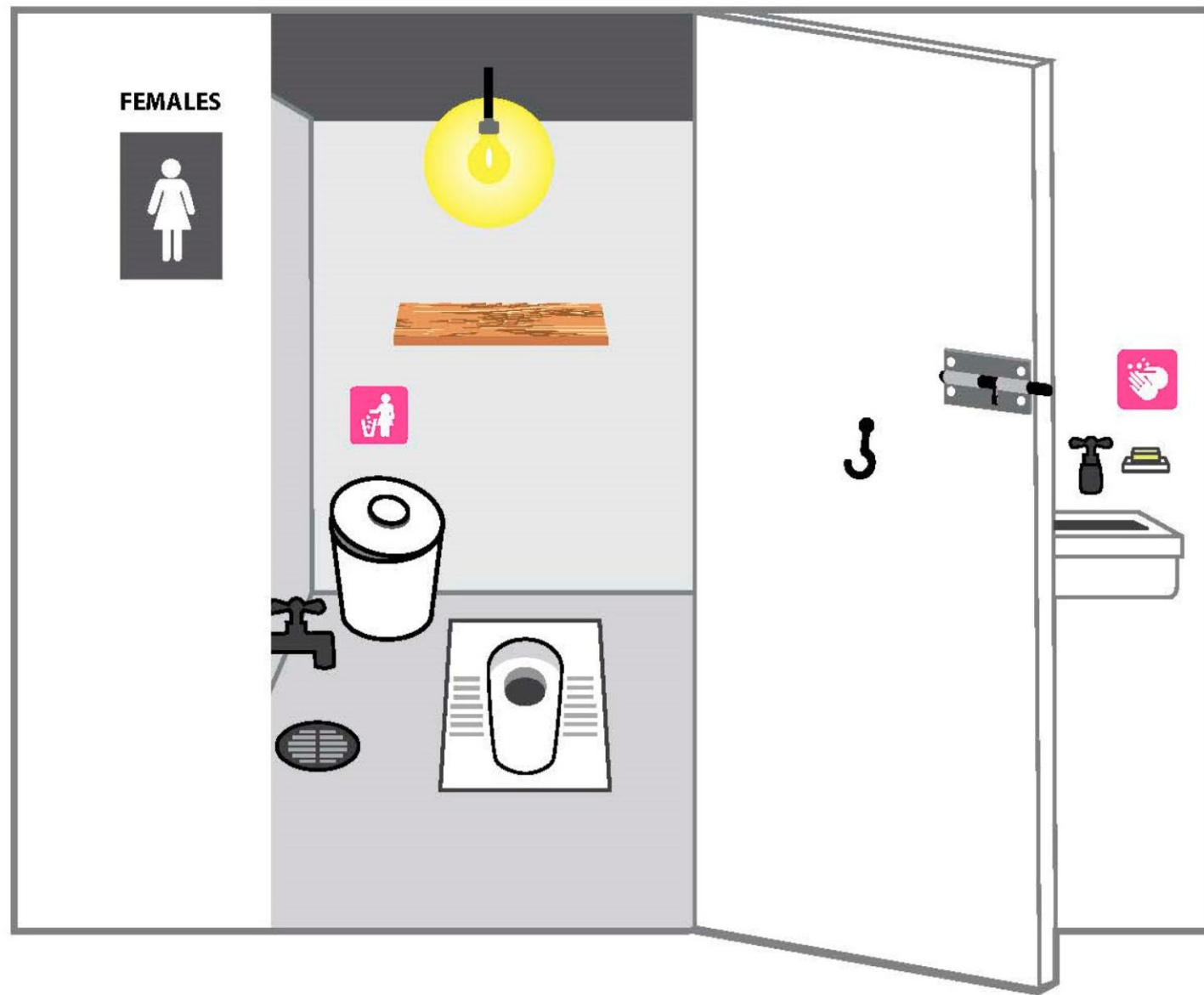
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### Implementation

Lights are installed.



Adequate numbers of safely located toilets separated (with clear signage) from male facilities.



Safe and private toilets with inside door latch



Clear signs instructing girls and women to dispose of menstrual waste in the trash bin



A shelf and hook for hygienically storing belongings during usage.



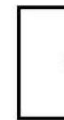
Night time light source both inside and outside of the toilets



Easily accessible water (ideally inside the cubicle) for girls and women to wash themselves and menstrual materials.



Trash bins (with lids) to dispose of used menstrual materials



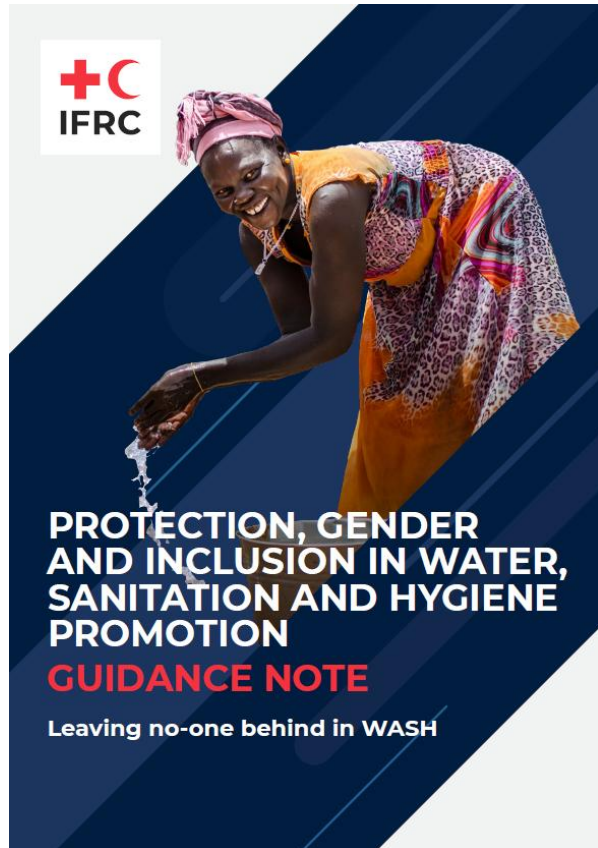
Walls, door and roof are made of non-transparent materials with no gaps or spaces.



Some units should be accessible to people with disabilities.



# Keen to know more?



## QUESTIONS TO ASK YOURSELF

### Assessment

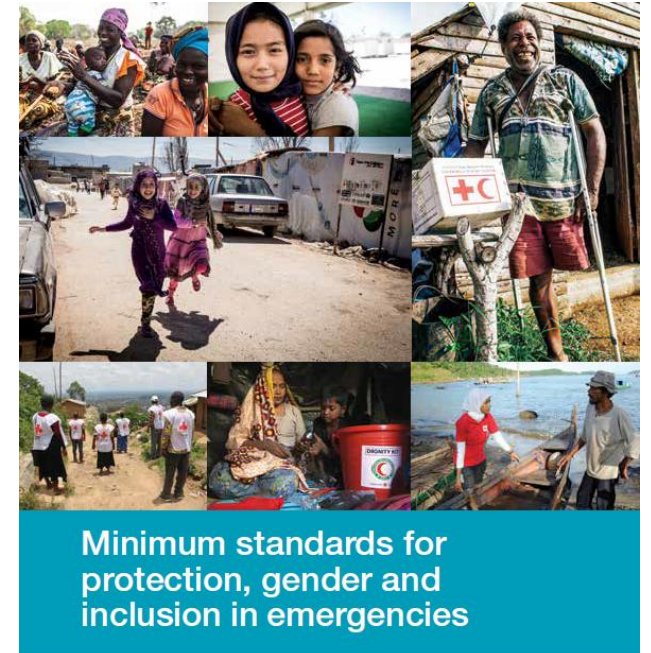
- Wherever possible, have you collected data disaggregated by sex, age and disability (SADD) and other context-specific variables?
- Have you used participatory data collection methods which promote participation of persons of all gender identities, disabilities, backgrounds and ages (including child-friendly approaches for children)?
- Which groups or individuals are at more risk of violence, stigma and marginalization and have less access to WASH facilities and services? Why?
- What are the roles, responsibilities, specific needs and priorities relating to water, sanitation and hygiene for women, men, girls, boys, people with disabilities etc.? Make sure you think about cultural and social traditions and perceptions, household decision-making, livelihoods such as agriculture and livestock raising etc.
- What are the barriers people face in accessing water points and sanitation and hygiene facilities, of all gender identities, ages, disabilities and backgrounds?
- What are the roles of women and girls, men and boys, people with disabilities etc. in collecting, handling, storing, and treating water?
- Who is involved in community decision-making for water and sanitation services, including technology selection and siting of facilities? How can everyone's voice be heard?



**KEY TOOL** [IFRCs PGI assessment question library](#) has guidance on collecting SADD data

**KEY TOOL** [IFRC Rapid PGI analysis template](#)

**KEY TOOL** [IFRC Gender and inclusion checklist for WASH programming](#)



**International Federation**  
of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies  
[www.ifrc.org](http://www.ifrc.org) Building Resilience, Changing Lives

<https://watsanmissionassistant.org/gender-and-wash/>

<https://www.ifrc.org/document/minimum-standards-pgi-emergencies>