



Empowering Persons with Disabilities on Inclusive WASH in Fiji

FN/07D/2023

Summary

East Asia and the Pacific is the most disaster-prone region in the world¹ and is the most impacted region by multiple and overlapping climate shocks and hazards. In emergencies, children with disabilities are most likely to be left behind and abandoned² with this risk being amplified by the inaccessibility of evacuation centres. As part of the COVID-19 response to improve hand hygiene and access to water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH), UNICEF partnered with Pacific Disability Forum and Fiji Disabled Persons Federation to assess and improve the accessibility of WASH services in schools, community and public buildings in Fiji. The project focused on buildings used as evacuation centres in emergencies and as isolation centres during the COVID-19 pandemic. Working with organizations of persons with disabilities, the project empowered persons with disabilities at every stage, from decision making to data collection. The leadership and participation of persons with disabilities led to the identification of WASH barriers and the creation of targeted materials and guidance that continue to be used in the Pacific to improve the accessibility of WASH facilities in schools, community, village and government buildings.

Background

Children with disabilities in the Pacific face many barriers that hinder their full participation in society. They are often marginalized and have lower levels of participation in education and training; lack access to goods, services, and facilities; and lack of opportunities for meaningful participation in the community³. Within Fiji, 8.8 per cent of children 17 and under have disabilities⁴, many of whom are largely invisible in their communities, being hidden away in households due to stigma and social exclusion⁵.

Children with disabilities face multiple barriers to accessing education. Globally, having a disability reduces the likelihood of school attendance with a third of children with disabilities or primary school age out of school⁶. In the Pacific, girls with disabilities are far less likely to attend school than boys⁷. One of the barriers faced is the accessibility of school buildings, including Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH) facilities. Only 3.5 per cent of schools in Fiji have wheelchair-accessible toilets and toilets tend to be situated at a distance from classrooms, across uneven terrain⁸.

The impact of inaccessible school buildings, including WASH facilities, extends beyond

access to education for children with disabilities. In the Pacific, many schools are designated as evacuation centres in emergencies. It should be noted that the East Asia and the Pacific is the most disaster-prone region in the world, accounting for 70 per cent of the total number of people affected by disasters globally⁹. During Tropical Cyclone Pam in neighbouring Vanuatu, 74 per cent of women and 50 per cent of men with disabilities faced barriers accessing evacuation centres¹⁰. During disasters, children with disabilities are most likely to be left behind and abandoned¹¹. The inaccessibility of evacuation centres amplifies these risks of being left behind and excluded. The implications of exclusion in an emergency are dire:

- In Vanuatu, the injury rates among persons with disabilities were 2.45 times higher than for persons without disabilities after Tropical Cyclone Pam¹².
- In Japan after the 2011 earthquake and tsunami, the mortality rate of persons

with disabilities was twice that of the rest of the population¹³.

In addition, inaccessible WASH facilities in humanitarian crises can significantly impact the health and well-being of children with disabilities, including increasing the risk of illness and disease¹⁴. When WASH facilities in evacuation centres aren't accessible, it can lead to children and women with disabilities defecating in poorly lit and secluded areas, leading to increased risk of injuries, abuse, and exploitation¹⁵.

Globally, persons with disabilities have been disproportionately impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic¹⁶. They are at greater risk of contracting COVID-19¹⁷, are more likely to develop severe health conditions and die from COVID-19. The inaccessibility of WASH facilities, including hand washing facilities, also has an impact on persons with disabilities ability to maintain good hand hygiene, which became critical during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Box 1: Climate change and persons with disabilities in the Pacific

Fiji is exposed to risks and adverse effects of climate change, including rising sea levels, extreme weather, and natural disaster, including cyclones, droughts, earthquakes, floods and tsunamis¹⁸. In fact, the East Asia and Pacific region is the most impacted region by multiple and overlapping climate shocks and hazards. When a child is faced with so many shocks, it exacerbates inequalities and pushes the poorest children further into poverty. While there is a lack of evidence on the impact of climate change on children with disabilities, a recent study in the Pacific found that climate change is amplifying risks and exclusions that persons with disabilities already face as well as introducing new risks and barriers¹⁹.

With the increase in extreme climate events, persons with disabilities are facing barriers accessing emergency information, communicating their needs in an emergency or evacuation, and accessing evacuation centres, including WASH facilities in the centres²⁰.

The Pacific Framework on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities²¹ commits to including persons with disabilities in climate change adaptation measures and disaster risk management plans and policies²². UNICEF is contributing to this goal through the leadership and participation of OPDs in the improvement of WASH facilities in evacuation centres as part of disaster risk management, in the face of increasing natural disasters.

"Without concerted action, the impact of exclusion on persons with disabilities will become worse under climate change"²³.

Disability Inclusive WASH

Between February and June 2021 UNICEF Pacific Office partnered with organizations of persons with disabilities (OPDs), the Pacific Disability Forum (PDF) and Fiji Disabled Persons Federation (FDPF) to improve the access of persons with disabilities to WASH in Fiji. The focus of the project was to identify and address WASH-related COVID-19 risks at the household level for persons with disabilities and improve the accessibility of WASH facilities in schools and public places, such as community halls. The WASH facilities assessed and selected for infrastructure accessibility improvements were in buildings used as evacuation centres in case of emergencies and COVID-19 isolation centres during the pandemic.

Leadership and participation of persons with disabilities

Following the principle of “*Nothing about us, without us,*” which is the slogan of disability rights advocates, the main project implementation strategy was to ensure the participation and empowerment of persons with disabilities. UNICEF Pacific partnered with OPDs, PDF and FDPF to design and implement the project.

Box 2: What is an OPD?

Organizations of persons with disabilities or OPDs are organizations that are led, directed and governed by persons with disabilities. The majority of their members are persons with disabilities. They are established with the aim of collectively acting, expressing, promoting, pursuing and/or defending the rights of persons with disabilities.

The Pacific Disability Forum (PDF) is an umbrella OPD for the Pacific region representing 71 organizations of persons with disabilities and individual members from diverse groups of persons with disabilities in 22 Pacific Island Countries and Territories.

Fiji Disabled Persons Federation (FDPF) is a member of PDF and is itself a national umbrella OPD representing organizations for persons with spinal injury, and who are blind, deaf and psychiatric survivors. FDPF has 16 community-based branches throughout Fiji. FDPF, as the main implementing partner in the community, dedicated staff to manage and coordination activities.

Thirty persons with disabilities from 11 FDPF²⁴ branches across Fiji were trained by PDF over 5 days to be enumerators. The objective of the training was to increase knowledge on disability inclusive WASH and equip enumerators with the knowledge and skills to carry out a WASH needs assessment of persons with disabilities and conduct accessibility audits. The trained enumerators administered a WASH survey, facilitated focus group discussions and key informant interviews as well as conducted accessibility audits of schools and community halls, as part of the project.

The diversity of the persons with disabilities that participated in the project (both enumerators and survey respondents) was given consideration with attention to gender balance and representation of persons with different types of disabilities. There was an equal gender representation amongst the persons with disabilities that were trained to be enumerators. While most enumerators were persons with physical impairments (68 per cent), persons with all other impairment types were also represented (visual, hearing, psychosocial, intellectual, and multiple impairments).

Gender balance and diversity in impairment type was also given due consideration in the data collection with 51 per cent of the WASH survey respondents being women with disabilities and respondents representing persons with all impairment types – see findings below.

Achieving gender balance and having persons with different types of disabilities was critical to represent, understand and validate the diverse experiences of men and women with disabilities access to WASH in Fiji.

Key to ensuring the full and meaningful participation of persons with different types of disabilities throughout the project was the allocation of sufficient budget for reasonable accommodation²⁵. Examples of reasonable accommodation include provision of a sign language interpreter, transport support and support for assistants.

“I used to be ashamed of my disability. But now, it is my reason for my work and I want to ensure that our voices are heard.” Naomi, Disability Focal Point in Tailevu South.

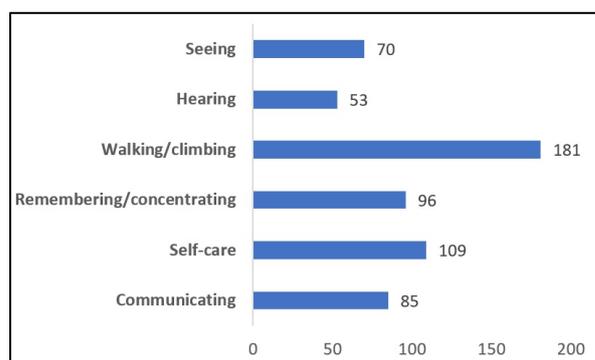
Assessing persons with disabilities knowledge of and access to hand washing in Fiji

Recognizing the vulnerability of persons with disabilities in the pandemic, one of the objectives of the project was to identify WASH-related COVID-19 risks amongst persons with disabilities via a survey conducted by trained enumerators from FDPF. The survey covered 12 of the 14 provinces in Fiji. A total of 320 persons with disabilities participated in the survey – 51 per cent female and 8 per cent under the age of 18 years old.

The survey used the Washington Group Questions²⁶ to identify persons with disabilities with survey respondents represented all 6 areas of functional

difficulties (difficulties functioning equate to different impairment groups). Figure 1 shows the functional difficulties of the persons with disabilities that responded, noting that respondents may have more than one area of functional difficulty. Over half (56 per cent) of respondents had difficulties walking or climbing.

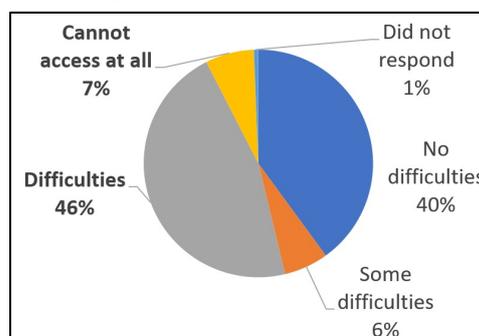
Figure 1: Survey respondents by type of functional difficulty



Source: UNICEF Pacific

With access to hand washing becoming of critical importance during the COVID-19 pandemic, the survey found that only 40 per cent of respondents had no difficulty washing their hands in their house. Many (46 per cent) faced difficulties accessing hand washing in their house, while 22 respondents (7 per cent) could not access the hand washing facility at all. See Figure 2.

Figure 2: Difficulty accessing hand washing facilities in household



Source: UNICEF Pacific

Some of the difficulties accessing hand washing facilities in the household included: distance to water point; inaccessible path leading to the handwashing area and inaccessible bathroom; need for assistance when hand washing; lack of light and difficulties during the night; lack of assistive devices, like wheelchairs, leading to being bedridden; and no handwashing facilities.

The survey also assessed persons with disabilities knowledge of when to wash hands. With most respondents correctly identifying the need to wash hands after coughing and sneezing (66 per cent), after defecating or using the toilet (70 per cent) and before eating (83 per cent). However only 39 per cent identified the need to wash hands before preparing food and kava²⁷.

Based on the survey data, PDF created a poster with messaging on hand washing targeted at persons with disabilities. Given that many survey respondents reported requiring assistance when hand washing, the poster included instructions on how an assistant can support good hand hygiene. This activity was designed to improve hand hygiene amongst persons with disability to reduce the spread of illness, including COVID-19 and the posters were used during community awareness sessions.

Assessing the accessibility of WASH facilities

Given that the survey found that 60 per cent of persons with disabilities surveyed faced some level of difficulty accessing hand washing, the project also assessed and improved hand washing within WASH facilities in schools and public places.

To improve the accessibility of public buildings, including those intended to be used as evacuation centres and COVID-19 isolation centres, accessibility audits were conducted. Trained enumerators from 11

branches of FDPF conducted accessibility audits of WASH facilities in 8 schools, 11 community halls, 2 churches, a health centre and 3 other public places, including a market. Across the 25 buildings identified, over 30 WASH facilities were assessed for accessibility.

To be fully accessible to persons with disabilities, WASH facilities should use the principle of an unbroken chain of movement as highlighted by the RECU (Reach, Enter, Circulate, Use) concept:

- Reach - being able to get to the WASH facility (pathways to the facility).
- Enter – being able to enter the facilities (entrance ramp, door width).
- Circulate – being able to move around in the WASH facility (circulation space, floor surface).
- Use – being able to use the WASH facility (door locks, handrails, toilet seat, water for hand washing, soap, taps).

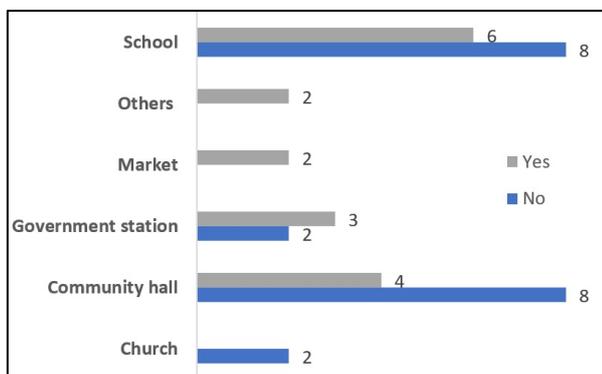
The WASH facilities were assessed and the findings summarized using these criteria. The main findings were:

Reach – Across all the buildings assessed, the majority of the WASH facilities (62 per cent) did not have accessible pathways to the facility. The pathways were assessed to be too narrow or uneven which would make the WASH facilities inaccessible for wheelchair uses and create barriers for persons who are blind or have other mobility impairments. Specifically in schools, of the 14 WASH facilities in schools assessed, only 4 had accessible pathways.

Enter and circulate – Just over half of the WASH facilities (54 per cent) were inaccessible for persons with disabilities to enter. These WASH facilities were lacking ramps and/or had entrances that were too

narrow for wheelchair users. See Figure 3. There were no specific audit findings on circulation.

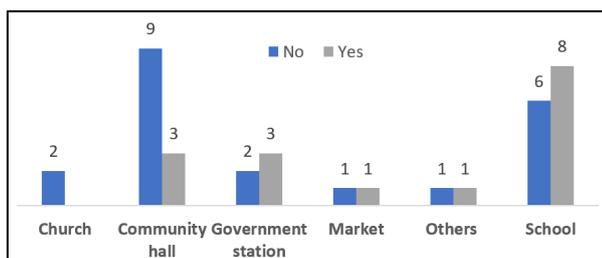
Figure 3: Accessibility of WASH facility entrance



Source: UNICEF Pacific

Use – Over half of the WASH facilities (57 per cent) did not have hand washing sinks in or next to the WASH facility. 75 per cent of the WASH facilities in community halls didn't have handwashing available in or next to the WASH facilities, while in schools 42 per cent of facilities didn't have handwashing. See Figure 4.

Figure 4: Availability of hand washing sinks in WASH facility



Source: UNICEF Pacific

“... for persons with disabilities, we can not attend village functions, meetings or even use the evacuation centres as it is not friendly for us. The major problem for Tailevu is accessibility, so I gathered the courage and spoke of disabilities as well as how we can work together to ensure we are not left

behind.” Naomi, Tailevu South Disability Focal Point, she uses a wheelchair.

Improving the accessibility of public buildings used as evacuation centres

Following the assessment of over 30 WASH facilities across 10 provinces, PDF and FDPF conducted a prioritization exercise to identify facilities for retrofitting to improve accessibility. Criteria for selection was developed in a participatory way with the persons with disabilities during the enumerator training. The selection criteria were as follows:

- **Accessibility** – assessment of accessibility barriers for persons with disabilities accessing the evacuation centre, including the accessibility of the surrounding environment.
- **Location of persons with disabilities** – looking at disaggregated data to determine the number of persons with disabilities in the area.
- **Sustainability** – ensuring that the land tenure of the evacuation centre was long term.
- **Feasibility** – permission for retrofitting and engineering certificate.
- **Intersectionality** – ensuring that no ethnic groups were left behind, including those with disabilities.
- **Disaster prone** – locations that are more prone to cyclones and/or floods and have greater need for accessible evacuation centres.
- **Cost** – cost of materials required for retrofitting, ensuring they are within budget.

Based on the selection criteria, 12 WASH facilities within public buildings, including those used as evacuation centers and COVID-19 isolation centers, were identified for accessibility improvements. Due to COVID-19 restrictions and unpredictable

lockdowns, PDF and FDPF were only able to undertake the retrofitting of 6 WASH facilities in the locations that could be easily accessed given the restrictions – Suva, Tailevu South and Rewa. The WASH facilities that were retrofitted were in 3 schools, 2 community halls and 1 public area.

Funded by UNICEF and using a construction company, retrofitting was completed by October 2021 with a range of accessibility improvement made including accessible pathways, ramps, installation of handwashing sinks, toilets and handrails, water tanks for improved water access and doors for improved access, privacy and security. Based on the accessibility audit conducted by FDPF, the Suva City Council has agreed to improve the accessibility of Suva Market with the City Council Engineer designing the retrofitting and the city taking on the improvements themselves.

Feedback from persons with disabilities indicates that they are now happy and comfortable to go to the evacuation centre during an emergency knowing that the WASH facilities are available and easily accessible.

“Seeing these changes and how the village has ensured accessibility makes my dream of being included even more real.” Taina, 14 years old who is deaf. In Taina’s community a separate accessible toilet and bathroom were constructed at the village hall as well as a ramp for persons who use wheelchairs to attend church services.

Scaling up the disability inclusive WASH knowledge and lessons learnt in the region

To ensure that the technical knowledge on accessibility of WASH facilities and tools developed, as well as lessons learnt from the accessibility audits and infrastructure consultation extended beyond the project,

PDF developed 3 guidelines targeting different types of WASH facilities:

- Accessible WASH in Schools
- Accessible WASH for your Community or Village
- Accessible WASH Facilities for Public Areas

The guides are designed for the context of the Pacific Islands and Territories and continue to be used by PDF in their ongoing projects throughout the Pacific region.

Unlike many accessibility guidelines that tend to focus on accessibility for persons with physical impairments, the 3 guidelines provide practical actions and advice for WASH accessibility for each type of disability, including psychosocial and intellectual impairments. The guides also go beyond infrastructure to the accessibility of information and communication, promoting WASH information be developed in a range of accessible formats. For example, the advice for WASH accessibility for persons with intellectual impairments relates to how to convey WASH-related information in a simplified and clear way. The resources also provide technical accessibility standards, such as door widths being a minimum of 90 cm and circulation space within a cubicle of 1.5 m².

For a public audience and for persons with disabilities, a brochure was produced by PDF to raise awareness on persons with disabilities rights to accessibility, water, and sanitation. The brochure also provides some basic information on accessibility of WASH facilities and was used during community awareness raising sessions.

Lessons Learnt

- The project covered accessibility of WASH in schools, public facilities and in

communities and villages. Disability accessible latrines and hand washing in public places, such as schools, markets, community halls and health-care facilities are critical to support the participation of persons with disabilities in society and are fundamental to the attainment of other rights, such as rights to health care, education, and employment.

- As noted previously, a study by PDF found that persons with disabilities in the Pacific consistently face barriers when evacuating, including related to WASH in evacuation centres²⁸. The barriers they face accessing evacuation centres extend beyond WASH to also include distance to the centre as well as other accessibility barriers within the centre, including entrances, exits, passageways, steps and obstacles²⁹. The accessibility audits looked at the accessibility of the whole building. While focused on WASH, the retrofitting also included the entrances to buildings. Full accessibility requires a multi-sectoral approach, working with education actors, OPDs and local authorities to ensure that all aspects of evacuation centres are fully accessible for persons with disabilities.
- Persons with disabilities are often excluded from disaster preparedness. A survey of over 5,000 persons with disabilities across 137 countries found that 85 per cent had never participated in community disaster management and risk reduction³⁰. In the Pacific, persons with disabilities faced barriers in receiving and acting upon emergency information or instructions and being able to communicate their needs in an evacuation³¹. Before Tropical Cyclone Pam hit in 2015, 60 per cent of persons with disabilities in Vanuatu did not have information on what to do in an emergency³². PDF is part of the Pacific WASH cluster, which is an inter-agency mechanism that coordinates humanitarian

action on WASH in emergency responses in the region. Having OPDs as part on this mechanism is an important step towards ensuring that emergency plans and procedures are adapted to the needs of persons with different types of disabilities.

“I have a place where I can use without worrying if someone else is inside the facility with me. It is safe as it for only persons with disabilities.” Taina, who is deaf, 14 years old.

Conclusions and next steps

Partnering with OPDs in the project resulted in persons with disabilities being engaged at all levels from design, decision making, training, data collection and analysis, construction management, development of guidance and SBC materials, monitoring and reporting. All tools (data collection tools and accessibility audit), guidance and approaches developed in the project were developed by PDF and FDPF. There were multiple benefits of the participation of persons with disabilities:

- Provided expertise based on their lived experience of disability.
- Were able to identify and provide insights into WASH barriers and solutions to overcome barriers.
- Empowerment of persons with disabilities through capacity building.
- Contributed to reduction of stigma and discrimination through enabling interaction, leadership and participation in decision making processes.

Following the partnership with PDF and FDPF, UNICEF has continued to include persons with disabilities in WASH programming.

- In WASH emergency responses, UNICEF Pacific ensures that disability

accessible emergency latrines are designed and available for persons with disabilities.

- With partner, Field Ready, UNICEF distributes WASH emergency supplies, prioritizing vulnerable groups including persons with disabilities.
- UNICEF chairs the WASH cluster with PDF providing technical support, advice, and recommendations to WASH cluster partners during emergency responses. This includes inputs into the development of the WASH cluster work plans and response plans.

References

[1] UNICEF (2021), EAPRO Consolidated Emergency Report 2021.

[2] UNICEF (2017), Guidance: Including children with disabilities in humanitarian action – General.

[3] UNICEF (2017), Situation Analysis of Children in the Pacific Island Countries.

[4] CBM (2022), Towards Brighter Futures: Children with Disabilities in the Asia-Pacific Region.

[5] UNICEF (2017), Situation Analysis of Children in the Pacific Island Countries.

[6] CBM (2022), Towards Brighter Futures: Children with Disabilities in the Asia-Pacific Region.

[7] UNICEF (2017), Situation Analysis of Children in the Pacific Island Countries.

[8] UNICEF (2017), Situation Analysis of Children in Fiji.

[9] UNICEF (2021), EAPRO Consolidated Emergency Report 2021.

[10] Humanitarian Practice Network (2020), Humanitarian Exchange: Disability inclusion in humanitarian action. Issue 78 October 2020.

[11] UNICEF (2017), Guidance: Including children with disabilities in humanitarian action – General.

[12] Humanitarian Practice Network (2020), Humanitarian Exchange: Disability inclusion in humanitarian action. Issue 78 October 2020.

[13] UNICEF (2017), Guidance: Including children with disabilities in humanitarian action – General.

[14] [15] UNICEF (2017), Guidance: Including children with disabilities in humanitarian action – WASH.

[16] [17] United Nations (2020), Policy Brief: A Disability-Inclusive Response to COVID-19.

[18] UNICEF (2017), Situation Analysis of Children in Fiji.

[19] [20] Pacific Disability Forum (2022), Disability and Climate Change in the Pacific: Findings from Kiribati, Solomon Islands and Tuvalu.

[21] The framework supports Pacific governments to fulfil their obligations to fulfil the rights of persons with disabilities as outlined in the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD), and establishes a regional modality for strengthened coordination and collaboration on disability rights.

[22] Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat (2016), Pacific Framework for the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (2016 – 2025).

[23] Pacific Disability Forum (2022), Disability and Climate Change in the Pacific: Findings from Kiribati, Solomon Islands and Tuvalu.

[24] The 11 branches covered the areas of Sigatoka, Nadi, Ba, Tavua, Ra, Tailevu South, Naitasiri, Rewa, Labasa, Nabouwalu and Rabi.

[25] Reasonable accommodation is the provision of necessary and appropriate modification and adjustments for a particular case (without imposing disproportionate or undue burden) to ensure persons with disabilities equal access and enjoyment of rights and freedoms (UN 2006, CRPD, Article 2).

[26] For more information on the use of the Washington Group Questions in WASH, see [UNICEF, Make it Count: Guidance on disability inclusive WASH programme data collection, monitoring and reporting.](#)

[27] Kava is a drink used for medicinal, religious, political, cultural, and social purposes throughout the Pacific.

[28] [29] Pacific Disability Forum (2022), Disability and Climate Change in the Pacific: Findings from Kiribati, Solomon Islands and Tuvalu.

[30] [31] [32] Humanitarian Practice Network (2020), Humanitarian Exchange: Disability inclusion in humanitarian action. Issue 78 October 2020.

Photo Credits

@ UNICEF Pacific

Acknowledgements

Colleagues from UNICEF Pacific Multi Country Office made the development of this case study possible by providing substantial information and contributions. The authors extend sincere gratitude to: Chander Badloe (Former Chief of WASH, Pacific Multi-Country Office), James Robertson (WASH Specialist, Pacific Multi-Country Office), Milika Nabulivula (WASH Officer, Pacific Multi-Country Office), Brooke Yamakoshi (WASH Specialist, East Asia and Pacific Regional Office) and Lieve Sabbe (Disability Specialist, East Asia and Pacific Regional Office).

About the Authors

The case study was developed by Megan Tucker, Disability Inclusion in Emergencies consultant (UNICEF East Asia and Pacific Regional Office), and Ro Iva Namela, WASH Specialist (Pacific Multi-Country Office), with contributions and overall guidance from Brooke Yamakoshi, WASH Specialist (East Asia and Pacific Regional Office). For more information, please contact and Ro Iva Namela (rnamela@unicef.org).

Annex 1: Photo gallery



Naomi, the Disability Focal Point in Tailevu South washes her hands in an accessible bathroom.

Source: UNICEF Pacific



Naomi has been volunteering for over three years to make her community more inclusive and accessible for persons with disabilities.

Source: UNICEF Pacific



Taina, who is 14 years old and is deaf, is happy that the Village Hall has been made accessible for persons with disabilities.

Source: UNICEF Pacific



Nehal, who has a physical disability, is able to wash his hands after the school built accessible WASH facilities.

Source: © UNICEF/UN0822404/Chute



UNICEF and the Pacific Disability Forum have partnered to strengthen the inclusion of children with disabilities in Fiji.

Source: © UNICEF/UN0822456/Wong



Nehal uses a ramp to move easily around his school in Fiji.

Source: © UNICEF/UN0822449/Wong

Annex 2: UNICEF and PDF Accessible hand washing steps



Source: Pacific Disability Forum

About the Series

UNICEF's water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) country teams work inclusively with governments, civil society partners and donors, to improve WASH services for children and adolescents, and the families and caregivers who support them. UNICEF works in over 100 countries worldwide to improve water and sanitation services, as well as basic hygiene practices. This publication is part of the UNICEF WASH Learning Series, designed to contribute to knowledge of good practice across UNICEF's WASH programming. In this series:

Discussion Papers explore the significance of new and emerging topics with limited evidence or understanding, and the options for action and further exploration.

Fact Sheets summarize the most important knowledge on a topic in few pages in the form of graphics, tables and bullet points, serving as a briefing for staff on a topical issue.

Field Notes share innovations in UNICEF's WASH programming, detailing its experiences implementing these innovations in the field.

Guidelines describe a specific methodology for WASH programming, research or evaluation, drawing on substantive evidence, and based on UNICEF's and partners' experiences in the field.

Reference Guides present systematic reviews on topics with a developed evidence base or they compile different case studies to indicate the range of experience associated with a specific topic.

Technical Papers present the result of more in-depth research and evaluations, advancing WASH knowledge and theory of change on a key topic.

WASH Diaries explore the personal dimensions of users of WASH services, and remind us why a good standard of water, sanitation and hygiene is important for all to enjoy. Through personal reflections, this series also offers an opportunity for tapping into the rich reservoir of tacit knowledge of UNICEF's WASH staff in bringing results for children.

WASH Results show with solid evidence how UNICEF is achieving the goals outlined in Country Programme Documents, Regional Organizational Management Plans, and the Global Strategic Plan or WASH Strategy, and contributes to our understanding of the WASH theory of change or theory of action.

COVID-19 WASH Responses compile lessons learned on UNICEF's COVID-19 response and how to ensure continuity of WASH services and supplies during and after the pandemic.

Readers are encouraged to quote from this publication but UNICEF requests due acknowledgement. You can learn more about UNICEF's work on WASH here:

<https://www.unicef.org/wash/>

www.unicef.org/wash

© United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF)

The statements in this publication are the views of the authors and do not necessarily reflect the policies or the views of UNICEF.

United Nations Children's Fund
3 United Nations Plaza, New York, NY 10017, USA

For more information, please contact: WASH@unicef.org