



Water, sanitation, hygiene promotion

Water, sanitation and good hygiene (WASH) practices, are crucial for survival in the initial stages of a disaster.

The aims of the WASH minimum standards below are to reduce transmission of disease and allow people to live with good health, dignity, comfort and safety.



Sample key indicators

Hygiene practices

which prevent diarrhoea by 35% or more:

- Hand washing with soap.
- Using a pit latrine and disposing of children's faeces
- Improving the quality of water at household level

From WELLS Factsheet

Water supply

- At least 15 litres per person / day (Guidance Note 1 (page 64)
- 500m max. distance from house to water point
- Sanitary survey indicates a low risk of faecal contamination
- 250g bathing soap per person per month
- 1 washing basin per 100 people

Excreta disposal

- Max 20 people per toilet
- Toilets no more than 50 metres from dwellings
- Users (esp. women) consulted on design
- Pit latrines at least 30 metres from groundwater

Vector Control

- People understand the transmission and prevention of vector-borne disease
- Camps located 1-2 km upwind from mosquito breeding sites

Solid Waste

- 100 litre refuse container per 10 families
- All households have access to a refuse container and/or are no more than 100m from communal refuse pit.

UNICEF is the Lead UN Agency for the WASH Cluster.

1 Hygiene promotion (page 60)

- The vulnerabilities, needs and preferences of the affected population, especially women need to be considered in **programme design**. **Users should be involved** in management and maintenance of hygiene facilities.

2 Water Supply (page 63)

- All people should have safe and equitable **access** to a sufficient **quantity** of water for drinking, cooking and personal and domestic hygiene. Public water points are sufficiently close to households.
- Water is palatable, and of sufficient **quality** to be drunk and used without causing significant risk to health.
- All people should have adequate **facilities** and supplies to collect, store and use sufficient quantities of water, and to ensure the water remains safe.

3 Excreta Disposal (page 71)

- People have adequate **numbers of toilets**, sufficiently close to their dwellings to allow them rapid, safe and acceptable **access** at all times of the day and night.
- Toilets are sited, **designed, constructed** and maintained to be comfortable, hygienic and safe to use.

4 Vector Control (page 77)

- **Individuals and families** have the knowledge and the means to **protect** themselves from disease and nuisance vectors (organisms that spread infection) that are likely to represent a significant risk to health or well-being.
- **Physical, environmental and chemical protection** is taken to keep the numbers of disaster vectors to an acceptable level, especially mosquitoes.
- Ensure **safe** choice, transport and use of **chemicals**, protecting people and environment.

5 Solid Waste Management (page 83)

- People have an environment that is acceptably uncontaminated by solid waste, including medical waste, and have the means to dispose of their domestic waste conveniently and effectively.)

6 Drainage (page 86)

- People have an environment in which the health and other risks posed by **water erosion and standing water**, including stormwater, floodwater, domestic wastewater and medical facilities are minimised.

Page references refer to the Sphere Handbook – use the standards, key indicators and guidance notes in assessments, problem analysis, programme planning, monitoring and evaluation.

All In Diary CD Resources:

WEDC – Essential hygiene messages 2005; Minimum water quantity needed 2005; Emergency sanitation 2005
OXFAM Vulnerability considerations for PHE in emergencies;
Excreta disposal for people with disabilities, Oxfam 2006;

Web links for further information

http://wedc.lboro.ac.uk/who_Technical_notes_for_emergencies/
http://www.oxfam.org.uk/what_we_do/emergencies/how_we_work/resources/watsan.htm;
<http://www.lboro.ac.uk/well/resources/fact-sheets/fact-sheets-htm/hp.htm>