

# WASH Safety and Accessibility Toolkit

## Part 2. Common Core (applicable for all WASH facilities)

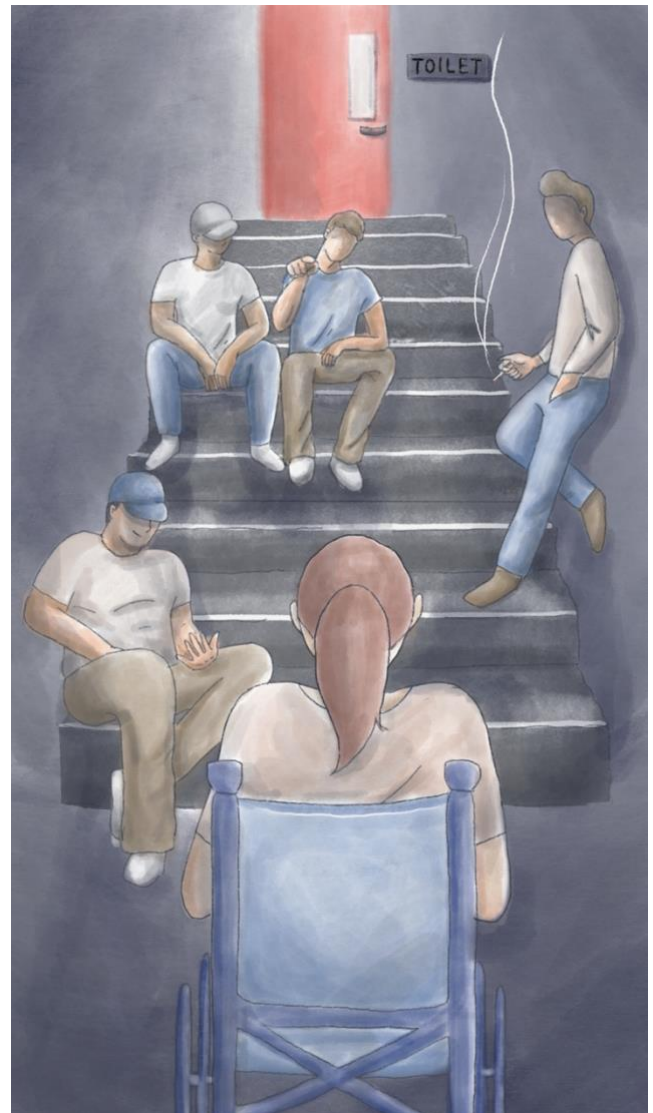
The safety and accessibility audit applies the “Accessibility continuum / RECU (Reach, Enter, Circulate, Use)” approach. This approach describes the experience of children, adults with disabilities and older persons departing from their homes, using pathways, crossing roads and/or taking transportation to reach, enter, circulate, and use services and facilities. A continuous route means that circulating through it is safe, unrestricted, and possible using, for example, a wheelchair, a walking frame, or a service dog, with no obstacles or barriers blocking the way. It also means that women and girls and other at-risk groups ‘perceive’ the route to and the facilities as safe to use<sup>1</sup>. Such a route must be continuous because, like in a chain, if one link is broken, the chain is compromised. Four steps ensure the accessibility continuum: reaching a facility; entering a facility; circulating into a facility; and using specific features of a facility.

This first set of observations checklists, applicable to any targeted WASH facility, focuses on the 3 first steps of the Accessibility Continuum: Reaching, Entering and Circulating in the WASH facility. After this first set of Observations Checklists, you must fill the relevant observation checklist (Parts 3 to 5 of the Toolbox) corresponding to the targeted WASH facility.

Make sure that the whole auditing team has read and understood the guidelines of the Safety and Accessibility Rapid Toolkit (Part. 1) and understood the barriers that persons with disabilities and other vulnerable groups face to access WASH facilities, before starting the audit.

Remember also to test the route from the user (e.g., house, shelter, school, etc.) to the WASH facility by walking, wheeling (using a wheelchair) and accompanied by a person with visual impairment.

If the audit team could not mobilize persons with disabilities for this exercise, some tips are given in the checklist to overcome this issue.



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<sup>1</sup> Perception of safety is subjective and is best explored in the FGDs with women and girls and people with disabilities where more qualitative data can be collected and analysed to complement the observatory findings. However, certain elements that may constitute GBV risks may also be observed through the checklist, such as the presence of armed groups or gatherings of large groups of men, bars where alcohol is sold etc on the route or near facilities etc

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Reference of the audit (to easily locate the different filled checklists): _____	
Date: _____	Time of the day: _____
Location (give the required details of the location where this audit has been conducted – You could even include project's reference):  	

Role	Name	Organization	Equipment
Coordinator / Team leader			Note-book and pen
Interviewer			Note-book and pen
Note-taker			Note-book and pen
Drawer of diagram			Note-book, pencil and eraser
Photographer			Camera
Measurer <sup>2</sup>			Note-book, measuring tape
Other			

### Type of Audited Facility

Tick the right box	Type of facility	Location / Address / GPS coordinate / Code	Name of implementing organisation	Usage (communal, shared OR private, household)	General description (type, state, structure, etc.)
	Latrine / toilet				
	Water point				
	Bathing facility				
	Other				

<sup>2</sup> When the audit team could not mobilize any person with disabilities (wheelchair user and person with visual impairment), the measurer would fill this gap and check the measurements of some features. Recommended measures are given for each checklist (footnotes) to overcome this issue and check the accessibility of the WASH facilities.

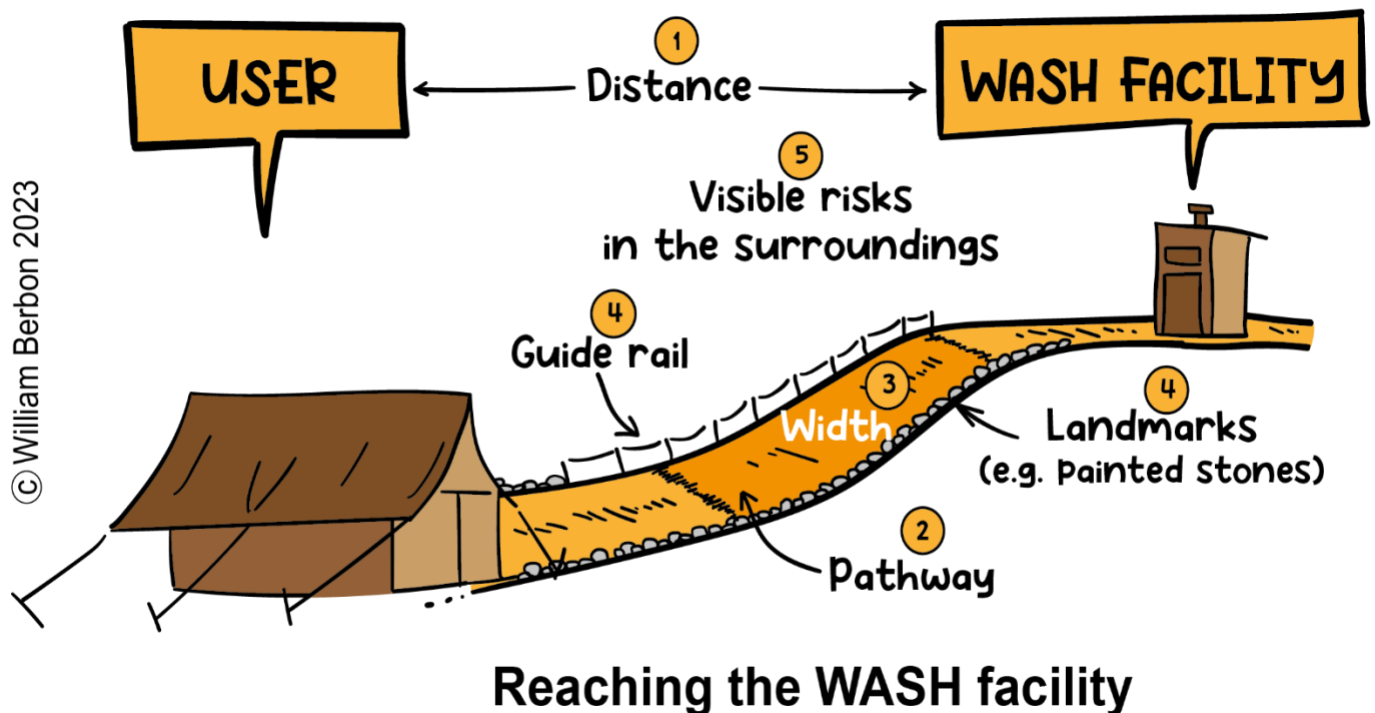
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Draw a diagram (on a separate sheet) a) from above and b) from the side, to show dimensions of the facility and surrounding.

### OBSERVATION CHECKLIST P2.1 - REACHING THE FACILITY

Drawing reference: External pathway to reach the WASH facility (water point, latrine, bathing facility)



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Drawing reference	External pathway			Notes/ideas for improvement
		Yes	No	
1	Does the distance between user (house, shelter, school, etc.) and the targeted facility correspond to SPHERE standards (Latrine < 50m ; Water point < 500m ; Bathing Facility <50m <sup>3</sup> ) or locally agreed standards?			
2	Is the pathway free from steps, obstacles, and hazards, potholes, sharp objects, open drains, etc.?			
2	Is the path surface not slippery when either dry or wet (specify what is the path/access route made of)?			
3	Is the path wide enough for all users? (Check if it is wide enough when using a wheelchair) <sup>5</sup>			
2	Is the slope of the pathway gentle enough so a person using a wheelchair does not need assistance to climb it? If the slope is steep (e.g. when assistance is needed), is the pathway equipped with handrails, and other ramp fittings? <sup>6</sup>			
4	Can a person with visual impairment follow the path? E.g., clear surface texture, landmarks such as painted stones, or guide rail?			
5	Do you think women and children feel safe using the path to the facility? E.g., indicate if there are any visible risks (such as military checkpoints, bars serving alcoholic drinks, proximity to men's facility, etc.) or areas with large gatherings of people en route to the facility?			
5	If used at night, is the path lit? If not, are torches provided to women and girls?			

<sup>3</sup> Although SPHERE standard do not include a specific maximum distance to a bathing facility, for the purposes of this toolkit bathing facilities are assumed to be required fairly close to people's homes, constituting essential hygiene infrastructure, as per latrines.

<sup>5</sup> If you can't check with a wheelchair for the audit, check the recommended width of 1.5 metres.

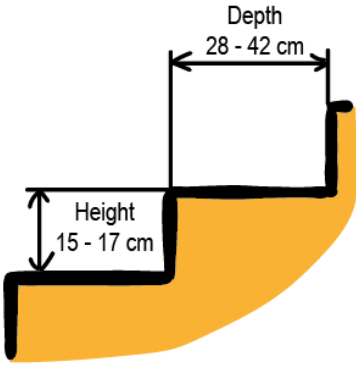
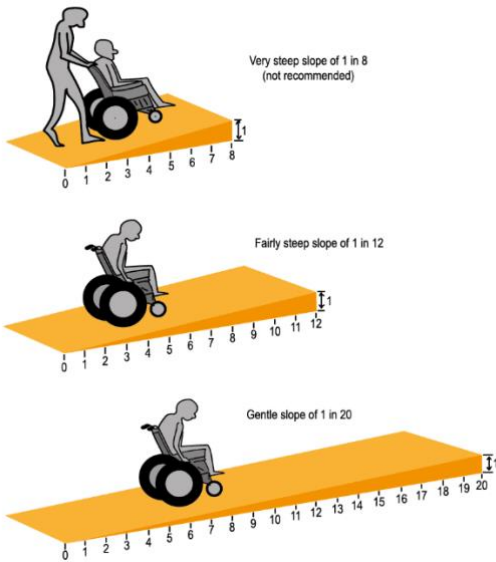
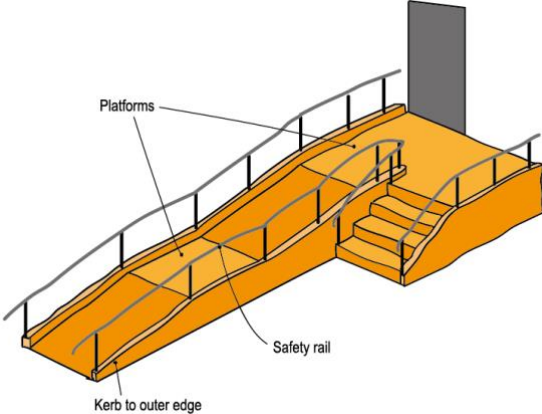
<sup>6</sup> If you can't check with a wheelchair for the audit, check the recommended slope of max 5%

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### OBSERVATION CHECKLIST P2.2 – ENTERING THE FACILITY

Drawing Reference: Entering the facility – ramps to enter the WASH facility (water point, latrine, bathing facility)

Drawing reference	Illustration by William Berbon (2023) adapted from Jones & Reed (2005)
1 Stairs	 <p>The diagram shows a single step in profile. The vertical height of the step is labeled as 'Height 15 - 17 cm'. The horizontal depth of the step is labeled as 'Depth 28 - 42 cm'. The step is colored orange.</p>
2. Slopes	 <p>The diagrams illustrate wheelchair accessibility on slopes. Each diagram shows a person in a wheelchair on a slope, with a vertical scale on the right side of the slope indicating the gradient. The first diagram shows a 'Very steep slope of 1 in 8 (not recommended)'. The second diagram shows a 'Fairly steep slope of 1 in 12'. The third diagram shows a 'Gentle slope of 1 in 20'. The slopes are colored orange.</p>
3. Ramps	 <p>The diagram shows a 3D perspective view of a ramp system. It includes a ramp leading up to a platform, and a set of stairs leading up to another platform. The ramp and stairs are colored orange. Labels point to 'Platforms', 'Safety rail', and 'Kerb to outer edge'.</p>

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Drawing reference	Stairs and Ramps	Yes	No	Notes/ideas for improvement
1	If there are steps, are they a height that persons with disabilities / elderly people can manage? (Recommended maximum 15 – 17 cm each step <sup>7</sup> .			
1	Are the steps even, firm, non-slip (with cross-hatching to reduce slipperiness for exemple)			
2	Is the slope of the ramp gentle enough so that a person using a wheelchair does not need assistance to climb it? <sup>8</sup>			
2	Is the ramp surface hard, solid/stable, clear (pattern-free) and slip-resistant?			
2	Is the ramp wide enough for a person using a wheelchair? <sup>9</sup>			
3	Are the handrails easy to grasp with one hand and properly attached to the floor/wall?			
3	Do the top and bottom of the ramp have a flat landing space, wide enough for a wheelchair (and an intermediate landing space, if needed)? <sup>10</sup>			
3	Are the handrails painted in a color that contrasts with the surroundings walls?			

<sup>7</sup> Minimum 28cm depth. Recommend maximum of 6 steps without a pause

<sup>8</sup> If you can't check with a wheelchair for the audit, check the recommended slope of 5% max.

<sup>9</sup> If you can't check with a wheelchair for the audit, check the recommended width of 1.5 metres.

<sup>10</sup> If you can't check with a wheelchair for the audit, check the recommended surface of 1.5 metres by 1.5 metres.

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### OBSERVATION CHECKLIST P2.3 – CIRCULATING INTO THE FACILITY

Circulating/Moving around the facility – Doorways of WASH facilities (water points, latrines, bathing facilities)

*This checklist targets essentially WASH facilities with closed areas and doors (latrines/toilets, bathing facility). Questions related to circulating in and using the water point, refer to the Part. 3 of the toolkit.*

Drawing reference	Illustration by William Berbon (2023) adapted from Jones & Reed (2005)
1.Circulating	<p>The illustration consists of two side-by-side diagrams showing a wheelchair approaching a doorway. The left diagram shows a doorway with a clear width of 45cm and a door stop that is 60cm high. The right diagram shows a doorway with a clear width of 125cm and a door stop that is 30cm high. Both diagrams include labels for 'Door width', 'Door stop', and 'Direction of approach'.</p>

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Drawing reference	Doorways	Yes	No	Notes/ideas for improvement
1	Is the door wide enough to enter easily with a wheelchair?			
1	Is the manoeuvring space both outside and inside the door large enough for persons using a wheelchair and is it on level ground?			
1	Is the door handle located at a height reachable for children or person using a wheelchair?			
1	Is the door easy to open/close, requiring little effort (e.g., when using an elbow or a closed fist, by someone with weak grip, etc.)?			
N/A	If someone faced harassment or other safety risks when using the facility would they be able to get away safely from the area?			



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### Additional Resource

Jones, Reed, 2005, *Water and sanitation for disabled people and other vulnerable groups – Designing services to improve accessibility*, WEDC, Loughborough University, UK

[https://wedc-knowledge.lboro.ac.uk/resources/books/Water\\_and\\_Sanitation\\_for\\_Disabled\\_People\\_-\\_Complete.pdf](https://wedc-knowledge.lboro.ac.uk/resources/books/Water_and_Sanitation_for_Disabled_People_-_Complete.pdf)